

<u>THIS SEARCH</u>	<u>THIS DOCUMENT</u>	<u>GO TO</u>
Next Hit	Forward	New Bills Search
Prev Hit	Back	HomePage
Hit List	Best Sections	Help
	Contents Display	

S.CON.RES.70

Setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 and 2010 through 2013. (Enrolled as Agreed to or Passed by Both House and Senate)

SEC. 224. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO INVEST IN CLEAN ENERGY, PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT, AND PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN SETTLEMENTS.

(a) Energy and the Environment- The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would decrease greenhouse gas emissions, reduce our Nation's dependence on imported energy, produce green jobs, encourage consumers to install smart electricity meters in homes and businesses, encourage the capture and storage of carbon dioxide emissions from coal projects, or preserve or protect national parks, oceans, or coastal areas, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018. The legislation may include tax legislation such as a proposal to extend for 5 years energy tax incentives like the production tax credit for electricity produced from renewable resources, the biodiesel production tax credit, or the Clean Renewable Energy Bond program, to provide a tax credit for clean burning wood stoves, a tax credit for production of cellulosic ethanol, a tax credit for plug-in hybrid vehicles, or provisions to encourage energy efficient buildings, products, and power plants. Tax legislation under this section may be paid for by adjustments to section 167(h)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as it relates to integrated oil companies.

(b) Settlements- The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would fulfill the purposes of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act or implement a Navajo Nation water rights settlement and other provisions authorized by the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act, by the amounts provided by that legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

SEC. 225. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS.

The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would--

- (1) enhance medical care, disability evaluations, or disability benefits for wounded or disabled military personnel or veterans (including measures to expedite the claims process);
- (2) maintain affordable health care for military retirees and veterans;
- (3) expand the number of disabled military retirees who receive both disability compensation and retired pay, or would accelerate the date by which eligible retirees under section 1414 of title 10, United States Code, will fully receive both veterans' disability compensation and retired pay;
- (4) eliminate the offset between Survivor Benefit Plan annuities and Veterans' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation;
- (5) provide for the continuing payment to members of the Armed Forces who are retired or separated from the Armed Forces due to a combat-related injury after September 11, 2001, of bonuses that such members were entitled to before the retirement or separation and would continue to be entitled to if such members were not retired or separated;
- (6) enhance programs and activities to increase the availability of health care and other veterans services for veterans living in rural areas; or
- (7) provide or increase benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II or their survivors and dependents

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation does not include increased fees charged to veterans for pharmacy co-payments, annual enrollment, or third-party insurance payment offsets, and further provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit or decrease the surplus for the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or for the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

SEC. 226. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES.

The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would--

- (1) enhance educational benefits or assistance for servicemembers and veterans with service on active duty in the Armed Forces on or after September 11, 2001;
- (2) allow for the transfer of education benefits from servicemembers to spouses, survivors, or dependents; or
- (3) otherwise enhance education benefits or assistance for servicemembers (including Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve),

veterans, or their spouses, survivors, or dependents

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

SEC. 227. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE AMERICA'S HEALTH.

(a) SCHIP- The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for a bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that provides up to \$50,000,000,000 in outlays over the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 for reauthorization of SCHIP, if such legislation maintains coverage for those currently enrolled in SCHIP, continues efforts to enroll uninsured children who are already eligible for SCHIP or Medicaid but are not enrolled, or supports States in their efforts to move forward in covering more children, by the amounts provided in that legislation for those purposes, provided that the outlay adjustment shall not exceed \$50,000,000,000 in outlays over the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013, and provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

(b) Medicare Improvements-

(1) PHYSICIAN PAYMENTS- The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the aggregates, allocations, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for a bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that increases the reimbursement rate for physician services under section 1848(d) of the Social Security Act and that includes financial incentives for physicians to improve the quality and efficiency of items and services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries through the use of consensus-based quality measures, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

(2) OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO MEDICARE- The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the aggregates, allocations, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for a bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that makes improvements to the Medicare program, which may include--

(A) reductions in beneficiary cost-sharing for preventive benefits under Medicare Part B;

(B) the preservation or promotion of payment provisions that support America's rural health care delivery system;

(C) limits to inappropriate or abusive marketing tactics by private insurers and their agents offering Medicare Advantage or Medicare prescription drug plans by enacting any or all of the recommendations agreed to by leaders of the health insurance industry on March 3, 2008, including prohibitions on cold calling and telephone solicitations for in-home sales appointments with Medicare beneficiaries;

(D) a three-year extension of the pilot program for national and State background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities or providers under section 307 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (42 U.S.C. 1395aa note) and removing the limit on the number of participating States under such pilot program; or

(E) measures to encourage physicians to train in primary care residencies and attract more physicians and other health care providers to States that face a shortage of health care providers

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes up to \$10,000,000,000, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

(3) MEDICARE LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS- The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the aggregates, allocations, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for a bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that makes improvements to the Medicare Savings Program and the Medicare Part D low-income subsidy program, which may include the provisions that--

(A) provide for an increase in the asset allowance under the Medicare Part D low-income subsidy program so that individuals with very limited incomes, but modest retirement savings, can obtain the assistance that the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 was intended to deliver with respect to the payment of premiums and cost-sharing under the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit;

(B) provide for an update in the income and asset allowances under the Medicare Savings Program and provide for an annual inflationary adjustment for those allowances; and

(C) improve outreach and enrollment under the Medicare Savings Program and the Medicare Part D low-income subsidy program to ensure that low-income senior citizens and other low-income Medicare beneficiaries receive the low-income assistance for which they are eligible in accordance with the improvements provided for in such legislation

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

(c) Health Care Quality, Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Transparency-

(1) COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS RESEARCH- The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that establish a new Federal or public-private initiative for comparative effectiveness research, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

(2) IMPROVING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM- The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other levels in this resolution for a bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, or conference report that--

(A) creates a framework and parameters for the use of Medicare data for the purpose of conducting research, public reporting, and other activities to evaluate health care safety, effectiveness, efficiency, quality, and resource utilization in Federal programs and the private health care system; and

(B) includes provisions to protect beneficiary privacy and to prevent disclosure of proprietary or trade secret information with respect to the transfer and use of such data

by the amounts provided for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

(3) HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND ADHERENCE TO BEST PRACTICES-

(A) HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY- The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that provide incentives or other support for adoption of modern information technology, including incentives or other supports for the adoption of electronic prescribing technology, to improve quality and protect privacy in health care, such as activities by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to integrate their electronic health record data, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

(B) ADHERENCE TO BEST PRACTICES- The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that provide incentives for Medicare providers or suppliers to comply with, where available and medically appropriate, clinical protocols identified as best practices, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

(d) Food and Drug Administration-

(1) REGULATION- The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for a bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, or conference report that authorizes the Food and Drug Administration to regulate products and assess user fees on manufacturers and importers of those products to cover the cost of the Food and Drug Administration's regulatory activities, by the amounts provided in that legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

(2) DRUG IMPORTATION- The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the aggregates, allocations, and other levels in this resolution for a bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, or conference report that permits the safe importation of prescription drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration from a specified list of countries, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

(e) Medicaid-

(1) RULES OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS- The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for a bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that includes provisions regarding the implementation or administration of regulations or other administrative actions pertaining to Medicaid or SCHIP or includes provisions regarding administrative guidance issued in August 2007 affecting SCHIP or any other administrative action that would affect SCHIP in a similar manner by the amounts provided in that legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the total of the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the total of the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

(2) TRANSITIONAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE- The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions or conference reports that extend the Transitional Medical Assistance program, included in title XIX of the Social Security Act, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the total of the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the total of the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

(f) Other Improvements in Health- The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports which--

(1) make health insurance coverage more affordable or available to small businesses and their employees, through pooling arrangements that provide appropriate consumer protections, or through reducing barriers to cafeteria plans;

(2) improve health care, provide quality health insurance for the uninsured and underinsured, and protect individuals with current health coverage;

(3) reauthorize the special diabetes program for Indians and the special diabetes programs for Type 1 diabetes;

(4) improve long-term care, enhance the safety and dignity of patients, encourage appropriate use of institutional and community-based care, promote quality care, or provide for the cost-effective use of public resources; or

(5) provide parity between health insurance coverage of mental health benefits and benefits for medical and surgical services, including parity in public programs

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

(g) Pediatric Dental Care- The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the aggregates, allocations, and other

appropriate levels in this resolution for a bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that would provide for improved access to pediatric dental care for children from low-income families, by the amounts provided in such legislation for such purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

SEC.***THIS SEARCH***[Next Hit](#)[Prev Hit](#)[Hit List](#)***THIS DOCUMENT***[Forward](#)[Back](#)[Best Sections](#)[Contents Display](#)***GO TO***[New Bills Search](#)[HomePage](#)[Help](#)