



AMENDMENTS TO S.CON.RES. 70 – THE BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR FY2009

BACKGROUND

The Senate considered S.Con.Res. 70 during the week of March 10, 2007. During that week, the Senate took recorded votes on 42 amendments, which are listed below. The Senate passed S.Con.Res. 70 by a vote of 51 to 44, with Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) voting present, in the early hours of March 14, 2008. ([Record Vote 85](#))

<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Vote</u>
S.Amdt. 4160	Baucus (D-MT)	To provide tax relief to middle-class families and small businesses, property tax relief to homeowners, relief to those whose homes were damaged or destroyed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and tax relief to America's troops and veterans.	Agreed to	99-1 (Record Vote 42)
S.Amdt. 4170	Graham (R-SC)	To protect families, family farms and small businesses by extending the income tax rate structure, raising the death tax exemption to \$15 million and reducing the maximum death tax rate to no more than 35%; to keep education affordable by extending the college tuition deduction; and to protect senior citizens from higher taxes on their retirement income, maintain U.S. financial market competitiveness, and promote economic growth by extending the lower tax rates on dividends and capital gains.	Rejected	47-52 (Record Vote 43)
S.Amdt. 4190	Conrad (D-ND)	To add a deficit-neutral reserve fund for repealing the 1993 rate increase for the alternative minimum tax for individuals.	Agreed to	53-46 (Record Vote 44)
S.Amdt. 4189	Specter (R-PA)	To repeal section 13203 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 by restoring the Alternative Minimum Tax rates that had been in effect prior thereto	Rejected	49-50 (Record Vote 45)
S.Amdt. 4189 (Motion to Table the Motion to Reconsider)	Specter (R-PA)	To repeal section 13203 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 by restoring the Alternative Minimum Tax rates that had been in effect prior thereto	Rejected	49-51 (Record Vote 46)
S.Amdt. 4189 (Motion to Reconsider)	Specter (R-PA)	To repeal section 13203 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 by restoring the Alternative Minimum Tax rates that had been in effect prior thereto	Agreed to	50-50 (Vice President voting Yea to break the tie) (Record Vote 47)



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S.Amdt. 4189 (Reconsideration)	Specter (R-PA)	To repeal section 13203 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 by restoring the Alternative Minimum Tax rates that had been in effect prior thereto	Rejected	49-51 (Record Vote 48)
S.Amdt. 4196	Salazar (D-CO)	To reform the estate tax to avoid subjecting thousands of families, family businesses, and family farms and ranches to the estate tax.	Rejected	38-62 (Record Vote 49)
S.Amdt. 4191	Kyl (R-AZ)	To protect small businesses, family ranches and farms from the Death tax by providing a \$5 million exemption, a low rate for smaller estates and a maximum rate no higher than 35 percent.	Rejected	50-50 (Record Vote 50)
S.Amdt. 4204	Conrad (D-ND)	To add a deficit-neutral reserve fund for repealing the 1993 increase in the income tax on Social Security benefits.	Agreed to	53-46 (Record Vote 51)
S.Amdt. 4192	Bunning (R-KY)	To repeal the tax increase on Social Security benefits imposed by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993.	Rejected	47-53 (Record Vote 52)
S.Amdt. 4203	Specter (R-PA)	To increase funding for the National Institutes of Health and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.	Agreed to	95-4 (Record Vote 53)
S.Amdt. 4198	Dorgan (D-ND)	To increase the Indian Health Service by \$1 billion in FY 2009.	Agreed to	69-30 (Record Vote 54)
S.Amdt. 4329	Nelson (D-FL)	To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve energy efficiency and production. The amendment would allow for natural gas and oil exploration in areas of the outer Continental Shelf not under a Presidential or Congressional moratorium.	Agreed to	56-43 (Record Vote 55)
S.Amdt. 4207	Alexander (R-TN)	To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve energy efficiency and production. The amendment would also allow for the development of natural gas resources beneath the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of Virginia.	Rejected	47-51 (Record Vote 56)
S.Amdt. 4350	Kennedy (D-MA)	To increase funding for the Department of Education's English Literacy-Civics Education State Grant program, with an offset	Agreed to	95-2 (Record Vote 57)
S.Amdt. 4222	Alexander (R-TN)	To take \$670,000 used by the EEOC in bringing actions against employers that require their employees to speak English, and instead use the money to teach English to adults through the Department of Education's English Literacy/Civics Education State Grant program.	Agreed to	54-44 (Record Vote 58)



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S.Amdt. 4259	Menendez (D-NJ)	To establish a reserve fund for immigration reform and enforcement.	Agreed to	53-45 (Record Vote 59)
S.Amdt. 4231	Sessions (R-AL)	To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund for border security, immigration enforcement, and criminal alien removal programs.	Agreed to	61-37 (Record Vote 60)
S.Amdt. 4242 (Motion to Waive the Budget Act)	Cornyn (R-TX)	To protect the family budget by providing for a budget point of order against legislation that increases income taxes on taxpayers, including hard-working middle-income families, entrepreneurs, and college students.	Rejected	58-40 (Record Vote 61)
S.Amdt. 4246	Allard (R-CO)	To raise taxes by an unprecedented \$1.4 trillion for the purpose of fully funding 111 new or expanded federal spending programs.	Rejected	0-97 (Record Vote 62)
S.Amdt. 4240	Ensign (R-NV)	To require wealthy Medicare beneficiaries to pay a greater share of their Medicare Part D premiums.	Rejected	42-56 (Record Vote 63)
S.Amdt. 4218	Sanders (I-VT)	To put children ahead of millionaires and billionaires by restoring the pre-2001 top income tax rate for people earning over \$1 million, and use this revenue to invest in LIHEAP; IDEA; Head Start; Child Care; nutrition; school construction and deficit reduction.	Rejected	43-55 (Record Vote 64)
S.Amdt. 4328	DeMint (R-SC)	To provide for a deficit-neutral reserve fund for Social Security reform.	Rejected	41-57 (Record Vote 65)
S.Amdt. 4232	Allard (R-CO)	To pay down the Federal debt and eliminate government waste by reducing spending 5 percent on programs rated (as mandated under the Government Performance and Results Act (Public Law 103-62) ineffective by the Office of Management and Budget Program Assessment Rating Tool.	Rejected	29-68 (Record Vote 66)
S.Amdt. 4284	Brownback (R-KS)	To provide funds for a Commission on Budgetary Accountability and Review of Federal Agencies.	Agreed to	49-48 (Record Vote 67)
S.Amdt. 4197	Kohl (D-WI)	To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund for a 3-year extension of the pilot program for national and State background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities or providers.	Agreed to	89-7 (Record Vote 68)



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S.Amdt. 4309 (Motion to Table)	Vitter (R-LA)	To create a reserve fund to ensure that Federal assistance does not go to sanctuary cities that ignore the immigration laws of the United States and create safe havens for illegal aliens and potential terrorists.	Agreed to	58-40 (Record Vote 69)
S.Amdt. 4368	Boxer (D-CA)	To increase funding for the Department of Justice for the vigorous enforcement of laws protecting children.	Agreed to	90-5 (Record Vote 70)
S.Amdt. 4335	Ensign (R-NV)	To increase funding for the Department of Justice for the vigorous enforcement of a prohibition against taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions consistent with the Child Custody Protection Act, which passed the Senate by a bipartisan vote of 65-34, with an offset.	Rejected	49-49 (Record Vote 71)
S.Amdt. 4340 (Motion to Waive the Budget Act)	DeMint (R-SC)	To create a point of order against bills that would raise gasoline prices.	Rejected	39-59 (Record Vote 72)
S.Amdt. 4313 (Motion to Waive the Budget Act)	Cornyn (R-TX)	To protect the family budget from runaway Government spending by increasing the number of Senators necessary to waive the PAYGO Point of Order from 60 to 100.	Rejected	27-71 (Record Vote 73)
S.Amdt. 4348	Kyl (R-AZ)	To provide certainty to taxpayers by extending expiring tax provisions such as the R&D Tax Credit that helps US companies innovate, combat pay exclusion for our soldiers in the field, the education deduction to make colleges more affordable and the alternative energy incentives to make the environment cleaner through the end of 2009.	Rejected	49-50 (Record Vote 74)
S.Amdt. 4347 (Motion to Waive the Budget Act)	DeMint (R-SC)	To establish an earmark moratorium for fiscal year 2009.	Rejected	29-71 (Record Vote 75)
S.Amdt. 4378	Landrieu (D-LA)	To protect family businesses and farmers without increasing our nation's debt by providing for an estate tax that sets the exemption at \$5 million and the rate at 35 percent, with the benefits of the exemption recaptured for estates over \$100 million, paid for by closing tax loopholes that allow offshore deferral of compensation and transactions entered into solely for the purpose of avoiding taxation.	Rejected	23-77 (Record Vote 76)



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S.Amdt. 4372	Kyl (R-AZ)	To protect small businesses, family ranches and farms from the Death Tax by providing a \$5 million exemption, a low rate for smaller estates and a maximum rate no higher than 35%.	Rejected	48-50 (Record Vote 77)
S.Amdt. 4276	Grassley (R-IA)	To exempt from pay-as-you-go enforcement modifications to the individual alternative minimum tax (AMT) that prevent millions of additional taxpayers from having to pay the AMT.	Rejected	47-51 (Record Vote 78)
S.Amdt. 4380	DeMint (R-SC)	To provide for a deficit-neutral reserve fund for transferring funding for Berkeley, CA earmarks to the Marine Corps.	Rejected	41-57 (Record Vote 79)
S.Amdt. 4379	Boxer (D-CA)	To facilitate coverage of pregnant women in SCHIP.	Agreed to	70-27 (Record Vote 80)
S.Amdt. 4233	Allard (R-CO)	To require that legislation to reauthorize SCHIP include provisions codifying the unborn child regulation.	Rejected	46-52 (Record Vote 81)
S.Amdt. 4339	DeMint (R-SC)	To provide for a deficit-neutral reserve fund for providing an above the line Federal income tax deduction for individuals purchasing health insurance outside the workplace.	Rejected	45-51 (Record Vote 82)
S.Amdt. 4245	Biden (D-DE)	To restore full funding for the international affairs budget, in support of the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, nuclear nonproliferation, foreign assistance, fighting global AIDS, promoting sustainable development, and other efforts, with an offset.	Agreed to	73-23 (Record Vote 83)
S.Amdt. 4299	Vitter (R-LA)	Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the need for comprehensive legislation to legalize the importation of prescription drugs from highly industrialized countries with safe pharmaceutical infrastructures.	Agreed to	73-23 (Record Vote 84)

**Note: All votes taken on March 13-14, 2008.*