

local public health departments, which are the first line of defense against flu, to meet the threat; increased global surveillance for dangerous pathogens to pick up the first signs of a spreading epidemic, a priority issue that Senator FRIST and I have worked on for several years; improving our country's infrastructure for vaccine manufacture, which is sorely deficient; and money for communication and outreach, so we can have everybody prepared and on the same page.

We are all concerned about preparation for bioterrorist attacks. Smallpox, anthrax, plague, and other pathogens may be coming down the road at some point. But the public health experts tell us that H5N1 avian flu has already started down the road. It is not in the U.S. yet, and the scientists don't know when it might get here, but it is heading in our direction. The avian flu virus is spreading throughout Asia, carried by migratory waterfowl with a worldwide reach. The virus is continuously changing and adapting, heading toward the human-to-human transmission capability that could trigger a pandemic.

And we do know from the first 100 human cases, which have been limited so far to Southeast Asia, that this stuff is really lethal, with a case-fatality rate approaching 50 percent. By contrast, the deadly 1918 Spanish flu that killed millions of people had a case-fatality rate of only 2 percent. We're talking about a threat to this Nation as big as any we have faced.

Fortunately, we have a good idea of the measures we need to take to mitigate the impact of avian flu. But these measures cost money and have a significant lag time before they can be put in place. Many of these measures require resources only available in for-

eign countries. We don't know how much time we have got, and we have got to get moving on this right now. We really can't wait weeks and months for the "right" appropriation bill, for some "advisory committee" to finish its work, or for the completion of a "comprehensive" antiterror plan. The responsible, prudent move is to act now, to start putting in place the countermeasures that we know will work if implemented in time. The old philosopher who said that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" may not have known anything about RNA viruses, but that advice would seem quite applicable to our current situation.

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I hereby submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report prepared by the Congressional Budget Office under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended. This report meets the requirements for Senate scorekeeping of section 5 of S. Con. Res. 32, the first concurrent resolution on the budget for 1986.

This report shows the effects of congressional action on the 2005 budget through September 13, 2005. The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of the 2006 concurrent resolution on the budget, H. Con. Res. 95.

The estimates show that current level spending is over the budget resolution by \$3.145 billion in budget authority and over the budget resolution by \$101 million in outlays in 2005. Current level for revenues is \$447 million above the budget resolution in 2005.

Since my last report for fiscal year 2005 dated September 20, 2005, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the TANF Emergency Recovery and Response Act of 2005, Public Law 109-68, that increased budget authority for fiscal year 2005.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying letter and material be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 26, 2005.

Hon. JUDD GREGG,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed tables show the effects of Congressional action on the 2005 budget and are current through September 23, 2005. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions for fiscal year 2005 that underlie H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006. Pursuant to section 402 of that resolution, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the enclosed current level report excludes these amounts (see footnote 2 on Table 2).

Since my last letter, dated September 15, 2005, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the TANF Emergency Recovery and Response Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-68) that increased budget authority for fiscal year 2005.

The effects of the action listed above are detailed in the enclosed reports.

Sincerely,
DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT-LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005, AS OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2005

[In billions of dollars]

	Budget resolution ¹	Current level ²	Current level over/under (—) resolution
ON-BUDGET:			
Budget Authority	1,996.6	1,999.7	3.1
Outlays	2,023.9	2,024.0	0.1
Revenues	1,483.7	1,484.1	0.4
OFF-BUDGET:			
Social Security Outlays	398.1	398.1	0
Social Security Revenues	573.5	573.5	0

Note: * = less than \$50 million.

¹ H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, assumed the enactment of emergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2005, in the amount of \$81.8 billion in budget authority and \$32.1 billion in outlays, which would be exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since current level excludes the emergency appropriations in P.L. 109-13 (see footnote 2 of Table 2), the budget authority and outlay totals specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced (by the amounts assumed for emergency supplemental appropriations) for purposes of comparison.

² Current level is the estimated effect on revenue and spending of all legislation that the Congress has enacted or sent to the President for his approval. In addition, full-year funding estimates under current law are included for entitlement and mandatory programs requiring annual appropriations even if the appropriations have not been made.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT-LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005, AS OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2005

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted in Previous Sessions: ¹			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,484,024
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,109,476	1,070,500	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	1,298,963	1,369,221	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	-415,912	-415,912	n.a.
Total, enacted in previous sessions:	1,992,527	2,023,809	1,484,024
Enacted This Session:			
Authorizing Legislation:			
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-14)	16	0	0
TANF Extension Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-19)	81	45	0
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005, Part II (P.L. 109-20)	15	0	0
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005, Part III (P.L. 109-35)	3	0	0
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005, Part IV (P.L. 109-37)	5	0	0
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2005, Part V (P.L. 109-40)	2	0	0

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT-LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005, AS OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2005—

Continued

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58)	0	0	40
Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (P.L. 109-59)	1,562	8	0
TANF Emergency Response and Recovery Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-68)	5,067	0	0
Appropriation Acts:			
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005 (P.L. 109-13) ²	-1,058	4	41
Interior Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 106-54)	1,500	120	0
Total, enacted this session:	7,193	177	81
Total Current Level ^{2,3}	1,999,720	2,023,986	1,484,105
Total Budget Resolution	2,078,456	2,056,006	1,483,658
Adjustment to budget resolution for emergency requirements ⁴	-81,881	-32,121	n.a.
Adjusted Budget Resolution	1,996,575	2,023,885	1,483,658
Current Level Over Adjusted Budget Resolution	3,145	101	447
Current Level Under Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

¹ The effects of an act to provide for the proper tax treatment of certain disaster mitigation payments (P.L. 109-7) and the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-8) are included in this section of the table, consistent with the budget resolution assumptions.² Pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the current level excludes \$83,140 million in budget authority and \$33,034 million in outlays from the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005 (P.L. 109-13), \$10,500 million in budget authority and \$350 million in outlays from the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005 (P.L. 109-61), and \$51,800 in budget authority and \$25 million in outlays from the Second Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005 (P.L. 109-62).³ Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.⁴ H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, assumed the enactment of emergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2005, in the amount of \$81,811 million in budget authority and \$32,121 million in outlays, which would be exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since current level excludes the emergency appropriations in P.L. 109-13 (see footnote 2), the amounts specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced for purposes of comparison.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

FARM AID'S 20TH ANNUAL CONCERT

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, on Sunday, September 18, just outside of Chicago, Farm Aid staged its 20th annual concert, playing to a sell-out crowd of more than 28,000. Over the years, Farm Aid has raised more than \$27 million to fund national, State and local efforts of various kinds to support and strengthen family farm agriculture and rural communities.

The first Farm Aid concert, on September 22, 1985, was organized by a great American who is richly acquainted with the heart and soul of rural America, Willie Nelson. Originally conceived as a way to raise money to help struggling farm families, the first Farm Aid concert also served to highlight the crucial challenges facing family farms and rural communities.

I have vivid memories of that first Farm Aid concert 20 years ago. I remember getting on the train in Carroll, IA, west of Ames, and riding it all the way to Champaign, IL. That was a trainload of people with high hopes and good spirits. But more important, that train was packed with people who understood firsthand the severity of the farm crisis, and who had a deep, passionate commitment to doing something about it. We spent the train trip discussing ideas for turning the situation around, and by the time we arrived in Champaign, we were fired up to push for big changes.

The mid-1980s were a tumultuous time for rural America. In my own State of Iowa, the economic devastation experienced by family farms and small towns was the worst since the Great Depression. As in the 1930s, the human toll of the crisis was poignant and profound. There were many tens of thousands of people who had spent their lives working hard and playing by the rules, but who were losing their farms, their homes and their livelihoods. That affected me personally, as it did most Iowans and people all

across America. And like so many others, I was convinced that we needed new ideas and better policies to save America's family farm agriculture and to revitalize our rural economy.

The first Farm Aid concert drew a tremendous amount of national and even international attention to the crisis in rural America. Farm Aid opened people's eyes to the plight of family farms and small towns. It helped farm families directly and it led to policy changes that have made a positive difference.

Family farms and rural communities are still struggling, and so Farm Aid is as important as ever. And in that same spirit, this year's concert highlighted and helped support a special Farm Aid Family Farm Disaster Fund to provide aid to farm families and rural communities that have been devastated by hurricanes across the gulf region, drought in the Midwest or other natural disasters elsewhere. In the tremendous response to the hurricanes, we have seen the same outpouring of concern and compassion by the American people that has supported Farm Aid over the years.

I salute Willie Nelson, John Mellencamp, Neil Young, Dave Matthews and all the others who have devoted themselves to making Farm Aid a success in helping family farms and rural communities throughout the years—including David Senter, Carolyn Mugar and Corky Jones. I wish them and Farm Aid many more successful years supporting family farms and rural communities and raising awareness of their vital importance to us all.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today the Commerce Committee was scheduled to conduct an afternoon hearing regarding emergency communications. I regret that the hearing was postponed, and I hope and expect that the session will be quickly rescheduled. The events of September 11, 2001, uncovered a fun-

damental weakness in our communications system. We learned the hard way that in a time of crisis—when communication is most important—our first responders could not communicate at a basic level. Now, some 4 years later, Katrina has showed we have not fixed the problem. One of the biggest problem facing police, fire and first responders in the gulf coast was that the communications system was knocked off line. It was remarkable to watch as the television news crews had better luck communicating than our first responders. As the disaster unfolded, emergency officials repeatedly cited communications failures as a major obstacle to the disaster response effort.

So despite the good work of the 9/11 Commission and the hard work of national and local officials, we find that the system is not hardened against terror or nature, and we remain dangerously vulnerable. Like all of my colleagues, I want a system that will work when we need it most. Frankly, there is not much good in an emergency communications system that doesn't work in emergencies. We must push ahead with the DTV transition so that new spectrum is made available and new technologies can come online. The Federal Government must commit the time, resources, training, technology, and leadership to create a national and truly interoperable communications system. It is a national job to ensure capability across regions, among rescue units, and up and down chain of command.

I also believe we should deploy a redundant emergency communications system that, with a flick of switch, will operate during times of crisis when the main system is disabled. I have introduced a bill to address this immediate need. S. 1703 requires experts at the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Communications Commission evaluate the feasibility and cost of deploying an emergency communications system. The agencies will evaluate all reasonable options, including