



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP: NEW BUDGET HAS RIGHT PRIORITIES FOR LONG ISLAND FAMILIES, VETERANS AND STUDENTS

Congressman, a Budget Committee Member, says fiscal responsibility will be restored

Washington, DC—Today the House of Representatives passed the budget resolution for fiscal year 2008 (H. Con. Res. 99). Drafted by the Budget Committee, of which Congressman Tim Bishop (NY-1) is a member, the FY 08 resolution sets the total spending and revenue limits for the federal budget.

“Today, we restore fiscal responsibility to the budget process,” said Bishop during debate on the House floor. “Without increasing taxes by a single dime, this budget dramatically raises our investment in education, veterans’ affairs, and health care. These priorities will never be overlooked during our watch.”

The House resolution reinstates "pay-as-you-go" budget enforcement rules, which require any increase in spending or new tax cuts to be paid for by a new revenue source or by an equivalent cut in other spending to prevent increasing the budget deficit. Pay-as-you-go rules were vital to creating a surplus under President Clinton, reaching \$236 billion in 2000. In contrast, last year’s budget accrued a \$248 billion deficit.

“Balancing the budget within five years while raising health care, education and veterans’ funding restores integrity and accountability to the budget process,” said Bishop. “Middle-class priorities are restored for middle-class Americans.”

Congressman Bishop worked to ensure the budget protects Long Island's middle-class families from a tax increase by setting up a reserve fund for a long-term reform of the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). “This budget sets the table for the tax-writing committees to do their job, which should result in a permanent repeal of the AMT for middle-income Americans once and for all,” said Bishop. If nothing is done to fix the system, the number of New York families forced to pay the AMT would explode from 437,000 in 2004 to 3,194,000 families in 2007.

In addition to tackling the deficit and the AMT, the budget responds to several other priorities for Long Islanders:

- **Veterans:** Increases funding for veterans’ health care and services by \$6.6 billion above current levels
- **Students:** Increases education spending by approximately \$8 billion, including resources for No Child Left Behind, special education and Head Start. Assists college students by rejecting the President’s plans to zero-out Perkins loans, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and other need-based grants.
- **Homeland Security:** Designates funds to begin implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission and to make New York and the nation more secure.
- **Health Care:** Rejects the Administration's proposal to cut Medicare and Medicaid funding by \$300 billion over the next 10 years.

“Serving on the Budget Committee this year put me at the table when the economic priorities were being defined. I’m proud to have been part of drafting this fiscal blueprint to put our country back on the path to balanced budgets and economic prosperity,” Bishop said.

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