



For Immediate Release
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Blue Dog Statements on Statutory PAYGO

Washington, DC – Leading members of the Blue Dog Coalition issued the following statements today after a press conference with House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer on the need to reenact statutory pay-as-you-go (PAYGO).

“Earlier this year, we stood with President Obama at the White House as he announced his unequivocal support for statutory PAYGO. It was the first piece of legislation he sent to Congress; now it’s time we all work together – House, Senate and Administration – to bring it to fruition,” said **Representative Jim Matheson** (D-UT), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Communications. “The Blue Dogs are prepared to make some tough decisions in the coming days to make sure we take this necessary first step to putting our country back on a path to fiscal responsibility.”

"Statutory PAYGO is critical to curbing our nation's structural deficits that were set in place over several years of reckless economic policy," said **Representative John Tanner** (D-TN), co-founder of the Blue Dog Coalition and a member of the House Ways and Means Committee. "There is no more important policy tool to address a systemic debt being handed to our children and grandchildren."

“We have worked for years to enact statutory PAYGO into law. This is our opportunity to accomplish that goal, putting our country back on the path to long-term deficit reduction and spending reform,” said **Representative Baron Hill** (D-IN), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Policy.

“Statutory PAYGO has the support of the President, the support of House leadership, and passed the House with a strong majority earlier this year. Most importantly, the idea that you should spend within your means has the strong support of the American people who understand that we need to get our fiscal house in order. Now is the time for Congress to make the tough budgeting decisions that families across the country make every day,” said **Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin** (D-SD), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Administration.

“We must put constraints on federal spending to limit the amount of government debt we pass on to our children,” said **Representative Heath Shuler** (D-NC), Blue Dog Whip. “Without statutory PAYGO, nothing stops Congress from adding unnecessarily to the deficit at a time when most American families must make hard choices in order to balance their checkbooks.”

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The fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition was formed in 1995 with the goal of representing the center of the House of Representatives and appealing to the mainstream values of the American public. The Blue Dogs are dedicated to a core set of beliefs that transcend partisan politics, including a deep commitment to the financial stability and national security of the United States. Currently there are 52 members of the Blue Dog Coalition. For more information, visit the Blue Dog Website at <http://www.house.gov/melancon/BlueDogs/>.

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