

NH's challenge -- stop federal cuts

The Bush administration's tax giveaways and the Iraq war have created a record federal deficit -- now YOU'RE going to pay

New Hampshire advocates for children, health care, veterans, housing and any other group or program that relies on the federal government have a small window of opportunity to preserve funding for needed services.

President Bush has proposed a federal budget that cuts or freezes funding for -- or even eliminates -- many of these programs. Congress will work through March and into April to decide whether to go along with his proposals. If that happens, programs and services that support the lives of the people you serve will survive only if New Hampshire funds them.

With the state facing its own \$320 million deficit, additional state funding for any program is unlikely.

Our senior Senator, Judd Gregg, is one of the most important budget decision-makers in Washington. Sen. Gregg is the new Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, which has the power to not only to limit funding, but also to set the rules under which the budget will be built. Advocates throughout our state must make Sen. Gregg understand the impact these cuts will have on the people *he* represents.

Sen. Gregg and President Bush want to make these cuts because the federal deficit is projected to be an all-time high: \$427 billion in the coming year. But this huge deficit wasn't created by the programs the President and Sen. Gregg want to cut. About 88 percent of the cost of all legislation passed since President Bush took office in January 2001 has come from tax cuts or increases in defense, international and homeland security spending. That's almost nine times as large as the cost of expansions of entitlement programs.

Nevertheless, Sen. Gregg's goal is to reduce the deficit by half within four years, and he has said, "you can't reduce the deficit if you don't reduce the growth of entitlements." By entitlements, he means health care for poor children and elders, Social Security, foster care, retirement benefits for military and federal employees and other programs that millions of Americans are "entitled" by law to receive.

We must ensure that the budget plan adopted by Congress this year does not shift further costs to states; eliminate the critical entitlement structure of key programs like Medicaid; or lead to deep, long-term cuts in vital entitlement and domestic discretionary programs.

Please contact the offices of New Hampshire's Senators Judd Gregg and John Sununu today!

What Would It Take to Balance the Budget While Preserving the Tax Cuts?

To balance the budget by 2014 while making the tax cuts permanent, policy makers would have to:

Cut Social Security benefits by.....	57%
<i>or</i>	
Cut defense spending by	72%
<i>or</i>	
Cut Medicare by.....	81%
<i>or</i>	
Cut every other program except Social Security, Medicare, defense, and homeland security by....	38%