



PRESS RELEASE
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Members Respond to President's Budget *Call Spending Increase "Generous"*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Members of the House Republican Study Committee (formerly known as the Conservative Action Team), a group of over 70 House Members, made the following statements in response to President Bush's budget submission.

"President Bush has proposed a budget which more than provides for America's priorities. Yet, the Democrats still want more. Apparently, they have become addicted to the dramatic spending increases President Clinton extorted from Congress over the past three years. Now that we have a President to work with us, the Republican Congress needs to restore some fiscal discipline to our nation's budget. The Republican Study Committee will do everything possible to ensure that we live within the President's Budget," stated **Rep. John Shadegg (R-AZ), Chairman of the Republican Study Committee.**

"In the last four years, the discretionary budget has grown by nearly 25%. President Bush is proposing to wean the government off of its addiction to spending by capping this year's increase at 4%. After last year's 8.5% increase, however, it may be time for the government to go cold turkey. I hope the President's budget is a blueprint for a new beginning -- one that reflects our values and restores the fundamental principles of a free society to allow individuals to pursue their dreams in their own way without the burdensome intrusion of an unfettered federal government," stated **Rep. Jim DeMint (R-SC).**

"We don't even know where the money the government is spending right now is going. Ten out of the fourteen Cabinet agencies have failed to complete a clean audit in at least two of the last four years, yet spending since 1997 has increased by nearly 25%. Before increasing spending any more, we ought to find out where the money we are spending right now is going," stated **Rep. George Radanovich (R-CA).**

"The spending proposals in the President's budget plan should be a ceiling rather than a floor," stated **Rep. Pat Toomey (R-PA).**

"Finally, a Presidential budget that recognizes that a tax surplus is not just an excuse to spend more money on a bloated federal bureaucracy. President Bush is instead offering a measure of fiscal discipline that will allow us to move forward with a tax refund that rewards the taxpayers who created the surplus," stated **Rep. Jim Ryun (R-KS).**

Over the past several years, the Republican Study Committee has led the fight to control federal spending by offering amendments to spending bills and delaying consideration of appropriations bills until spending targets are met.

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