

Putting America Back on a Sustainable Fiscal Path

Congressman Ron Kind's Plan for Deficit Reduction

Responsible budgeting means adhering to some basic principles: don't spend more than you take in and make smart investments that will help you down the road. I'm committed to making the tough decisions to actually cut wasteful and unnecessary spending. When times are tough, western Wisconsin families tighten their belts and that's exactly what we need to do in Washington.

BUDGETARY DISCIPLINE – KEEPING CONGRESS ON THE PATH TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

- **STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO (Enacted into law).** Forces tough choices by restoring the 1990s law that helped turn record deficits into surpluses by ensuring that Congress must pay for new policies that reduce revenues or expand entitlements.
- **RETURNING UNUSED OFFICE FUNDS TO PAY DOWN THE DEFICIT.** Just like families, government officials must spend money wisely and make cuts where we can. This is why I cosponsored the *Mandatory Returning of Allowances Act (H.R. 262)* to ensure that any amounts remaining from House Members' Congressional budget be used to reduce the federal debt. In fact, I have given back \$1.15 million of my Congressional budget since taking office.

CUTTING GOVERNMENT SPENDING

- **TAKE CONTROL OF RISING HEALTH CARE COSTS.** The *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (Enacted into Law) begins addressing rising health care costs and reduces the deficit by \$143 billion over the next 10 years – and by \$1.2 trillion more over the following decade. I'm committed to continue building on health care reform's foundation so that we keep moving toward a health care system that provides better care at a better cost.
- **REIN IN DEFENSE SPENDING.** We must end wasteful spending and cost overruns in the Pentagon budget. I supported the *Weapons System Acquisition Reform Act* (Enacted into Law), which saves taxpayers money by cracking down on Pentagon waste and the *Improper Payment Elimination and Recovery Act* (Enacted into Law), which reduces wasteful, improper federal payments by \$50 billion between now and 2012. These are important first steps but even more must be done to address cost overruns in military and government projects.
- **EARMARK REFORM.** Controlling spending means reforming the earmark process so that government spending is fiscally responsible, this is why I have continually spoke out against their use and am pleased that an earmark ban is now in place. I also forgo earmarks and over the last two years, I've voted against appropriations bills that included over \$12 billion in earmarks because I'm fighting to reign in that wasteful spending.
- **FIX FARM SUBSIDIES.** Agriculture policies should reflect the need of the average farmer, not giant agribusiness. Each year the federal government doles out billions of dollars in agricultural subsidies, mostly going to very large farms and agribusinesses that make many times the income of the average family farmer. We need to reform agriculture subsidies so they provide assistance on the family farmers that need help.
- **MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT.** We must continually work to improve government efficiency and reduce waste. The Government Accountability Office recently published a [report](#) identifying opportunities to save tax dollars. Eliminating or combining duplicative programs is one way the government can rein in the federal deficit; this report is a good first step to making necessary changes.

PROTECTING THE MIDDLE CLASS AND A FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE TAX POLICY

- **IMPROVING OUR NATION'S TAX CODE.** Our nation's current tax system is overly complex, creating large and unfair disparities, benefitting some more than others. We must broaden the base, lower the rate and reduce the complexity in the current system so that the system is fair, efficient and ensures our nation remains globally competitive.