

July 25, 2008

Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed S. 3297, a bill to advance America's priorities, as introduced on July 22, 2008. The bill includes numerous provisions that would affect health care, criminal statutes, laws to protect wildlife and the environment, international aid programs, efforts to promote commerce, ocean research, and other government programs.

Most of the bill's provisions would specifically or implicitly authorize increased appropriations for purposes specified in the bill. By themselves—that is, in the absence of subsequent legislation—those authorizations do not cause changes in federal spending or revenues.

Although CBO has not completed a comprehensive review of S. 3297, we have previously prepared cost estimates for numerous pieces of legislation that are similar or identical to most of the major provisions in this bill. Based on those previous estimates and on a preliminary review of S. 3297, CBO estimates that, in total, the bill would authorize the appropriation of approximately \$10 billion over the 2009-2013 period. CBO estimates that, if those sums are appropriated in future legislation, implementing the bill would cost about \$8 billion over the 2009-2013 period.

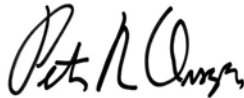
Some provisions of S. 3297 would establish new federal crimes. Because those prosecuted and convicted under S. 3297 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Criminal fines are recorded as revenues, then deposited in the Crime Victims Fund, and later spent. CBO expects that any additional revenues and direct spending would not be significant because of the relatively small number of cases affected.

Honorable Harry Reid
Page 2

S. 3297 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). The bill would impose a private-sector mandate on certain entities that handle nonhuman primates, but CBO expects that the cost of the mandate would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$136 million in 2008, adjusted for inflation).

If you wish any further details, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Kim Cawley, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter R. Orszag". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Orszag" clearly distinguishable.

Peter R. Orszag
Director

cc: Honorable Kent Conrad
Chairman
Committee on the Budget

Honorable Judd Gregg
Ranking Member