

MATSUI CONDEMNS MISGUIDED BUDGET PRIORITIES

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WASHINGTON, DC – Following passage of the fiscal year 2006 budget resolution, Representative Doris O. Matsui (D-CA) made the following remarks:

“Middle-class Americans across the country were forgotten today as a result of this Republican Congress. The differences I have with them are clear: Unlike my Republican colleagues, I do not support shortchanging education, cutting veterans’ health care benefits, or draining the Social Security Trust fund. I am especially concerned with their decision to cut \$20 billion in health care coverage to children, seniors and the disabled through reductions in the Medicaid program. And for what? In order to protect tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans, they have chosen to slash assistance to working families, children and the poor, while offering no plan for returning the federal budget to balance.”

“Democrats recognize the importance of middle-class security and opportunity. And the Democratic alternative offered on the floor demonstrates these values by protecting critical domestic programs in a fiscally responsible manner. To take just one example, the Community Development Block Grant provides Sacramento families access to affordable housing and assists with neighborhood redevelopment, both extremely important goals. Democrats put forth a plan to preserve CDBG, and it was rejected. These misguided priorities are truly shocking, and demonstrate that the Republican Leadership is ignoring the voice of average Americans in this country.”

The U.S. House of Representatives passed H.Con.Res.95, the FY2006 Budget Concurrent Resolution, today by a vote of 218 to 214.

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