I voted Yes on H.R. 6726, the Congressional Pay Freeze and Fiscal Responsibility Act.

The bill would extend a current statutory pay freeze for federal civilian employees — including members of Congress — through December 31, 2013. This legislation has become necessary because on December 27, 2012, President Obama issued an executive order giving most federal civilian employees – including members of Congress and the Vice President - a 0.5% pay increase. This proposed pay raise for government employees would cost approximately $11 billion over ten years.

I have never supported a pay raise for members of Congress and do not now. Virtually all federal civilian employees do fine work and I appreciate their commitment to public service. However, I believe it would be fiscally irresponsible to increase pay for civilian government employees and members of Congress at this time of high deficits and debt.

The bill was approved by a vote of 287 – 129.