

Amendment Section 4001 – Rescinds \$100 million from Congress’ 2010 budget

While millions of Americans had to make tough choices in a down economy, Congress increased its own budget by almost \$100 million this year, a 4.5 percent budget increase. This section would rescind \$100 million, the full increase in funding Congress gave itself this year.

This rescission does not apply to the U.S. Capitol Police.

Congress Increased Its Own Budget By \$100 Million This Year

Last year, Congress prioritized its own budget and rushed the appropriations bill funding its own offices before sending any other spending bills to pay for the operations of the remainder of the federal government to the President. Months later, Congress eventually passed the Defense spending bill to fund the military and our troops stationed overseas.¹

In the Legislative Branch spending bill, Congress gave itself a 4.5 percent budget increase, which amounted to a 4.5 percent budget increase. This follows the 8 percent budget increase Congress awarded itself the prior year.²

Congress’ budget for this year would still exceed \$2.1 billion even if \$100 million was rescinded as proposed by this amendment.

Fiscal Year	House and Senate Appropriations	Percentage Increase From Prior Fiscal Year
2008	\$2.014 billion	3.8%
2009	\$2.196 billion	8%
2010	\$2.295 billion	4.5 %
2010 (with proposed rescission)	\$2.195 billion	0%

¹ Congressional Research Service: Legislative Branch: FY2010 Appropriation <http://crs.gov/Pages/Reports.aspx?Source=search&ProdCode=R40617> Table 4: House and Senate accounts. 2.196 billion for FY09 enacted, and 2.295 billion for FY10 enacted.

² Congressional Research Service: Legislative Branch: FY2009 Appropriation: <http://apps.crs.gov/products/ra/html/RL34490.html> House and Senate accounts 2.014 billion for FY08 enacted.

Congress Should Demonstrate It Understands The Economic Hardships Facing By The Rest Of America By Forgoing A Budget Increase This Year

Leadership requires sacrifice and the rest of the country is sacrificing now but Congress is not.

Although families across America continue to struggle to make ends meet in difficult economic times, Congress continues to spend lavishly on itself.

While Congress increased its own budget 4.5 percent, unemployment remains 9.9 percent and family incomes fell by more than three percent last year.

Congress should demonstrate it understands the economic hardships facing the rest of the country by forgoing a budget increase this year.

Congress' 2010 Budget Contains Millions Of Dollars Of Unneeded And Self-Indulgent Spending Projects

Congress' budget increase for itself is not only inappropriate at this time, it is self-indulgent as it funds a number of questionable initiatives. These include:

- \$4 million for the Democrat and Republican leadership offices to hire “consultants” (These leadership offices already employ hundreds of staffers).
- \$950,000 for the Appropriations Committee for “administrative expenses,” in addition to the \$15.8 million the committees received elsewhere in the bill.
- \$500,000 to pay for postcard mailings to constituents for Senators to announce local appearances (Senators can already spend the funds they are provided for their annual office allowances for such mailings).
- \$125,000 to pay for “domestic portion of transportation costs and travel expenses incurred by members and staff when engaged in authorized foreign travel.”
- \$72,000 for Democrat and Republican leadership offices for “cell phones and mobile data devices” (The offices can already spend the funds they are provided for their annual office allowances for these purposes).

- \$200,000 for an earmark for the Durham Museum in Omaha, Nebraska to digitalization of materials related to the “development of Nebraska and the American West” inserted by the chairman of the Senate Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee who happens to be from Nebraska.

Amendment Section 4002 – Rescinds \$100 million from Congress’ 2010 budget

While millions of Americans had to make tough choices in a down economy, Congress increased its own budget by almost \$100 million this year, a 4.5 percent budget increase. This section would rescind \$100 million, the full increase in funding Congress gave itself this year. (This rescission does not apply to the U.S. Capitol Police).

Congress Increased Its Own Budget By \$100 Million This Year

Congress Should Demonstrate It Understands The Economic Hardships Facing By The Rest Of America By Forgoing A Budget Increase This Year

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