

Republican Presidential Primary Spending Analysis – Mike Huckabee

Total Annual Spending: \$54.193 billion

Economy, Transportation, and Infrastructure: -\$12.214 billion (savings)

A. FairTax:

“I am running to completely eliminate all federal income and payroll taxes. And I do mean all – personal federal, corporate federal, gift, estate, capital gains, alternative minimum, Social Security, Medicare, self-employment. ... [W]e will have the FairTax, a simple tax based on wealth.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=5

Cost: -\$12.214 billion (savings) (-\$61.069 billion over five years).

Source: BillTally estimate for H.R. 25 (110th Congress): A bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity by repealing the income tax and other taxes, abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, and enacting a national sales tax to be administered primarily by the states.

Note: Estimate is based on several factors, including administrative savings from eliminating the Internal Revenue Service and savings from the repeal of refundable income tax credits (which have outlay effects).

Education, Science, and Research: \$100 million

A. Education – Music and the Arts:

“Music and the arts are not extraneous, extra-curricular, or expendable – I believe they are essential. I want to provide every child these ‘Weapons of Mass Instruction.’”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=7

Cost: Unknown.

Note: According to a Congressional Research Service report, the federal Arts in Education program received \$35 million in FY 2006.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL33788_20070108.pdf.

According to an editorial in the *Boston Globe*, “A 2005 [Arkansas] state law requires elementary schools to offer 40 minutes per week of music and art. The state’s high schools are required to offer fine arts courses, including visual arts, music, and dance. To graduate from high school, students are required to take half a year of one of these. There have also been challenges, such as finding enough art teachers who are certified. Superintendents have complained that there was no dedicated state funding to implement these programs.”

http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial_opinion/editorials/articles/2007/08/23/the_sound_of_music_and_arts/

B. Education – Teachers:

“We need to test teachers as well as students, replace teachers who aren’t competent, and impose reasonable waiting periods for teachers to gain tenure. We should provide bonuses and forgive student loans for high-performing teachers to work in low-performing schools. ... Educators and teachers should be involved in the design of compensation initiatives that encourage training and promote performance based on merit, so that our children can have the best education in the world.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=7

Cost: \$100 million (\$500 million over five years) (*Partial estimate*).

Source: BillTally estimate based on Whitehouse.gov data for H.R. 1761 (110th Congress): A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish the Teacher Incentive Fund Program, and for other purposes. This estimate is for Huckabee’s teacher bonus proposal.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/09/20040922-1.html>

Note: Related legislation has been introduced, in the form of H.R. 54 (110th Congress): A bill to expand the eligibility of individuals to qualify for loan forgiveness for teachers in order to provide additional incentives for teachers currently employed or seeking employment in economically depressed rural areas, Territories, and Indian Reservations. A cost estimate is unavailable.

Energy, Environment, and Agriculture: -\$222 million (savings)

A. Alternative Energy:

“We have to explore, we have to conserve, and we have to pursue all avenues of alternative energy: nuclear, wind, solar, hydrogen, clean coal, biodiesel, and biomass. ... We will remove red tape that slows innovation. We will set aside a federal research and development budget that will be matched by the private sector to seek the best new products in alternative fuels.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=21

“The key is to create the kind of unbridled marketplace that turns innovators loose to find the solutions. I don’t think we’re going to find one big answer. I think it’s going to be a combination of many that will include hydrogen, solar, wind, nuclear, domestically produced fossil fuels – at least for the short term.”

<http://www.grist.org/feature/2007/10/02/huckabee/>

Cost: \$255 million (\$1.275 billion over five years).

Source:

- Nuclear (Unknown): Related legislation, H.R. 2814 (110th Congress): A bill to authorize the Secretary of Energy to provide loan guarantees for

100 percent of the cost of construction of new domestic nuclear power production facilities. A cost estimate is unavailable. H.R. 2764, the Consolidated Appropriations Act (passed into law in the 110th Congress) contained \$20.5 billion in loan guarantees for the nuclear industry for nuclear power facilities.

http://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/industries/industrials/article/usec-statement-loan-guarantees-nuclear-power-industry_419253_6.html

- Hydrogen (\$6 million): Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate for H.R. 632 (110th Congress): A bill to authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish monetary prizes for achievements in overcoming scientific and technical barriers associated with hydrogen energy.
<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/81xx/doc8184/hr632.pdf>
- Solar (\$10 million): CBO estimate for H.R. 2774 (110th Congress): A bill to support the research, development, and commercial application of solar energy technologies, and for other purposes.
<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/82xx/doc8293/hr2774.pdf>
- Wind (\$39 million): CBO estimate for H.R. 5656 (109th Congress): A bill to provide for Federal energy research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities, and for other purposes.
<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/73xx/doc7391/hr5656.pdf>
- Clean Coal (\$200 million): Text of S. 1133 (109th Congress): A bill to authorize the Secretary of Energy to develop and implement an accelerated research, development, and demonstration program for advanced clean coal technologies for use in coal-based generation facilities and to provide financial incentives to encourage the early commercial deployment of advanced clean coal technologies through the retrofitting, repowering, replacement, and new construction of coal-based electricity generating facilities and industrial gasification facilities. Based on funding for Section 101, the Clean Coal Power Initiative.

B. Climate Change:

“I think the United States needs to take some very serious and aggressive action to reduce greenhouse gases I support cap and trade. . . . I think anything we can do to make our air, water, and soil cleaner and better for the next generation is just a matter of responsible stewardship.”

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2007/12/huckabee_on_money_politics.html

Cost: Unknown.

Note: One possible method of reducing greenhouse gases is S. 280 (110th Congress), which creates a cap-and-trade system of emission allowances. The bill establishes the Climate Change Credit Corporation (CCCC) that will administer the program. Before 2012, the CCCC will hold an auction of tradable emissions allowances. The proceeds of the auction will be used to administer the program, as well as support other programs that are established in the bill. According to CBO, “. . . U.S. entities released roughly 7 billion metric tons of greenhouse gases

(measured in carbon dioxide equivalents) in 2004. Valued at \$7 per ton (the safety-valve price used in the National Commission on Energy Policy report *Ending the Energy Stalemate: A Bipartisan Strategy for Meeting America's Energy Challenges*), the value of those emissions would be \$49 billion.”
www.cbo.gov/ftpdoc.cfm?index=7068.

It is unknown how much of these receipts would be directed into new spending under the program; an official cost estimate is unavailable. CBO also expressed uncertainty about the budget effects of this system in comments it provided for a white paper released by Senators Pete Domenici and Jeff Bingaman, *Design Elements of a Mandatory Market-Based Greenhouse Gas Regulatory System*.
<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdoc.cfm?index=7068&type=1>

C. Counter-Cyclical Plan:

“I also support a more flexible counter-cyclical revenue program that makes payments based on low yields and/or low prices rather than the current program, which is based only on low prices.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=23

Cost: \$10 million (\$50 million over five years).

Source: Study by the Agricultural and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M University.

<http://www.afpc.tamu.edu/pubs/3/467/bp-2007-03%20%20-%20CCP%20vs%20CCR.pdf>.

Note: Due to crop fluctuations, a counter cyclical revenue program may produce savings beyond the five-year budget window. Related legislation has been introduced, in the form of S. 1872 (110th Congress): A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to make revenue counter-cyclical payments available to producers on a farm to ensure that the producers at least receive a minimum level of revenue from the production of a covered commodity, and for other purposes. A cost estimate is unavailable.

D. Crop Insurance:

“I support a fully-funded crop insurance program, so that Congress will not have to pass emergency assistance every time disaster strikes.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=23

Cost: Unknown.

Note: According to a June 2007 report from the Congressional Research Service, Congress has appropriated \$13.45 billion for emergency agriculture supplemental funding over the past five fiscal years.

<http://openrcs.cdt.org/getfile.php?rid=60388>

E. Domestic Energy:

“Our goal is to be non-dependent upon fossil fuels, but there will be an interim period in which we’ll need to utilize all the domestic oil that we can generate by ourselves, whether it’s from ANWR [the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge] or the continental shelf.”

<http://www.grist.org/feature/2007/10/02/huckabee/>

Cost: -\$500 million (savings) (-\$2.501 billion over five years).

Source: CBO cost estimate for the Reconciliation Recommendations of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, which would have permitted drilling in ANWR.

<http://www.cbo.gov/showdoc.cfm?index=6798&sequence=0>

Note: Last December, Congress passed and the President signed H.R. 6111, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006, which included a provision to remove restrictions on leasing certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas development.

F. Rural Schools:

“We need agricultural policies that encourage our young people to enter and stay in farming. ... [We] have to assure that they have outstanding rural schools, state-of-the-art health care, and first-rate infrastructure.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=23

Cost: \$13 million (\$40 million over five years).

Source: CBO estimate for H.R. 517 (109th Congress): A bill to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/64xx/doc6415/hr517.pdf>

Health Care: -\$656 million (savings)

A. Electronic Medical Records:

“We can make health care more affordable by ... adopting electronic record keeping ...”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=8

“And the ... thing that has to happen is that we have portable medical records so that your health care records go with you.”

<http://www.pbs.org/kcet/tavissmiley/special/forums/transcript.html>

Cost: \$234 million (first-year cost).

Source: Based on the President’s FY 2007 budget increase for health-related IT investment.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/pubpress/2006/2006-6.pdf>

Note: Related legislation has been introduced, in the form of S. 1490 (110th Congress): A bill to provide for the establishment and maintenance of electronic

personal health records for individuals and family members enrolled in federal employee health benefits plans under Chapter 89 of Title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes. A cost estimate is unavailable.

B. Health Care:

“As President, I will work with the private sector, Congress, health care providers, and other concerned parties to lead a complete overhaul of our health care system.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=8

Cost: Unknown.

C. Health Insurance Tax Deductibility:

“We can make health care more affordable by ... making health insurance tax deductible for individuals and families as it now is for businesses. Low income families would get tax credits instead of deductions.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=8

Cost: Unknown.

Note: This may have an outlay impact depending on other deductions individuals have and the effect on other refundable credits. It is unclear how such deductions would work under Huckabee’s FairTax plan.

D. Health Insurance Portability:

“It is time to recognize that jobs don’t need health care, people do, and move from employer-based to consumer-based health care.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=8

Cost: Unknown.

Note: Related legislation, H.R. 5475 (109th Congress): A bill to amend Title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to permit a health insurance issuer an alternative to guaranteed issue of health insurance coverage in the small group market in order to promote affordable access to portable health insurance coverage. A cost estimate is not available.

E. Health Savings Accounts:

“We can make health care more affordable by ... expanding health savings accounts to everyone, not just those with high deductibles ... ”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=8

Cost: Unknown.

Note: Related legislation has been introduced, H.R. 3234 (110th Congress): A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve access to health care through expanded health savings accounts. A cost estimate is unavailable.

F. HIV/AIDS Prevention:

“I support an increase in our commitment to the Global Fund.”

<http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Newsroom.PressRelease&ID=413>

Cost: Unknown.

Note: According to an April 2006 opinion editorial in *The Hill*, the Bush administration has pledged \$15 billion over five years to combat AIDS.
<http://thehill.com/op-eds/tobias-has-a-mission-to-reform-u.s.-foreign-aid-2006-04-25.html>.

Note: Huckabee has not committed to a specific dollar figure.

G. Medical Liability:

“We can make health care more affordable by reforming medical liability”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=8

Cost: -\$890 million (savings) (-\$4.452 billion over five years).

Source: CBO cost estimate for H.R. 5 (108th Congress): A bill to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system.
<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/40xx/doc4098/hr5ec.pdf>

Note: Although the bill was reintroduced and passed by the House in the 109th Congress, CBO did not update its estimate. It was also reintroduced in the 110th Congress as H.R. 2580 and S. 243.

H. Preventive Health Care:

“We do need to get serious about preventive health care.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=8

Cost: Unknown.

Note: A related bill has been introduced, H.R. 5657 (109th Congress): A bill to promote preventive health care for Americans. A cost estimate is unavailable.

Homeland Security and Law Enforcement: \$745 million

A. Port and Chemical Plant Security:

“I will address the many security issues still unresolved after 9/11, such as the security of our ports and our chemical plants.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=22

Cost: \$15 million (\$60 million over four years).

Source: Text of S. 2412 (109th Congress): A bill to address homeland security issues relating to first responders, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the use of technology, federal, state, and local coordination, and critical infrastructure, and for other purposes. Specifically, Section 261 on plant security grants.

Note: Port security was enhanced by H.R. 1 (110th Congress), the Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007, which was passed into law, by the section on scanning containers in foreign ports. It is unclear what changes or additions Huckabee would make to port security.

B. Border Patrol Agents:

“The Secure America Plan ... [will] increase the [b]order [p]atrol. Increase the number of border patrol agents. Fully support all law enforcement personnel tasked with enforcing immigration law.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=26

Cost: Unknown.

Note: It is unknown how many additional agents Huckabee would hire. CBO estimates that it costs \$180,000 per year to train and pay a border patrol agent.
http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/81xx/doc8179/SA1150_June4.pdf.

C. Border Security:

“The Secure America Plan ... will [b]uild the [f]ence[.] Ensure that an interlocking surveillance camera system is installed along the border by July 1, 2010. Ensure that the border fence construction is completed by July 1, 2010.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=26

Cost: Unknown.

Note: Cost will depend on two factors:

- The length of additional wall (approximately \$3 million/mile according to CBO);
http://www.nytimes.com/cq/2007/07/11/cq_3057.html
- How much new technology is used (the Department of Homeland Security estimates the virtual wall will cost \$7.6 billion over four years).
<http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,129294/article.html>
Currently, \$1.225 billion is appropriated for border security to complete 670 miles of fence.

D. Department of Homeland Security:

“I will reassess, tighten, and strengthen the focus and mission of the Department of Homeland Security.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=22

Cost: Unknown.

E. Drug Courts:

“We’ve got to quit locking up all the people that we’re mad at and lock up the people that we’re really afraid of, the people who are sexual predators and violent offenders. ... I would go for more drug courts and for a lot less incarceration of drug-addicted people.”
<http://www.pbs.org/kcet/tavissmiley/special/forums/transcript.html>

Cost: Unknown.

Note: The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy indicates that there are savings of \$17,500-\$47,500 annually per offender by putting offenders through a drug court rather than incarcerating them. It is unclear how many cases would be diverted to drug courts.

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/factsht/drugdata/index.html>

F. Employment Verification:

“Institute a universal, mandatory citizenship verification system as part of the normal hiring process.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=26

Cost: \$150 million (\$750 million over five years).

Source: BillTally estimate based on the text and information from the sponsor for H.R. 98 (110th Congress): A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to enforce restrictions on employment in the United States of unauthorized aliens through the use of improved Social Security cards and an Employment Eligibility Database, and for other purposes.

G. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):

“I will restore FEMA to Cabinet status, so that the Director reports directly to me. My FEMA Director will have sterling credentials, the leadership and management skills required by a cabinet-level job, including extensive, hands-on experience in disaster response.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=22

Cost: \$17 million (\$83 million over five years).

Source: CBO cost estimate for H.R. 5316 (109th Congress) which would, among other purposes, remove the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and make it a cabinet-level agency reporting directly to the President of the United States. CBO assumes “some current employees would see salary increases with their new responsibilities,” increasing costs by \$2 million annually. The rest of the funding is for the creation of an Inspector General office within the new agency.

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdoc.cfm?index=7327&type=1>

H. Illegal Aliens:

“[I] [p]ropose to provide all illegal immigrants a 120-day window to register with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and leave the country. Those who register and return to their home country will face no penalty if they later apply to immigrate or visit; those who do not return home will be, when caught, barred from future reentry for a period of 10 years.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=26

Cost: Unknown.

Note: This may result in additional administrative costs for the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

I. Illegal Aliens and Local Law Enforcement:

“Promote better cooperation on enforcement by supporting legislative measures such as the CLEAR Act, which aims to systematize the relationship between local law and federal immigration officials.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=26

Cost: \$560 million (\$2.8 billion over five years).

Source: The CLEAR Act, the Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal Act of 2005, was introduced as H.R. 3137 and S. 1362 (109th Congress): A bill to provide for enhanced federal, state, and local assistance in the enforcement of the immigration laws, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act, to authorize appropriations to carry out the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, and for other purposes. Estimate based on BillTally data for S. 1362.

J. Local Law Enforcement Training:

“Encourage immigration-law training for police. Local authorities must be provided the tools, training, and funding they need so local police can turn illegal immigrants over to the federal authorities.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=26

Cost: \$3 million (first-year cost).

Source: Text of Section 345 of H.R. 4192 (110th Congress): A bill to reform immigration to serve the national interest. This appropriation would provide funds for a demonstration project. A fully established program would probably have additional costs.

K. Notification of Citizenship:

“Discourage [d]ual [c]itizenship[.] Inform foreign governments when their former citizens become naturalized U.S. citizens.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=26

Cost: Unknown.

L. Sanctuary Cities:

“I oppose and will not tolerate sanctuaries for illegals. The federal government must enforce our existing laws by cracking down on rogue cities and towns that willfully undermine our economy and our homeland security by giving benefits and protection to illegals. The consequences for illegal entry must be swift, certain, and uniform throughout our country.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=4

Cost: Unknown.

Note: It is impossible to estimate how much, if any, savings will result from this because “sanctuary cities” may change their policies to avoid the loss of federal funding. Additionally, it is unclear whether the funds denied sanctuary cities will be given to other cities (resulting in no savings) or will actually produce savings. Related legislation, H.R. 3549 (110th Congress): A bill to withdraw federal funds from states and political subdivisions of states that interfere with enforcement of federal immigration law. A cost estimate is unavailable.

M. US-VISIT Program:

“End exemptions for Mexicans and Canadians to the US-VISIT program, which tracks the arrival and departure of foreign visitors.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=26

Cost: Unknown.

Note: Because the number of Mexicans and Canadians crossing the border is substantial, the additional volume of people participating in the program could lead to increased costs. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) estimates that in 2004, there were approximately 135 million Mexicans and Canadians who crossed our border by land who were not part of the US-VISIT program.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07248.pdf>

National Defense and International Relations: \$50.143 billion

A. Defense Spending:

“So I will increase the defense budget. We have to be ready to fight both conventional and unconventional wars against both state and non-state enemies. Right now we spend about 3.9 percent of our GDP on defense, while we spent about 6 percent in 1986 under

President Reagan. I would return to that 6 percent level. I believe we can do this without raising taxes. I will limit increases in other discretionary spending and rely on the normal increase in federal tax revenue that is generated annually as Americans' incomes rise."
http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=20

Cost: \$50.140 billion (\$250.699 billion over five years).

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis statistics on GDP and NTUF calculations.
<http://www.bea.gov/national/xls/gdplev.xls>

Note: The President's budget indicates that 4.1 percent of GDP is currently spent on defense. *Budget of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2008, Historical Tables*. Huckabee does not specify what discretionary spending he would limit. Without more details, it is impossible to estimate the offsetting effect of these savings. NTUF assumes that the increase in spending will be phased in over five years.

B. Intelligence:

"As President, I will beef up our human intelligence capacity, both the operatives who gather information and the analysts who figure out what it means."
http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=20

Cost: Unknown.

Note: Huckabee does not specify by how much he will increase intelligence personnel levels. Additionally, data on current numbers and salary of intelligence personnel are classified.

C. Israel:

"I will always ensure that Israel has access to the state-of-the-art weapons and technology she needs to defend herself from those who seek her annihilation."
http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=3

Cost: Unknown.

Note: According to the Congressional budget justification for foreign operations, the U.S. currently provides Israel with \$2.4 billion worth of military aid annually. It is unclear what changes Huckabee would make to this amount.
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/84462.pdf>

D. Summit:

"I support a regional summit so that Iraq's neighbors become financially and militarily committed to stabilizing Iraq now rather than financially and militarily committed to widening the war later. This summit will add more voices, Muslim voices, to the pressure to perform we're already applying to the Maliki government."
http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=2

Cost: Unknown.

E. Support Democratic Development in Middle East:

“First, we have to destroy the terrorists who already exist, then we have to attack the underlying conditions that breed terror, by creating schools that offer an alternative to the extremist madrassas that take impressionable children and turn them into killers, by creating jobs and opportunity and hope, by encouraging a free press and other institutions that promote democracy.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=20

Cost: \$3 million (\$10 million over three years).

Source: CBO estimate for H.R. 4303 (108th Congress): A bill to authorize the Secretary of State to make grants to American-sponsored schools in Arab and other predominantly Muslim countries to provide full or partial merit-based scholarships for children from lower- and middle-income families of such countries to attend such schools, and for other purposes.

Note: This bill deals with scholarships to schools that are already in existence.

Huckabee’s proposal to create new schools would likely result in additional costs.

F. Turkey:

“As President, I would . . . have our military train and equip the Kurds to fight the PKK [the Kurdistan Workers Party, which the federal government lists as a terrorist organization].”

<http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Newsroom.PressRelease&ID=319>

Cost: Unknown.

Veterans: \$16.282 billion

A. Veterans’ Bill of Rights:

“I support the following VETERANS’ BILL OF RIGHTS for issues that are not being adequately addressed:”

Cost: \$16.282 billion (\$66.539 billion over five years).

Source: See below.

1. “The right to a mandatory rather than a discretionary mechanism for funding veterans’ health care, to eliminate year-to-year uncertainty that the funds they need will be there for them[.]”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=25

Cost: \$14.872 billion (\$59.490 billion over four years).

Source: CBO estimate for H.R. 515 (109th Congress): A bill to amend Title 38, United States Code, to provide for an assured adequate level of funding for veterans health care.
<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/65xx/doc6574/hr515.pdf>

2. “The right to obtain full and clear explanation of all benefits and comprehensive assistance in obtaining those benefits.”
http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=25

Cost: Unknown.

Note: A booklet on veteran benefits is already produced. It is unclear how Huckabee would change the presentation of information on veterans’ benefits.

3. “The right to have a claim processed within six months.”
http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=25

Cost: Unknown.

Note: According to GAO, President Bush’s FY 2008 budget included funds to increase the number of employees who process compensation claims.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07512t.pdf>

There are also a number of legislative efforts to reduce the backlog of claims.

<http://www.military.com/features/0,15240,150403,00.html>

4. “The right to access state-of-the-art treatment facilities for traumatic brain injuries.”
http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=25

Cost: \$10 million (\$49 million over five years).

Source: CBO estimate for S. 1233 (110th Congress): A bill to provide and enhance intervention, rehabilitative treatment, and services to veterans with traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes. Specifically, this estimate is for Section 104, Research, Education, and Clinical Care Program on Severe Traumatic Brain Injury.

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/65xx/doc6574/hr515.pdf>

5. “The right of National Guard and Reserve personnel called to active service to receive the same benefits as active duty veterans.”
http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=25

Cost: \$1.4 billion (\$7 billion over five years).

Source: BillTally estimate for Section 2201 of the National Guard and Reserve Comprehensive Health Benefits Act of S. 871 (109th Congress): A bill to amend Title 10, United States Code, to ensure that the strength of

the Armed Forces and the protections and benefits for members of the Armed Forces and their families are adequate for keeping the commitment of the people of the United States to support their servicemembers, and for other purposes.

6. “The right of wounded Reserve troops to be treated like their active duty counterparts until their claims have been processed.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=25

Cost: Unknown.

7. “The right of wounded veterans and those who have served in combat theaters to a comprehensive GI bill that provides full tuition, books, fees, and living expenses at any institution to which the veteran is accepted.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=25

Cost: Unknown.

Note: Senator Clinton has a similar proposal, which is estimated to cost \$5.02 billion (\$25.1 billion over five years) (*Partial estimate*). She is a sponsor of the 21st Century GI Bill of Rights Act of 2007, S. 1409 (110th Congress): A bill to provide and enhance education, housing, and entrepreneur assistance for veterans who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes. According to testimony before the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs concerning the education benefits in the bill, “enactment of S. 1409 would result in benefit costs to VA of \$3.9 billion during the first year, \$25.1 billion for five years, and \$64 billion over 10 years. [The VA is] unable to estimate the resulting additional administrative costs associated with this bill.”

<http://www.va.gov/OCA/testimony/svac/070731KW.asp>

Miscellaneous: \$15 million

A. Social Security:

“One thing, when people reach retirement age, if they really have enough retirement benefits, they don’t need Social Security for the long term, give them the option of [a] one-time buyout, or the opportunity to purchase an annuity, with their funds, tax-free, that frees up the long-term obligation of the government.”

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/21/us/politics/21debate-transcript.html?_r=2&oref=slogin&pagewanted=print&oref=slogin

Cost: Unknown.

B. Voter Identification:

“I think it’s not asking too much to make sure that people who are voting are truly eligible voters. But look, if it’s a driver’s license issue, we’ve gone to Motor Voter – let’s have Photo Voter so, when you register to vote, they take your picture, put it on a card, and you simply are able to make sure that you’re a registered voter.”

<http://www.pbs.org/kcet/tavissmiley/special/forums/transcript.html>

Cost: \$15 million (\$77 million over five years).

Source: CBO estimate for H.R. 4844 (109th Congress): A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require any individual who desires to register or re-register to vote in an election for federal office to provide the appropriate State election official with proof that the individual is a citizen of the United States to prevent fraud in Federal elections, and for other purposes.

Fiscal Quotes:

“When the FairTax becomes law, it will be like waving a magic wand releasing us from pain and unfairness.”

http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=Issues.View&Issue_id=5