

# NEWS RELEASE

## From Congressman Joe Moakley, 9th District, Massachusetts

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### MOAKLEY ASSAILS REAGAN BUDGET PROPOSAL

Congressman Joe Moakley (D-Mass.) said that President Reagan's proposed budget for FY 1987 "is unacceptable and should be soundly defeated."

"The President's budget, as with his last five budgets, calls for enormous increases in military spending, while slashing virtually all domestic programs," Moakley said.

"The increase in defense from the current year to FY87 is over \$34 billion--making the total military budget for FY87 well over \$300 billion. As a veteran of WW II, I know firsthand the importance of maintaining a strong military--second to none. However, there is room for savings in the military budget. There are still reports of \$800 hammers and \$4000 coffee makers being purchased by various branches of the armed services. And we are still going ahead with weapons that will either be obsolete by the time they are completed or that add nothing to our security. We should cut the waste so that we can have a tough but lean military," the Massachusetts Congressman added.

Moakley continued, "The President's budget proposes a \$1.3 billion cutback in the student aid program; a \$3.95 billion cutback in Medicare; a \$579 million cut in veterans health care; a \$191 million cut in the work incentive program, which provides funding to the Massachusetts "ET" program which has put over 23,000 welfare recipients back in the workforce. In addition, the proposed budget would cut medical research by \$350 million."

"This is just a small overview of some of the cutbacks included in the Reagan budget which would seriously impair, and in several instances eliminate, many vital domestic programs."

"We all agree that the federal deficit must be reduced. However, I cannot support a budget that continues to throw billions of additional dollars at the Pentagon, without even trying to find savings in the vast military budget and, at the same time, arbitrarily destroying so many important and valuable domestic programs," Moakley concluded.