

FLORIDA

# Consumer Action NETWORK

## Emergency Campaign for America's Priorities

For Immediate Release:  
February 6, 2007

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### President Bush's 2008 Budget Reflects All-Too-Familiar, Upside-Down Priorities

*Florida Consumer Action Network calls on Congress to reject president's budget and adopt a budget that invests in Florida's future*

Tampa, FL – President Bush's proposed budget for fiscal year 2008 would devastate vital public supports that **Florida** working families depend on, **Florida Consumer Action Network**, a USAction affiliate, said today.

The budget, released by the White House on Monday, includes drastic cuts to the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Head Start, food stamps, child care, job training, Medicare and Medicaid, and many other vital services. In response, the Emergency Campaign for America's Priorities, of which **Florida Consumer Action Network** is a member, called on **Rep. Ileana Ros- Ballart, Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Ballart and Rep. Mario Diaz-Ballart** to reject the administration's upside-down priorities and help to craft a budget that works for America's families and reflects an agenda of investment in America's future.

"The president's budget fails to meet America's basic needs," said **Anita Davis, President of Florida Consumer Action Network**. "Despite the clear message American voters sent in November, which called for an end to the reckless tax breaks and irresponsible budget cuts that have characterized this administration's six years of upside-down priorities, President Bush's 2008 budget gives us more of the same."

- Since the president took office, median household income has dropped and the number of Americans living in poverty has grown to 37 million.
- Seventeen states face shortfalls in 2007 in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP); the President has proposed further cuts.
- Food stamp benefits average just \$1 per meal, but the administration's proposal would cut benefits to hundreds of thousands of working families and to eliminate the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides help to low-income older Americans and some families with children.
- Even though millions of Americans struggle to make ends meet each week, the administration seeks to cut job-training funding by more than \$300 million and eliminate funds reserved for workers dislocated from their jobs by plant closings.