

January 6, 2008

(Washington, D.C.) -- U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) helped introduce the Stop the Congressional Pay Raise Act today to prevent Members of Congress from automatically receiving a pay raise next year. Congressman Altmire also co-sponsored similar legislation last year (H.R. 5087) to prevent Members of Congress from receiving a pay raise in 2009.

“It is simply outrageous for Members of Congress to vote to give themselves pay raises when millions of Americans are losing their jobs or seeing their paychecks shrink,” Altmire said. “During these hard economic times, it is more important than ever for Congress to make sure every dollar in the federal budget is being used as responsibly and as effectively as possible. Cancelling our own pay raise is the least we can do.”

Congressman Altmire is a longtime opponent of Congressional pay raises. During his first month in office, he voted to prevent the 2007 pay raise from going into effect. In June 2007, Altmire also voted against the scheduled 2.7 percent pay raise for 2008.

In 1989, Congress passed a law that provides lawmakers with an automatic pay raise every January unless they vote specifically to reject it.