

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT-LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004, AS OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2004—

Continued  
(In millions of dollars)

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted this session:			
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–202)	1,328	0	0
Social Security Protection Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–203)	685	685	0
Welfare Reform Extension Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–210)	107	58	0
Act to reauthorize certain school lunch and child nutrition programs through June 30, 2004 (P.L. 108–211)	6	6	0
Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–218)	0	0	3,363
An act to require the Secretary of Defense to reimburse members of the United States Armed Forces for certain transportation expenses (P.L. 108–220)	13	7	0
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, Part II (P.L. 108–224)	482	0	0
TANF and Related Programs Continuation Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–262)	80	35	0
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, Part III (P.L. 108–263)	422	0	0
Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–265)	7	6	0
Act approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (P.L. 108–272)	0	0	–2
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, Part IV (P.L. 108–280)	–646	–7	0
AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004 (H.R. 4103)	0	0	–2
Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (P.L. 108–287)	0	10	0
<b>Total, enacted this session:</b>	<b>2,484</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>3,359</b>
Entitlements and mandates: Difference between enacted levels and budget resolution estimates for appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	–21,334	4,221	n.a.
Total Current Level <sup>1,2</sup>	1,881,425	1,897,004	1,334,115
Total Budget Resolution	1,873,459	1,896,973	1,331,000
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	7,966	31	3,115
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to section 502 of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2004, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the current level excludes \$82,460 million in budget authority and \$36,644 million in outlays from previously enacted bills. From the current session, the current level excludes \$27,656 million in budget authority and \$154 million in outlays from the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (P.L. 108–287) and \$2,000 million in budget authority from the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2004 (P.L. 108–303). In addition, pursuant to section 312(c)(3)(A) of S. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2005, up to \$500 million in budget authority and \$330 million in outlays for wildland fire suppression accounts are exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution for the current fiscal year. In this current level report, these amounts are excluded from the total for the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (P.L. 108–287).

<sup>2</sup> Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.

Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.  
Source: Congressional Budget Office.

**NURSE-MANAGED CLINICS VITAL TO VA**

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, nurses are an invaluable resource for the VA health care system, as well as for health care systems the world over. As such, VA has established nurse-managed primary care clinics at many of its medical centers. These clinics are run by nurse practitioners who serve as independent practitioners with prescriptive authority and a focus on delivering cost-effective, efficient, high quality care. I am pleased to say that on July 6, 2004, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, of which I am ranking member, received VA's favorable report on these clinics, entitled, "Nurse-Managed Primary Care Clinics Evaluation."

To complete this report, VA identified three clinics in three VISNs: Fergus Falls, MN; Denver, CO; and Madison, WI. VA then evaluated patient satisfaction, access to care, provider experiences, functional status of patients receiving care, cost of care, and waiting times. Overall, the report concluded that veterans seem immensely satisfied with the care they receive at the clinics and that the costs associated with them are reasonable. I am very proud of the success of these clinics, though not at all surprised by the quality of care provided by VA's nurse practitioners.

The patients surveyed at the three clinics stated that they were highly satisfied with the services received there, especially in terms of length of time spent waiting at the office, time spent with the veteran, explanation of what was done for the patient, technical skills and personal manner of staff, as well as the overall visit. In addition, 67 percent of the veterans served by these clinics rated them good on wait times, convenience of the of-

ice location, and the ability to get through to the office by telephone.

The Nurse-Managed Primary Care Clinics Evaluation resulted from a June 14, 2001, hearing conducted by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. At this hearing, in-depth discussion about innovations at a nurse-managed clinic took place. Subsequently, nurse recruitment and retention provisions were included in Public Law 107–135, which included an evaluation of nurse-managed health care clinics in VA. I am pleased that the committee was able to effect the survey that resulted in this extremely encouraging report.

Currently, VA employs 36,000 registered nurses, approximately 6 percent of which are nurse practitioners. Nurses have long been recognized by VA, as well as those of us who oversee it, as indispensable to the delivery of health care. In fact, according to a 1999 article by M.O. Munding in Nursing Economics, nurse practitioners are able to effectively provide 90 percent of the services primary care physicians do. In recognizing the great value nurses hold, VA has done all it can to foster and fully utilize these essential members of the health care community. Its nurse-managed primary care clinics are one important, and successful, facet of this effort.

**NAMING OF THE USS "SOMERSET"**

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I speak today on the naming of the USS *Somerset*. On Thursday, September 9, 2004, the United States Navy named the ninth ship of the San Antonio-class of amphibious transport dock ships as *Somerset*.

The naming of the USS *Somerset* honors Somerset County, the county in Pennsylvania where United Airlines

Flight 93 crashed after fearless passengers stormed the cockpit preventing the airplane from hitting its intended target. The USS *Somerset* stands as a reminder of the 40 passengers and crew who exhibited courage and sacrifice in the most dangerous of situations.

The USS *Somerset* also symbolizes the renewed hope, compassion, and cooperation that citizens across our country have shared with one another since that horrific day. September 11, 2001, the day that changed our history and our lives was intended to unravel America's strength, but it has only made us stronger.

When I returned from my first visit to the crash site in Shanksville, PA, I was inspired by the strength of the Flight 93 family members who, being able to keep a better world in sight, now carry the torch of their loved ones. As the USS *Somerset* carries out its mission by providing transport to Marines embarking on expeditionary warfare missions and special operations, let us not forget the compassion of those who provided aid and support to the family and friends of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, as well as the courage and responsibility displayed by the heroes aboard Flight 93.

As we reflect on the passing of the third anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, let us not forget the resolve our Nation faced in light of our tragedy. By honoring the memories of all those lost to the terrorist attacks, through the naming of the USS *Somerset*, we are reminded of what the American spirit is capable of. I will never forget the bravery and sacrifice witnessed on that tragic day 3 years ago. May God continue to bless our country as each of us continues to find our own way to exhibit this renewed American spirit.