

Appointment to Committees for the 112th Congress

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I believe my life experiences have prepared me well to serve on these committees. I came to Congress with more than a decade of experience in local and state government, and more than thirty years of service as an educator and administrator. This experience has shown me how the spending priorities set by Congress impact what state and local officials and public servants are able to do for their communities. As a member of the Appropriations and Budget Committees, I will fight to make sure that we address the needs of states, communities and families such as:

- access to affordable healthcare
- worker training
- port and border security
- adequate law enforcement to keep our streets and neighborhoods safe
- health care for our veterans
- recovery from natural disasters, particularly Hurricane Katrina
- education, particularly fully funding No Child Left Behind and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- keeping our nation competitive in the global economy through science and technology