

Emergency Campaign for America's Priorities

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ECAP Commends Democratic Leadership for Putting a Stop to the Hemorrhaging of the FY07 Budget *Looks Forward to FY08 Budget with New Priorities for Everyday Americans*

Washington, DC -- As the 2007 funding plan has been unveiled, the Emergency Campaign for America's Priorities and its participating partners show their appreciation to the Congressional Leadership for its efforts to stop the hemorrhaging inflicted by the 109th Congress in its failure to fulfill the fundamental responsibility of passing a budget. The spending resolution prevents severe losses of low-cost housing, increases Pell grants for low-income college students, and stops cuts in Head Start. At the same time, coalition members eagerly await an FY 2008 budget that embodies much-needed new priorities; priorities that increase opportunity and prosperity for the vast majority of Americans and ensure long-term economic growth by investing in critical human needs programs.

"We recognize that the Continuing Resolution drafted by Democratic Leadership was working with the leftover wreckage from the jaw-dropping ineffectiveness of the last Congress. There was little more to do with this wreckage than piece it together and use it to keep afloat through FY07, and we appreciate the efforts to do so," said Anne Filipic, ECAP spokesperson.

"But with this in mind, ECAP looks forward to a FY08 budget that has new priorities and works to rectify years of egregious under funding for programs critical to American families. For years, the American people have waited their turn. We hope that the 110th Congress gives them their due by investing in opportunity for everyday Americans and passing a budget that increases overall domestic discretionary spending and produces a significant expansion of services," Filipic said.

Details of ECAP's plan to meet these needs are below:

For FY 2008, Congress must:

- Provide \$450 billion for domestic discretionary spending.
- Increase outdated benefit levels for Food Stamps, fund SCHIP at levels adequate to cover all eligible children, restore funds cut from child support enforcement, and strengthen the unemployment insurance program.
- Reject new tax breaks for the wealthy and special interests, and any changes in the tax system, such as an AMT "fix," that do not make the system more progressive and that do not, at a minimum, replace lost tax revenue.

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