

Washington, DC – Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez (TX-20) today voted in favor of the Conference Report on H.R. 2346, the Fiscal Year 2009 Supplemental Appropriations Act. The legislation passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 226 to 202.

“This bill provides our troops with the support they deserve while taking care of our nation during these challenging times,” said Rep. Gonzalez. “We remain committed to our men and women in uniform, and the 2009 Supplemental Appropriations bill recognizes the sacrifices of our troops and their families, by continuing to invest in improving military healthcare and family services. Furthermore, the Supplemental is consistent with the Presidents plan to scale back the war in Iraq and refocus on anti-terrorism efforts in Afghanistan.”

“This bill responds to some of our country’s most urgent needs by including critical funding to combat violence along the Southwest Border and keeping our country safe from the pandemic flu,” added Gonzalez. “This legislation enhances America’s security and enables us to move forward in supporting our troops and protecting our communities.”

The 2009 Supplemental Appropriations bill includes \$534.4 million to provide over 185,000 service members who have had their enlistments involuntarily extended since September 11, 2001 with \$500 per month for every month they were held under stop-loss orders.

The legislation also provides \$1 billion for the “Cash for Clunkers” program, providing consumers with \$3,500 to \$4,500 vouchers when they choose to trade in an old vehicle for one with higher fuel efficiency. It is estimated that this \$1 billion will spur the sale of up to 250,000 more fuel efficient cars and trucks – creating jobs and shoring up car dealerships.

Fiscal Year 2009 Supplemental Appropriations Act Highlights:

Department of Defense and Intelligence Activities in Iraq and Afghanistan: \$79.9 billion

Ongoing Military Operations

- \$51.3 billion, for operations and maintenance, and military personnel requirements for ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to support preparation to begin withdrawal from Iraq, consistent with President Obama's plans.
- \$2.8 billion, to cover identified shortfalls in military personnel accounts.
- \$1.8 billion, for defense health and programs to support military families, including: an additional \$94 million for family advocacy programs, \$51 million for orthopedic research, \$75 million for Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health Research, and \$20 million for rehabilitation equipment for wounded warriors.

Equipment and Force Structure

- \$25.8 billion, \$4 billion above the request, for equipment used by our service members in Iraq and Afghanistan, including:
 - \$500 million, not requested, for National Guard and Reserve equipment;
 - \$2.7 billion, not requested, for 8 C-17s and 7 C-130s;
 - \$4.5 billion, \$1.9 billion above the request, for lightweight Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles to protect our forces and provide a vehicle suited to the terrain and poor roads in Afghanistan;
 - \$600 million to fund the request for 4 F-22 aircraft; and
 - \$331.9 million to fund high priority intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance initiatives.
- \$1.1 billion to confront the threat from improvised explosive devices.

Military Construction Projects: \$2.7 billion, \$431 million above the request, primarily to support combat operations in Afghanistan, to build warrior support facilities in the United States, and to construct child development centers at military installations in the United States and overseas including:

- **Overseas Operations:** \$921 million, \$60.5 million above the request, to support increased troop strength in Afghanistan.
- **Wounded Warrior Support:** \$488 million, fully funding the President's request, to construct nine wounded warrior support complexes to help soldiers wounded in combat recover and remain on active duty or transition to civilian life and support families through this process.
- **Child Care:** \$276 million, matching the President's request, to construct 25 child development centers, which will provide an additional 5,000 child care spaces and address a top concern of military families.

- **Walter Reed National Military Medical Center:** \$263 million, matching the President's request, to complete the construction of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at Bethesda, including a Warrior Transition Center, and the Fort Belvoir, VA, Community Hospital.
- **NSA Data Center:** \$169.5 million, \$12 million below the request, to begin construction of a National Security Agency data center to support the Comprehensive National Cyber security Initiative.
- **Hospitals:** \$488 million, not requested, for hospital construction to address hospitals that are decades old and do not meet current standards for medical care.

Rescission: \$4.5 billion in previous appropriations is rescinded due to a reduction in world-wide fuel prices and cuts to underperforming programs.

Department of State and USAID, International Affairs and Stabilization Activities: \$10.4 billion

Assistance and Operations in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq

- **Afghanistan:** \$1.4 billion, \$9 million above the request, including: \$1 billion to fund economic development and agriculture programs, strengthen national and provincial governance, and expand the rule of law; and \$433 million for diplomatic operations and facilities, including additional civilian staff and diplomatic security.
- **Pakistan:** \$2.4 billion, \$800 million above the request, including: \$707 million to help address the economic crisis including agriculture and food security, assist the displaced population, strengthen national and provincial governance, expand the rule of law, and improve access to and quality of education of which \$225 million is to help address the refugee crisis inside Pakistan; \$46 million for diplomatic operations including additional civilian staff and diplomatic security; \$896 million for a new secure embassy and consulates in Pakistan; and \$700 million for the Pakistan Counterinsurgency Capability Fund, available September 30th 2009, to further build the counterinsurgency capabilities of the Pakistani security forces.
- **Iraq:** \$958 million, \$326 million above the request, including: \$472 million to continue stabilization programs, and strengthen governance and rule of law; and \$486 million for diplomatic operations.

Humanitarian Assistance

- **International Food Assistance:** \$700 million, for PL 480 international food assistance to alleviate suffering caused by the global economic crisis, natural disasters, changing climate patterns, and civil strife.
- **Refugee Assistance:** \$390 million, to help displaced people around the world with food, water, shelter and other basic needs, including humanitarian assistance for Gaza and \$45 million for Pakistan. Funding for the UN Relief and Works Agency programs in the West Bank and Gaza is limited to \$119 million.
- **Disaster Assistance:** \$270 million, to avert famines and provide life-saving assistance during natural disasters and for internally displaced people around the world, including Somalia, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, the Middle East and South Asia, including at least \$55 million for Pakistan.

Peacekeeping: \$721 million, for United Nations peacekeeping operations, including an expanded mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and a new mission in Chad and the Central African Republic. An additional \$168 million is provided within the voluntary peacekeeping account for activities in Somalia.

Other International Assistance

- **Africa:** \$288 million, \$155 million above the request, for economic and security assistance for Kenya, Somalia, Southern Sudan, and Zimbabwe.
- **Mexico:** \$420 million, \$354 million above the request, to address growing violence along the United States-Mexico border by supporting the Government of Mexico's efforts against organized crime and drug-trafficking.

Pandemic Flu Response: \$7.7 billion

- **HHS and CDC Response:** \$1.5 billion in FY 2009 appropriations and \$5.8 billion in contingent emergency appropriations for priority efforts including: expanding detection efforts, supplementing federal stockpiles, and developing, purchasing and administering vaccines. The President requested \$1.5 billion in FY 2009 appropriations and \$2 billion in contingent emergency appropriations, plus additional transfer authorities.

- **State and Local Response:** \$350 million, not requested, to assist state and local governments in preparing for and responding to a pandemic.

- **Global Efforts:** \$50 million, not requested, to support global efforts to track, contain, and slow the spread of a pandemic.

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