

The bill the House has done in terms of the centerpiece is very good progress. It has taken the tax rebate checks and aimed them right at the middle class, where it should be, whereas the President's proposal aimed them significantly higher. In the President's initial proposal, someone making \$300,000 or \$400,000 a year would get the full rebate, and families earning between \$30,000 or \$40,000 would get less than the full amount, or nothing at all. So that is great progress.

I salute the House and Speaker PELOSI and Secretary Paulson and Minority Leader BOEHNER for their progress. But the package is not complete. While it is a very good first step, we need to move a little further. One of the things many of us on this side have always felt is that spending stimuli are necessary. Most importantly—for efficiency reasons, to get the economy moving—the rebate tax checks will not get into people's hands until May, at the earliest, maybe June, or maybe even July. Some say they will spend the money in anticipation of those checks but not very many. Rebate tax checks, while they do have a very significant effect on boosting the economy, do not come close to being as efficient as unemployment insurance and lengthening the time, and maybe changing and expanding the benefit temporarily.

CBO—nonpartisan—estimates for every \$1 you spend on unemployment insurance, you get a \$1.64 boost to the economy. That is great. That is phenomenal. For every \$1 you spend on a tax refund—it is still very good, and still should be done—it is only \$1.26.

We have always felt, again, that there ought to be two bookends, one on each side of the centerpiece on tax spending refunds. One should be business tax cuts. They should be aimed to be speedy and quick, but they should be balanced off by some spending stimuli.

The House bill does not have spending stimuli, and it is something I believe many of my colleagues—certainly myself—are going to try very hard to add to the package. Those spending stimuli should focus on employment insurance but could be for other things: money for summer jobs; money, if it can be spent quickly, for infrastructure; money for nutrition assistance, things such as that. I think that will add more balance to the package, but it will also make it more effective as a tool to stimulate the economy.

The second change I think we need is a focus on the housing prices. I salute my colleagues in the House—Speaker PELOSI, Congressman FRANK—because they worked hard to add some things we have been talking about for a long time to deal with the housing crisis, the conforming loan limit, and FHA reform. Those are very good and important because, after all, if the housing crisis is at the center of our problems, to ignore it, to work around it, is not doing everything we can to help elimi-

nate or at least reduce the severity of a recession.

There are some other issues we should consider looking at as we move the bill in the Senate. Most importantly, dollars—some spending; it will not be very much, actually, but some spending for counseling, foreclosure avoidance counseling, which could prevent tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of homes from being foreclosed on unnecessarily. There are many people in these homes who do have the ability to refinance given their income, given their FICO scores, but there is no one there to help them do it because the banks are no longer on the scene. These counselors would work. Secretary Paulson has told me the administration has no problem with this kind of proposal.

We did put \$180 million in the last omnibus budget bill. Senator CASEY, Senator BROWN, myself, with Senator MURRAY's great help, spearheaded the charge on that. But we should do more. We should look at other housing additions as well. Again, they will have to be broadly supported, bipartisan, and not hold up the package.

Finally, the third aspect we should talk about is we do need a second stimulus package to look at the long-range problems. We have many different structural problems in the economy now. A long-range package that would focus more on infrastructure, on trade adjustment assistance, on reforming unemployment insurance, and many other things, is very much needed. On the business side, too, tax credits for energy, for instance, for clean energy and green energy, are something we should seriously consider.

The third point I would make—and this is not at all a criticism of the House because we always intended there be a first package that is quick, gets into the economy quickly, does not create controversy—we need a second package aimed at the longer term.

In conclusion, this is a very good start. Again, I particularly salute Speaker PELOSI and the House Democratic leadership for so improving the President's proposal on the tax refund. I also salute Minority Leader BOEHNER and his Republican colleagues for working so closely with the Democratic leadership on this issue.

But we do need more. We need some spending stimuli. We need more done to deal with the housing crisis, which is at the center of these economic troubled times. And we do need a long-range package that aims at the structural problems in the economy. If we can do that, and add on to the great start that has been made by the House, we will have done the right thing in a bipartisan way to move this country forward and avoid a recession—unlikely, but it may be possible; let's hope and pray—certainly a deep and long recession that would hurt so many people and families.

RECONCILIATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, on Sunday, January 20, Mikhail Saakashvili was reinaugurated as President of the Republic of Georgia. He won an election that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE, referred to as “the first genuinely competitive presidential election in the country, enabling the Georgian people to express their political choice.” I wish President Saakashvili and the people of Georgia well.

President Saakashvili's program of reform and integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions, such as NATO, depends on the strength of Georgia's democracy. At the same time, membership in those institutions will reinforce and protect Georgia's democracy.

When I spoke with President Saakashvili in November, I was confident that he understood the close connection between these two goals. In order to achieve them, reconciliation between the President and his political opponents is essential.

Despite the findings of OSCE international monitors, the Georgian opposition repudiated the election's results and took to the street. In 16 years of independence there has never been a peaceful transfer of power in Georgia. Perhaps the time has come to move the debate off the street and into Parliament.

In my 35 years in the Senate, I have seen just how powerful a vehicle for change a democratically elected body can be. I hope the opposition parties will focus their energies on April's parliamentary elections, reinvigorating the Parliament and promoting progress from within.

On the same day that they gathered to elect a President, 73 percent of the Georgian electorate affirmed their interest in Georgia joining NATO. I support their aspirations and I am confident that the people of Georgia, united by a sense of common purpose, can and will realize their full potential and achieve great things.

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise to submit to the Senate the fourth budget scorekeeping report for the 2008 budget resolution. The report, which covers fiscal year 2008, was prepared by the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended.

The report shows the effect of congressional action through January 23, 2008, and includes legislation that was enacted and or cleared for the President's signature since I filed my last report for fiscal year 2008. The new legislation includes:

P.L. 110-53, Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007;

P.L. 110-84, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act;

P.L. 110-85, the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007;
 P.L. 110-89, an act to extend the trade adjustment assistance program under the Trade Act of 1974 for 3 months;
 P.L. 110-90, the TMA, Abstinence Education, and QI Programs Extension Act of 2007;

P.L. 110-114, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007;

P.L. 110-116; the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008;

P.L. 110-135, the Fair Treatment for Experienced Pilots Act;

P.L. 110-138, the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act;

P.L. 110-140, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007;

P.L. 110-142, the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act of 2007;

P.L. 110-150, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research;

P.L. 110-160, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007;

P.L. 110-161, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008;

P.L. 110-166, the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2007;

P.L. 110-173, the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007;

P.L. 110-175, the OPEN Government Act of 2007; and

H.R. 4986—pending Presidential action as of January 22, 2008—the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues used in the report are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 21, the 2008 budget resolution.

The estimates show that current level spending is below the budget resolution by \$24.4 billion for budget authority and \$13.5 billion for outlays while current level revenues are below the budget resolution level by \$19 billion.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter and accompanying tables from CBO be printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. CONGRESS,
 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
 Washington, DC, January 24, 2008.

Hon. KENT CONRAD,
 Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
 U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2008 budget and is current through January 23, 2008. This report is 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 S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, as approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the enclosed current level report excludes these amounts (see footnote 1 of Table 2 of the report).

Since my last letter, dated July 26, 2007, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues for fiscal year 2008: Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53); College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110-84); Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-85); An act to extend the trade adjustment assistance program under the Trade Act of 1974 for three months (Public Law 110-89); TMA, Abstinence Education, and QI Programs Extension Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-90); Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114); Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-116); Fair Treatment for Experienced Pilots Act (Public Law 110-135); United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 110-138); Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-140); Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-142); A bill to amend title 39, United

States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research (Public Law 110-150); Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-160); Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-161); Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-166); Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-173); and OPEN Government Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-175).

In addition, the Congress has cleared the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (H.R. 4986) for the President's signature.

The effects of those actions are detailed on Table 2.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. SUNSHINE
 (for Peter R. Orszag, Director.)

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008, AS OF JANUARY 23, 2008

(In billions of dollars)

	Budget resolution ¹	Current level ²	Current level over/under (-) resolution
ON-BUDGET			
Budget Authority	2,357.5	2,333.0	-24.4
Outlays	2,359.6	2,346.2	-13.5
Revenues	2,019.6	2,000.7	-19.0
OFF-BUDGET			
Social Security Outlays ³	460.2	460.2	0.0
Social Security Revenues	669.0	669.0	0.0

¹ S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, as adjusted pursuant to section 207(f), assumed approximately \$0.6 billion in budget authority and \$48.6 billion in outlays from emergency supplemental appropriations. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110-28 (see footnote 1 of table 2), budget authority and outlay totals specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced (by the amounts assumed for emergency supplemental appropriations) for purposes of comparison.

Additionally, section 207(c)(2)(E) of S. Con. Res. 21 assumed \$145.2 billion in budget authority and \$65.8 billion in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. Pending action by the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on the Budget has directed that these amounts be excluded from the budget resolution aggregates in the current level report.

² Current level is the estimated effect on revenue and spending of all legislation that the Congress has enacted or sent to the President for his approval. In addition, full-year funding estimates under current law are included for entitlement and mandatory programs requiring annual appropriations, even if the appropriations have not been made.

³ Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget, but are appropriated annually.
 Source: Congressional Budget Office.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008, AS OF JANUARY 23, 2008

(In millions of dollars)

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted in previous sessions:			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,050,796
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,410,115	1,352,183	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	420,888	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	-575,635	-575,635	n.a.
Total, enacted in previous sessions	834,480	1,197,436	2,050,796
Enacted this Congress:			
Authorizing Legislation:			
An act to extend the authorities of the Andean Trade Preference Act until February 29, 2008 (P.L. 110-42)	0	0	-41
A bill to provide for the extension of Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) and the Abstinence Education Program through the end of fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes (P.L. 110-48)	96	99	0
A joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes (P.L. 110-52)	0	0	-2
Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-53)	0	-425	0
College Cost Reduction and Access Act (P.L. 110-84)	-326	-992	0
Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-85)	-3	-3	0
An act to extend the trade adjustment assistance program under the Trade Act of 1974 for 3 months (P.L. 110-89)	9	9	0
TMA, Abstinence Education, and QI Programs Extension Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-90)	815	804	0
Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-114)	-1	-1	0
Fair Treatment for Experienced Pilots Act (P.L. 110-135)	0	-9	0
United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act (P.L. 110-138)	4	4	-20
Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-140)	66	64	1,016
Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-142)	0	0	-162
A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research (P.L. 110-150)	0	-2	0
Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-160)	200	200	0
Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-166)	0	0	-50,593
Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-173)	3,465	4,644	0
OPEN Government Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-175)	-2	-2	0
Total, authorizing legislation enacted in this Congress	4,323	4,390	-49,802

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008, AS OF JANUARY 23, 2008—Continued
[In millions of dollars]

	Budget au- thority	Outlays	Revenues
Appropriations Acts:			
U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 110–28) ¹	1	42	–335
Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110–116) ¹	459,550	311,596	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110–161) ¹	1,041,512	831,744	0
Total, appropriations acts enacted in this Congress	1,501,063	1,143,382	–335
Passed, pending signature:			
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (H.R. 4986)	–6	–31	2
Entitlements and mandates:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	–6,825	1,013	0
Total Current Level ^{1,2}	2,333,035	2,346,190	2,000,661
Total Budget Resolution ³	2,503,226	2,474,039	2,019,643
Adjustment to the budget resolution for emergency requirements ⁴	–605	–48,639	n.a.
Adjustment to the budget resolution pursuant to section 207(c)(2)(E) ⁵	–145,162	–65,754	n.a.
Adjusted Budget Resolution	2,357,459	2,359,646	2,019,643
Current Level Over Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under Adjusted Budget Resolution	24,424	13,456	18,982
¹ Pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. The amounts so designated for fiscal year 2008, which are not included in the current level total, are as follows:			
U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 110–28)	605	48,639	n.a.
An act making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes (P.L. 110–92)	5,200	1,024	n.a.
Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110–116)	11,630	1,047	n.a.
Further Continuing Appropriations, 2008 (P.L. 110–116, Division B)	6,400	1,369	n.a.
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110–161)	81,125	40,568	n.a.
Total, enacted emergency requirements	104,960	92,647	n.a.
² For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the Senate, the budget resolution does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level excludes these items.			
³ Periodically, the Senate Committee on the Budget revises the totals in S. Con. Res. 21, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution:			
Original Budget Resolution	2,496,028	2,469,636	2,015,858
Revisions:			
To reflect the difference between the assumed and actual nonemergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2007 (section 207(f))	–71	–1,421	–17
For extension of the Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) program (section 320(c))	96	99	0
State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) (section 301)	7,237	2,055	6,243
For the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (section 306)	–176	–842	0
Revision to State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) (section 301)	–7,237	–2,055	–6,243
Further revision to State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) (section 301)	9,098	2,412	6,210
Further revision to State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) (section 301)	–9,098	–2,412	–6,210
Further revision to State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) (section 301)	9,332	2,386	6,210
For the Farm Bill (Section 307)	3,624	1,690	2,784
For the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (section 308(a))	66	64	1,016
For the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (section 302)	–15	–112	2
For the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007 (section 310)	200	200	0
For the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (sections 301(a), 304(b)(2), 320(a), and 320(c))	3,465	4,644	0
Further revision for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (section 302)	15	112	–2
Further revision for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (section 302)	–6	–31	2
Further revision to State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) (section 301)	–9,332	–2,386	–6,210
Revised Budget Resolution	2,503,226	2,474,039	2,019,643

⁴ S. Con. Res. 21, as adjusted pursuant to section 207(f), assumed \$605 million in budget authority and \$48,639 million in outlays from emergency supplemental appropriations. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110–28 (see footnote 1), budget authority and outlay totals specified in the budget resolution also have been reduced (by the amounts assumed for emergency supplemental appropriations) for purposes of comparison.

⁵ Section 207(c)(2)(E) of S. Con. Res. 21 assumed \$145,162 million in budget authority and \$65,754 million in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. Pending action by the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on the Budget has directed that these amounts be excluded from the budget resolution aggregates in the current level report.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.
Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

THE MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I wish to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On September 22, 2007, Matthew Shetima was walking through an alley in Farmington, NM, when he encountered three men. Shetima, a gay man, claims that Scott Thompson, 21, Jerry Paul, 40, and Craig Yazzie, 37, all from New Mexico, called him over as he walked by the men. According to the police report, the three men began to hit Shetima, all of them calling him derogatory names as they struck him. According to the police report, when he fell to the ground, at least one of the men asked him if he wanted to die as they continued to kick him. Shetima was then pulled into the hotel room

the three men were staying in, where the assault continued. Fortunately, Shetima was able to escape. The district attorney prosecuting the case is seeking sentencing enhancements for all three men under New Mexico's hate crime law.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Matthew Shepard Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

MICHIGAN TECH'S TUITION OFFER

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, Michigan Technological University's recent decision to offer in State tuition to the children or spouse of anyone on active military duty, regardless of their State of residence, deserves our recognition and praise.

We are all deeply indebted to our men and women in uniform for their bravery and sacrifice. Michigan Tech is expressing thanks and showing support for the families of those serving in our

armed services in a way that will make a real difference.

While out-of-State students at Michigan Tech pay over \$21,000 for tuition, in State tuition is less than \$10,000 each year. This savings will be available to the families of the 1.3 million men and women who are on Active Duty in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, National Guard and Reserve, as well as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and United States Public Health Service Corps. We believe that Michigan Tech is the first college or university in the Nation to extend in State tuition to the families of all military personnel serving on Active Duty.

The idea developed after an applicant to a State university in Michigan received an admission offer but was denied in State tuition even though he graduated from a Michigan high school. His father was serving on Active Duty and had been stationed in Michigan but was moved out-of-State,