

[Phoenix Business Journal](#)

Mike Sunnucks

U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell is a lead sponsor of federal legislation to block congressional pay raises in 2010. Mitchell and U.S. Rep. Ron Paul argue that Congress should not be getting automatic \$4,700 pay raises while the U.S. economy is in recession and consumers and various industries are hurting.

"We're in the midst of a recession, and our elected leaders need to do the right thing," said Mitchell, D-Ariz., in a statement. "For Congress to give itself a pay raise at a time when so many hardworking Americans are suffering is unconscionable."

Mitchell represents Scottsdale, Tempe and Ahwatukee.

Congressional members just received a \$4,700 raise bringing their salaries to \$169,300 annually. They will get the automatic increase for 2009 without legislation to block it.

Mitchell and Paul, R-Texas, also opposed the 2008 increase.