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Blue Dogs to Call for Spending Cuts

Kratovil, Childers lead coalition efforts to limit federal discretionary spending

Washington, DC – Today, members of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, led by Representatives Frank Kratovil of Maryland and Travis Childers of Mississippi, announced their plans to introduce legislation that would require the federal government to cut non-security spending by nearly 6%, saving the American taxpayers over \$400 billion. The proposal, which would reinstate caps on federal discretionary spending, is a key component of the *Blue Dog Blueprint for Fiscal Reform*, a comprehensive plan to begin reducing the deficit, balance the budget and lay the groundwork for sound fiscal policies over the long term.

“Although cutting discretionary spending will no doubt mean making tough choices about where to tighten our belts, it is the common sense way to focus on today’s national priorities while preparing for the future,” said Representative Kratovil. “For too long we have allowed our national debt and deficit to spiral out of control. We must enact the policies necessary to rein in spending and build the foundation for a stronger, more stable economy.”

“Every day, hard-working Americans make tough decisions in order to make ends meet, and the federal government should operate no differently,” said Representative Childers. “Our national debt and deficit have reached unsustainable levels and are continuing to grow. It’s time to return to the bipartisan spending policies that allowed us to achieve a surplus in previous decades. Reducing non-security discretionary spending is a significant step towards balancing our budget and restoring fiscal responsibility, and I am proud to join Rep. Kratovil in introducing this important legislation.”

Specifically, the Blue Dog proposal to cap federal discretionary spending would:

- Cut non-security discretionary spending by 2% for each of the next 3 years, and freeze spending levels for the subsequent 2 years.
- Complement the recently restored statutory PAYGO law which will help prevent increases in mandatory spending.
- Force Congress to prioritize our limited resources and make the tough year-to-year decisions necessary to restore balance to the federal budget.

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Originally enacted under bipartisan agreements in the 1990's, discretionary spending caps have a proven track record of controlling spending and reducing the deficit. Alternatively, since they were allowed to expire in 2002, discretionary spending has jumped by more than \$538 billion, an alarming trend that threatens to cripple the nation's economy and saddle future generations of Americans with mountains of debt.

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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