



**For Immediate Release
February 26, 2007**

Contact: Linda Mamoun – 303.241.1699

Survey Shows Strong & Growing Support for New Budget Priorities

Over 62% of IA and NH Residents Want More Federal Funding for Education, Healthcare and Other Domestic Priorities, Less on the Pentagon

New York – As Congress considers President Bush’s 2008 budget proposal, a major poll of the voting age populations in Iowa and New Hampshire finds broad-based and growing support for new federal budget priorities including: increasing federal funds for healthcare, education, job training, energy independence, and deficit paydown by reducing the Pentagon budget, according to a recent **survey** by Business Leaders for Sensible Priorities (BLSP).

Conducted earlier this month, the BLSP survey found that a significant 64% of New Hampshire respondents would vote for a hypothetical “Candidate A” running for federal office who says that defense spending should be reduced by 15% and the savings shifted to healthcare, education, job training, energy independence and reducing the federal budget deficit, over a hypothetical “Candidate B” who says that defense spending should not be reduced. In Iowa, 62% of the respondents were in support of Candidate A versus 29% for Candidate B.

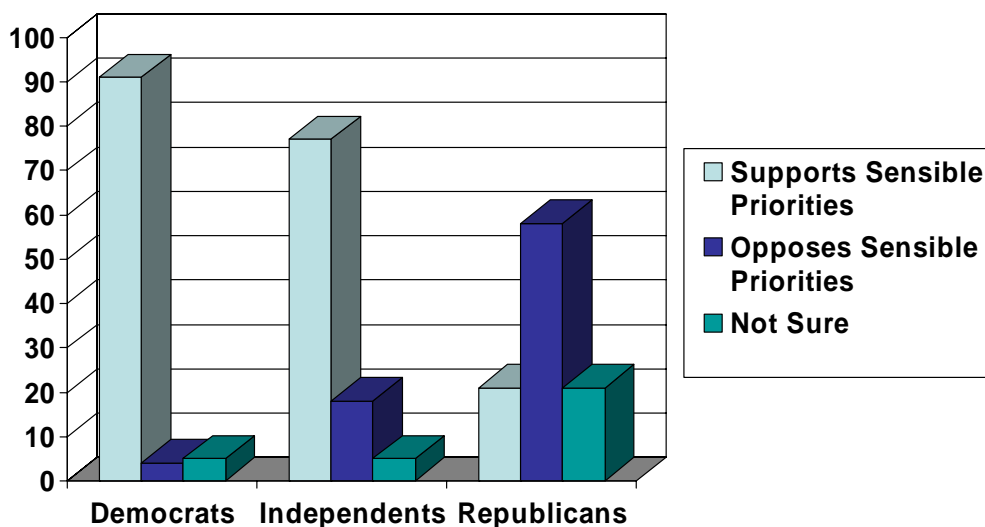
BLSP founder and President Ben Cohen said, “America wants new priorities, with less money wasted on Pentagon pork and defense contractor perks. Presidential candidates are hearing our message, seeing our pens, and now reading the numbers. In Iowa and New Hampshire people want real change, not timid tinkering.”

“Given the historical partisan divide on the poll question, it is striking to see the incredibly strong support for Candidate A among independent voters. Independents came out in favor of Candidate A by a 77-18 margin in New Hampshire and a 73-20 margin in Iowa. Normally when you have an issue that divides Republican and Democratic voters, you might expect independents to be split down the middle. But here you have an overwhelming majority of independents agreeing with the Democrats. If Democrats are looking for an issue that’s almost as big with swing voters as it is with Democrats, this looks like one,” explained Randall Kuhn, a demographer at the University of Colorado.

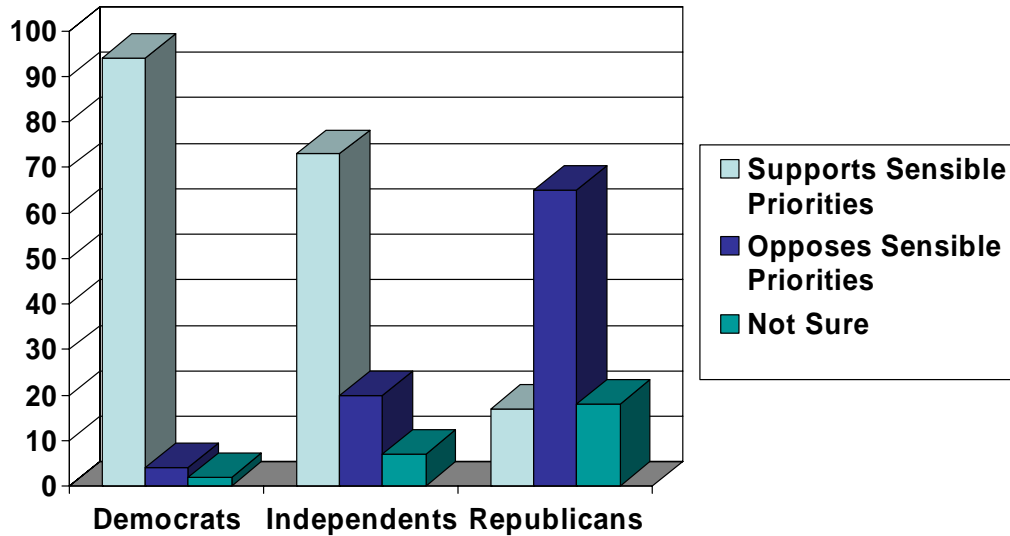
Other key survey findings are as follows:

- Support for the candidate who favors sensible budget priorities rose in both states since a similar poll conducted in 2006, from 60% to 64% in New Hampshire and from 58% to 62% in Iowa.
- Support for the candidate who favors sensible budget priorities rose across the board, among all age groups, for men and women, and for Democratic, Republican and Independent voters.
- The survey found a significant increase in the percentage of respondents who identified federal budget priorities as their primary concern.
- In New Hampshire and Iowa the Iraq war dominated voters' lists of concerns. In New Hampshire 36% were most concerned with Iraq, up from 20% at the same time in 2006. In Iowa the percentage most concerned with the Iraq war rose from 16% to 31%.

New Hampshire Support for Sensible Priorities Candidate by Party Affiliation



Iowa Support for Sensible Priorities Candidate by Party Affiliation



For the full survey findings and details, go to <http://www.sensiblepriorities.org>

About BLSP: Business Leaders for Sensible Priorities (www.sensiblepriorities.org) is a nonprofit membership organization of over 700 business executives and military leaders dedicated to federal budget concerns.