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**KENNEDY: AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER THAN A REPUBLICAN BUDGET THAT
LEAVES THEM BEHIND**

Today, the House of Representatives passed the Reconciliation bill that slashes health care, education, and other programs. The United States Senate passed the bill by a minimal margin in December.

Senator Kennedy said, "Today the Republicans showed their true colors by turning their backs on the needs of the hardest working Americans and their families one day after President Bush's empty promises in his State of the Union address. The passage of this draconian bill solidifies the Bush Administration's misplaced priorities and proves that special interests dictate their policies."

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