

AMVETS firmly believes that we cannot wait for the next crisis before we act. H.R. 4, as approved by the House, is a critical part of an overall policy America requires to promote dependable, affordable, and environmentally sound production and distribution of energy for the future. We urge your expedited approval of this legislation.

Dedicated to service.

JOSEPH W. LIPOWSKI,
National Commander.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, October 29, 2001.

Hon. TOM DASCHLE,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DASCHLE: The 2.7 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary supports H.R. 4, the "Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001" or SAFE Act of 2001. We applaud the House of Representatives for its bipartisan work in addressing our energy vulnerability by passing H.R. 4. We believe the Senate should consider and vote on H.R. 4 so that our nation has an energy plan for the future and can move forward quickly with a comprehensive plan to develop our domestic energy resources.

Keeping in mind the horrific events of September 11 and mindful of the threats we are facing, we strongly believe that the development of America's domestic energy resources is a vital national security priority. We need to take steps to reverse our growing dependence on Middle East oil as quickly as possible. By passing H.R. 4, the Senate will be supporting our troops serving in combat on Operation Enduring Freedom, the American people, and our national security with a comprehensive energy legislation that is desperately needed to diversify the energy supply for our country and chart a course for the future.

The VFW strongly urges the Senate to consider and vote on H.R. 4 as passed in the House in this session of Congress.

Sincerely,

ROBERT E. WALLACE,
Executive Director.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
Washington, DC, October 25, 2001.

Hon. TOM DASCHLE,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DASCHLE: We write today out of a sense of urgency concerning our national security, as it relates to our need for energy independence. The development of America's domestic energy resources is vital to our national security. We respectfully urge you to adopt the provisions contained in H.R. 4, the "Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001."

War and international terrorism have again brought into sharp focus the heavy reliance of the United States on imported oil. During times of crises, such reliance threatens our national security and economic well being. The import of more than 50 percent of our petroleum from the Persian Gulf further compounds our foreign trade balance at a time when our energy demands continued unabated. It is important that we develop domestic sources of oil, contained within our public lands—such as the supplies within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Working for a comprehensive energy policy and achieving responsible energy independence are critical national security and economic goals. H.R. 4, as passed by the House of Representatives, is a major step forward

to achieving these imperative goals. We strongly urge your support.

Sincerely,

RICHARD J. SANTOS,
National Commander.

STATEMENT OF OUR NATION'S VETERANS GROUPS, "OUR DOMESTIC ENERGY SECURITY IS OUR NATIONAL SECURITY", OCTOBER 30, 2001

We, the undersigned, representing our nation's veterans, strongly believe that the development of America's domestic energy resources is a vital national security priority. The horrific events of September 11, 2001, constitute a threat to our people, our economy, and our nation's security. With U.S. troops actively engaged in combat overseas, we firmly believe that America can and will win this prolonged war against terrorism, using all its resources to defend our nation and the cause of freedom around the world.

Because of these beliefs, we applaud the House of Representatives for its bipartisan work in addressing our energy vulnerability by passing H.R. 4, the "Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001" or the "SAFE Act of 2001." It is imperative that the Senate pass the House version of H.R. 4 so that our nation can move forward in establishing our energy security, as well as our defense of freedom at home and abroad. It is essential for us to develop all domestic energy resources including the supplies within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

By passing H.R. 4, the comprehensive energy legislation, the Senate will be supporting our troops in the field, all Americans, their families, and our nation. We, as Veterans, stand united and respectfully request that the Senate vote on and pass H.R. 4.

J. ELTON YATES,
*Chairman and Founder,
Vietnam Veterans Institute.*

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, America's veterans, those who have stood in harm's way year after year and decade after decade in defense and support of our freedom, now speak out and say: Senator DASCHLE, this is an issue of national security. Where are you? Why aren't you allowing the Senate to debate this issue now and have on the President's desk a national energy policy before we recess this first session of the 107th Congress?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2002—Continued

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I want to talk a minute about part of the Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill as it pertains to an area of particular concern to me and my State; that is, rural health care.

I am cochairman of the Rural Health Care Caucus, along with the Senator from Iowa. I think this issue has been treated very well in this bill. I would like to comment just a bit about it.

We have, of course, a special focus on rural health care because it is unique. And because it is a special kind of issue that does not apply everywhere, I

think it is necessary for us to deal with it from time to time.

We submitted a letter from our caucus. I think there were 43 Members of the Senate listed on the letter asking for some consideration. I think this committee has reacted quite well.

There are a number of things of which most people are not aware and which are not talked about very often. Although 20 percent of the population of this country lives in what is called rural areas, only 9 percent of physicians practice in those areas. You can see it is always somewhat difficult to have the kind of medical services in rural areas that are available in other places.

Rural areas contain 67 percent of the country's primary health care professional shortage areas. I guess that is not a surprise, but indeed that is the case. It is in need of focus to ensure we have primary care in all of these rural areas.

There are 2,187 rural hospitals, a majority of which are primary care hospitals. Specialized care is very limited. Only 12 of 245 long-term care hospitals are in rural areas, and 81 of 601 psychiatric hospitals are in rural areas. None of the country's 73 children's hospitals is in rural areas.

As you can see, there is a need, and indeed there has been and continues to be special emphasis on it.

For example, national health care services: This is a program that provides primary health care providers in our Nation's most underserved communities. Last year, only 12.5 percent of the communities eligible for provider placement received assistance. That has increased. Adequately? I do not know. Would we like more? Of course. Nevertheless, it has been treated well.

There is an increase for community health centers. Community health centers provide services in rural areas for people living in underserved areas. They provide a service that is not always needed but is unique to rural areas.

Rural health research: A grant is provided for rural health research as to how to provide more services.

We understand the rural areas are not going to have all of those kinds of services in every community. In our State, we look for a medical care network that can be moved around to the places where it is needed.

The Rural Access to Emergency Devices Act is in the bill with some new funding; also, State offices of rural health which help provide a network and a system to provide those services in small communities.

We had some requests for funding in the Rural Interdisciplinary Training Program. This program addresses the shortage of health care professionals in rural areas. In the bill we also have the Rural Hospital Improvement Program.

So, of course, there are other areas in which we would like to have more emphasis, but I wanted to rise to suggest that this area of this bill is a very important one and one that means a great deal.

When we think of Wyoming, of course, we think of a rural State. I think there are twice as many people in Fairfax County as there are in Wyoming. But every State has rural areas. New York is one of the most rural States in terms of how many people are concentrated in a particular area. So when we talk about rural States, it is not just a western phenomenon. Rural needs exist in all our States.

So I hope we can go forward with this part of the bill. I thank those who put the bill together for their emphasis and interest in providing for rural health care.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise to offer for the RECORD the Budget Committee's official scoring for S. 1536, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002.

The Senate bill provides \$123.071 billion in nonemergency discretionary budget authority, which will result in new outlays in 2002 of \$50.014 billion. When outlays from prior-year budget authority are taken into account, discretionary outlays for the Senate bill total \$107.716 billion in 2002. The Senate bill is at its section 302(b) allocation for both budget authority and outlays.

In addition, the bill provides \$300 million in emergency-designated funding for the low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP), which will result in new outlays of \$75 million in 2002. In accordance with standard budget practice the budget committee will adjust the appropriations committee's allocation for emergency spending at the end of conference.

The Senate bill also provides \$18.474 billion in advance appropriations for 2003 for employment and training, health resources, child care, and education programs. Those advances are specifically allowed for under the budget resolution adopted for 2002, and, combined with all other advance appropriations considered by the Senate to date, fall within the limit imposed by the resolution. Finally, the bill extends the Mark-to-Market Program for multifamily assisted housing, which is estimated to save \$355 million in 2002.

I ask for unanimous consent that a table displaying the budget committee scoring of this bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the table was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1536, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002, SPENDING COMPARISONS—CONFERENCE REPORT

(In millions of dollars)

	General purpose	Mandatory	Total
Senate-reported bill:			
Budget Authority	123,071	272,937	396,008
Outlays	107,716	272,968	380,684
Senate 302(b) allocation: ¹			
Budget Authority	123,071	272,937	396,008
Outlays	107,716	272,968	380,684
House-reported bill:			
Budget Authority	123,071	272,937	396,008

S. 1536, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002, SPENDING COMPARISONS—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

(In millions of dollars)

	General purpose	Mandatory	Total
Outlays	106,753	272,968	379,721
President's request:			
Budget Authority	116,328	272,937	389,265
Outlays	105,957	272,968	378,925
SENATE-REPORTED BILL COMPARED TO:			
Senate 302(b) allocation: ¹			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
House-reported bill:			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	963	0	963
President's request:			
Budget Authority	6,743	0	6,743
Outlays	1,759	0	1,759

¹ For enforcement purposes, the budget committee compares the conference report to the Senate 302(b) allocation.

Notes.—Details may not add to totals due to rounding. Totals adjusted for consistency with scorekeeping conventions, including removal of \$300 million in BA and \$75 million in outlays in emergency funding for the low-income home energy assistance program. The Senate Budget Committee increases the committee's 302(a) allocation for emergencies when a bill is reported out of conference.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise in support of the fiscal year 2002 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill brought forward today by Senator HARKIN and Senator SPECTER, the distinguished chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee.

As a member of the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee, I am well aware of the competing priorities funded in this bill including health care for the disadvantaged, medical research, education, Head Start, child care, and job training. The subcommittee faces a difficult task every year accommodating these important priorities, but behind the leadership of the chairman and ranking member, I believe we have produced a bill that balances these priorities.

The bill provides \$1.343 billion for community health centers. The weakening economy and skyrocketing cost of insurance raise the likelihood that thousands of Americans will lose their health benefits. These facts, combined with the persistent lack of access to care in many rural and urban communities, make it imperative that we strengthen the ability of community health centers to serve our Nation's underserved and uninsured patients. Last year, Senator BOND and I launched the REACH initiative to double funding for community health centers by 2005. The \$175 million increase provided in the bill with support from 67 Senators keeps the Senate on track to meet our goal.

From cancer to vision to biomedical imaging, the work of the Subcommittee to invest in the National Institutes of Health, (NIH), has led to improvements in the quality of life for countless Americans. I strongly support the unprecedented investment in the NIH made in this bill. This basic and clinical research is critical to the advancement of medical science and human health. Over the past 30 years, the 5-year cancer survival rate has risen from 38 percent to 59 percent.

This means that approximately 8,400,000 people are alive today as a result of progress in cancer research.

Our investment in the NIH has been returned many times over. Every dollar spent at the NIH returns over \$7 in lower medical costs and increased economic productivity. Advances in the treatment of cardiovascular disease between 1970 and 1990 have had a positive economic value of \$1.5 trillion annually. Still the costs of disease tallies as high as \$180 billion a year for cancer and \$38 billion a year for vision ailments. The investment made by this bill will cut into the amounts our government and our citizens spend fighting and treating these diseases.

In addition, it is important that we open the competition for biomedical research to institutions from all parts of the country. This bill includes \$200 million for the National Center for Research Resources' Institutional Development Awards, a program that helps States like South Carolina overcome the geographic concentration of NIH awards by developing the infrastructure needed to compete for biomedical research funding.

I would also like to point out the importance of the cancer programs funded out of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Cancer Registries can be a powerful tool in the war against cancer. We know that early detection of cancer saves lives and saves the health care system millions of dollars. With budgets getting tighter in States across the country, cancer registries give public health agencies clear guidance of where to target scarce resources for prevention activities. I am told that the registry in South Carolina is like many of the other registries. It has the ability to collect sophisticated and accurate data, but lacks the resources to fully analyze and act upon the data it collects. The true potential of cancer registries cannot be realized until a larger investment in the program is made.

The South Carolina breast and cervical cancer detection program, known as the Best Chances Network, just celebrated its 10th anniversary. Over that time, the program provided more than 110,000 cancer screenings to low-income women and have detected 1,400 cancers, saving countless lives. By all accounts the only problem with the program is that it cannot serve all eligible women.

The subcommittee also did an admirable job funding education programs. The bill contains a \$1.5 billion increase for title I. This substantial increase is important because the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act will put new mandates and higher expectations on our nation's schools. In turn, our schools should expect us to meet our mandates and provide them with the resources we promised. The \$10.2 billion provided in the bill will move us closer towards fully funding title I, a goal that 79 members of this body voted to affirm earlier this year.

The bill contains \$3 billion for State grants for improving teacher quality. It is critical to the future of our education system that we recruit our best and brightest to the teaching field and make efforts to retain the quality teachers already present in our system. This funding gives States the flexibility to improve teacher compensation, hire new teachers to reduce class size or provide additional training or mentoring to current teachers.

This bill addresses the crumbling infrastructure in many of our schools by providing \$925 million for school construction. Seventy-eight percent of public schools in South Carolina reported a need to upgrade or repair a school building to good overall condition. I am pleased that the bill will help our schools address some of the needs of their facilities and thank the chairman of the subcommittee for the leadership he has shown in this area.

Finally, the bill increases funding for higher education programs. The amounts provided in this bill will bring the maximum Pell Grant total to \$4,000. We also provide for a \$75 million increase for the TRIO programs. Since 1965, an estimated two million students have graduated from college with the special assistance and support of our Nation's TRIO Programs. These programs have been successful. Studies have found that students in the Upward Bound program are four times more likely to earn an undergraduate degree than those students from similar backgrounds who did not participate in TRIO, and students in the TRIO Student Support Services program are more than twice as likely to remain in college than those students from similar backgrounds who did not participate in the program. I am pleased that this bill will allow more eligible students to benefit from the TRIO Programs.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CLINTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN THE ECONOMY AND HOMELAND DEFENSE

Mr. REID. Madam President, last week, late in the week, Senator BYRD and I held a press conference. The reason we held this press conference was to indicate that we believe we need to do something to restore confidence in the economy. We also believe that part of restoring confidence in the economy is making sure that homeland defense is something that is more than just words.

We are proposing things that cost money. It is great to talk about home-

land defense, but if there is no money attached to it, it becomes a shallow promise to the American people.

Some of the things that Senator BYRD and I have talked about have to do with bio-terrorism. We believe there should be some prevention. Madam President, if you are going to have good, high-quality medical care, you have to have preventive medical care. The way to reduce costs and have a healthier public is to put our resources in the front end, not wait until everybody is sick and in the hospital. Bio-terrorism is no different. We need to have prevention and response. We need to have food safety initiatives. We have so few food inspections now. I believe I heard my friend from Iowa say, in a debate in this Senate Chamber last week, that about 1 percent of the food in our country is inspected. We need to do better. We need to make sure that State and local governments, who have responsibilities in this area, have some capacity to do that.

We believe there should be upgrades to State and local health departments. We believe we have to take a look at hospitals to make sure there is enough hospital capacity.

We want to accelerate the purchase of vaccines. In America, this huge country of 270 million people, we believe we should have an adequate number of vaccines that are under the direction of the Centers for Disease Control. We need to make sure we have adequate supplies. If we do not use them, fine; but we should have them available. And to accelerate the purchase of these vaccines is going to cost money.

Antibiotics: We know we have an inadequate supply of antibiotics. We need to make sure there is a satisfactory supply of these antibiotics for all the problems that may arise. And that is true for other pharmaceutical supplies.

We need to make sure there is better security for our labs.

These things I have just enumerated will cost about \$3 billion.

I came to Washington with Tom Ridge. He and I were in the House of Representatives together. I have maintained a friendship with him, including the time he was Governor of Pennsylvania.

A year ago, we traveled to Israel and the Middle East together, and we spent some time together. I have great respect for him as a person and for his abilities. But I truthfully say that I am not sure he is going to be able to do what is going to be required of him unless he has the resources to do it.

I had a meeting in with him last week. What he suggested was: Let me determine, first, what I need, and then I will come back and tell you what I need.

I am willing to do that. But I am not going to stand in the background and deprive him of the resources to do his job.

We have 40 agencies that collect intelligence. I believe we need a person

who has authority to tell these entities what to do and what he needs from them. So I am willing to wait for a reasonable period of time for Governor Ridge to get back to us and tell us what he needs. But if this is going to go onto a program where they are going to try to do his job and not spend any money, then I am going to move forward and give him the tools I believe he needs.

I am willing to wait for him to tell me what tools he needs, but if I get nothing in the reasonable future, then I am going to go ahead and do something on my own.

In New York, we learned to do something that should have been done a long time ago; that is, to develop nationwide appreciation for the police officers and firefighters.

In my past, I was a police officer for a period of time here in Washington, DC. I have always had great respect for the police. But it was not until I went to the State legislature in Nevada that I developed the respect for firefighters that I have.

When I went there, they were trying to pass legislation.

One of the things they told us, that there were more people who die and are injured fighting fires than police officers who die or are hurt in the line of duty. Firefighters have all kinds of problems on a daily basis. This was exemplified by the tragedy at the World Trade Center when hundreds of firefighters died in that terrible attack. We need \$6 billion to make sure the State and local antiterrorism investments are there for our police and fire departments. We need to have firefighting grants to allow local governments to have the capacity to train these people better. So for State and local antiterrorism investments for police and fire departments and additional firefighting grants, that figure is \$1.6 billion.

We need to also recognize that the FBI needs more assistance. All Federal law enforcement needs help. That includes computer modernization, especially for the FBI. They need additional agents. They are working long hours and getting worn down since September 11. I am not going to state in the Chamber the numbers of people in the Las Vegas Customs office. To do so would be embarrassing to me and to our country. It is the same all over the country. We are asking the U.S. Customs to do all kinds of things legislatively that they don't have the staff to do. We need a huge additional amount of money to take care of Customs.

We know that the terrorists who came and did the acts of September 11 didn't come over the southern border we hear so much about. They came through the northern border. We need to make sure there is more funding for the Coast Guard, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and U.S. Attorneys. Our courts need more money, as does the U.S. Marshals Service. What I have