



**News from Congressman**

# **Tom Lantos**

**12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of California  
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Lantos Calls New Budget Irresponsible**

**Washington, DC** – Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Francisco and San Mateo) today denounced President Bush's proposed budget for 2005 as simply irresponsible.

"In all my experience as an economist and as a member of Congress, I have never witnessed such utter disregard for this country's fiscal reality," Lantos said. "This makes the massive Reagan-era deficits look like pocket change."

"It is wrong to slash taxes for the wealthy while we're spending less on the real and urgent needs and priorities of the American people, and pushing our ever-mounting debts onto the backs of our children and grandchildren."

The Congressional Budget Office predicts that spiraling budget deficits will rise to a staggering \$521 billion next year and increase the national debt by \$3.65 trillion over the next ten years.

"The Administration has just revealed that the cost of its so-called Medicare reform program is one-third higher than projected just two months ago when it was passed largely along partisan lines," Lantos said. "The new budget continues to under-fund key education programs and veterans' programs. It protects spending on defense and homeland security but will require reductions in health research, housing, and law enforcement, and actually reduces funding for transportation and environmental protection. It does not do enough to address some of our country's most pressing problems including the millions of Americans who are unemployed."

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