

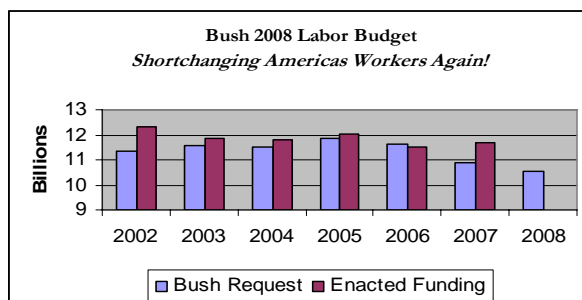


## ***FY 2008 Bush Budget: Reduced Resources Translates into Less Job Training and Less Workforce Protection***

### **Major Failures of the President's 2008 Budget**

Once again, the Bush administration has failed to propose a budget which ensures the strength and security of the American worker. As Americans look for work, the Bush budget reduces training opportunities. Specifically, the FY 2008 Bush budget:

- **Proposes a -9.4 percent cut for the Department of Labor – the federal agency charged with enforcing the laws and programs that protect the American worker.** The President's 2008 budget provides \$10.570 billion for the Department of Labor, \$1.1 billion (-9.4%) below the 2007 joint funding resolution. The Department of Labor administers and enforces wage and hour laws, health and safety regulations, pension plan oversight, unemployment benefits, and job training, along with many other programs. Reduced resources mean less job protection for American workers.



- **The Bush budget provides deep cuts to job training programs.** The budget includes a total of \$4.5 billion for training and employment services, a decrease of \$1 billion. This decrease includes the proposed rescission of \$335 million in job training funds currently in the hands of local programs. In addition, the Job Corps program is reduced by \$55 million, or 3.5 percent.

The budget once again includes a legislative proposal to consolidate the three job training programs and the Employment Service grants into a block grant to states. States would use these funds for a voucher program called the Career Advancement Accounts, a proposal that was not included in last year's House and Senate passed Workforce Investment Act reauthorization bills.

- **The Bush budget jeopardizes services for migrant and seasonal farmworkers.**  
The Bush budget – once again – proposes to terminate the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers training program. This critical program provides services to some of the most disadvantaged workers in our society.
- **The Bush budget jeopardizes efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor and improve international core labor standards.** The Bush budget provides only \$14 million for the Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB), a \$58 million (-81%) reduction compared to the 2007 joint funding resolution. ILAB is the main federal entity charged with building worker rights into trade and investment agreements.
- **The Bush budget fails to support employment-related services for individuals with disabilities.** The Bush budget provides \$18 million for the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), a \$10 million (-34%) reduction below the 2007 joint funding resolution. ODEP is charged with breaking down barriers to employment that people with disabilities face so that they may live free and independent lives. This cut shows a serious disregard for creating a level playing field for people with disabilities, who are the most unemployed and underemployed people in our society.
- **The Bush budget fails to support job training programs for older Americans.** The 2008 budget provides \$350 million for the Community Service Employment for Older Americans (CSEOA), slashing funding by \$134 million (-27.6%) below the 2007 joint funding resolution.
- **Worker safety and health programs jeopardized:**
  - ✓ While in nominal dollars, the Bush budget request for FY 2008 increases funding for OSHA, adjusting for inflation, the FY 2008 budget in fact represents a cut in funding compared to FY 2006.
  - ✓ The Bush administration proposes to eliminate funding for safety and health training for workers, as it did in FY 2006 and FY 2007. (Indeed, every year since taking office, the administration has sought to slash or eliminate funding for worker training). But each year the Congress has rejected these proposed cuts and maintained funding for worker safety training programs. The recently passed House FY 2007 Funding Resolution maintained funding for worker safety and health training at the \$10.1 million FY 2006 level.
  - ✓ At the same time it proposes to eliminate safety and health training for workers, the administration has proposed significant increases in funding for compliance assistance programs for employers. The total combined funding requested in FY 2008 for federal and state compliance assistance programs is 27% of the overall OSHA budget.
  - ✓ While in nominal dollars the Bush budget request for FY2008 seems to increase funding for the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), a closer look

suggests this is not the case. The key increase for MSHA simply allows them to continue to fund the 170 full-time employees added by an emergency supplemental appropriation in 2006. Moreover, the House FY 2007 joint funding resolution added an additional \$22 million for MSHA above the 2006 enacted level of \$278 million that is not reflected in the baseline. Even without taking that into account, adjusting for inflation, the FY 2008 budget request for MSHA and the coal enforcement program are less than the combined amounts Congress appropriated in the regular and emergency appropriations for FY 2006.

- ✓ For FY 2008, the Bush budget proposes a cut in the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) budget, reducing the nation's commitment to researching and preventing workplace injuries, diseases and deaths.