good intentions, or by dollars spent, but rather by results achieved. This Budget takes a hard look at programs that have not succeeded or shown progress despite multiple opportunities to do so. My Administration is pressing for reforms so that every program will achieve its intended result. While circumstances warrant, the 2006 Budget recommends significant spending reductions or outright elimination of programs that are falling short.

This Budget builds on the spending restraint we have achieved, and will improve the process by which the Congress and the Administration work together to produce a budget that remains within sensible spending limits. In every year of my Administration, we have brought down the growth in non-security related discretionary spending. This year, I propose to go further and reduce this category of spending by about one percent, and to hold the growth in overall discretionary spending, including defense and homeland security spending, to less than the rate of inflation. I look forward to working closely with the Congress to achieve these reductions and reforms. By doing so, we will remain on track to meet our goal to cut the deficit in half by 2009.

Our greatest fiscal challenges are created by the long-term unfunded promises of our entitlement programs. I will be working with the Congress to develop a Social Security reform plan that strengthens Social Security for future generations and protects the benefits of today’s retirees and near-retirees, and provides ownership, choice, and the opportunity for today’s young workers to build a nest egg for their retirement.

In the past four years, America has faced many challenges, both overseas and at home. We have overcome these challenges not simply with our financial resources, but with the qualities that have always made America great: creativity, resolve, and a caring spirit. America is the strongest country because of American strength: the strength of our ideas, the strength of our culture, the strength of our commitment to others, and the strength of our values.

It is this source is as abundant as the strength of the American people. It is this creativity, resolve, and a caring spirit that have always made America great: the strength of our ideas, the strength of our culture, the strength of our commitment to others, and the strength of our values.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHUMER:
S. 297. A bill to provide for adjustment of immigration status for certain aliens granted temporary protected status in the United States because of conditions in Montserrat, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INOUYE:
S. 298. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the reduction in the deductible portion of expenses for business meals and entertainment; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN:
S. 299. A bill to make information regarding certain investments in the energy sector in Iran available to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. COLEMAN:
S. 300. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in implementing cultural heritage, conservation, and recreational aspects of the Connecticut River watershed of the States of New Hampshire and Vermont; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. GEHRIG, Ms. ENZI, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. BINGHAMAN):
S. 302. A bill to make improvements in the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JOHNSON:
S. 303. A bill to amend the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain employment as a member of a local governing board from social security coverage; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. FENGLD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. AKAKA):
S. 304. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain indecent conduct relating to exotic animals; to the Committee on Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAIG:
S. 305. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recruit volunteers to assist with or facilitate the activities of various agencies and offices of the Department of the Interior; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GEHRIG, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. ENZI, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TALENT, Mr. BINGHAMAN, Mr. HATCH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mrs. CLINTON):
S. 306. A bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANTORUM:
S. 307. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to extend national dairy market loss payments; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALASKA, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGHAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BUNDING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAPPEL, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DE MINT, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FENGLD, Ms. FENGLD, Mr. GEARHART, Mr. GEHRIG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. LINDSAY, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Ms. PYOR, Mr. REDD, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARAHAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELDY, Mr. SMITH, Mr. SNOWE, Mr. SPERER, Mr. STARKNOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALEST, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VONNOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN):
S. Res. 38. A resolution commending the people of Iraq on the January 30, 2006, national elections; to the Committee on.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. FRIST, Mr. REID, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BROOKNACK, Mr. DOODBURY, Mr. DODD, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. LUGAR,
By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. FEE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. REED):

S. Res. 39. A resolution apologizing to the victims of lynching and the descendants of those victims for the failure of the Senate to enact anti-lynching legislation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. Resolution supporting the goals and ideas of National Time Out Day to promote the adoption of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations’ universal protocol for preventing errors in the operating room; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REED, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. DOID, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. Res. 41. A resolution congratulating the New England Patriots on their victory in Super Bowl XXXIX; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. Res. 42. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on promoting initiatives to develop an HIV vaccine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 5, a bill to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 11, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that the strength of the Armed Forces and the protection of their families for members of the Armed Forces and their families are adequate for keeping the commitment of the people of the United States to support their service members, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 12, a bill to combat international terrorism, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 13, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to expand and enhance health care, mental health, transition, and disability benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. INOUYE, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 50, a bill to authorize and strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s tsunami detection, forecast, warning, and mitigation program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. HAY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURKOWSKI) and the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 267, a bill to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 294, a bill to strengthen the restrictions of the importation from BSE minimal-risk regions of meat, meat byproducts, and meat food products from bovines.

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 294, a bill to concur in the report expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States Department of Defense should continue to exercise its statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees.

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 26, a resolution commending the people of Iraq on the election held on January 30, 2005, of a 275-member transitional National Assembly and of provincial and regional governments and encouraging further steps toward establishment of a free, democratic, secure, and prosperous Iraq.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. INOUYE:

S. 296. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the reduction in the deductible portion of expenses for business meals and entertainment; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, I rise to introduce legislation to repeal the current 50 percent tax deduction for business meals and entertainment expenses as a percentage of the Department of Treasury’s official rate. The reduction to 80 percent gradually over a five-year period. Restoration of this deduction is essential to the livelihood of small and independent businesses as