



NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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Statement of The U.S. Conference of Mayors President Trenton Mayor Douglas H. Palmer on President Bush's Proposed FY'08 Budget

Cuts to Domestic Programs Undermine Efforts to Build Strong Cities

Washington, D.C. – The U.S. Conference of Mayors President Trenton, NJ Mayor Douglas H. Palmer released the following statement in response to President Bush's FY 2008 Budget:

“The nation’s mayors are extremely disappointed that the President’s Budget proposes significant cuts to domestic programs, particularly the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), which has been championed for over 30 years by mayors in cities around the country as one of their most efficient tools to strengthen local communities. We deplore the proposed \$1.1 billion cut to CDBG and believe it is most unfortunate that this Administration has repeatedly attempted to devastate this program that invests directly in America’s neighborhoods.

“The nation’s mayors believe that in order to keep America strong, Congress and the Administration must responsibly invest in cities and local communities, which are the engines that drive this nation's economy.

“At a time when crime is on the rise in our nation’s cities, funding for key law enforcement programs has been cut in half. Mayors and police chiefs urge the federal government to stand with us to make our cities safer by restoring programs that have proven effective in the fight against crime.

“Mayors also recognize that concerns about terrorism are still very real and believe that cuts to first responder programs, including terrorism prevention grants and high-threat urban area grants, are unconscionable.

“In this time of global competition, America’s economic health depends on the development of a skilled workforce. However, this proposed budget calls for a significant cut in workforce programs.

“Furthermore, during a time of high energy costs, we are deeply disappointed that the president has proposed to cut funding to help low-income individuals with heating and energy assistance by \$379 million.

“As CEO’s of the nation’s cities, mayors know all too well the challenges America’s families face. We believe this budget weakens American families and does not reflect the priorities of the American people.

“We are forging partnerships with the new leadership in Congress to save valuable programs that help strengthen working families and build stronger cities. As the national debate on budget priorities unfolds, we welcome the opportunity to work with Congress and the Administration in a bi-partisan way to build a stronger America.”

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