

# United Steelworkers

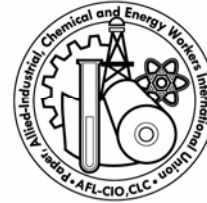
---



Building Power

# USW

Merged April 14, 2005



Leo W. Gerard  
International President

January 31, 2006

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

Re: Budget Reconciliation Conference Report

This week you will have the opportunity to cast your vote on the Budget Reconciliation Conference Report. The United Steelworkers (USW) request that you oppose this legislation.

Among the reasons our union believes that this legislation is not in our members' or the nation's best interests are that:

- it makes draconian cuts in programs to pay for tax breaks for the nation's wealthiest;
- it would permit states to reduce benefits for nearly all of the 28 million children now enrolled in Medicaid;
- it puts long-term care out of reach for many low-income seniors;
- it does not obtain reasonable savings by reducing overpayments to Medicare managed care plans or what Medicaid pays for prescription drugs;
- it makes the largest cuts (\$12.7 billion) to student aid in history; and;
- it would overburden, and possibly bankrupt, already strained public hospitals and threaten access to care for many Medicaid beneficiaries.

On the important issue of the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act, the Conference Report repeals the law but allows for continuing distribution of duties collected on the entry of goods made and filed before October 1, 2007. This proposal discriminates against future victims of dumping and subsidization on the part of our trading partners. It gives a license to our competitors to accelerate their predatory practices in the future knowing that their competitors here in the U.S. will not be able to reinvest in their plant, equipment and people to have a fighting chance to compete.

Shortly, the Commerce Department will release the trade deficit figures for last year which will, once again, show that the trade deficit has skyrocketed — increasing by roughly 80% since 2001. This deficit is testimony to the fact that we have the most open market in the world. We do not need to allow more unfairly traded products to enter our market while taking away an important trade remedy at the same time.

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing,  
Energy, Allied Industrial and ServiceWorkers International Union




---

Pittsburgh Office: Five Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 • (412) 562-2400

The USW continues to believe that the WTO's decision that CDSOA is WTO-illegal was overreaching and imposes obligations on the U.S. that were never negotiated. The law should not be repealed, even if current beneficiaries are allowed to receive funds. The law should be kept on the book; and the USTR should follow Congressional intent by negotiating for its retention in the ongoing Doha Round.

This bill will do damage to our nation and our members and should be rejected. The United Steelworkers request that you oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leo W. Gerard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "L" and "G".

Leo W. Gerard  
International President

LWG/pak