

(Washington, DC) - **Congressman Wally Herger (R-CA), Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health, delivered a speech on the floor of the House of Representatives criticizing the shortsighted spending in the Democrats' stimulus plan. The near-trillion dollar legislation is expected to be voted on by the Senate tomorrow. Congressman Herger is a vocal supporter of the Republican alternative measure, which focuses on fast-acting tax relief, rather than spending, to stimulate the economy. The text of Herger's speech follows below:**

"Madam Speaker, I'd like to paraphrase an old saying. 'Those who don't learn from history are doomed to make things worse.' History shows us that government spending doesn't fix economic problems.

"If spending was the key to a robust and sound economy, the U.S. should be in a boom time. Government spending has been out of control for the past twenty years. Look where it has gotten us!

"Spending that is delayed for two years is not stimulus!

"Spending for pet causes of Members of Congress is not stimulus!

"And temporary tax credits for people who already pay no income tax are not stimulus!

"We need fast-acting tax relief for working families and small businesses. I urge the Senate to put good policy above politics."