



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 2, 2002

Contact: Neil Bradley (202) 226-9717

## **Conservatives Respond to Bush Signing Supplemental Appropriations Bill** *Urge President Not to Spend \$5.1 Billion*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. John Shadegg (R-AZ), Chairman of the House Republican Study Committee, a caucus of over 70 House conservatives released the following statement in response to President Bush’s decision to sign H.R. 4775, Making Supplemental Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2002:

“Today President Bush signed the Fiscal Year 2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act into law. As the President has pointed out on numerous occasions, much of the funding provided in the Supplemental to the Department of Defense and other agencies is essential to our ability to continue to prosecute the war on terrorism and to secure the homeland against future terrorist attacks,” stated Rep. Shadegg.

Section 1404 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act requires the President to determine within the next 30 days whether to spend \$5.1 billion in so-called “contingent emergency spending.” However, according to the language in Section 1404, the President must spend all of the \$5.1 billion or none of it. This is an unprecedented provision, since the President normally has the ability to agree to contingent emergency spending on a case-by-case basis. None of the items included in the \$5.1 billion contingency were originally requested by the President.

“While portions of the \$5.1 billion in contingent emergency spending may further important government interests, some of the funding has little or nothing to do with the war on terrorism or homeland security, including, for example, \$2 million to store worms in alcohol at the Smithsonian. Unfortunately, the President must spend the \$2 million to put worms in alcohol if he wishes to spend any of the \$5.1 billion,” continued Rep. Shadegg.

“The members of the Republican Study Committee urge the President to reject the entire \$5.1 billion in emergency spending if he determines that none of the \$5.1 billion is essential to either the war on terrorism or homeland security. With increasing federal deficits now estimated at over \$150 billion, the government cannot afford to spend money on items that are not absolutely essential,” Rep. Shadegg concluded.

###