

SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE

KENT CONRAD, RANKING MEMBER

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STATEMENT BY SENATOR KENT CONRAD (D-ND) ON RELEASE OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S FY 2007 BUDGET

The nation needed a new budget plan this year, a dramatic and bold acknowledgment from this administration that we need to put our fiscal house back in order. Instead, we got more of the same – more deficits, more debt, and more hiding of the truth from the American people.

President Bush's new budget is nothing new. It represents the same reckless fiscal course the Bush administration has followed for the last five years. It explodes deficits, but then conceals them by providing only five years of numbers and leaving out large costs, like long-term Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) reform and realistic ongoing war costs. The result will be more debt passed on to our children. These aren't my values or those of the people I represent.

We have seen this playbook before. Every year, the Bush administration talks about fiscal responsibility, but in the end, its policies dig us deeper into deficit and debt. It is results that matter, not talk. The results so far have been disastrous for our country and the ones who lose most are future generations. It is time to cut up the charge card and start paying our bills. And that will require real leadership from both Republicans and Democrats.

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