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RSC Statement on Reported Budget “Deal”

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), Chairman of the Republican Study Committee, tonight reacted to media reports of a tentative budget agreement between Congressional leaders and the White House.

According to reports, the budget deal would:

- Result in an omnibus bill that spends \$936.5 billion – \$3.7 billion above President Bush’s request;
- Include more than \$7 billion in additional “emergency” spending (including \$600 million for drought relief, \$300 million for wildfire prevention, \$200 million for Minnesota bridge repair, \$100 million for security at political conventions, \$400 million for a Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children – known as WIC – and \$2.3 billion for foreign aid programs);
- Combine these increases with \$6.4 billion for domestic emergency spending already enacted in the Defense bill, \$3.5 billion in underfunded defense priorities spent on domestic items; and adds an extra \$2 billion in advance appropriations – a budget gimmick designed to maneuver around budget limits.

In total, the reported agreement would mean that the non-defense spending figure – including emergency spending – would actually be \$23.3 billion above the President’s request for domestic spending.

RSC Chairman Hensarling issued the following statement:

“I am pleased that officials at the White House have told Members in both the House and Senate that reports of a spending agreement are false. The deal, as reported, is bad for American taxpayers, American families and the fiscal future of our children. \$23 billion is still an enormous amount of money, and contrary to what the Democratic leadership thinks, it is an amount that should be left with families, not sent to Washington. Furthermore, the \$23 billion figure is an illusion, since in 5 years that number grows to well over \$200 billion.

“Beyond these numbers, this debate is really about two different fiscal roads. One road leads us to the largest tax increase in American history to be followed by an even larger tax increase, which would threaten our children and grandchildren with a lower standard of living. I don’t plan to be a party to that.

“The other road is the path to fiscal responsibility. It is a path to make sure that the Federal budget does not grow beyond the ability of the American family budget to pay for it. That is why Republicans have worked all year to ensure that spending bills do not run over taxpayers and that the American people can have even more freedom and opportunity than we do today. To accomplish that, we have to put America on the path of fiscal responsibility and live within a budget – and this reported ‘budget deal’ doesn’t get us there.”

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The Republican Study Committee consists of over 100 conservative Republican members of the House of Representatives.