



Judd Gregg, Chairman  
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## **SENATE PASSES 2006 BUDGET RESOLUTION**

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Senate late Thursday approved the \$2.6 trillion 2006 Budget Resolution 51-49.

The Senate cast more than 35 roll call votes throughout the week including the vote on final passage, paving the way for House-Senate negotiations to begin as budget writers seek to meet the April 15 statutory deadline.

“This is not the perfect bill,” said Senate Budget Committee Chairman Judd Gregg as debate drew to a close. “It is not the bill I would have chosen if I’d had a magic wand. But this is the middle of the process and I hope it will improve as we complete action.

“We have a lot of work to do in the coming weeks. It is important we pass a final budget. It is part of the responsibility of governance. It will be impossible to develop a product everyone in both chambers will find perfect, but I am optimistic Chairman Nussle and I can produce a final product a majority will find acceptable.”

The Senate rejected an amendment 49-51 that would have stripped protection for extending current tax policy, including capital gains and dividend rate reductions. Additionally, the Senate expanded reconciled tax relief by \$64 billion to repeal taxation of Social Security benefits. The Senate rejected amendments that would have increased spending by a total of \$197 billion and raised taxes by \$142 billion over five years.

The Senate voted earlier in the day to eliminate efforts to curb the growth of Medicaid from 41 percent to 39 percent.

“The essence of this budget on the spending side comes down to whether we’re going to stick our children and grandchildren with a government they can’t afford,” Gregg said. “What we have said with this vote is that Congress is unwilling to curb spending in any of the areas where explosive growth is occurring. We are effectively kicking the can down the road for maybe another decade because I predict if we don’t get these savings done this year, it will be a long time before we have another real opportunity.”

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