

November 19, 2009

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) today voted for legislation that would enact Pay-As-You-Go budget rules and force Congress to pay for any new spending or tax cuts it approves, outside of an economic crisis. This will ensure that new legislation passed by Congress will not add to the federal deficit. Altmire is an original co-sponsor of the Statutory Pay Go Act of 2009 (H.R. 2920). This legislation passed the House today as part of the larger Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act (H.R. 3961), a bill that reforms Medicare's physician payment system.

“I fought to ensure that pay-as-you-go budgeting was included in this larger bill, because we have to start forcing Congress to make the tough decisions needed to rein in our nation's growing budget deficit,” Altmire said. “During the 1990s, pay-as-you-go budgeting helped America move from yearly budget deficits to record surpluses. By once again ensuring that Congress covers the cost of the new spending it approves, we can begin to get America's fiscal house back in order.”

A member of the conservative Blue Dog Coalition, Altmire has long advocated for pay-as-you budget rules and other fiscal responsibility measures. One of Altmire's first actions when he came to Congress in 2007 was to vote to reinstitute pay-as-you-go budgeting to the rules of the House (H. Res. 6). The legislation Altmire voted for today will strengthen the House's current pay-as-you-go budget rules by giving them the force of law.