

May 22, 2007

Senator Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell,

I am requesting that I be consulted before the Senate enters into any unanimous consent agreements regarding a vote on any resolution or other legislation expressing a lack of confidence in any federal official.

If such a resolution comes before the Senate, I plan to offer an amendment expressing no confidence in Congress' ability to cut wasteful spending or balance the budget.

As you know, the national debt of the United States of America now exceeds \$8.5 trillion and just last week, Congress approved a \$2.9 trillion budget resolution that includes \$23 billion more in spending than was requested by the President.

Polls have repeatedly found that Americans overwhelmingly oppose new spending, bigger government, and pork barrel politics. Yet Congress has been unable or unwilling to end its addiction to borrowing and spending. Week after week, Congress authorizes billions of dollars of spending on new programs or passes bills larded up with pork barrel projects. Scandal after scandal plagues Congress with nearly every single one connected to the misuse of federal dollars. It is no surprise that the public has a total lack of confidence in Congress, as witnessed by every recent poll.

There is no question that Congress has a dangerous spending problem that can no longer be ignored.

Experts point out that the most important step an addict can take is to first admit you have a problem. It is obvious to everyone that Congress has a big problem. It's time that we finally admit it and take responsibility. Unfortunately, the Senate has twice this year rejected amendments that expressed the sense of the Senate that Congress has a moral obligation to offset the cost of new Government programs and initiatives. Our nation can not afford for the Senate to live in such a state of denial.

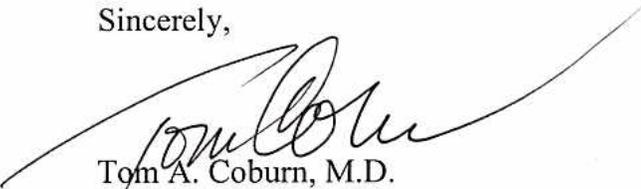
It is hypocritical for the Senate to grand stand for political purposes while ignoring its own shortcomings that threaten the solvency of Social Security and Medicare and the standard of living of future generations.

The Senate has a responsibility to be good stewards and secure the future for our children and grandchildren. We must, therefore, first hold Congress accountable for its failures, before pointing fingers at the shortcomings of others, by acknowledging and accepting the lack of confidence that the public has in Congress' unwillingness to cut wasteful spending and balance the budget.

I reserve the right to object to any unanimous consent agreements or rule waivers.

Thank you for protecting my rights on this legislation.

Sincerely,



Tom A. Coburn, M.D.  
U.S. Senator

Attachment: Amendment text