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## Senate

### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

(Continued)

AMENDMENTS NOS. 4007 AND 4046

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise to reiterate my support for Senator LEVIN's second-degree amendment. Senator WARNER's amendment directs that any savings from inflation should be used in one of two ways: for the research and development of missile defense or for combating terrorism. However, Senator WARNER's amendment does not choose which area is more worthy of attention, and therefore it risks compromising both.

Our job in deciding the budget is about making hard choices. Senator LEVIN's amendment simply sets priorities and it states that combating terrorism should be this administration's top priority.

I do not think this is a difficult decision. We must remember that this amendment only authorizes funding for fiscal year 2003. And in the next 18 months, the citizens of the United States are going to be anxious, and even afraid, of a car bomb, an explosion in a harbor, an explosion in a mall, a dirty bomb, a biological attack. I think the way to protect Americans is clear: put resources into counterterrorism.

The senior Senator from Virginia has been assured by the Office of Management and Budget that there will be over \$800 million in inflation savings at the mid-session review. At that time, the President will have a choice. He can invest \$800 million more into a missile defense program that has already been robustly funded at \$6.8 billion or the President can invest the funds in the \$1 billion of counterterrorism requirements that the military has asked for and not received.

The Levin amendment expresses the views of Congress, and I believe the views of the American people, that resources directed toward the most immediate need, the most immediate threat, fighting terrorism, will best

protect the United States and its citizens.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I would just like to take a moment to express my thanks to Senator LEVIN and Senator WARNER for working with me to clear this amendment in such a timely fashion. I think special thanks should also go to Senator CARNAHAN, a member of both the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Senate Armed Services Committee for her support of this amendment. Senator CARNAHAN's work was vital to this amendment's acceptance by the Armed Services Committee, and I thank her for her assistance as well as for her continuing interest and advocacy for America's small business Federal contractors. I would also like to thank Senator BOND for his help on the Republican side. Concern for our Nation's Federal contractors remains an important area of bipartisan interest on the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, and I am pleased to have his support on this amendment.

Briefly, our amendment requires the Secretary of the Army to conduct a study on the impact the creation of an Army Contracting Agency will have on small business participation in Army procurement, especially at the local level where many small businesses provide support services to Army installations. When we first received word of Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White's plan to consolidate army procurement activities into a central location, I was very concerned about its possible affects on small businesses. And despite briefings from Army personnel and assurances that small business participation will not be negatively affected, I remain concerned as do my colleagues. This is a critical time for our armed forces, and I do not wish to cause any confusion in the procurement process that could affect our military preparedness. Therefore, we are taking a "wait and see" approach to the Army's plan.

Our amendment will help monitor the situation at the Army by requiring them to keep track of small business participation in their procurement, especially at the local level. The amendment requires the Army to track any changes in the use of bundled contracts, sometimes called consolidated contracts, as a result of this new procurement agency, as well as track small business access to procurement personnel.

Let me be clear. Removing contracting authority from Army installations and centralizing it will result in less small business participation, but steps can be taken to overcome this. These steps must be proactive and represent a real commitment to maintaining small business access to procurement opportunities. And while I do not believe Congress should dictate every detail of how the Army chooses to structure itself for procurement purposes, Congress must be concerned about the consequences of that structure.

I look forward to working with the Secretary to ensure that an appropriate level of small business participation in Army procurement is maintained.

Once again, I would like to thank Senator BOND and Senator CARNAHAN for their support on this issue, as well as Senator LEVIN and Senator WARNER for accepting this amendment.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I am pleased that Chairman LEVIN and I have been able to come to agreement on my amendment to restore \$814 million that the President can allocate to ballistic missile defense and to activities of the Department of Defense to counter terrorism and on Chairman LEVIN's second-degree amendment.

Prior to their approval, I would like to offer some clarifying remarks concerning the intent and effect of these two amendments.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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