

*President urges Congress to reinstitute Pay-As-You-Go budget rules*

**WASHINGTON** - U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell and other fiscally moderate members of the U.S. House of Representatives today attended a news conference at the White House as President Obama urged members of both the House and Senate to pass legislation requiring that any new mandatory government spending be matched with budget cuts or savings elsewhere.

President Obama announced the official transmission of legislation that would reinstitute statutory pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) rules, a move Mitchell believes provides a way to restore much-needed fiscal discipline to the federal government.

"Over the last eight years the national debt has spread too large and federal spending has increased too fast," Mitchell said. "A statutory pay-as-you-go rule would help restore a real sense of fiscal discipline as well as much needed accountability in spending so that the burden of insurmountable deficits, budget crises and tax increases doesn't continue to be passed to our children and grandchildren."

Today's announcement marks the first time the Obama Administration has officially transmitted legislation to Congress and sends a clear message that it is imperative to get our country's finances in order in a responsible way.

Mitchell has a record of fighting for fiscal discipline in Congress. He led the effort in the House to stop a pay raise for members of Congress saying that fiscal restraint begins at home. He has also voted against spending increases in the FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill (H.R. 1105) and against the last three Democratic budgets. Additionally, Mitchell voted against the automotive industry bailout and against releasing the second half of the Toxic Asset Relief Program (TARP) funds citing a lack of accountability, oversight and transparency.

Mitchell is a member of the Democratic Blue Dog Coalition which was formed in 1995 with the goal of representing the center of the House of Representatives. The Blue Dogs are dedicated to a core set of beliefs that transcend partisan politics, including a deep commitment to the financial stability and national security of the United States.