

Says decision to disclose program's details but not its successes tells incomplete story

(Washington, DC) - **Congressman Wally Herger (R-CA) today called on President Obama to declassify information detailing how the CIA Interrogation Program developed after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks provided U.S. intelligence officials with critical information about al Qaeda, thwarted planned attacks, and saved American lives. Herger's demand comes after the President overruled the current and four previous CIA directors by declassifying Top Secret documents that contained highly sensitive information about the interrogation methods used by the CIA, discussed in thorough detail their legal justifications, and detailed the necessary conditions placed on their use to ensure that they were utilized in a lawful and proper manner. Herger's statement follows:**

"It is inexcusable for President Obama to unveil the highly secret details about the interrogation techniques used by the CIA without disclosing how these methods brought forth extremely valuable intelligence that undermined al Qaeda's terrorist agenda and saved American lives. The President's selective revelations about this successful program tell an incomplete story and only serve to undermine morale in our intelligence community. In doing so, President Obama has shown our enemies the playbook of America's methods for fighting the Global War on Terror. Now that he has disclosed the program's details, he should unveil its successes and allow the American people to decide whether they were necessary and proper in the wake of al Qaeda's destruction on September 11, 2001.

"President Obama's selective revelations pertaining to this program come on top of his previous decisions to close the Guantanamo Bay prison facility, suspend the military tribunals of suspected terrorists, and restrict future interrogations to those included in the U.S. Army Field Manuals. I'm deeply concerned that these decisions have collectively made our nation less safe. The War on Terror is by no means over and to adopt a more relaxed approach to the serious threat we face will endanger the lives of Americans. I believe it is critical that we remember the lessons of September 11 and prevent a return of our intelligence community to a detrimental posture of timidity and weakness."