



## U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

*PRESS RELEASE*

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### **BYRD: BUSH NEEDS TO MOVE BEYOND BLAME GAME FOR THE GOOD OF THE NATION**

Washington, DC --- Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today issued the following statement in response to continued criticisms from President Bush on the pace of the legislative process:

"A great nation deserves much more from its elected officials than childish blame games. I am disappointed that the process for funding our nation's priorities is once again mired in petty political squabbling.

"In fact, no more than 4 bills have been signed into law by October 30 since the Republicans assumed leadership of the Congress in 2003. Most recently, the Democrats were left to clean up an incomplete mess of appropriations legislation left by President Bush in 2007. Rather than continuing to fuel the fire of overblown partisan rhetoric, it would behoove the Bush Administration to come to the table and discuss its opposition to the levels in these funding bills. We should sit down and discuss why the Bush Administration believes it is necessary to forego vital education, health care and research, veterans medical care, crime prevention, and homeland security funding.

"President Bush seems to have no problem with using the bully pulpit to threaten to veto these spending bills in order to score easy political points. But when it comes down to doing the hard work of coming to the table to discuss what the President wants to cut and why - - President Bush ducks the responsibility of leadership.

"This finger-pointing game the President is playing with the Congress only adds to the perception of a government in chaos and sends the message to both our friends and adversaries around the globe that the government of the United States cannot do even its most basic business. Surely the President has more respect for the well-being and safety of the American people than that. Our people deserve leaders who have the intelligence and maturity to compromise for the good of the country that we all take an oath to serve."

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