As requested by a number of Members, this document provides additional information about H.R. 1473, the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011, as posted on the Web site of the House Committee on Rules on April 12, 2011.

Previously—on April 12, 2011—CBO released an estimate of H.R. 1473’s effects on budget authority and outlays for fiscal year 2011. That estimate is shown at the following link:

http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/121xx/doc12140/hr1473.pdf

In addition, on April 12 CBO also posted a table comparing the 2011 budgetary effects for H.R. 1473 with the estimated effects for other continuing resolutions considered thus far this calendar year:


In response to multiple requests for estimates of the effects of post-2011 outlays from H.R. 1473, CBO has developed additional information about the budgetary impact of H.R. 1473 in years beyond 2011. CBO has not completed a precise estimate of the outlay effects for H.R. 1473 for years after 2011. However, CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 1473 would produce federal outlays over the 2011-2021 period that are between $20 billion and $25 billion lower than the amount of outlays that would be expected from having 2011 appropriations set at the same level as 2010 appropriations. That range of $20 billion to $25 billion represents the change in outlays, relative to a continuation of funding at the 2010 level, only from the difference in appropriations for 2011—not from any changes in appropriations in subsequent years that might result from the 2011 action. Thus, it does not reflect any change that would occur in subsequent baseline projections for discretionary funding for fiscal years 2012 through 2021. CBO has not prepared any such update to its multiyear baseline projections.

The estimated range provided above is lower than the estimated net change in budget authority (the authority for federal agencies to enter into obligations) for 2011 that would result from enactment of H.R. 1473, compared with earlier continuing resolutions. For example, Public Law 111-322, which funded the government’s operations through March 4, provided (on an annualized basis) budget authority of $1,087.5 billion for nonemergency appropriations for fiscal year 2011—an amount that is relatively close to the funding level for 2010. In contrast, H.R. 1473 would provide net new budget authority of $1,049.8 billion, producing a difference of $37.7 billion. That difference reflects reductions in budget authority for BOTH regularly appropriated discretionary programs and some mandatory programs. Many of the reductions in budget authority for mandatory programs would have little or no effect on outlays in 2011 or future years. As a result, the estimated change in cumulative outlays under H.R. 1473 ($20 billion to $25 billion) is less than the reduction in 2011 budget authority ($37.7 billion). The vast majority of the $20 billion to $25 billion reduction in projected outlays would fall in the five-year period spanning fiscal years 2012 through 2016, with a small amount occurring over the 2017-2021 period.