

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today introduced legislation that would block the automatic pay raise of nearly \$4,400 members of Congress are set to receive next year.

“At a time of war and record national debt, it seems to me that my colleagues in Congress should be willing to forgo a pay raise next year,” said Mitchell. “There are many ways we can better spend taxpayer dollars than by providing members of Congress a raise.”

If Mitchell’s legislation becomes law, members of Congress would forgo their 2008 pay raise.

Last evening, Mitchell and 180 of his House colleagues voted against a procedural move that blocked an up-or-down vote on an annual pay raise for members of Congress, arguing that Congress should find better uses for taxpayer dollars than to give its own members a raise.

Despite Mitchell’s “no” vote, the House “moved the previous question” on H.Res.517, which blocked debate and all but ensured that an automatic cost of living adjustment of nearly \$4,400 for members of Congress would take effect.

In 1989, Congress passed a law that provides lawmakers with an automatic pay raise every January unless they vote specifically to reject the raise.

Mitchell’s legislation has not yet been assigned a bill number.