



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

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BYRD CALLS SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST SHORTSIGHTED

Washington, DC ó Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., who serves as the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, issued the following statement today on President Bush's \$196 billion supplemental funding request:

õPresident Bush's request is shortsighted at best. He asks Congress to approve another \$196 billion for the costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, including over \$153 billion for the war in Iraq alone. That \$153 billion is on top of the \$455 billion that the Congress has already approved for this failed war in Iraq.

õBut while the President talked today about providing a blank check for funding the day-to-day military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, his request is filled with gaping holes when it comes to securing America's homeland. While the President asked the Congress to approve \$153 billion of emergency funding for his failed policies in Iraq, he threatens to veto bills to educate our children, fight violent crime, improve our infrastructure, and secure our homeland. It is astonishing that the President can propose \$153 billion for the war in Iraq, while he requests no funds -- none -- to provide medical care to our veterans, to secure our borders, or to secure our ports. Where will it end?

õAs I indicated at the Appropriations Committee hearing in September, with regard to the upcoming supplemental request, I plan to proceed very carefully. Every line-item will be scrutinized. Hearings will be held to determine the need for this spending request. Tough questions will be asked of this Administration. There will be no blank checks.ö

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