



BUDGET COMMITTEE



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A Second Look at Wasteful Spending

SUMMARY

The *Second Look at Wasteful Spending* (SLAW) amendment would give the President the opportunity to force Congress to take a second look at wasteful spending - including both discretionary spending and new mandatory spending – as well as targeted tax cuts.

- President can send up to 4 rescission packages a year.
- Congress would be required to fast track the President's recommendation within 8 days.
- Unlike the previous 1996 line-item veto authority, SLAW requires Congressional affirmation of the President's rescission package.
- Savings from rescissions passed by Congress must be used for deficit reduction.
- Allows any member to offer a motion to strike any rescission proposal of an amount of discretionary budget authority, an item of direct spending or a targeted tax benefit that has the support of 11 other senators.
- SLAW sunsets after 4 years – giving Congress the ability to evaluate merits of rescission authority after President Bush and his successor have had the opportunity to use.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ **Improves Transparency of Federal Spending Process**
 - Ensures "Second Look": Too often earmarks and new mandatory spending proposals are jammed into omnibus spending and tax bills that are frequently passed in the middle of night with no time to review or amend.
 - SLAW gives the Congress a second chance to vote on those earmarks based on merit, not because they were being carried by a "must pass bill."
- ✓ **Eliminates Wasteful Spending Quickly and Efficiently**
 - Ensures BRAC-like fast-track process. Senate could not filibuster rescission package. Congress would be required to act within 8 days of President's submission.
- ✓ **Reduces the Deficit**
 - Spending restraint is critical, both in the short-term and the long-term. *A Second Look at Wasteful Spending* would help identify and eliminate wasteful spending that we cannot afford, as well as help block new, permanent spending programs that add to the deficit.
- ✓ **Forces New Majority Party to Back Up Claims of Fiscal Responsibility**
 - Democrats during the election cycle loudly claimed to be the party of fiscal responsibility. *A Second Look at Wasteful Spending* is an excellent tool for fiscal restraint, and would give them an opportunity to back up such claims.
 - SLAW takes the same approach as the Democrats' rescission proposal (offered by Senator Daschle) from 1995, which required Congressional affirmation for rescissions to take place.

- 20 current Senate Democrats supported the Daschle rescission amendment in 1995, and should take the same position now.

✓ **Broad Support From Business and Fiscal Watchdog Groups, including:**

1. U.S. Chamber of Commerce
2. National Federation of Independent Business
3. Citizens Against Government Waste
4. National Taxpayers Union
5. The American Conservative Union
6. Traditional Values Coalition
7. FreedomWorks
8. Americans for Prosperity
9. The Business Roundtable
10. The Bond Market Association
11. Americans for Tax Reform
12. Concord Coalition
13. Center for Individual Freedom
14. 60 Plus Associations
15. Club for Growth