

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

July 12, 2007

Dear Senator Brownback:

I understand that the Financial Services Appropriations Bill under consideration in the Senate Appropriations Committee today restricts the Vice President's use of otherwise available funds for special assistance to the President, unless the Vice President observes certain provisions of Executive Order 12958, as amended, that apply to agencies.

The President has asked me to confirm to you that, as was made clear by the President's spokespersons on June 22 and June 25, 2007, the Executive Order deals with the President and the Vice President separately from agency heads and thus the Office of the Vice President, like the President's office, is not an "agency" for purposes of the Order.

We would ask that the Senate join the House of Representatives in appropriating the requested funds for the Vice President, to enable him to provide special assistance to the President, as has been the custom for a number of decades.

Respectfully yours,



Fred F. Fielding
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Sam Brownback
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

cc: The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
The Honorable Thad Cochran
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin