

WASHINGTON— Sixty-three members of the U.S. House of Representatives have co-sponsored bipartisan legislation to decline their own \$4,700 scheduled pay raise in 2010. This signals the strongest demonstration of Capitol Hill support to block the automatic pay hike in recent years.

Earlier today, Reps. Harry Mitchell, D-Ariz., and Ron Paul, R-Texas, introduced the Stop the Congressional Pay Raise Act, which would require members to forgo the 2010 pay raise. The measure would save taxpayers an estimated \$2.5 million. [Source: The Hill, Dec. 17, 2008]

Mitchell and Paul introduced similar legislation last year to block the 2009 pay raise, but the legislation earned only 34 bipartisan co-sponsors, and was not considered in committee.

Mitchell said the strong showing of support early on is cause for optimism.

“During these tough economic times, more members of Congress understand that giving up our pay raise is simply the right thing to do,” said Mitchell. “I appreciate that we have more support for blocking the pay raise than ever before, and I’m hopeful that House leadership will embrace the legislation soon.”

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

The Mitchell-Paul legislation has also earned the support of the National Taxpayers Union, Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, Taxpayers for Common Sense and The Senior Citizens League.

In addition to Mitchell and Paul, co-sponsors include: Reps. John Adler, D-N.J., Rodney Alexander, R-La., Jason Altmire, D-Pa., Brian Baird, D-Wash., Roscoe Bartlett, R-Md., Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., Bobby Bright, D-Ala., Dan Burton, R-Ind., Christopher Carney, D-Pa., Travis Childers, D-Miss., Howard Coble, R-N.C., Mike Coffman, R-Colo., Steve Cohen, D-Tenn., Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, Kathy Dahlkemper, D-Pa., Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., Chet Edwards, D-Texas, Donna Edwards, D-Md., Brad Ellsworth, D-Ind., Bill Foster, D-Ill., Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., Baron Hill, D-Ind., Paul Hodes, D-N.H., Lynn Jenkins, R-Kan., Hank Johnson, D-Ga., Walter B. Jones, R-N.C., Steve Kagen, D-Wis., Mary Jo Kilroy, D-Ohio, Ron Kind, D-Wis., Ann Kirkpatrick, D-Ariz., Larry Kissell, D-N.C., Suzanne Kosmas, D-Fla., Frank Kratovil, D-Md., Robert Latta, R-Ohio, Chris Lee, R-N.Y., Frank LoBiondo, R-N.J., David Loebsack, D-Iowa, Blaine Luetkemeyer, R-Mo., Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo., Eric Massa, D-N.Y., Michael McCaul, R-Texas, Thaddeus McCotter, R-Miss., Michael Michaud, D-Maine, Jeff Miller, R-Fla., Patrick Murphy, D-Pa., Sue Myrick, R-N.C., Glenn Nye, D-Va., Tom Perriello, D-Va., Chellie Pingree, D-Maine, Todd Russell Platts, R-Pa., Thomas J. Rooney, R-Fla., Heath Shuler, D-N.C., Zach Space, D-Ohio, Harry Teague, D-N.M., Niki Tsongas, D-Mass., Tim Walz, D-Minn., Zach Wamp, R-Tenn., Joe Wilson, R-S.C., Robert Wittman, R-Va.