



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1406 Longworth House Office Building • Washington, D.C. 20515 • (202) 225-5506

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Contact: Anne Lupardus
Phone: 202-225-5506

House Acts to Restore Fiscal Responsibility to Federal Budget

Continuing Resolution Makes Key Investments in Veterans Health Care, Higher Education

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) today voted to approve (286-140) H.J.Res. 20, a continuing resolution that represents a major step toward putting the federal government's fiscal house in order, while protecting and investing in the priorities that matter most.

"The time of runaway spending and earmark abuse has come to an end," said Rep. Kind. "This measure marks a new beginning in federal budgeting – one of bipartisanship, responsibility, and transparency."

H.J. Res. 20 generally funds the federal government through the end of FY 2007 (September 30, 2007) at the FY 2006 level, allowing it to continue providing vital services. In addition, roughly \$10 billion in savings was found by cutting spending on more than 60 programs, and used to address critical needs.

Spending was frozen at last year's level, and because of important fiscal responsibility measures Democrats passed during the first 100 hours, this spending bill is free of earmarks.

The resolution provides additional funding for high priority needs with bipartisan support, including:

- **Veterans' Health Care:** Will receive \$3.6 billion above the fiscal 2006 level – to provide service for an anticipated increase of at least 325,000 patients and to meet rising health care costs.
- **Pell Grants:** Increasing the maximum by \$260, to \$4,310 for the first increase in four years to help more than 5.3 million college students, nearly 70,000 of them in Wisconsin.
- **Renewable Energy:** An additional \$300 million will go to the development of renewable energy technologies to secure our energy future.
- **Parks and Wildlife:** An increase of \$100 million for visitor services, maintenance, and other costs at the public land management agencies which have been forced to significantly cut back on visitor services in recent years.

"This spending bill shows that by making the tough decisions we were elected to make – we can live within our means, while protecting the priorities of people in western Wisconsin, and across the nation" Rep. Kind said.