



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2005

Contact: Sheila Cole
(202) 226-9719

HOUSE CONSERVATIVES' STATEMENT ON BUDGET CONFERENCE REPORT

RSC Chairman Praises Passage of Point of Order Protection

Washington, D.C.— Today, House Conservatives signaled their intention to continue to push for the highest degree of fiscal discipline in an effort to tighten Uncle Sam's bloated waistline. Many House Conservatives will support today's Budget Conference Report. While the House passed a Budget with reconciliation savings instructions at \$68 billion, and the Senate passed a Budget with \$17 billion, the Budget Conference Report calls for no less than \$35 billion in reconciliation savings.

"We read this agreement as a floor for finding savings in government spending, including in waste, fraud, and abuse. We intend to work through our committees to find even greater savings than the \$35 billion in the budget agreement. We stand with American taxpayers when we say we are confident that just like American families tighten their belts in tough times, Congress can too," said Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN), Republican Study Committee Chairman.

Rep. Pence noted that the Rule providing for consideration of the Budget will enact the point of order House Conservatives had negotiated earlier in the year to keep appropriations bills within the Budget. RSC Chairman Pence credits this achievement to the great work of RSC Budget and Spending Task Force Chairman Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) and contributors to the RSC budget process reform effort: Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI); Rep. Jeff Flake (R-AZ); Rep. Tom Feeney (R-FL); Rep. Chris Chocola (R-IN); and Rep. Gresham Barrett (R-SC), all of whom assisted in negotiations, leading to what *The Wall Street Journal* called "a minor miracle," (See: "A Budget Not a Mirage" WSJ, March 17, 2005 <http://johnshadegg.house.gov/rsc/WSJ--mirage.pdf>).

"While we would have liked to have a budget calling for less government and greater savings, this is a good start. We will continue to work through the committee process to get the taxpayers' biggest bang for their buck. Conservatives will find more opportunities for reform and hold the federal government to the highest level of fiscal accountability, beyond what even the U.S. Senate thinks possible." Rep. Hensarling said. "We appreciate the leadership and dedication of our Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle and the efforts of our Leadership to fight for fiscal discipline and empower the authorizing committees, for the first time since 1997, to 'go forth and find savings'."