

## Michaud Meets with President Obama; Pushes for Long-term Fiscal Responsibility

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Michaud and his fellow Blue Dog Coalition members are advocating that the Congress return to statutory &ldquo;pay-as-you-go&rdquo; budgeting rules, or PAYGO. PAYGO means that when Congress spends money, they have to balance it out with cuts elsewhere, so overall spending remains the same. The Blue Dogs are also concerned about the looming shortfalls in entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare and believe that the Congress must take action to address them.

&ldquo;I believe that the President will be an ally of ours on restoring fiscal responsibility,&rdquo; said Michaud. &ldquo;We must grow our economy and put Americans back to work if we are ever going to get out of this recession. But it must be coupled with responsible federal budgets so that we do not make our future fiscal challenges worse. Congress must once again return to following a budget, just like every Maine family must. The meeting with President Obama was a positive step toward that goal.&rdquo;

&ldquo;During my twenty-two years in the Maine Legislature, I worked with my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to write balanced budgets,&rdquo; said Michaud. &ldquo;Instituting strict budget rules will help get a grip on spending. We need to get serious about this and stop adding to the mountain of debt that our future generations will inherit if we don&rsquo;t act.&rdquo;

For more information on the Blue Dog Coalition, visit their website at <http://www.house.gov/ross/BlueDogs/>.

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