

# SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE

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## KENT CONRAD, CHAIRMAN

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### **STATEMENT BY SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KENT CONRAD (D-ND) ON OFFICIAL 2009 DEFICIT TOTAL**

“Today’s deficit announcement again highlights the fiscal mess handed to the Obama administration. It is important to remember the vast majority of this deficit resulted from the policies of the previous administration, the worst recession in decades, and the federal response to the severe economic and financial crisis.

“While this year’s budget resolution put deficits on a downward trajectory over the next several years, it is clear much more will be needed to set our nation back on a sound long-term fiscal path. That is why it is critically important we pass health care reform this year that is fully paid for and that bends the long-term cost curve on health care. And I believe we must also put in place a special bipartisan process that drives further changes to address the long-term budget imbalance.

“Our economic strength and the future of our children is at stake. The time to meet this challenge is now.”

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