

GREATER BOSTON	BOSTON GLOBE	EVENTS	YELLOW PAGES	Sponsored Links	
The Aging Citizen What Can Governments Expect? How Can They Meet Demands? www.Deloitte.com/us		Flex Spending Account FSA Online Claims Entry & Debit Card 100% Web-based Admin Solution! www.repayme.com		BETA	Lost Funds Billions have lost funds and don't even know it . How much is yours? www.CashUnclaimed.com
				Our HRA controls costs Employers - Pay less taxes, control health costs with an HRA and HDHP. www.hdmbenefitsolutions.com	

boston.com National News *your connection to The Boston Globe*

[Home](#)
[News](#)
[A&E](#)
[Business](#)
[Sports](#)
[Travel](#)
[Your Life](#)
[Cars](#)
[Jobs](#)
[Real Estate](#)
[Yellow Pages](#)
[Member Center](#) | [Log Out](#)

[Today's Globe](#)
[Local](#)
[Opinion](#)
[Magazine](#)
[Education](#)
[NECN](#)
[Special reports](#)
[Obituaries](#)
[Traffic](#) | [Weather](#) | [Mobile](#)

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Nation](#) > [Washington](#)



President Bush spoke with his budget director, Rob Portman. (Charles Dharapak/Associated Press)

Bush budget puts pinch on domestic spending

The Boston Globe

Boosts war fund, hits healthcare

By Susan Milligan and Rick Klein, Globe Staff | February 6, 2007

WASHINGTON -- President Bush yesterday proposed deep cuts to federal healthcare, education, and transportation programs, searching for new money in the federal budget to pay for increasingly costly defense programs and the war in Iraq.

The president's \$2.9 trillion spending plan calls for saving \$100 billion in Medicare and Medicaid payments, and for limiting eligibility in the State Children's Health Insurance Program -- a change that could result in the

Article Tools

- Printer friendly
- Single page
- E-mail to a friend

Advertisement

Latest national news

- ▶ [Senate ban on lobbying spouses limited](#)
- ▶ [House puts energy technology onus on EPA](#)
- ▶ [House of Representatives passes biofuels bill](#)
- ▶ [Senate debates \\$463.5B spending bill](#)
- ▶ [Dog eats owner's \\$5,000 wedding ring](#)
- ▶ [More national news](#)

BOSTON.COM'S MOST E-MAILED

- ▶ [Comfy heels? Turns out it is rocket science](#)
- ▶ [Filings to foreclose set record](#)
- ▶ [Store to send lobsters gently into that good pot](#)
- ▶ [Gadget toilet made for modern kings and queens](#)
- ▶ [Chicken Little and global warming](#)
- ▶ [See full list of most e-mailed](#)

SEARCH THE ARCHIVES

All Globe stories since 2003 are now FREE

[Today](#)
[Yesterday](#)
[Past 30 days](#)
[Last 12 months](#)
[Since 1979](#)

▶ [More search options](#)

Advertisement

▶ **Get 50% off Boston Globe home delivery.**
 Order now!
www.bostonglobe.com/articlelink

loss of health care for children in Massachusetts and other states.

Bush said the cuts will help balance the federal budget by 2012, even as the nation spends \$141.7 billion next year on fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Our priority is to protect the American people," Bush said after a Cabinet meeting where he introduced his fiscal 2008 budget. "I strongly believe Congress needs to listen to a budget which has no tax increase, and a budget, because of fiscal discipline, that can be balanced in five years."

But Bush faces a skeptical audience on Capitol Hill. Democratic leaders pledged to halt planned cuts in health and education, and lawmakers in both parties said they will scrutinize the spending plan for the Iraq war.

-  Nation RSS feed
-  Reprints & Licensing
-  Share on Facebook
-  Save this article
- powered by Del.icio.us

More:

- [Globe Nation stories](#)
 - [Latest national news](#)
-

Latest coverage:

- ▶ [Four Marines killed; U.S. toll now 3,114](#) (AP, 2:06 p.m.)
- ▶ [House leaders plan votes on Iraq bills](#) (AP, 1:23 p.m.)
- ▶ [Iraq's deputy health minister detained](#) (AP, 1:08 p.m.)
- ▶ [Officials report sixth helicopter downing in Iraq](#) (Reuters, 3:43 a.m.)

From today's Globe:

- ▶ [Weapons that aren't ready dot Bush's war budget](#)
- ▶ [7 die in fiery US helicopter crash in Iraq](#)
- ▶ [Gates vows quick progress report on Iraq](#)
- ▶ [5 indicted in contract bid-rigging](#)
- ▶ [Tensions high as security operation begins](#)

N.E. War Dead:  [Iraq](#) ▶ [Post a tribute](#)

▶ [Globe special reports from Iraq and around the world](#)

"This budget was probably dead before typesetting, not even dead on arrival," said Stan Collender, a budget specialist and the managing director at Qorvis Communications, a Washington-based public relations firm. "A lame duck [Republican president] with a Democratic majority doesn't have the ability to ask for [something] and just have it happen."

Republican leaders on Capitol Hill lauded Bush's refusal to raise taxes and his denunciation of pork-barrel projects that Republicans and Democrats have included in federal spending bills. But Democrats derided the budget, calling it a fiscally irresponsible plan that would add to the national debt while cutting programs favored by Democrats.

"Despite the historic fiscal failures of the past six years, President Bush's budget proposes more of the same," said Senate majority leader Harry Reid, Democrat of Nevada, referring to cuts in domestic social programs and increased spending on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The proposed cuts to Medicare and Medicaid are larger than similar cuts Bush asked for in his previous budget proposals. Democrats -- whose minority status in previous years had hamstrung them from blocking such cuts -- vowed to stop them from going into effect for the next fiscal year.

If Bush's plan to trim payments to healthcare providers were to take effect, Massachusetts hospitals would lose as much as \$190 million next year, according to the Massachusetts Hospital Association. In addition, the state could see its annual Children's Health Insurance Program subsidy cut by \$10 million, to \$240 million -- a reduction that probably would force the program to trim the number of children it serves.

[Continued...](#)

1 [2](#) [Next](#)

More:

[Globe Nation stories](#) | [Latest national news](#) | [Globe front page](#) | [Boston.com](#)

Sign up for: [Globe Headlines e-mail](#) | [Breaking News Alerts](#)

 [Printer friendly](#)  [Single page](#)  [E-mail to a friend](#)  [Available RSS feeds](#)  [Most e-mailed](#)  [Reprints & Licensing](#)



[Long's Jewelers Makes Valentine's Day Easy](#)



[Search new & used Car listings and special offers](#)

[feedback form](#) | [help](#) | [site index](#) | [globe archives](#) | [rss](#)

© 2007 The New York Times Company

Get a **\$40 Home Depot gift card** with Boston Globe home delivery at **50% off!**  [CLICK HERE](#)