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House Passes FY 2003 Budget Resolution
Budget is fiscally responsible while funding national priorities

Washington, D.C.- Today, the House of Representatives is expected to vote on H. Con. Res. 353, a budget resolution for FY 2003. Akin released the following statement regarding the budget resolution:

“Our nation is at war and has been suffering through an economic downturn. This budget is an extremely tight budget, but one that funds our fundamental priorities including national defense, homeland security, retirement security and economic stimulus.

“The resolution supports the war against terrorism by providing nearly \$400 billion for national defense to help rebuild our military, improve intelligence gathering and develop new munitions. It also helps those in the military with increases in pay and increased budgeting for housing and healthcare for men and women in uniform.

“While maintaining fiscal responsibility, the budget continues a commitment to retirement security. Seniors will see no change in current benefits under the budget, and it provides for \$350 billion in Medicare.

“A strong economy is also essential to securing America’s future. The budget encourages economic growth by maintaining the tax reductions that will help families and small business.

“It is fiscally responsible, yet provides for maintaining national and economic security.

“This is a difficult budget year. Our nation is at war and fighting an economic slowdown. I am proud that the GOP has come forward with this budget, especially considering the failure of the Democratic Party to put forward a true alternative.”