

This week on the House floor, I introduced a Constitutional Amendment to restrict government spending. I voted to restore DC Opportunity Scholarships, which gives some students in bad DC schools a chance to succeed by giving them the right to leave failing schools and saves taxpayer dollars. I also voted for the FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act.

As important as these measures are, the most important work in Congress this week was our work in the Budget Committee on the 2012 budget. As you may remember, I was one of the 54 House Republicans to vote against another Continuing Resolution a few weeks ago. I continue to oppose stop gap spending measures that do not provide real cuts and restore confidence in our economy.

While work is ongoing and details about the House Republicans' budget proposal will not be unveiled until later this month, I can tell you that this budget will address Washington's unsustainable spending levels seriously.

The fact is that our government is not only broke but \$14 trillion in the hole.

We got here because Washington politicians created programs that were unsustainable and then refused to acknowledge how serious the spending crisis was. Quite simply, it was easier to keep major spending programs on autopilot than to restructure them so they would be solvent in the future.

That kind of procrastination simply cannot continue. As private sector [analysts](#) have recently concluded, the United States fiscal crisis is real but it is fixable – if we act wisely and act soon.

Yet, even with the urgency of our fiscal crisis, House Republicans can't get Senate Democrats to agree to cut 2011 spending levels by \$61 billion dollars – a miniscule amount compared to our overall deficit. So far, Senate Democrats have offered no plan of their own – they've just refused to consider making government get by with just a little less borrowed money.

If the Democratic Senate is unwilling to act when we are talking about just a few months of spending reductions in 2011, what will they do when they see a ten year budget that takes Washington's spending crisis seriously?

I expect that they will call that budget "extreme," "draconian," or "heartless." And if that happens, America loses because if our debt keeps expanding, the next generation could well have far less opportunity than their parents and grandparents.

I am convinced that strong action is required to make Congress live within its means.

That's why my constitutional amendment, the TRUST (*Taking Responsibility for the U.S. Today*) amendment would force Congress to spend no more that we can afford. Historically, tax revenue has been 18% of our gross domestic product (GDP). In order spend more than that, two-thirds of members of the House and Senate would have to agree.

My amendment would require the budget to be balanced in five years. I believe this is a reasonable goal and one that will stop the over-spending in Washington long term. But meeting this goal will likely require a process change, as my amendment proposes to do.

The only way a budget proposal like mine will work is if most Americans insist that their representatives support it.