



**For Immediate Release
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Contact: Kristen Hawn (202) 226-9782

Melancon Statement at Budget Committee Hearing on Statutory PAYGO

Washington, DC – Today, Representative Charlie Melancon (D-LA), co-chair of the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition, submitted the following statement at a House Budget Committee hearing on statutory PAYGO legislation.

“If we do not begin paying our bills today, we will continue to short-change future generations who will face higher taxes and cuts to federal investments in priorities such as education, health care and national security.

“In order to ensure our long-term fiscal sustainability, we must all work together to return to the proven-effective pay-as-you-go rules that brought our federal budget to balance in the 1990’s.

“We now have a President who is committed to changing the fiscal course of this country. He is committed to putting an end to the reckless fiscal policies and out of control spending that have given us the record deficits we see today.

“To that end, the President has charged Congress with passing statutory PAYGO, and we have an obligation to see that this critical piece of legislation reaches his desk.

“Our federal government simply cannot continue to live beyond its means, mortgaging our future on the backs of our children and grandchildren. Reinstating statutory PAYGO will send a message to the American people that their government is serious about putting the country back on stable economic footing.

“The time to act is now. The President has put his words into action, and I look forward to working with the Blue Dogs, and my other colleagues in the House and Senate, to make statutory PAYGO a reality.”

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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