

SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
KENT CONRAD, RANKING MEMBER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**STATEMENT BY SENATOR KENT CONRAD (D-ND) RESPONDING
TO ATTACK ON SO-CALLED “KERRY BUDGET”**

Senator Santorum’s attack on what he says is “The Kerry Budget” is simply a fabrication. Senator Kerry has not proposed a budget. Senator Santorum knows this, but doesn’t let facts get in the way of his partisan, political attacks. These attacks on Senator Kerry represent a clear attempt to try to divert attention from the failed fiscal policies of President Bush.

The record of the Bush administration on budget matters is clear. It is one of debt, deficits, and decline. In just a little over three years, the President has turned the largest surplus ever into the largest deficit in our nation’s history. His budget would explode deficits and debt at the worst possible time – right at the brink of the retirement of the baby boom generation. Instead of protecting the Social Security surplus, the President spends every penny on his tax cuts and other spending.

In selling his first tax cut, President Bush promised “none of the Social Security surplus [would] be used to fund other spending initiatives or tax relief.” That is just one of his many broken promises. His failed fiscal record is the reason why Senator Santorum is desperately trying to divert attention away from the President’s record of producing the largest deficits in our history and of exploding the national debt. The bottom line is that the President’s policies are reckless and threaten the fundamental economic security of the nation.

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