

There is a lot going on in Washington this week, but two things are most important.

First, funding the government for the rest of 2011.

The last Congress ended without passing a budget that funds the government through the end of the 2011 fiscal year. This was the first time Congress failed to pass a budget since the Budget Act of 1974 set up the budget process. Since October, the government has been funded with short term "continuing resolutions" (CRs). The first such resolution was passed by the Democratic majority before they left office in 2010. In March, I voted for a carefully crafted CR that would reduce government spending by \$61 billion and fund the government for the rest of the year but the Senate rejected it. Then, I voted for a two-week CR that cut government funding by \$4 billion. Still, the Senate refused to act on a long term measure. When House leadership brought a three-week CR up for a vote, I voted against it because it did not address the pressing needs of our country.

At midnight on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, the current CR will run out. The Senate still refuses to consider any measure to keep government running that also meaningfully reduces spending. Without a new funding measure in place, there will be an orderly reduction in federal government services that have been deemed "non-essential." This is often referred to as a "government shutdown," but the government does not shut down entirely. Federal government functions that protect human life and property will not be disrupted. My staff will also be in their offices to assist you and answer many of your questions; however, many government agencies and services will be temporarily suspended. I will have information on my [website](#) that will help you determine what a government slowdown could mean for you.

I do not want a government shutdown and I hope a solution can be reached that will keep the government open for business and still reduce spending. Right now, the Senate is refusing to fund the government at all rather than funding it at 98.2% of 2010 levels, yet they have not even presented the House with an alternative spending plan to consider.

Second, passing a budget that takes responsibility for the future of our country.

Even while we are debating funding the government for the rest of 2011, my colleagues and I on the House Budget Committee have been working on a ten year budget plan. Unlike the budget the President has submitted, which doubles the national debt, ours will reduce spending by \$6 trillion over ten years.

Our budget corrects course by fixing autopilot spending programs, making the rest of government more efficient and averting a European style fiscal crisis.

This budget isn't perfect but it does stop the "kick the can down the road" cycle that Washington politicians have been stuck in for decades. It restructures Medicare and Medicaid, while preserving benefits for people aged 55 or older. It also repeals ObamaCare. Finally, our budget promotes job creation and ends many tax loopholes that distort economic activity.

The President asked his own fiscal commission to look into how we can preserve Social Security and Medicare for the future, while bringing our debt crisis under control. Yet he ignored the fiscal commission's recommendations in his own budget. Not only does our budget address the right questions, it provides many of the right solutions.

Whether you agree or disagree with me about these issues, I want to hear from you. You can contact me by [email](#) with your question or share your comment on my [Facebook](#) anytime.