

## October 16, 2007 How About Some Shared Sacrifice?

For Immediate Release

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Dear Colleague:

After six years of breathtaking fiscal irresponsibility, the White House is now trying to pose for fiscal holy pictures by threatening to veto our efforts to provide \$22 billion in crucial education, health, science, and law enforcement investments that will make this a stronger, better, and more secure country.

Yet at the same time, the White House does not blink at the prospect of spending ten times that amount to continue our misguided military involvement in the civil war in Iraq.

And when it comes to fighting this war, there is no sense of shared sacrifice. The only families being asked to sacrifice are military families and they are being asked to sacrifice again and again. Meanwhile, even the most fortunate of the rest of us are being asked to make no sacrifice whatsoever. Americans who make more than a million dollars a year, instead of being asked for sacrifice, are being asked to accept well over \$50 billion a year in tax cuts, like the war itself, paid for with borrowed money.

As you know, to bring a greater sense of balance and proportion to the debate surrounding these issues, we have drafted legislation to impose a progressive war surtax to pay for the cost of the effort in Iraq.

Some people are being asked to pay with their lives or their faces or their hands or their arms or their legs. If they are being asked to do that, it doesn't seem too much to ask the average taxpayer to pay \$112 for the cost of the war so we don't have to shove it off on our kids.

The surtax rates would range from 2.5% for married couples with incomes between \$30,000 and \$100,000 and 16.5% on income beyond \$250,000 and on corporations. The bill would exempt members of our military who have served in combat since September 11, 2001 along with their families, as well as families of the fallen. For more detail on the bill see the attached description.

A number of members of the House have asked if they could join us as original co-sponsors. We intend to formally introduce the bill next Tuesday.

Sincerely,

David R. Obey, Member of Congress

John P. Murtha, Member of Congress

James P. McGovern, Member of Congress