

FACT SHEET: OBEY AMENDMENT TO FY 2006 BUDGET RESOLUTION

This morning, Rep. David Obey (D-WI) will offer an amendment to the FY 2006 Budget Resolution. Unlike the Democratic substitute, Rep. Obey will offer an amendment that only amends the GOP budget resolution for one year – amending revenues and domestic discretionary spending levels in FY 2006.

The Obey amendment would revise the budget for FY 2006 to limit the tax cut for millionaires to \$27,000 in order to reduce the deficit and provide critical investments for education, strengthening communities, veterans' programs, homeland security, job training, environmental protection, and health care. From the \$25.8 billion in reduced tax cuts for millionaires, the amendment invests \$10 billion in reducing the deficit and a net of \$15.8 billion in these critical domestic priorities.

Highlights of the Obey amendment include:

- **Reduces the deficit.** Reckless Republican policies are creating a \$427 billion deficit this year, and the GOP budget resolution, when omitted items are included, will result in \$2 trillion in deficits over the next five years. The Obey amendment would invest \$10 billion of the \$25.8 billion in reduced tax cuts for millionaires to reduce the deficit.
- **Improves education.** The No Child Left Behind Act is underfunded by \$12 billion this year, leaving millions of children without the help with reading and math that they were promised. The Obey amendment improves education by adding \$7 billion, including putting us on a path toward full funding of No Child Left Behind. The National Education Association stated, "The Obey amendment would provide additional resources to help public schools and students with the greatest needs secure the resources and tools necessary for success."
- **Strengthens communities, including rural communities.** The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program funds housing rehabilitation, supportive services, and economic development projects and helps over 4,000 communities across the country. The President's budget proposes eliminating the CDBG. By contrast, the Obey amendment invests in strengthening communities, adding \$4 billion for such community development programs as CDBG, the Community Services Block Grant, and rural economic development programs.
- **Keeps our promise to veterans.** The Republican budget resolution underfunds veterans' health care by more than \$2 billion. The Obey amendment provides an additional \$3.2 billion to improve veterans' health care and shorten waiting times at VA health care facilities.
- **Strengthens homeland security.** Fire departments nationwide have only enough radios to equip half the firefighters on a shift, and only enough breathing equipment for one-third. The number of police officers serving our larger communities has decreased since 2001 by over 15 percent. The Obey amendment improves our homeland security, adding \$1.9 billion to give our first responders the equipment and training they need, and to increase security at our ports and borders.

- **Invests in vocational education and job training.** The Obey amendment adds \$2 billion for vocational educational and job training, by restoring the \$1.3 billion vocational education program that was eliminated by the President's budget and investing in training services that will equip Americans for the jobs of the 21st century economy.
- **Invests in conservation and a clean environment.** The Obey amendment adds \$600 million for the environment, including \$370 million for states' Clean Water funds (which were slashed by the President's budget) and \$230 million for the Parks and Land Conservation Trust Fund.
- **Improves health care.** Increased investments are needed in biomedical research, expanded access to affordable health care for working families, and expanded public health programs. The Obey amendment improves health care by adding \$2 billion for a variety of health care initiatives, including increased funding for NIH, community health centers, the Healthy Communities Access Program, Healthy Start, and the Preventive Health Block Grant.



Office of the House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, March 17, 2005
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