

## Why I voted Yes on S. 365, the Budget Control Act of 2011

**August 1, 2011:** I voted Yes on S. 365, the Budget Control Act of 2011.

This legislation is the result of a compromise reached between President Obama and bipartisan House and Senate leadership. This bill ensures that the United States will not default on its obligations on August 2. It proves to the world that we pay our bills on time and are serious about reforming government to deal with our debt crisis - now.

The bill would increase the nation's debt limit, allowing for past bills to be paid, but ensures that government spending is cut more than the increase in the ceiling. It implements enforceable spending caps and provides for a vote on a Balanced Budget Amendment in the House and Senate. The bill will save over \$2 trillion, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

This is a historic victory for taxpayers.

Importantly, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid beneficiaries will not be impacted and will receive their checks on time. We can put our fiscal house in order without breaking our promises to seniors, troops and veterans, and the most vulnerable among us.

This nation was founded on compromise. Americans have always worked to take the best ideas – wherever they come from – and move forward. This bill represents this principle. Both sides came together with a plan—not for the good of either political party—but for the good of the American people.

This deal is not perfect, but it is a big step in the right direction. We are putting our nation on a long-term path to fiscal solvency starting today.

Over the past several months, the conversation has changed dramatically in Washington.

Instead of finding new ways to spend taxpayer dollars, now Congress is finding commonsense ways to save money and reduce the size and scope of government in a bipartisan manner.