



For Immediate Release
January 28, 2010

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Blue Dog Leadership on Senate Passage of PAYGO

Washington, DC – Today, Blue Dog leaders released the following statements hailing Senate passage of pay-as-you-go legislation as a critical step forward in the coalition’s fight to restore fiscal discipline to the federal government.

“This is a real victory for the American people,” said **Representative Jim Matheson** (D-UT), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Communications. “For years our country has been plagued by reckless fiscal policies; it is time to stop spending money that we do not have. Today we are one step closer to enforcing true budget discipline in Washington by reinstating the proven effective pay-as-you-go rules that brought about budget surpluses in the 1990’s.”

“Senate passage of PAYGO, coupled with the President’s focus on fiscal discipline last night in his State of the Union address, is a responsible and responsive way of addressing the concerns many Americans, including many of my Southern Indiana constituents, have expressed over the last year,” said **Representative Baron Hill** (D-IN), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Policy. “I’m pleased with the Senate’s action, and ready to forge a new path toward short- and long-term fiscal responsibility.

"I applaud the Senate and the President for their support of pay-as-you go rules which were responsible for budget surpluses in the 1990s," said **Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin** (D-SD), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Administration. “Today’s vote is a critical step forward in restoring fiscal discipline and ensuring we don’t pass a legacy of debt on to our children and grandchildren.”

“Our federal government continues to run up record deficits, in part because of the abandonment of common-sense budget principles like PAYGO,” said **Representative Heath Shuler** (D-NC), Blue Dog Whip. “I applaud the Senate for passing PAYGO, and I look forward to seeing this critical budget enforcement tool become law. Responsible American families don’t spend more than they have, and neither should our government. For the sake of future generations of Americans, we have to rein in unnecessary and out-of-control government spending.”

"PAYGO is the most important tool for balancing our budget," said **Representative John Tanner** (D-TN), a founding member of the Blue Dog Coalition. "It is a cornerstone of the Blue Dog philosophy and will help us secure our country for future generations."

“I commend the Senate for following our lead and moving one step closer to restoring fiscal responsibility and integrity to Washington,” said **Representative Allen Boyd** (D-FL), Chairman of the

Blue Dog Budget and Financial Services Task Force. “Coupled with other critical reforms laid out in the Blue Dog's Blueprint for Fiscal Reform, this achievement will force Washington to pay its bills and will help get our economy back on the right track.”

“Middle Tennessee families are tightening their belts, and living on a budget. The Federal Government needs to do the same,” said **Representative Jim Cooper** (D-TN). “PAYGO is an important step in that process, and I am pleased the Senate has taken action to get America’s fiscal house in order.”

The fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition was formed in 1995 with the goal of representing the center of the House of Representatives and appealing to the mainstream values of the American public. 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. Currently there are 54 members of the Blue Dog Coalition.

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