

## House Passes Budget Resolution

Thursday, April 02 2009

WASHINGTON, DC &ndash; Today, Congressman Mike Michaud voted to pass the House Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2010 (H.Con.Res. 85). The budget cuts the deficit by more than half by 2013. It also makes strategic investments in health care, education, and energy. For these and other key priorities, the budget includes deficit-neutral reserve funds that will accommodate legislation in these areas consistent with the pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) principles that Michaud and his fellow Blue Dog Coalition members have made a priority.

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&ldquo;Over the past several weeks, I have worked with my colleagues in the Blue Dog Coalition to ensure that this budget limits federal spending, draws down the deficit and requires that the federal government begin paying its bills by putting pay-as-you-go rules back into law,&rdquo; said Michaud. &ldquo;This budget reflects those goals. I am especially pleased that the budget resolution honors our veterans by providing an 11.5 percent increase for veterans&rsquo; health care and other services.&rdquo;

The budget resolution builds on the President&rsquo;s request by providing \$53.3 billion in appropriated funding for veterans&rsquo; programs, which is \$5.5 billion (11.5 percent) more than the 2009 level. It also provides more funding than 2009 for the Department of Veterans Affairs to research and treat mental health conditions, post-traumatic stress disorder, and traumatic brain injury.

&ldquo;It has been a long time coming, but we finally will have a budget that tells the American people exactly where we are without budgetary gimmicks hiding the real costs facing our country,&rdquo; said Michaud. &ldquo;The budget does not paint a rosy picture. It does not hide the true cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and it does not make false promises about balanced budgets in the short term. But this budget takes a critical step in the right direction by providing a long-overdue, honest accounting of our nation&rsquo;s finances. It will also lead to a reduction in our deficits and begin to restore fiscal discipline in Congress.&rdquo;

Blue Dog Coalition principles that were included in House Budget Resolution:

- Reduced spending in the President&rsquo;s Budget by over \$7 billion, holding non-defense discretionary spending to 1.9% over inflation &ndash; the lowest level as a percent of the economy in nearly half a century
- Action on major items is conditioned on passage of statutory pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) rules, the top priority of the Blue Dogs
- Modification of the budget&rsquo;s baseline can only occur if a statutory PAYGO bill passes first
- Does not provide reconciliation for cap and trade legislation and does not assume any revenues from cap and trade are dedicated to any specific policy
- Guarantees that the reserve fund for health care reform does not increase the deficit
- Begins to close the gap between spending and revenues by cutting the deficit in half by 2013
- Funds the President&rsquo;s budget request for veterans at a \$5.5 billion increase
- Includes funding for program integrity to identify waste and abuse in government spending, as well as language

requiring a full review of the Department of Defense budget

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