

<i>Budget authority</i>	
Children and Family Services (head start)	1,400
Special Education	5,413
Vocational and Adult Education	791
Transportation and Treasury Subcommittee:	
Payment to Postal Service	37
Veterans, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee: Section 8 Renewals	4,200
Total	25,686
Current Level over (+) / under (–) Appropriate Level	2,528

¹ This advance appropriation was not on the list of accounts identified for advance appropriations included in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference in the conference report to accompany H. Con. Res. 95. Still, since the provision has been enacted, it is included part of the current level for advance appropriations.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, April 20, 2004.

Hon. JIM NUSSLE,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2004 budget and is current through April 9, 2004. This report submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2004. The budget resolution figures incorporate revisions submitted by the Committee on the Budget to the House to reflect funding for the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003, and the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003. These revisions are authorized by sections 421 and 507 of H. Con. Res. 95, respectively.

Since my last letter, dated February 12, 2004, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts, which changed budget authority, outlays, or revenues for 2004:

The Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–202);

The Social Security Protection Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–203);

The Welfare Reform Extension Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–210);

An act to reauthorize certain school lunch and child nutrition programs through June 30, 2004 (Public Law 108–211); and

The Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–213).

In addition, the Congress has cleared the following legislation for the President's signature:

An act to require the Secretary of Defense to reimburse members of the United States Armed Forces for certain transportation expenses (S. 2057).

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN,
Director.

FISCAL YEAR 2004 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT AS OF APRIL 9, 2004

[in millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted in previous sessions:			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,330,756
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,120,639	1,081,373	n.a.
Appropriation legislation ¹	1,145,398	1,178,431	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	–368,484	–368,484	n.a.
Total, enacted in previous sessions:	1,897,533	1,891,320	1,330,756
Enacted this session:			
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–202)	1,328	0	0
Social Security Protection Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–203)	685	685	0
Welfare Reform Extension Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–210)	107	58	0
An act to reauthorize certain school lunch and child nutrition programs through June 30, 2004 (P.L. 108–211)	6	6	0
Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–218)	0	0	3,363
Total, enacted this session:	2,126	749	3,363
Passed, pending signature:			
An act to require the Secretary of Defense to reimburse members of the United States Armed Forces for certain transportation expenses (S. 2057)	13	7	0
Entitlements and mandates: Difference between enacted levels and budget resolution estimates for appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	–22,156	3,472	n.a.
Total Current Level ^{1,2}	1,877,536	1,895,548	1,334,119
Total Budget Resolution	1,880,555	1,903,502	1,325,452
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	8,667
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	3,019	7,954	n.a.
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2004–2008:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	8,383,689
House Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	8,168,933
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	214,756

¹ Pursuant to section 502 of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2004, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the current level excludes budget authority of \$86,004 and outlays of \$38,056 from previously enacted bills.

² For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the budget resolution does not include Social Security administrative expenses, which are off-budget. As a result, the current level excludes these items.

Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

MISLEADING AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to express my concern that the administration has misled Congress and the American public on the most pressing issues we are facing here at home and abroad. It is time that the administration was truthful to the American public about the cost of the war in Iraq.

Last week President Bush said in his address to the Nation that the administration is constantly reviewing the needs of our troops and will provide whatever additional resources are needed. Yet this is the same administration that sent our troops to war without adequate body armor, antijamming devices or armored Humvees. Our troops in the theater did

not even have enough body armor and protective SAPI plates until January of 2004.

As of today less than 50 percent of the 12,800 armored Humvees that we need in Iraq and Afghanistan are equipped with reinforced doors and windows. This is in part because the \$87 billion supplemental for the Iraq war that Congress passed last November included only \$239 million to up-armor Humvees, far short of what is needed.

I supported a substitute version proposed by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) that would have provided \$3 billion to reinforce Humvees and other unarmored vehicles used by our forces. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership refused to allow the House a vote to consider the Obey proposal. Is it not ironic that anyone who did not vote for this \$87 billion package, they say, you are against anything for the troops, when in truth they orchestrated the

vote so those of us who want to provide more funding for the troops to provide them with the up-armored Humvees were not allowed a vote. Clearly the funding for upgrades to the Humvees and other force protection initiatives have been inadequate.

On March 18, 2004, the Defense Department formally requested Congress to shift \$190 million previously allocated to other uses to cover the cost of armoring Humvees for fiscal year 2004. According to the defense expert Michael O'Hanlon at the Brookings Institution, simply maintaining current troops levels beyond June could add nearly \$4 billion in unfunded costs through the end of this year. Yet President Bush's \$521 billion defense budget for fiscal year 2005 includes no money, no money for military operations in Iraq or Afghanistan.

In fact, there are \$12 billion worth of unfunded requirements for the military, including nearly \$2 billion of important force protection initiatives. And the administration says it will wait until next year to request a new supplemental, which could amount to over \$50 billion. The question is, why did not they not include this in their regular fiscal 2005 defense budget?

I think the American people deserve answers. The American people also deserve answers about urgent health problems here at home, health care and the rising costs of prescription drugs. The American people deserve to know the truth about the new Medicare prescription bill law. I have been having town meetings throughout my district with seniors, and they are outraged at the new Medicare law because it falls far short of what they expected, of what they need, and what they deserve.

The new law does nothing to reduce the cost of drugs, and it actually raises costs for seniors with less than \$5,000 a year in prescriptions.

□ 2015

It jeopardizes existing health benefits for retirees. The new Medicare prescription drug law was a huge victory for the pharmaceutical industry because it fails to require the government to negotiate drug prices on behalf of seniors, and it continues to make reimportation illegal.

Seniors are still prohibited from ordering prescription drugs from Canada at a fraction of the cost for those same drugs here in the United States. In the last 9 months, Springfield, Massachusetts, has already saved \$2 million by buying prescription drugs from Canada for their city's employees and retirees.

So instead of working to improve the Medicare prescription drug bill, we recently learned that the administration has chosen to hide the truth that the Medicare law would cost \$139 billion more than the Congressional Budget Office's prediction. We need to work together to pass a prescription drug law that will allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug costs on behalf of America's seniors, that will allow Americans to pay lower costs for drugs in Canada.

I have to tell my colleagues, whether I am talking to seniors who are Republicans, seniors who are Democrats, or seniors who are Independents, they do not get it. They understand that if you do not buy prescription drugs for all the 40 million recipients of Medicare, then it is probably not going to be a good deal for seniors; and they want this bill changed.

EARTH DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Alabama). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, with the approach this week of Earth Day, that will soon be followed by a

flood of American planners coming into our city for their annual conference, I think it is an appropriate time for us to step back and think about what the Federal Government can do to make a difference for our environment.

With the help of those people who are involved with the planning community looking in the long term, there are a number of things we can do that are simple, commonsense, that will make our communities more livable, enhance the environment and, at the same time, create real value for American families.

The most important single step that we could undertake would be just for the Federal Government to model the behavior that we expect from the rest of America, whether it is local government, business, or individuals.

A simple proposition: let us have the Federal Government clean up after itself. In just one area, that of the Department of Defense, we do not know how many millions of acres are polluted with military toxins and unexploded ordnance. The estimates range from 10 million acres to 50 million acres or more; and at the rate we are going, it is going to take us hundreds of years to meet the Federal Government's obligation to clean up these messes; and at the rate we are going, frankly, we are creating more problems than we are cleaning up.

At a time when we are contemplating this next year giving the Department of Defense over \$1 million a minute, it would seem to be a simple environmental expedient to give the men and women in uniform the tools to be able to do what they are equipped to do and what they want to do, which is leave the environment better than they found it. As the largest manager of infrastructure in the world, as the largest creator of Superfund sites in the United States, it would seem only right.

I have been profoundly impressed by the ability of men and women in the armed services to identify these problems; and when given the tools and the resources, they can solve any problem. Look what has happened in Iraq in terms of moving forward. I think our only problem there is we have not given the right tools and the right instruction, placing them in harm's way. We do not have to do that in the battle to clean up after the environment.

There is another simple step that can be taken and that is just for the Federal Government to be more environmentally sensitive to the way that it locates and manages its facilities, whether it is the post office which ought to obey local land use laws and zoning codes or it is the General Services Administration with over 300 million square feet of office scattered across the country. If the Federal Government, as the largest landlord, landowner and employer in the country, models best practices, the environments in our communities, large and small, would be better.

We have before us, pending final resolution, a transportation bill that has passed both the House and the Senate, albeit at different levels; and sadly, there were a few items that got shoehorned into the transportation bill at the last minute in the House, a few bridges to nowhere, so to speak; but the vast majority of that legislation provides an important environmental framework for protecting land, for repairing crumbling infrastructure, to be able to strengthen communities and put thousands and thousands of people to work by Labor Day in every State across the country.

When it comes to energy, we are watching in our service stations every day it seems like that prices are going higher, \$2, \$2.25 a gallon. The American public understands that simple, commonsense, fuel efficiency improvements that have been mandated in the past, that this Congress and administration have refused to embrace for the future, would make a huge difference. Simply improving our fuel efficiency to the same level as American companies are doing to compete in the European market would enable us to save more gasoline than we would recover from the arctic wildlife refuge which most Americans know is the last place we ought to be drilling, rather than the first.

I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that Congress, in the weeks ahead, would focus on simple, commonsense steps to improve the environment. That is the single most important thing we can do to keep our commitments to Americans on Earth Day, making our communities more livable, our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DOSAN AHN CHANG HO POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1822 would designate that a United States Post Office in the Koreatown section of my district would be renamed the "Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office."

Los Angeles is the home to the largest Korean American population in the country. In fact, more people of Korean heritage live and work in Los Angeles than any place outside of Korea. LA's Koreatown neighborhood is the epicenter of that community, and the economic and cultural wealth of this area are testaments to the achievements of Korean Americans.

It is fitting to mark these achievements by naming this post office after