

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1702

To reallocate funds toward sensible priorities such as improved children's education, increased children's access to health care, expanded job training, and increased energy efficiency and conservation through a reduction of wasteful defense spending, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY (for herself, Ms. LEE, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. STARK, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. CARSON, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HONDA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SOLIS, and Ms. WATSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Education and Labor, Homeland Security, Foreign Affairs, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To reallocate funds toward sensible priorities such as improved children's education, increased children's access to health care, expanded job training, and increased energy efficiency and conservation through a reduction of wasteful defense spending, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Common Sense Budget
3 Act of 2007”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The Department of Defense’s increasingly
7 large budget provides for total defense spending that
8 is greater than that of the other 192 countries in the
9 world combined, yet—

10 (A) the United States now ranks 42nd in
11 the world in infant mortality, behind most of
12 the nations of Western Europe and the indus-
13 trialized Far East, while \$60,000,000,000 of
14 the United States defense budget is expended
15 annually on weapons designed to thwart Soviet
16 Union aggression during the Cold War and
17 other wasteful programs;

18 (B) Federal spending on elementary and
19 secondary education has fallen to less than 8
20 percent of the proposed 2008 outlays for the
21 Department of Defense, while schools through-
22 out the Nation are eliminating programs in
23 music, foreign language, and physical edu-
24 cation;

25 (C) 46,000,000 individuals in the United
26 States lack health insurance during some period

1 of any given year, and half that number of indi-
2 viduals (over 9,000,000 of whom are children)
3 lack such insurance for the entire year;

4 (D) the Government Accountability Office
5 estimates that—

6 (i) $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Nation's public schools,
7 serving 14,000,000 children, need exten-
8 sive repair or need to have their entire
9 physical plants replaced;

10 (ii) 85 percent of the Nation's public
11 schools, 73,000 facilities serving
12 40,000,000 children, need some repair
13 work; and

14 (iii) the total cost for the repairs and
15 replacement described in this subpara-
16 graph is over \$120,000,000,000;

17 (E) research conducted by the National
18 Center for Education Statistics shows that mid-
19 dle school students in the United States rank
20 9th in science test scores and 15th in math test
21 scores internationally, behind students in such
22 countries as the Republic of Korea, the Slovak
23 Republic, Singapore, the Russian Federation,
24 and Malaysia; and

1 (F) the Government Accountability Office
2 estimated in 2003 that the Department of De-
3 fense could not account for over
4 \$1,000,000,000,000 in funds appropriated to
5 the Department of Defense.

6 (2) The United States spends over
7 \$20,000,000,000 annually to maintain its nuclear
8 arsenal, although many of the weapons in that arse-
9 nal no longer have practical utility. The United
10 States needs to eliminate spending on obsolete weap-
11 ons systems and use the funds saved to meet urgent
12 domestic needs for health care, education, job train-
13 ing, and increased energy efficiency and conserva-
14 tion.

15 (3) The Department of Defense is spending bil-
16 lions of dollars developing space weapons and pre-
17 paring plans to deploy them, although—

18 (A) those expenditures and plans con-
19 travene White House policy, in place for a dec-
20 ade, that emphasizes arms control and non-
21 proliferation pacts; and

22 (B) the development of those weapons is
23 opposed by many United States allies, who have
24 rightly stated that a shift in policy towards that
25 development will create an arms race in space.

1 (4) The United States needs to reduce its de-
2 pendence on foreign oil by promoting long-term en-
3 ergy security through greater investment in sustain-
4 able and renewable energy alternatives.

5 (5) The United States is facing unprecedented
6 challenges to national security and broader national
7 interests. Sustainable development and humanitarian
8 assistance programs should be a central part of
9 United States foreign policy. To address the root
10 causes of instability and terrorism and undercut the
11 ability of terrorist organizations to recruit effec-
12 tively, the United States needs to address the global
13 challenges of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, dis-
14 ease, and disaster by increasing funding for sustain-
15 able development and humanitarian assistance pro-
16 grams.

17 **SEC. 3. REDUCTIONS IN AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR DE-**
18 **FENSE AND ENERGY PROGRAMS.**

19 (a) REDUCTIONS IN AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR PRO-
20 GRAMS.—

21 (1) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS.—

22 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
23 amounts appropriated or otherwise available for fis-
24 cal year 2008 for the Department of Defense shall
25 be reduced by \$47,000,000,000.

1 (2) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECUR-
2 RITY PROGRAMS.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
3 sion of law, the amounts appropriated or otherwise
4 available for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of
5 Energy shall be reduced by \$13,000,000,000.

6 (b) DOMESTIC PROGRAMS.—From amounts made
7 available under subsection (a)—

8 (1) \$10,000,000,000 shall be made available to
9 carry out the modernization of school facilities under
10 section 8007(b) of the Elementary and Secondary
11 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7707(b));

12 (2) \$9,000,000,000 shall be made available to
13 carry out State child health plans under title XXI
14 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et
15 seq.);

16 (3) \$5,000,000,000 shall be made available to
17 carry out employment and training activities under
18 chapter 5 of subtitle B of title I of the Workforce
19 Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2861 et seq.)
20 and the Department of Labor shall determine the
21 fair apportionment of these funds on a per capita
22 job loss basis;

23 (4) \$10,000,000,000 shall be made available to
24 the Secretary of Energy for such programs as that
25 Secretary may specify to increase energy efficiency

1 and conservation and increase investment in sustain-
2 able and renewable energy alternatives;

3 (5) \$13,000,000,000 shall be made available to
4 the Secretary of State for such sustainable develop-
5 ment and humanitarian assistance programs as that
6 Secretary may specify to alleviate the global chal-
7 lenges of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, disease,
8 and disaster;

9 (6) \$5,000,000,000 shall be available to the
10 Secretary of Homeland Security to improve safe-
11 guards pursuant to the Homeland Security Act of
12 2002;

13 (7) \$5,000,000,000 shall be made available to
14 reduce the deficit; and

15 (8) \$3,000,000,000 shall be made available for
16 Veterans' health care.

17 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

18 This Act takes effect 90 days after the date of enact-
19 ment of this Act.

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