

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

It's time for some sensible priorities

Governor Chet Culver and more than 40 other elected officials in our state support the efforts of Iowans for Sensible Priorities because the sensible budget priorities on the federal level really could pay off for the State of Iowa.

"As governor, I believe that the definition of 'national security' is about more than the Department of Defense budget. Our strength as a state and nation is in large part determined by how well we educate our children, care for our senior citizens and protect the environment," Culver said in his endorsement.

The social needs of our state the governor referred to -- education, health care and environmental concerns -- all could be addressed if Congress took a hard look at what the federal budget says about our priorities.

In the president's proposed budget for fiscal year 2008, more than half of the discretionary budget goes to the Pentagon. That figure reflects a large sum wasted on expensive and unnecessary nuclear weapons and obsolete Cold War-era weapons. Cutting this waste -- \$60 billion a year -- could mean \$351 million a year for Iowa's priorities.

All Iowans should follow the governor's lead and question our nation's spending priorities. By taking the Caucus for Priorities pledge, you encourage the people who could become our next president to rise to the occasion by proposing a sensible federal budget. Go to caucus4priorities.org to learn more.

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