

DETAIL ON ADJUSTMENTS TO FISCAL YEAR 2012 ALLOCATIONS TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 106 OF THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011—Continued

(In billions of dollars)

	Program integrity	Disaster relief	Emergency	Overseas contingency operations	Total
Transportation, HUD					
Budget Authority	0.000	2.300	0.000	0.000	2.300
Outlays	0.000	0.513	0.000	0.000	0.513
State, Foreign Operations					
Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	8.703	8.703
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.821	3.821
Total:					
Budget Authority	0.893	2.300	0.000	8.703	11.896
Outlays	0.774	0.513	0.000	3.821	5.108
Memorandum 1—Breakdown of Above Adjustments by Category:					
Security Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	8.703	8.703
Nonsecurity Budget Authority	0.893	2.300	0.000	0.000	3.193
General Purpose Outlays	0.774	0.513	0.000	3.821	5.108
Memorandum 2—Cumulative Adjustments (Includes Previously Filed Adjustments):					
Budget Authority	0.893	8.113	0.000	126.544	135.550
Outlays	0.774	1.607	−0.007	63.568	65.942

HONEST BUDGET ACT OF 2011

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise to join Senator SESSIONS in introducing the Honest Budget Act of 2011. At this critical juncture in our Nation's fiscal history, we must no longer allow Washington to rely on an astonishing array of dishonest budget gimmicks to enable and conceal countless billions in Federal deficit spending.

We can no longer accept budgets that compromise our economic growth, living standards, or opportunities that have been a hallmark of America's greatness, which is why Senator SESSIONS and I have introduced this important legislation. The Honest Budget Act of 2011 will attack Washington's frivolous spending by stripping away many of the most egregious budget gimmicks in Washington, by making it harder for the Federal Government to spend money it does not have, and by confronting the culture of fiscal manipulation that is bleeding future generations of prosperity.

Our budgetary process is intrinsically broken. Congress is required by law to adopt a budget resolution by April 15, yet in the past 36 years Congress has met that deadline just six times. Throughout the last 10 years, Congress has approved a budget resolution on only six occasions. Congress failed to complete action on a budget resolution for 5 fiscal years: fiscal year 1999 in 1998, fiscal year 2003 in 2002, fiscal year 2005 in 2004, fiscal year 2007 in 2006, and fiscal year 2011 in 2010. Not surprisingly, those fiscal years ended with large, spendthrift, omnibus appropriation measures or continuing resolutions.

Last year, no budget and no appropriations bills passed for the first time since the current budget rules were put into place in 1974, resulting in an almost shutdown of the Federal Government in April 2011. We have had 87 continuing resolutions in the past 14 fiscal years and we even failed to pass all 12 individual appropriations bills last year. Not a single appropriations bill passed for fiscal year 2011!

Moreover, the majority in the Senate has failed to pass a budget for 889 days now. No business or household in America can function without a budget, yet, there are no consequences for

congressional inaction. The Honest Budget Act will change this.

This tacit acceptance of emergent dysfunction in our budget and appropriations processes has only exacerbated the trend-line of unbridled federal spending, and it is symptomatic of the miniscule value Congress has assigned to averting economically corrosive deficits and debt. Congress violates the budgetary process and existing rules with impunity and no consequences year after year while our national debt is rising, living standard for millions of Americans is faltering, and America is losing a competitive advantage that was once the hallmark of this great nation.

It is time we put an end to this habitual dysfunction! The Honest Budget Act of 2011 will address the many shortcomings of the budget process and it will force Congress to be accountable to the American people. Specifically, this legislation lays out nine specific fixes to ensure that the loopholes and gimmicks often utilized to circumvent the rules are eliminated for all time.

Currently, the Congressional Budget Act empowers any Senator to raise a point of order preventing the consideration of appropriation bills without a concurrent budget resolution in place, but the Senate can waive it with a simple majority vote. As a result, the point of order is rarely raised and Congress can spend money without a plan or budget restraints.

The Honest Budget Act will strengthen the point of order to require a vote of three-fifths of Senators to waive, enhancing the ability of Members to demand the Senate agree to a concurrent budget resolution before moving appropriation bills. Simply put, our legislation ensures that if Congress fails to pass a budget, then no appropriations bills will be considered.

Another loophole that has often been exploited to spend excessively is designating certain federal spending as an "emergency." Spending that Congress designates as an "emergency" is exempt from the controls designed to enforce budget restraint. By definition, an emergency should be necessary, urgent, unforeseen, and temporary.

I understand that the Federal response to emergencies such as natural disasters and acts of war must be de-

ployed rapidly and without unnecessary budgetary constraints. Unfortunately, attaching the "emergency" designation to a measure is easy it is simply written into the bill text. A Senator can raise a point of order against the designation during floor consideration, but it can be waived with 60 votes.

Examples of the emergency designation abuse abound. For instance, the 2008 supplemental appropriation bill included \$210 million in "emergency" spending for the 2010 Census even though, since its ratification in 1788, the Constitution has required a census every 10 years. Moreover, the fiscal year 2011 appropriation omnibus bill included \$159 billion in emergency spending for the Afghan and Iraq operations wars the U.S. has been fighting for 10 years!

The Honest Budget Act fixes this broken process by prohibiting any bill, joint resolution, or conference report from carrying an emergency requirement unless it is added via an amendment. A supermajority would then be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair. A new point of order could be created against an emergency requirement in an amendment that requires 60 votes to waive.

These simple fixes are just a few of the commonsense budget process enhancements the Honest Budget Act makes. These are the types of focused improvements that must be implemented to work alongside a balanced budget amendment to ensure that Congress begins to operate in a more honest and open fashion.

Since 2002 the Nation has run a deficit each and every year and our gross debt has increased from \$6.2 trillion to almost \$15 trillion. Over the past 5 years alone, government has managed to increase spending by a remarkable 40 percent, contributing to the largest budget deficits in our history over the last 3 consecutive years. The Federal Government is now borrowing roughly 40 cents of every dollar it spends. I do not believe that any of my colleagues in the Senate would argue that the budget process is working properly or as intended. The reality could not be starker.

Our Nation can no longer afford the gimmicks and loopholes too frequently

used in the past to dodge existing budgetary restraints. Targeted budget process reforms will compel Congress to return to the regiment and discipline of the budget and appropriations processes, and thereby force the government to establish priorities and abide by those priorities.

In an August of 1987 televised Oval Office address, President Reagan said, "The Congressional budget process is neither reliable nor credible; in short, it needs to be fixed." It has now been nearly a quarter-century since President Reagan sought to fix the budget process. It is time we heed his advice.

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor our teachers here in the United States and across the globe by recognizing October 5 as World Teachers' Day.

Celebrated in over 100 countries, World Teachers' Day is an occasion to acknowledge the many ways teachers make a difference in the lives of their students and in their communities.

There is no doubt that teachers play a key role in our society. Quality education reduces poverty and inequality, and provides the building blocks for democracy and civic participation.

Every day, over 3.5 million educators across the country work to close achievement gaps, give children the opportunity to succeed, and ensure that we have the educated workforce necessary for a global economy. I am especially proud to recognize the over 300,000 teachers, educating over 6 million students my home State of California.

Last year, I was happy to work with Senator TOM HARKIN of Iowa to pass the Education Jobs Fund, which has kept over 100,000 teachers in the classroom teaching our children.

I know firsthand how much goes into teaching a child, and praise the talented and committed individuals in the United States and around the world who have dedicated their lives to teaching.

MAINE NATIONAL GUARD

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues this article from the Mountain Times in Killington, VT. The article highlights the outstanding work of the nearly 200 members of Maine National Guard's 133rd Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Gardiner, ME, which deployed to Vermont to help our neighbors deal with the destruction from Tropical Storm Irene. Senator LEAHY has told me several times how grateful the people of Vermont are for the assistance and how impressed they are with the professionalism of the Maine National Guard members. All of us in Maine are extremely proud of their outstanding work helping those who needed it most. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the fol-

lowing article be printed in the RECORD.

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

ANGELS WITH DIRTY FACES

(By Greg Crawford)

Well, maybe their faces are clean, but the men and women of the Maine National Guard's 133rd Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Gardiner, Maine, and commanded by Lt. Colonel Normand Michaud, sure got their boots muddy! And despite modest denials, they are, indeed, angels, at least to the grateful citizens of Stockbridge.

Following the historic flooding caused by the torrential rains of tropical storm Irene, the call went out to National Guard units in areas not quite so devastated by the storm, and they answered that call with incredible speed. Given the complexity of the logistics involved, and that the behemoth trucks essential to their work do not exactly zip over the road, especially when they have to negotiate flood-ravaged terrain, the fact that they managed to get here just a few days after the flooding occurred is nothing short of amazing. The 38-vehicle caravan took 16 hours to make the trip from Belfast, Maine, about 40 miles east of Augusta, where much of the equipment was stored.

Something like a quarter of a mile of Vermont Route 107 between Bethel and Stockbridge was washed downstream. In some places, the road hugged the near-vertical mountainsides with the river right next to it. Following Sunday's deluge, the river was rushing by at the foot of the mountain as if the road had never been there at all.

A NATIONAL GUARD TRUCK UNLOADS PALLETS OF BOTTLED WATER AT THE STOCKBRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

But then the 133rd showed up, and things changed in a hurry. Their first task upon arrival was to erect the tents that would house the fifty-plus Guard members assigned to the Route 107 site and others around Stockbridge. It was fortunate that there was level ground beside Lambert's Power Tools, directly adjacent to the damaged highway. Before they could position the excavators, they had to build a dike to keep the muddy waters of the not-so-White River out of the area where their equipment would have to be situated. There's very fine, muddy silt everywhere, and though they had a couple of fair weather, the recent rains turned that silt into a thick soup that would have brought mere mortals to a standstill. But this is the 133rd Engineer Battalion. By Wednesday morning, they had already managed to restore a single, very rough lane where there had only been submerged rubble. This was wet, dirty and dangerous work, but according to Frank Lambert's daughter, one of the Guardswomen attached to this unit commented that she'd rather be here in Vermont's mud and rain than in Afghanistan. Small wonder. The 133rd has lost members to IEDs in previous deployments to that war-torn country.

That single lane of 107 is still barely navigable, even by 4-wheel drive vehicles, so it is not open to traffic as yet. But it is there. For that alone, 2nd Lieutenant Rand and the men and women of the 133rd Engineer Battalion have earned the undying gratitude of the residents of Stockbridge and the neighboring towns that depend on that highway.

A "BUCKET BRIGADE" SPEEDS THE TRANSFER OF PACKAGED BOTTLED WATER INDOORS

By the way, if anyone, Stockbridge resident or not, should encounter a Guard member from the 133rd, or any other National

Guard unit here to help, tell them, thank you. SPC Allison Pelletier of the 133rd's Public Affairs Office tells me that a much-appreciated expression of gratitude would be coffee and food. The MREs they're living on are better than they used to be . . . but they're still MREs. Some Dunkin' Donuts would go over pretty big, too, I'll bet. Hint, hint.

There are plenty of angels right here in Stockbridge, too. So many, in fact, that you can't swing a cat without smacking a Good Samaritan. My cat hates it when I do that.

Willis and Harry Whitaker, Mark Pelletier, Dave Brown, Peter Steibris, and God-only-knows how many others put in unbelievable hours making roads passable for emergency vehicles. They also reinforced the damaged abutment of Gaysville's 1929-vintage iron bridge.

Sid Hotchkiss and the McCullough brothers from Bethel have been working on the monster hole in River Road with bulldozers and an excavator.

Barbara Vellturo, Stephen Farrington, Cheryl Rivers, and others have slaved away over hot computers ferreting out information about the status of roads and bridges in surrounding towns and getting that information to Stockbridge residents by e-mail and postings to a Google Group called Stockbridge Open Forum. Paul Buckley has scouted all those roads daily to confirm the accuracy of the information.

Mark Doughty has coordinated meetings all over town to keep people up to date and convey residents' concerns to town officials.

Janet Whitaker has maintained a steady flow of information from a multitude of sources to keep the group forum's information current.

Jenny Harris has made innumerable runs to area pharmacies for prescriptions so residents in need don't run out of essential medications, and Mary Ellen Dorman, who knows everyone in town, has seen to it that they were all delivered to the right people.

Josh and Michelle Merrill, two former Gaysville residents now living in Rutland, are the people who, with the help of the Chittenden Fire Department and the Stockbridge Fire Department, got the ball rolling for the food shelves at the Stockbridge Elementary School and on the Stockbridge Common. Fifteen volunteers give of their time to organize and dispense all the items that fill the school's multi-purpose room.

Every day, there are people going out of their way to help someone. They neither expect, nor ask for, recognition; they just do what they know is right and move on. Makes it hard to catch 'em in the act.

Several people whose homes were damaged or destroyed, and those who simply can't get to their homes, have been taken in by generous and thoughtful neighbors. Furniture and appliances have been donated, or at least promised, to people in the process of rebuilding. Special efforts have been made to care for elderly, ill, or disabled residents, including helicopter and ambulance evacuations.

Were it possible to recount them all, the incidents of selfless generosity and assistance given to those less fortunate would fill this paper and two or three issues to come. Only a few have been mentioned here by name, but many more deserve recognition. However, I feel quite certain they are all content with the knowledge that they did some good.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING SPECIALIST DOUGLAS EDWARD DAHILL

● Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, this morning, at 10:45, in our Nation's