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HOUSE PASSES CUELLAR BILL TO REDUCE WASTEFUL AND UNNECESSARY GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Washington, DC – Today, the House of Representatives passed the “The Government Efficiency, Effectiveness and Performance Improvement Act of 2010,” a major component of the Blue Dog Blueprint for Fiscal Reform. The legislation, championed by **Representative Henry Cuellar of Texas**, would bring increased transparency and accountability to the federal government by implementing the same results oriented approach to government that has improved the value and efficiency of state-level programs across the country.

“This clear-cut plan will rein-in spending and reduce government waste by shining a light on how federal agencies perform,” said Cuellar. “Better information yields better results, and this bipartisan legislation represents the biggest leap forward in reducing the nation’s deficit by measuring results. Americans know it’s time to stop unnecessary, wasteful spending, and this commonsense concept will save taxpayer dollars, replace blind faith with real reports, and ensure our government is effective and accountable.”

“The Government Efficiency, Effectiveness and Performance Improvement Act of 2010” calls for the nation’s federal programs to be assessed at least once every five years to ensure federal taxpayer dollars are being spent in an effective manner. Each federal program would be required to submit public performance assessments to determine the effectiveness in meeting established goals and the quality of their management. Also under the bill, annual assessment reports would be made available to Congress in conjunction with the President’s annual budget to provide members with critical information on federal agencies’ strengths and weaknesses. Several states, including Texas, have successfully set forth similar standards in their state budgets.

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 54 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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