

**Wally  
Herger**  
Congressman

**2nd District - California**



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## **Herger Hails House Passage of Deficit Reduction Measure**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Congressman Wally Herger (R-CA) voted in favor of the conference report on the Deficit Reduction Act, which the House passed early Monday morning by a vote of 212-206. The legislation reduces federal spending by over \$39 billion over five years by reforming government and curbing wasteful spending in a number of areas. It also reauthorizes and expands the extraordinarily successful welfare reform law, which Herger, as chairman of the subcommittee with jurisdiction, has worked for years to shepherd thru Congress. Herger had the following reaction to this action:

"Today's vote once again demonstrates that Congress is committed to fiscal responsibility, reforming government, and maintaining the trust of American taxpayers," Herger stated. "We have more work to do, but passage of the Deficit Reduction Act is an important first step towards addressing the long term spending challenges in the federal budget, and will help keep our government on sound financial footing."

### **Highlights of the Deficit Reduction Act include:**

- Expands Welfare Reform by reauthorizing the successful welfare law of 1996 and providing an additional \$1 billion for childcare
- Closes a loophole that allowed some seniors to transfer or hide assets to appear impoverished and attempt to qualify for long-term care services under Medicaid
- Lowers the cost the government pays for prescription drug costs under Medicaid by setting more realistic reimbursement rates for medicines based on the average manufacturers' price, a more accurate reflection of the true costs
- Strengthens and simplifies student loan programs by reducing lender subsidies
- Rebuilds community first responder capabilities by freeing up vital spectrum airwaves
- Protects workers' pensions by placing the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC) on a more solid financial foundation

Herger concluded, "this responsible legislation will help ensure that our children and grandchildren are not saddled with additional debt, and will make many government programs more efficient and effective."

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