

Approximately two weeks ago the House of Representatives [passed](#) legislation that would save \$100 billion in federal spending this year compared to the level President Obama requested. The legislation will fund the federal government through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2011, which ends on September 30. I strongly supported this important bill because our nation is broke and we need to restore fiscal sanity in Washington. These spending cuts recognized that the federal government desperately needs to make the same type of tough choices and sacrifices that families across our nation have made to balance their own budgets during the economic downturn.

The measure did not address the unsustainable growth in entitlement spending, which represents nearly 60% of all federal spending and will ultimately consume every taxpayer dollar. While current Social Security and Medicare benefits should be preserved for those who are already retired or nearing retirement, we simply cannot overcome the debt crisis in our nation unless we reform these programs. With that said, the cuts included in the legislation were substantial and demonstrated that the new Republican majority is very serious about reducing spending in an effort to promote jobs and economic growth.

Importantly, new House Speaker John Boehner allowed this legislation to be considered under an “open rule,” meaning that members from both parties were able to offer a multitude of amendments to the legislation. Members offered nearly six hundred amendments, representing the most open and fair debate I have seen in Congress. Many of the amendments called for additional spending cuts that went beyond what the legislation had proposed. An advocacy group called *Heritage Action for America*, a sister group to the respected conservative think tank *The Heritage Foundation*, issued a [report](#) indicating how members of the House voted on 21 amendments that would make additional cuts to non-security spending. I am proud to have been recognized as being one of 47 members who voted for all of these spending-cut amendments.

The legislation now awaits consideration in the U.S. Senate. Unfortunately, early indications suggest that Democrat leaders in that chamber oppose the level of spending reductions contained in the bill. Meanwhile, President Obama has also expressed opposition to the spending cuts. I believe opposition to restoring fiscal responsibility is deeply unfortunate and suggests that Senate Democrat Leadership and President Obama are continuing to ignore the will of the American people. I urge the Senate and the President to reverse course and support this legislation so that Washington can get back on the path to fiscal responsibility.