

Pay-Go now set to be signed into law, help to reduce deficits

February 4, 2010

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- Today, U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) voted for legislation that will make pay-as-you-go budget rules law and force Congress to pay for new spending that it approves. This will help to ensure that most new legislation passed by Congress does not add to the federal deficit. Altmire is a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, a group of fiscally conservative Democrats that led the fight to enact pay-as-you-go budget rules. He is also an original co-sponsor of the Statutory Pay Go Act of 2009 (H.R. 2920).

Having already been approved by the Senate, this legislation is now set to be signed into law by the President.

“Making pay-as-you-go budget rules law is one of the most important steps we can take to rein in our budget deficit,” Altmire said. “During the 1990s, pay-as-you-go budget rules helped America move from budget deficits to record surpluses. When Congress abandoned pay-as-you-go budget principals in 2002, America's budget deficit exploded. By once again making pay-go the law of the land, we can force Congress to pay for new spending and start to get our nation's fiscal house back in order.”

Altmire has long advocated for pay-as-you-go 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, which will ensure that the Senate has to follow them as well.