

Statement of FY2005 advance appropriations under section 501 of H. Con. Res. 95 reflecting action completed as of February 6, 2004

[In millions of dollars]

	<i>Budget authority</i>
Appropriate Level	23,158
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Current Level:	
Homeland Security Sub-	
committee:	
Bioshield ¹	2,528
Interior Subcommittee: Elk	
Hills	36
Labor, Health and Human Serv-	
ices, Education Sub-	
committee	
Employment and Training	
Administration	2,463
Education for the Disadvan-	
taged	7,383
School Improvement	1,435
Children and Family Services	
(head start)	1,400
Special Education	5,413
Vocational and Adult Edu-	
cation	791
Transportation and Treasury	
Subcommittee	
Payment to Postal Service	37
Veterans, Housing and Urban	
Development Sub-	
committee: Section 8 Re-	
newals	4,200
Total	25,686
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Current Level over (+)/under(-)	
Appropriate Level	2,528

¹This advance appropriation was not on the list of accounts identified for advance appropriations included in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference in the conference report to accompany H. Con. Res. 95. Still, since the provision has been enacted, it is included as part of the current level for advance appropriations.

EXTEND BAN ON ASSAULT WEAPONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on January 17, 1989, a gunman used a weapon like this one behind me to fire 102 bullets into a crowded elementary school in California. The weapon is the AK-47, and it is very good at what it does. It kills as many people as possible as quickly as possible. Before the shooting stopped, 34 children and teachers had been shot. In less than 2 minutes, the gunman was able to spray the school yard with more than 100 bullets. America was rightly outraged.

On December 7, 1993, another gunman came on a train on the Long Island Railroad. This gunman had large-capacity clips and was able to shoot and kill six people, one of them my husband, and wound 21 people, one of them my son. It was at that time that I decided that I would do whatever I could to reduce gun violence in this country.

We were also having a debate here in Washington on having an assault weapons ban, and I became part of that debate. We were very lucky that when it came up for a vote, it won by one vote.

But there is good news for criminals, gangs and terrorists. Soon they will be

able to buy an AK-47 once again. Soon criminals, gangs, terrorists can go into any gun store and buy any kind of assault weapon that they want. The assault weapons ban expires this September 14. Some in Congress wish this issue would just go away, but Americans overwhelmingly support the ban. Even 66 percent of gun owners support the ban. They support it because it worked and because it protected the rights of law-abiding citizens to own handguns, hunting rifles and shotguns. Once again, every major law enforcement agency in the country has endorsed the ban. The Supreme Court has even upheld a stronger version of the ban.

But nothing will get done if President Bush refuses to add his voice to the effort. He has promised to sign a new assault weapons ban if it reaches his desk, but if his leadership is not here, and if he does not tell TOM DELAY to bring the bill up for a vote, it is never going to reach his desk.

I have introduced H.R. 2038, which would renew the ban while closing its most gaping loopholes. I came to Congress to fight for gun safety. I have fought for common-sense, effective gun measures, but too many of my colleagues seem beholden to gun pressure groups. Yet we know the American people want to have assault weapons kept off their streets. We cannot let special interests trump the safety of American families and our police officers.

We have 202 days to renew the ban. Failing to do so would be an outrage, and the American people will demand an explanation in November. But there is something that they can do today. I urge all Americans to contact their Members of Congress and their Senators and tell them we want to keep assault weapons off the street. We have got to band together for the safety of our families, our children and our communities. This is something we can do.

People talk about they never have a voice in government. I happen to know that having a voice in government is very important. Here in this House, how many times have we seen bills pass by one vote? Or fail by one vote? It is up to the American people to get involved in this.

This evening we have heard so many of my colleagues talk about all the things that are going on in this world, budget deficits, medications that cannot get to our patients. These are all serious problems. But allowing assault weapons back onto our streets again to kill our officers, to go into our schools, this is something we can do. This is something where the American people can have their voices heard. We outnumber the NRA. We outnumber those that are trying to stop this.

Since I have been in Congress, I have always tried to uphold the second amendment, but this kind of a gun is only meant for one thing. It is to kill as many people as possible. It is guns like this that we are seeing in Iraq,

Israel, Haiti. These are the kind of guns that are used to wipe out people as fast as they can. You are telling me a sportsperson wants these back on the streets again?

Mr. Speaker, I will be back here every single week until the American voices are heard, and I will be here to voice those voices.

HAITI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to ask the Bush administration why in the world our country appears to be allowing a violent coup d'etat to occur in Haiti. Through a wink and a nod, our administration is allowing this violence to occur, and we must not stand for it.

The democratically elected President of Haiti could be overthrown any minute. At risk, of course, is the safety of over 8 million lives in Haiti. We cannot play politics with rebels and with thugs. They are trying to change their government through the use of force, not by democratic elections. We do not allow coups to take place in the United States, and we should uphold that standard for neighboring countries, neighboring democracies, especially one in our own hemisphere.

Throughout Haiti's 200 years of independence, it has experienced 32 coups, but it seemed that the tragic cycle ended in 1991 with President Aristide's first Presidential victory. After a coup, the United States helped restore then-exiled President Aristide in 1996, and later he ran and was reelected in the fall of 2001. Tonight as we speak, President Aristide is warding off yet another coup attempt and a potential civil war, and democracy is under fire again in Haiti.

Two weeks ago now I wrote to Secretary Powell and asked the following questions:

One: Does the State Department support the democratically elected Government of Haiti? What practical steps is our government taking to support the democratic process?

Two: Is our country supporting and sanctioning an overthrow of the Aristide government by giving a wink and a nod to the opposition? There are also reports that we are covertly funding the opposition.

Third: Is it true that the Haitian opposition parties and leaders have received USAID funding?

Fourth: We understand the Haitian Government made several requests over the last 2 years for equipment and training of Haiti's police force. Why were these requests never responded to?

Secretary Powell said, and I quote, "We cannot allow thugs and murderers to overthrow the democratically elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide," but now there appears to be a major disconnect between