

By: Representative Lott

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 58

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ASKING CONGRESS TO GIVE FIRST  
2 PRIORITY TO SUPPORTING AND PASSING THE DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL  
3 FIRST.

4 WHEREAS, the security of our nation and people is the first  
5 and foremost obligation of our United States federal government;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the men and women of our United States Armed Forces  
8 now serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast  
9 Guard, Merchant Marines, National Guard and Reserves have shown  
10 great courage and self-sacrifice and deserve to be equipped with  
11 the best weapons and resources to protect our nation; and

12 WHEREAS, in past years politicians have delayed passing the  
13 defense appropriations bill until late in the budget year so that  
14 the defense appropriations bill was misused as a dumping ground  
15 for pork barrel spending and as a political hostage to pork barrel  
16 spending on other appropriations bills; and

17 WHEREAS, in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September  
18 11, 2001, on America, President Bush asked that the Congress of  
19 the United States pass the defense appropriations bill before  
20 passing other spending bills; and

21 WHEREAS, Congress acted responsibly in the 2002, 2003 and  
22 2004 budgets when it passed the defense appropriations bill first,  
23 thereby protecting the men and women in our Armed Forces from  
24 becoming pawns for politicians' spending maneuvers:

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
26 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
27 THEREIN, That the Mississippi Legislature commends Congress for

28 making our nation's defense its first priority in 2002, 2003 and  
29 2004, and requests that the representatives and senators from our  
30 state continue this important tradition by passing and enacting  
31 the defense appropriations legislation before all other spending  
32 bills in 2005 and in future years.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
34 furnished to Mississippi's Congressional Delegation and to the  
35 members of the Capitol Press Corps.