



Center for Public Policy Priorities

Re: Call to Action on the Budget—Contact Senator Hutchison

While our Legislature is trying to write a budget, so is Congress. What Congress does is particularly important to Texas since more than one third of our state budget revenue comes from the federal government.

The Administration is urging Congress to make temporary tax cuts from 2001 and 2003 permanent, while at the same time proposing devastating cuts to critical services, even though the tax cuts have had a much larger role than domestic spending increases in fueling the deficit. The Center for Public Policy Priorities is concerned about the growing federal deficit, but wants the federal government to deal with it in a responsible way. Making tax cuts permanent while cutting critical programs is not responsible. We have urged Senator Hutchison, who is on the Senate Appropriations Committee, to make sure that Congress writes a budget that fairly balances the consequences and fairly distributes the burdens of its decisions.

We urge you to contact Senator Hutchison to share your own concerns. You must act now for your voice to be heard as decisions are being quickly made. For more information about the federal budget, visit the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities at www.cbpp.org or Voices for America's Children at www.voicesforamericaschildren.org.



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February 28, 2005

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hutchison:

More than one third of Texas' state budget revenue comes from the federal government. Critical state programs that we don't think about as being federally funded in fact rely on significant federal funding, for example, environmental protection. If Congress adopts the federal budget cuts proposed by the Administration, all Texans will suffer.

Texas can't afford to make up for federal cuts. As you know, Texas had a huge budget shortfall in 2003 and has a budget shortfall again this year. Texas has already made deep cuts in its budget and is contemplating further cuts. If Congress cuts the federal budget, in 2007, the Governor and Legislature will be faced with making devastating budget cuts or passing a significant state tax increase.

Don't cut the federal budget just to spend more on costly tax cuts for special interests and the wealthy. Don't cut health care and education for our children who are our future. Don't cut benefits for veterans when so many have given so much to our country. Don't cut investments in our communities that we need to rebuild our local economies and help people get good jobs. These programs didn't cause the deficit and shouldn't be cut to reduce the deficit.

Further, we ask you to oppose ill-conceived budget schemes such as block grants, entitlement caps, or global spending caps that will force significant cuts in critical services now and for many years in the future.

Please help make sure that Congress writes a budget that fairly balances the consequences and fairly distributes the burdens of its decisions.

Respectfully yours,

The Center for Public Policy Priorities

By F. Scott McCown
Executive Director