

One Hundred and Ninth Congress

Jan. 4, 2005-Dec. 8, 2006

Second Administration of George W. Bush

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Historical Background

On the morning of August 25, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made its first landfall in south Florida, a matter of hours after achieving hurricane strength. Though the storm would abate somewhat as it traveled overland, once the storm crossed over to the Gulf of Mexico it would pick up strength again. Over the coming few days the storm would continue to gain strength, reaching category 5 strength on August 28, a day before it would make its second landfall as a category 3 storm in Louisiana. By the time it was downgraded to a tropical storm, Hurricane Katrina would make a third landfall at the Louisiana-Mississippi border, traveling 150 miles inland. A unique combination of climatic conditions made Hurricane Katrina an especially powerful storm with sustained winds and a devastating storm surge which would wreak havoc on the system of derricks and levees protecting the city of New Orleans. As the breaches to the various flood protection structures mounted, nearly 80% of New Orleans was inundated by floodwaters. In the days that followed television images broadcast globally a lack of preparedness on the part of both Federal and Louisiana State agencies and a sluggish response to a storm of this magnitude. The slow response contributed to the deaths of numerous, largely poor and African American residents of New Orleans. In total 1,833 people were killed as a result of the storm.



George W. Bush
President of the United States

President
George W. Bush

House	Senate
Majority Party: Republican (233 seats)	Majority Party: Republican (55 seats)
Minority Party: Democrat (201 seats)	Minority Party: Democrat (44 seats)
Other Parties: Independent (1 seat)	Other Parties: Independent (1 seat)
Speaker of the House: J. Dennis Hastert	Majority Leader: William H. Frist

Meanwhile, the increased frequency of powerful storms such as Hurricane Katrina was interpreted by critics of the administration as direct evidence of the impact that global climate change and expressed concerns about the use of fossil fuels were going to have in the years to come.

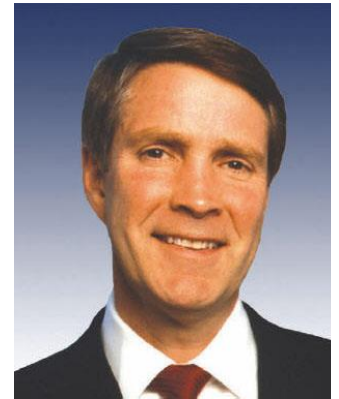
In his 2005 annual address before a joint session of Congress, President George W. Bush noted that the U.S. economy was growing faster than that of any major industrialized nation. The President adumbrated the major accomplishments of his first term, highlighting his successes in providing tax relief to virtually all taxpayers, facilitating recovery from the recent economic recession, prosecuting corporate criminals, raising homeownership to the highest level in history, and adding 2.3 million new jobs in the last year alone. He promised to send a budget to Congress that would make tax relief permanent, hold the growth of spending below inflation, and cut the Federal budget deficit in half by 2009.

President Bush asked Congress to enact initiatives to reform job and career training programs in the United States, strengthen community colleges, increase the size of need-based Pell grants, and enact meaningful tort reform. To this end, Congress enacted the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 on February 18, 2005. The Act realized certain of the major goals of tort reform activists by expanding subject-matter jurisdiction for certain class-action lawsuits and granting Federal jurisdiction over class actions with diversity jurisdictions and amounts in controversy greater than \$5 million.

In addition, President Bush asked Congress to provide low-income workers with tax credits to help with the purchase of health insurance and to enact medical liability reform. He supported a constitutional amendment to “protect the institution of marriage” by defining the institution solely as the union of one man and one woman and pledged to work with Congress to ensure that human embryos were not created for experimentation. As a long-term solution to Social Security funding, he proposed the establishment of voluntary personal retirement accounts with contributions invested in stocks and bonds. As with virtually all proposals for radical changes to Social Security, the plan was decidedly controversial, and the President was unable to generate support necessary to see it to fruition.

In line with efforts to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign sources of oil, particularly middle eastern oil, President Bush advocated the development of a comprehensive energy strategy to encourage energy conservation, develop new domestic oil reserves, increase use of nuclear energy, and the development of alternative and renewable energy sources. These initiatives resulted in the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 on August 8, 2005. The Act sought to increase energy conservation and develop and enhance domestic energy supplies from all sources through a system of tax incentives and loan guarantees to promote domestic energy production.

As U.S. military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan continued, President Bush stressed the importance of U.S. commitments in Iraq, a country which he described as “vital to our war on terror.” During this time the Bush Administration was coming under increasing fire for failing to keep focused



Senate Majority Leader
William H. Frist



Speaker of the House J.
Dennis Hastert

on the mission in Afghanistan due to its preoccupation with Iraq. The Taliban insurgency, inaugurated by Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar in late-2004, increased its activity in 2006. Increases in the use and effectiveness of roadside improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were compounded by the embrace of suicide bombing as part of the Taliban's tactical arsenal. Attacks against U.S. and NATO forces increased during this period, as, critically, did operations targeting Afghans seen as collaborating with the occupation and the illegitimate government of President Hamid Karzai. In turn, the increase in violence five years into the occupation alienated ordinary Afghans for whom there seemed no end in sight.

During 2005 and 2006 U.S. troop levels in Iraq remained high, however, violence levels in Iraq continued to escalate. In addition to the growing insurgency against the U.S. and coalition occupation of Iraq, 2006 saw a spike in incidents of sectarian violence between the major ethnic and religious populations in Iraq. For the first time, the specter of a full-blown civil war leading to a division of the country into smaller, ethnically and religiously homogeneous units could not be ignored by U.S. and coalition leadership. The sectarian conflict would continue to worsen until the assassination of the al-Qaeda leader in Iraq, the brutally vicious Jordanian mujahid Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, via an airstrike on a safe-house outside Baghdad where he was attending a meeting in June 2006. His death eased tensions somewhat between Iraq's Shia and Sunni Arab communities, however temporarily.

Also, during his 2006 annual address, President Bush proposed a terrorist surveillance program to increase U.S. effectiveness in pursuing terrorist suspects by tracking international communications between suspected Al-Qaida operatives. The USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act, enacted March 9, 2006, enhanced and extended authorities introduced by the USA PATRIOT Act in 2001 to aid in the prosecution of perpetrators guilty of terrorism and espionage-related crimes.

In his annual address before Congress in 2006, President Bush again noted that U.S. economic growth outpaced that of almost any other major industrialized nation and argued that the surest way to ensure continued economic vigor would be for Congress to make his tax cuts permanent. He again stressed the need for clean energy research and the development of alternative energy sources, including ethanol. Despite the stated importance of a comprehensive energy policy, U.S. reliance on imported oil continued to grow. In August 2006, imports represented 61.5% of the oil consumed in the U.S. Oil companies set record profits, heating costs increased, and gasoline prices in the summer of 2006 averaged \$2.84.

President Bush also advocated enacting comprehensive immigration reform. The Secure Fence Act of 2006, approved in October 2006, included provisions to require the construction of reinforced fencing and other physical barriers along priority areas of the U.S. Southern border.

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War or Peace?

Military Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan

In Afghanistan parliamentary elections took place in September 18, 2005 and Afghanistan's political transition was completed with the convening of a parliament in December 2005. Unfortunately, threats to the new government continued to grow and 2006 marked an escalation of insurgency led by remnants of the former Taliban regime. Taliban fighters conducted increasingly large-scale attacks against coalition and Afghan security forces in several southern provinces, setting back reconstruction and thwarting efforts to extend the authority of the Afghan government. Narcotics trafficking continued to resist counter-measures and independent militia remained throughout the country.

The uptick in violence brought by the increasingly coordinated Taliban insurgency sorely impacted the life of ordinary Afghans, a great many of whom had lived their entire lives in a country at war. Afghan war-weariness was compounded by errors leading to civilian casualties. One such incident occurred on May 29, 2006 when a U.S. truck traversing Kabul as part of a military convoy lost control, smashing into a line of civilian vehicles, killing one and injuring a further six. The crowd of witnesses to the event responded in anger, fomenting a riot that would lead to the deaths of 20, with more than 150 injuries. As civilian deaths mounted, local patience with the occupation continued to be tried, adding fuel to the growing Taliban insurgency.

On July 31, 2006, official responsibility for security leadership in southern Afghanistan transitioned over to NATO forces from Britain, Canada, and the Netherlands. However, by autumn of 2006 approximately 23,000 U.S. troops still remained in Afghanistan.

The deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan fueled critics of the Bush Administration, who argued that the government's shift in focus from the war against al-Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan to the invasion and occupation of Iraq allowed the United States's enemies in the former country

to regroup and mount an effective insurgency against the occupation and the fledgling government in Kabul. President Bush countered these criticisms by pointing to the al-Qaeda-led insurgency in Iraq, claiming that Iraq was, in fact, the central front in the war on terror.

Of particular concern for U.S. policymakers, as well as those with a stake in forging the new, post-Saddam Iraq, was the alarming increase in sectarian violence in the country. Iraq in 2003 was a country with stark demographic divisions that had often been exploited by the government of Saddam Hussein to accommodate power. In a population of roughly 30 million, roughly 70% were ethnic Arabs. Of these, 18 million, residing largely in the country's south around the cities of Najaf, Karbala, and Basra practiced Shia Islam. The remaining 3 million Arabs, residing largely in the center of Iraq surrounding Baghdad, practiced Sunni Islam. Another 25% of the population, residing largely in northern Iraq around the cities of Erbil, with large populations in Mosul and the key oil producing city of Kirkuk, were ethnic Kurds, who largely also practiced Sunni Islam. Under Saddam Hussein, who himself came from a Sunni Arab tribe from the city of Tikrit just north of Baghdad, Sunni Muslim Arabs dominated government and most positions of power. Both the Kurds in the north and the Shia Arabs in the south were exploited and oppressed by Saddam's government, even to the extent of suffering airstrikes and poison gas.

With the toppling of the Baath Party government of Saddam Hussein and the embrace of a constitution with democratic institutions, the Shia Arabs of southern Iraq stood to potentially gain significant political power. This produced resentment among Sunni Arabs who were accustomed to the favor of the government and who feared reprisals at the hands of newly ascendant Shia Arabs. In the north, the Kurds had enjoyed broad autonomy since the conclusion of the Gulf War and the imposition of no-fly zones in the country's north and south to protect those populations from government reprisals. The Kurds were anxious to parlay the economic strength and stability they had enjoyed for more than a decade into greater autonomy and influence in the divided and strategically critical cities of Mosul and Kirkuk.

It was in this environment during 2005 and 2006 that the insurgency in Iraq took on a distinctly sectarian tint and raised the specter of civil war and the possible breakup of the country, both of which the Bush Administration was keen to avoid. Attacks against Shia Arabs in this period by explicitly sectarian actors such as Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's al-Qaeda in Iraq exploded in this period. In March 2004, as Shia Muslim pilgrims gathered for Ashura observances in the Shia holy city of Karbala, a series of bombs orchestrated by one of Zarqawi's top lieutenants killed nearly 200 worshippers. This was followed in November 2006 with a series of car bomb and mortar attacks in the Shia-majority district of Sadr City in Baghdad. The attacks, which occurred as residents gathered to commemorate the life of Mohammad Mohammad Sadeq al-Sadr, a beloved Shia cleric, killed over 200 and injured a further 150. The newly empowered Iraqi Shia Arabs responded by planning reprisals, utilizing the Shia Muslim militia, funded with assistance

from the Shia-Muslim theocracy in Iran. The sectarian violence would continue to worsen into 2007.

At this time, U.S. counterinsurgency strategy would begin to see its first victories. The first major success in U.S. counterinsurgency planning would occur during military operations in Tal Afar. In September 2005, before the launch of full-scale operations, civilians were urged to leave Tal Afar until it could be secured. After clearing operations, patrol bases were set up to provide sufficient forces to secure the city. By March 2006, the Tal Afar operation had tested and confirmed the “clear, hold, and build” strategy in which coalition forces would be based among the general population. In June 2006, Iraqi and U.S. coalition forces launched clear, hold, and build operations aimed at reducing violence and increasing security in Baghdad, but expectations of sustaining a reduction in the levels of violence were not met. By late 2006, as levels of violence continued to rise, senior diplomats and commanders in Iraq concluded that the approaches in use were not achieving intended results and a decision was made to pursue a “new way forward” strategy with recognized security as a prerequisite for progress. By the middle of December 2006, 2,933 U.S. service members participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom had been killed and 22,229 wounded in action.

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Economic Trends and Conditions

At the beginning of 2005, economic data indicated that the economy was quite robust. Some economists indicated that part of the reason for the favorable performance was due to both tax reduction policies and a monetary policy focused on price stability. In 2005, the U.S. real GDP grew 3.5% and 2 million payroll jobs were added. The unemployment rate dropped to 4.9%. In 2006 the economy continued to expand with little sign of inflation. Corporate profits continued to expand rapidly, and unemployment continued to fall.

Despite all the positive signs, some economists began to predict an adjustment to “bubble-like” conditions in the housing and real estate sectors, in which assets continued to exhibit rapid and persistent increases in value.

The economic expansion continued for the fifth consecutive year in 2006. Real GDP averaged 3.4% growth. Unemployment dropped to 4.6%. Energy prices rose sharply through August and then declined. During 2006 pronounced declines in homebuilding and every measure of housing activity were partially offset by faster growth in business structures investment and exports.

The President continued his calls for making the tax cuts enacted by his administration permanent. In addition, President Bush devoted considerable energy to advocating for reform efforts for Social Security and immigration policy. Citing an impending crisis in funding for the Social Security program, President Bush advocated for an ambitious reform program that would allow for the voluntary participation in schemes to divert Social Security funds into investment accounts to be used for private sector investments such as stocks and other securities. Despite the President's enthusiastic advocacy, many questions about the program remained, including how the system would continue to fund benefits for current retirees while diverting monies to private sector investment accounts. Such lingering questions and the perennial political hazards of attempting to reform the Social Security program resulted in the failure of the initiative.

The President also advocated for the passage of the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007. The bill would create new classes of visas, including a Z visa for people living in the United States without a valid visa, and the Y visa created for temporary guest workers allowing them to remain in the country for two years. The bill also included a path to legal citizenship for the roughly 12 million undocumented immigrants residing in the United States at the time. This last provision was interpreted by anti-immigrant activists as an amnesty program and the bill died without garnering the support needed for passage.

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Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

Granholm v. Heald, held that laws in New York and Michigan that permitted in-state wineries to ship wine directly to residents of that state but prohibited out-of-state wineries from doing so violated the Constitution's Dormant Commerce Clause prohibiting states from enacting anticompetitive laws against out-of-state businesses, [540 U.S. 460](#) (2005)

United States v. Booker, held that the Sixth Amendment's enumerated right to a jury trial requires that, aside from prior convictions, only facts admitted by a defendant or proved beyond a reasonable doubt to a jury may be used in

calculating sentences above prescribed statutory maximum sentences, [543 U.S. 220](#) (2005)

Johnson v. California, held that the California corrections policy of racially segregating inmates in reception center cells for up to 60 days violated the Constitution's Equal Protection Clause because all government race-based discrimination policies, including those governing incarceration, are subject to strict scrutiny, [543 U.S. 499](#) (2005)

Roper v. Simmons, held that various state laws that allowed for the application of capital punishment for offenders who were younger than 18-years of age at the time of commission of the crime violates the Eighth Amendment's protection against cruel and unusual punishment, [543 U.S. 551](#) (2005)

Johanns v. Livestock Marketing Association, held that United States Department of Agriculture rules that required beef producers to contribute to common research and advertising programs did not violate the First Amendment's free speech protections because the commodity advertising programs constituted government speech, [544 U.S. 550](#) (2005)

Cutter v. Wilkinson, held that under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), facilities that accept Federal funds may not deny inmates accommodations facilitating the practice of their religious beliefs. The court further held that RLUIPA did not violate the First Amendment's establishment clause since the law simply makes constitutionally permitted accommodations, [544 U.S. 709](#) (2005)

Gonzales v. Raich, held that under the Commerce Clause the Federal government has the authority to prohibit the production and consumption of home-grown cannabis even if state laws permit its use for medicinal purposes, [545 U.S. 1](#) (2005)

Kelo v. City of New London, upholding the right of the city of New London, Conn. to condemn private property in order to implement an area redevelopment plan aimed at invigorating a depressed economy, [545 U.S. 469](#) (2005)

Van Orden v. Perry, held that the display of a monument depicting the Ten Commandments gifted to the State of Texas at the State Capitol did not violate the First Amendment's establishment clause as the monument conveyed historical value and not strictly religious significance, [545 U.S. 677](#) (2005)

McCreary County v. ACLU of Kentucky, held that a series of displays depicting the Ten Commandments at various public facilities in Kentucky violated the First Amendment's establishment clause, [545 U.S. 844](#) (2005)

Brown v. Sanders, upholding a petitioner's death sentence even though two of the sentencing factor presented to the jury were declared invalid, [546 U.S. 212](#) (2006)

Gonzales v. Oregon, held that the United States Attorney General may not prosecute Oregon physicians complying with the state's Death with Dignity Act under the terms of the Controlled Substances Act, [546 U.S. 243](#) (2006)

Gonzales v. O Centro Espirita Beneficente Uniao Do Vegetal, held that the Federal government failed to show a compelling interest when applying strict scrutiny under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in prohibiting adherents to the União do Vegetal church from imbibing the psychoactive Hoasca tea in the practice of their faith, [546 U.S. 418](#) (2006)

Oregon v. Guzek, holding that the Eighth Amendment's protections against cruel and unusual punishment does not embody the right of defendants to introduce evidence of their innocence during sentencing if that evidence had not been submitted during trial, [546 U.S. 517](#) (2006)

Rumsfeld v. Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights, held that under the Solomon Amendment the Federal government had the authority to withhold funding from universities that refused to grant access to military recruiters on campus, [547 U.S. 47](#) (2006)

Georgia v. Randolph, holding that without a search warrant police do not have the authority to search a residence for which one resident consents to a search while others do not, [547 U.S. 103](#) (2006)

Holmes v. South Carolina, holding that a capital defendant cannot be denied the right to introduce evidence of third party guilt, [547 U.S. 319](#) (2006)

House v. Bell, holding that convicted capital defendants may request that new DNA forensic evidence found post-conviction be considered in appeal, [547 U.S. 518](#) (2006)

Hill v. McDonough, holding that the use of lethal injection as a form of execution in the State of Florida constituted a challenge to the cruel and unusual provision of the Eighth Amendment, [547 U.S. 573](#) (2006)

Hudson v. Michigan, narrowing the applicability of Fourth Amendment-based exclusionary rule, which generally states that evidence secured in violation of the For requirement that police knock and announce procedures is not admissible in Federal or State criminal trials, [547 U.S. 586](#) (2006)

Rapanos v. U.S., holding in a four-justice plurality decision by Justice Scalia that the Clean Water Act covers only wetlands connected to relatively permanent bodies of water such as streams, rivers, and lakes, by a continuous surface connection, [547 U.S. 715](#) (2006)

Kansas v. Marsh, upholding a Kansas statute which provided that juries should sentence a defendant to die rather than service life in prison when the evidence for and against imposing death is equal, [548 U.S. 163](#) (2006)

Randall v. Sorrell, held that Vermont's restrictive campaign finance law, which placed caps on financial donations to political campaigns violated the

free speech and equal protection provisions of the First and Fourteenth Amendments, [548 U.S. 230](#) (2006)

League of United Latin American Citizens v. Perry, held that under the 2003 Texas Congressional redistricting, only District 23 violated the Voting Rights Act, though insufficient evidence was presented to prove the entire redistricting plan constituted partisan gerrymandering and it was therefore permitted to stand, [548 U.S. 399](#) (2006)

Hamdan v. Rumsfeld, holding that Government military commissions established to try detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, are unconstitutional, [548 U.S. 557](#) (2006)

2005 Events

- **Jan. 30:** [Iraqis vote in the first democratic election in fifty years to elect provincial parliaments and a national assembly](#)
- **Feb. 10:** [North Korea announces possession of nuclear weapons](#)
- **Feb. 16:** [Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, goes into effect without U.S. participation](#)
- **Mar. 1:** [U.S. announces that it will resume sales of F-16 fighters to Pakistan after a 16-year hiatus](#)
- **May 13:** [Department of Defense issues a formal list of military bases recommended for closure and realignment under the Base Realignment and Closure Commission](#)
- **July 26:** [NASA launches space shuttle *Discovery*](#)
- **Aug. 29-30:** [Hurricane Katrina makes landfall, causing extensive damage in New Orleans, La., and throughout the Gulf Coast region](#)
- **Sept. 23-24:** [Hurricane Rita makes landfall along the Gulf Coast, causing extensive damage along Louisiana and Texas coasts](#)
- **Oct. 15:** [Iraqis voter in a referendum on Iraq's new constitution, which is adopted by narrow margins to make Iraq an Islamic Federal democracy](#)
- **Oct 19:** [Trial of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein begins](#)

2006 Events

- **Jan. 11:** [Augustine Volcanic eruption in Alaska](#)
- **Jan. 25:** [Palestinian parliamentary elections result in a clear victory for Hamas, an organization viewed by some members of the international community as a terrorist organization](#)
- **Feb. 11:** Vice President Cheney accidentally shoots a fellow hunter
- **Sept. 15:** [Outbreak of E. coli in contaminated spinach causes numerous cases of poisoning across 20 U.S. states](#)
- **Sept. 26:** Transportation Security Administration changes its policy on banned liquids and aerosols during travel, permitting 3.4 ounce containers that fit inside 1 clear quart-sized bag

- **Oct. 9:** [North Korea announces that it has conducted an underground nuclear weapons test](#)
- **Oct. 10:** Google purchases YouTube for \$1.65 billion
- **Nov 2:** Former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is sentenced to death for crimes against humanity
- **Nov. 14:** [Pakistan passed a women's protection bill to amend ordinances applying Islamic law to cases of rape. Thousands of Islamic fundamentalists march in protest](#)
- **Dec. 12:** Afghan President Karzai blames Pakistan for supporting pro-Taliban militants
- **Dec. 30:** [Former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is executed](#)

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Major Acts

Class Action Fairness Act of 2005. Expanded the jurisdiction of Federal courts over class action cases. Approved Feb. 18, 2005. ([119 Stat. 4; PL109-2](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. Revised Bankruptcy Code provisions applicable to individual and commercial debtors. Established means testing to determine consumer eligibility for personal bankruptcy. Approved Apr. 20, 2005. ([119 Stat. 23; PL109-8](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Family Entertainment and Copyright Act of 2005. Prohibited the use of audiovisual recording devices to transmit or copy movies shown in movie theaters and clarifies that use of technologies to filter content out of movies for private home use is not a violation of copyright law. Approved Apr. 27, 2005. ([119 Stat. 218; PL109-9](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Dominican Republic-Central America-U.S. Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act. Authorizes and facilitates the implementation of the Dominican Republic-Central America-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR). Approved Aug. 2, 2005. ([119 Stat. 462; PL109-53](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Energy Policy Act of 2005. Established programs to ensure jobs for the future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy sources, including provisions to promote increased energy conservation and increase the availability and security of energy supplies. Approved Aug. 8, 2005. ([119 Stat. 594; PL109-58](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users or SAFETEA-LU. Authorized \$244 billion in funding for various surface transportation and transit projects. Creates the New Freedom formula grant program to encourage the development of new public transportation systems and projects. Approved Aug. 10, 2005. ([119 Stat. 1144; PL109-59](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act To Meet Immediate Needs Arising from the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005. Made FY2005 emergency supplemental appropriations to meet immediate needs arising from the consequence of Hurricane Katrina. Approved Sept. 2, 2005 ([119 Stat. 1988, PL109-61](#))

Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005. Provided emergency tax relief for persons affected by Hurricane Katrina. Approved Sept. 23, 2005. ([119 Stat. 2016, PL109-73](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. Prohibited civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages, injunctive or other relief resulting from the misuse of their products by others. Approved Oct. 26, 2005. ([119 Stat. 2095, PL109-92](#))

Katrina Emergency Assistance Act of 2006. Directed the President to make disaster unemployment assistance available to for an extended period of time to individuals who lost their jobs as a result of Hurricanes Katrina or Rita. Approved Mar. 6, 2006. ([120 Stat. 191, PL109-176](#))

USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005. Extended and modified authorities to prevent, investigate, and prosecute perpetrators of crimes relating to terrorism and espionage. Approved Mar. 9, 2006. ([120 Stat. 192, PL109-177](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act. Prohibits any form of protest within 90 meters or 300 feet from the entrance any cemetery under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs within an hour before the start or an hour after the conclusion of a funeral. Approved May 29, 2006. ([120 Stat. 387; PL109-228](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Fetus Farming Prohibition Act of 2006. Prohibited the solicitation or acceptance of tissue from fetuses gestated for research purposes. Approved July 19, 2006. ([120 Stat. 570, PL109-242](#))

Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006. Requires the full public disclosure of all entities and organizations receiving funds starting in fiscal year 2007. Creates the USAspending.gov website as a searchable database for the information required by the statute. Approved Sept. 26, 2006. ([120 Stat. 1186; PL109-282](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Security and Accountability for Every Port Act. Amended the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve monitoring and protection of containers

traveling to the U.S. to prevent acts of terrorism. Approved Oct. 13, 2006. ([120 Stat. 1884, PL109-347](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act of 2006. Revised regulations governing banks, savings and loan associations, and credit unions to provide regulatory relief and improve productivity for insured depository institutions. Approved Oct. 13, 2006. ([120 Stat. 1966, PL109-351](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

North Korea Nonproliferation Act of 2006. Added North Korea to countries covered by the Iran and Syria Nonproliferation Act to require the President to report to Congress on foreign entities that provide nuclear, chemical, biological, or missile components or technology to North Korea. Approved Oct. 13, 2006. ([120 Stat. 2015, PL109-353](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Secure Fence Act of 2006. Required the Department of Homeland Security to take various actions to establish operational control over U.S. land and maritime borders, including provisions to require the construction reinforced fencing and other physical barriers along priority areas of the U.S. Southern border. Approved Oct. 26, 2006. ([120 Stat. 2638, PL109-367](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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