

(Washington, DC) - Congressman Wally Herger today voted against H. Con. Res. 99, the House Budget Committee's fiscal year 2008 budget. The Democrat's budget would result in the largest tax increase in American history, and fails to address the out-of-control growth in entitlement spending. Herger supported the Republican alternative, sponsored by Rep. Paul Ryan, which would balance the budget without raising taxes, create \$279 billion in savings in entitlement spending, and ensure that Social Security money is not spent on other programs. Herger made the following comment regarding today's floor actions:

"There are profound differences between the majority party's budget and the alternative budget offered by Representative Paul Ryan," Herger stated. "Their budget would result in an unprecedented tax hike on American families, seniors, and small businesses alike. The alternative budget would keep the tax relief passed since 2001 intact, while also balancing the budget by 2012. The majority's budget ignores the looming fiscal crisis caused by the out-of-control growth in entitlement spending, which will represent 63 percent of total federal spending in just ten years, up from 53 percent today. The alternative budget finds \$279 billion in responsible savings over five years, helping to ensure that future generations can benefit from these important safety net programs. The contrast between the two proposals could not have been larger."

Herger concluded, "As a member of the Republican Study Committee, a group of over 110 House members committed to fiscal responsibility, I firmly believe that keeping taxes low and reducing spending are vital to our nation's future economy well-being. The problem in Washington is not that the government taxes too little. The problem is that it spends too much. We must address wasteful discretionary spending and out-of-control entitlement spending. We can either act responsibly now, or place an ever-increasing burden on future generations. The new majority's budget took the easy, but irresponsible way out."

The following is Rep. Herger's speech in opposition to the Democrat budget. Audio and video of it will be available tomorrow at <http://www.house.gov/herger> .

"The Democrat majority party seems intent on raising taxes and increasing spending. American families, seniors, and small businesses would all experience major tax hikes. Virtually no American would be spared.

"The budget before us ignores the benefits of the tax relief passed since 2001. This tax relief has spurred economic growth and created literally millions of new jobs. Meanwhile, tax revenue

to the Federal Treasury is surging, helping to reduce the deficit.

"Their budget also ignores the out-of-control growth in entitlement spending. This is deeply irresponsible.

"The tax, tax, spend, spend philosophy supported by my friends across the aisle is bad economics and bad for the American people. Vote no."