

## Nunes backs federal spending reforms

With growing concerns about deficit spending, Rep. Nunes cosponsored legislation designed to protect the family budget from the explosive growth of the federal budget.

For decades the federal budget process has been



designed to avoid fiscal responsibility, confuse the American taxpayer and grow big government. During the last five years, lawmakers have gone on a spending spree unmatched in our nation's history.

Since 1998, the amount government spends annually per household has risen from \$16,000 to \$21,000, an incredible increase of 22 percent. Just as sobering is the fact that the federal budget has been growing seven times faster than the family budget over the last two generations.

This kind of rabid federal spending is unconscionable and unsustainable. The time has come for meaningful reform.

Based on sound fiscal principles, Rep. Nunes expressed his full support for "The Family Budget Protection Act." It forces govern-

ment programs to justify their existence. It uses honest accounting practices that people can actually understand.

By ending budget spending gimmicks and instituting measures to eliminate government waste, fraud, abuse

and duplication, this bill will reform the rules that have allowed the federal budget to balloon year after fiscal year.

The Family Budget Protection Act will transform the federal budget from a mere suggestion to an enforceable law and finally places a ceiling on how much money the government can spend. This legislation will ensure that as the government spends less, American families can spend more.

**1. Budget Enforcement:** Give the Budget the force of law by having it signed by the President.

**2. Spending Reductions:** If spending goes over what the Budget has allowed then across-the-board cuts will be made to all programs except Social Security and Medicare.

**3. Spending Categories:** Rather than having a huge document with 20 separate sections, spending would be consolidated to a one-page enforceable bill with 4 categories. These categories would be 1) mandatory spending (Medicare/Social Security), 2) Defense/Homeland Security spending, 3) Non-Defense discretionary spending (NEA), and 4) emergency spending (rainy day accounts).

**4. Entitlement Programs:** Social Security and Medicare are exempt from across the board cuts in the Budget, but are still open to changes via the authorization process.

**5. Spending Clarity:** Show the actual increase in programs each year, including increases strictly for inflation.

**6. Reinforce Pay-as-you-Go (PAYGO) rules:** Rather than impose new unfunded mandates, all new spending must be offset by tax increases, which will prevent less than truthful accounting of the budget.

**7. Review Government Programs:** Set up Congressional commission, with assistance of the President, to find and eliminate areas of waste, fraud, and abuse in our system.

**8. Full Financial Disclosure:** The government must account for future costs increase caused by pension plans, retiree pay, etc.



Above: Kindergarteners at Tulare Christian School sing a patriotic song for Rep. Nunes. Below: Rep. Nunes presents a flag to the student government leaders of Tulare Christian School.



Above: Rep. Nunes speaks to students at Westfield Elementary School in Porterville. Below: The congressman talks to Redwood High School students.

