

## Coffman: Democrats Load Troop Funding Bill with Wasteful Spending

**(WASHINGTON)** - Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO) issued the following statement today regarding H.R. 4899, the emergency troop funding bill and the legislative gimmick Democrats attached to 'deem' as passed a phony budget in lieu of proceeding with the annual budget process:

"I'm disappointed but not surprised that the Democrat majority added an amendment with \$17 billion in new domestic spending to a critical war funding and disaster assistance bill. This spending should not be considered 'emergency' and should pass through a regular process, but since Democrat leaders know that the public's tolerance for deficit spending is gone they are trying to strap their own liberal agenda to the back of our troops to get it passed. This is simply unacceptable."

"The bill we voted on tonight has other horrors. Pelosi and her lieutenants used this 'must pass' bill to move forward with a budget gimmick designed to hide their failure - the first time since the adoption of the Budget Act of 1974 - to pass a budget this year. Incredibly, the Democrat majority is instead voting for a budget trick that simply allows them to spend \$31 billion more than last year's budget. This is a failure of leadership and a failure to govern."

“It’s also telling that Democrats offered three separate amendments designed to force a withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Afghanistan, just as General Petraeus is en route to Afghanistan to take command.”

Nearly half spending in the emergency war supplemental is unrelated to the ongoing wars. It includes \$35 billion in giveaways for special interests, bankrupt government programs, and pet projects. The following is a summary of some of the emergency spending:

- \$10 billion for an Education Jobs Fund to temporarily bail out states facing budget shortfalls;
- \$4.95 billion to temporarily bail out the federal Pell Grant program which recently received billions in new funding when the government took over private college lending;
- \$180 million to support \$18 billion in federally guaranteed loans for clean energy;
- \$538 million in new spending to deter waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare;
- \$100 million to increase Community Development Block Grants in areas that have experienced flooding;
- \$15 million for a highway safety study; and
- \$2 million to “investigate the causes of the recent financial crisis.”

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