

Congressman Hanna co-sponsors STOP bill to save paper, money

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Representative Richard Hanna (R,C,I-NY) this evening will vote to save taxpayer dollars and reduce waste by halting the unnecessary printing of bills by the Government Printing Office.

Currently, members of Congress receive multiple printed copies of each bill introduced and according to the GPO budget estimation the printing of bills, resolutions and amendments will cost more than \$5.7 million for fiscal year 2011.

“I proudly co-sponsored this bill because it is grossly inefficient to print multiple copies of bills when we live in an increasingly paperless and digitized world,” Hanna said. “The bills are available online long before paper copies arrive in our offices. To continue mandatory printing makes little sense practically or financially.”

About the bill:

Name: H.R. 292, Stop the Over Printing (STOP) Act

Introduced by: Rep. Christopher Lee (NY-26); co-sponsored by Rep. Richard Hanna (NY-24)

Background: Under the current law, created by Congress in 1861, the Government Printing Office (GPO) is required to print hard copies of all bills and resolutions introduced in Congress. It contracts with private companies. Whenever a member of Congress introduces a bill or resolution, the GPO prints 200 paper copies.

Two years ago, in the 110th Congress, members introduced 14,042 bills and resolutions. That amounts to 2.8 million paper copies, many of which go directly to the recycling bin for lack of use.

This year Congress will spend approximately \$7 million printing bills and resolutions. By eliminating the mandatory printing of every introduced bill, and instead using technology to ensure that bills are available online for anyone to examine, we can achieve significant savings to taxpayers, while still ensuring accountable and open government.

Estimated savings: While the Congressional Budget Office has not yet released an estimated savings from the STOP Act, a similar program introduced last year was estimated to save \$35 million over 10 years. With the national debt at more than \$14 trillion, every practice should be reviewed to end wasteful spending, Hanna said.

###