



# COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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DAVE OBEY (D-WI), CHAIRMAN

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## 2009 Appropriations Bill

WASHINGTON – Today Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI), Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, introduced a \$410 billion bill to wrap up work on the fiscal year 2009 appropriations bills.

Last year, President Bush refused to work with Congress to come up with compromise to finish these nine bills, instead insisting on unacceptable cuts to energy research, healthcare, education, law enforcement and biomedical research. President Bush would have insisted on:

- Cutting energy efficiency, renewable energy and weatherization programs by \$915 million;
- Cutting education by \$3.3 billion - eliminating vocational education programs, slashing higher education programs, and cutting programs to help teachers and improve technology;
- Cutting healthcare access programs by over \$1 billion while the number of uninsured Americans continues to grow, freezing biomedical research funding, and cutting the Centers for Disease Control by \$475 million;
- Cutting state and local law enforcement grants by \$1.5 billion or 65%; and
- Cutting job training, employment services and worker protections during the economic crisis by \$1.2 billion.

At the same time, the Bush budget would have increased funds to favored initiatives that were proven to be ineffective or unable to spend the money they were given last year.

Congress rejected these devastating cuts, and today presents a bill that will keep the government running and finish last year's business. This bill works in harmony with the economic recovery package, making investments that address the country's immediate needs while investing in our long term economic strength.

- **Energy Security:** Increases funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts, to increase the production of clean, efficient, American energy key to our long term economic security.
- **Scientific Research:** Makes strong investments into cutting edge science so that our nation will maintain its preeminence in the global economy.
- **Healthcare Access and Affordability:** Improves access to quality, affordable healthcare.
- **Education to Promote Opportunity:** Promotes our future economic strength by investing in K-12 education and helping families send their kids to college.
- **Workers:** Helps American workers in the tough economy train for and find good jobs in safe workplaces.
- **Safe and Healthy America:** Protects Americans by investing in programs to ensure clean air and water, and the safety of our food, medicine and consumer products.
- **A Critical Look:** The bill cuts and eliminates programs that haven't performed the way they should, and includes strict accountability measures to ensure American tax dollars are spent wisely. It invests in oversight efforts carried out by the Inspectors General and the Government Accountability Office.
- **Regulation for an Economy in Chaos:** Strengthens regulatory agencies that had been neglected, to beef up their efforts during the economic crisis.

Earmarks in non-project based accounts are further reduced by 5% below last year's levels, building on last year's 43% reduction.