



Congressman Bud Cramer

May 2007 E-Newsletter

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Farmers in Alabama and across the country have been suffering through hurricanes, droughts, and an unexpected freeze. These natural disasters have devastated our farms and the entire agricultural industry. This month, the House of Representatives approved legislation that will provide over \$3 billion in emergency relief for farmers across this nation. This support is needed to help our farmers begin to recover their losses and keep the agricultural economy on track.

Bud CRAMER

News From Washington



During consideration of the House Intelligence Authorization Act, Representative Cramer, a senior member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and Chairman of the Intelligence Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, spoke on the House floor in support of a robust Intelligence Community. To view his comments in their entirety, please click on the photo above. Windows media player is required to view. [[more](#)]

The House passed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which authorizes a total of \$8.3 billion for the Missile Defense Agency. During consideration of this bill, Rep. Cramer led efforts to defeat an amendment that would have reduced MDA's budget by nearly \$1.1 billion, including specific cuts to the Redstone-managed GMD program. [[more](#)]

For More Information on These and Other News Items Please Visit:
<http://cramer.house.gov>

Cramer Introduces Legislation to Better Protect Children

This month, on National Missing Children's Day, Representative Cramer and the co-chairs of the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus introduced legislation that would give federal and local law enforcement additional tools to better protect children.

H.R. 2517, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Reauthorization Act, would reauthorize the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and provide \$50 million a year for fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

H.R. 2518, The Bring Our Children Home Act, makes improvements to laws concerning international abductions of children, and provides law enforcement officials the tools they need to investigate and prosecute these cases.

In addition to the Missile Defense Agency's funding, the FY 2008 National Defense Authorization Act authorizes a total of \$503.8 billion for the nation's military. "Today's bill puts in place a bipartisan plan to ensure that the men and women in our armed services are trained, rested, and fully equipped for battle," said Cramer. [[more](#)]



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More News From Washington

The House also unanimously approved legislation this month to increase federal penalties for transporting an illegal immigrant into the country. If approved by the Senate, this bill would set a penalty of up to five years for any one of these activities. It also sets a prison term for paid smugglers of three to ten years for a first or second offense, and five to fifteen years for each subsequent offense. [\[more\]](#)

The House also approved the Internet Spyware (I-SPY) Prevention Act which prohibits a company from installing spyware software or any other programs that would affect a computer's security without the specific computer user's explicit consent. "The internet is a resource that enables us to gain immediate access to information and goods," said Cramer. "It is not a tool for criminals to track our activities or steal identities." [\[more\]](#)

News From the Fifth District

Representative Cramer addressed members of the Huntsville-Madison Chamber of Commerce this month during its annual Economic Development Summit. Cramer, who is heavily involved in his district's economic recruitment activities, celebrated with chamber members the area's recent economic successes and challenged them to continue their cooperative efforts.

Finally this month, Representative Cramer also led a panel discussion with Tennessee Representative Zach Wamp and leading experts on the production of alternative fuels, and the future of Browns Ferry and Bellefonte, and energy policy at the 2007 Tennessee Valley Corridor National Summit.

House Approves Veterans Services Bills

The House also approved legislation this month that would enhance veterans' services to better support retired servicemembers in North Alabama and across the country. "There are over 66,000 veterans in North Alabama who have not only earned, but deserve the best medical care we can provide," said Cramer.

Included among the House passed legislation were:

The Traumatic Brain Injury Health

Enhancement and Long-Term Support Act:

This bill would authorize \$10 million in fiscal year 2008 and \$20 million in fiscal years 2009 through 2011 for the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish a comprehensive program to treat traumatic brain injuries suffered during combat.

The Returning Servicemember VA Healthcare

Insurance Act: This bill would extend from two years to five years the period of time the VA must provide free healthcare services to soldiers returning from combat.

The Early Access to Vocational Rehabilitation

Benefits Act: This bill would remove a restriction from current law to enable active duty servicemembers to participate in VA vocational rehabilitation programs.

The Veterans Outreach Improvement Act:

This bill would authorize \$25 million a year for fiscal years 2008 through 2010 for the VA to help coordinate with individual states to inform veterans and their families on VA services and to assist them in applying for these programs.