

Without action defense cuts would take place in 111 days

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Richard Hanna (NY-24) voted in favor of replacing the looming across-the-board sequestration cuts with alternative spending reductions. There are just 111 days left until the cuts take effect on January 2, 2013.

Rep. Hanna supported **H.R. 6365, the National Security and Job Protection Act**, which would repeal automatic cuts in the Budget Control Act – commonly referred to as "sequestration" cuts. Because of the "Super Committee's" failure to reduce the national deficit, the Budget Control Act requires wide sweeping spending cuts: a 10 percent cut to the Department of Defense and an 8 percent cut to non-defense discretionary spending.

H.R. 6365:

- Provides that upon enactment of **H.R. 5652, the Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act of 2012*** or similar legislation that offsets the cost of the automatic across-the-board spending cuts scheduled to occur on January 2, 2013, the sequester for Fiscal Year 2013 is repealed.
- Requires that by October 15, 2012, the President submit a plan to replace the January 2, 2013 sequester with other savings.

"Doing nothing is not an option," Rep. Hanna said, "and this proposal by the House would eliminate the threat of sequestration and replace it with more responsible savings without putting our economy and our national security at risk."

President Barack Obama made clear in his own budget that "by design, the sequester is not good policy" and this bill would require the President to work with Congress to repeal the sequestration cuts. The Administration has the sole authority to execute a sequester, but to date has not provided a report by the legal deadline** on how such cuts would look when enacted.

"The House stands alone as the only body working to replace sequestration, which was never intended to reach this point," Rep. Hanna said. "It is my hope that the Senate and the Administration will embrace legislation to protect our national security and the domestic programs that will become vulnerable targets in just 111 days. Many defense jobs and important programs in Central New York and the Southern Tier depend on it."

###

*On May 10, 2012, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5652, the Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act of 2012, which would replace the sequestration and save \$316 billion over ten years through alternative reforms to programs that have been subject to waste, fraud, and abuse.

.

** On July 18, 2012, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5872, the Sequestration Transparency Act of 2012, which requires the President to provide Congress and the public with a report within 30 days. The report will detail how the sequestration cuts will be implemented and will clarify which departments and programs would see funding reductions. The report was due on September 7, 2012. To date, no report has been issued.