

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2007

## President's budget plan would fail our children

The president has offered a budget that does not reflect the needs and priorities of the American people, especially our children.

He has requested \$484 billion for Pentagon spending, much of which will not go to combating the war on terror.

For example, \$60 billion of these funds will be wasted on obsolete Cold War weapons and the maintenance of an excessive stockpile of nuclear weapons.

Why are we wasting \$60 billion on obsolete weapons – money that could be used to fund the real priorities of the American public such as health care, education, the environment and homeland defense?

It is time for the government to take a closer look at Pentagon funding and eliminate the waste.

The president has proposed a reduction of \$90 million from special education programs.

Right here in New Hampshire, we are seeing an educational crisis in our special needs students, especially among our Hispanic and black populations.

As we are seeing in Nashua and Manchester, a disproportionate amount of these students are failing to meet the basic reading requirements required of third-graders under the No Child Left Behind law.

Not only will our children's education suffer in the state if Bush's budget is passed, so will their health care.

The president has proposed a \$100 billion cut in funding for health care programs. As a result, New Hampshire will see an increase in uninsured children.

And the cuts continue. Child care assistance for low-income families would be cut. Programs for children suffering from abuse would be slashed.

Environmental spending is being reduced, where it should be increased. Surely we cannot afford to overlook the myriad of ways our environment is suffering and how we are all paying the price – especially our children.

Our children will inherit the devastating effects of global warming and a nation dependent upon fossil fuels if we neglect to spend adequate money in these areas.

I urge New Hampshire's senators, congressmen and citizens to protest the priorities in the president's budget and work to create a sensible budget that reflects the needs of the American people.

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