Washington, D.C. - Today, Rep. David Price (D-NC), ranking member of the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee released the following statement reacting to the Republican Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government for the remainder of the fiscal year, and commenting on President Obama's FY2012 budget request.

"The difference between these two budget proposals is not just measured in fiscal years: they offer two starkly different visions for the future of our country. The Republican plan would eviscerate the government's investments in the programs that make our country strong – from education to scientific research to first responders – to reach an arbitrary level of cuts dictated by the most extreme elements of the Republican Party. While I do not agree with every one of the President's budget decisions, his request represents a coherent path forward, prioritizing investments in education, infrastructure, innovation and competitiveness while also reducing spending to achieve primary budget balance within five years.

"Where the President invests in what makes us strong and cuts what does not, Republicans have proposed a plan to cut what makes us strong. The Republican majority seems to be invested only in meeting a symbolic Tea Party campaign promise to cut $100 billion dollars from core government functions—no matter the consequences.

"As the ranking Democratic member of the Homeland Security subcommittee, I vigorously disagree with the cuts that Republicans have proposed to our homeland security budget – including $1.3 billion from local homeland security support and first responder grants that help localities hire the police and firefighters who keep our communities safe. These grants are critical to our strength and security, and their elimination by the Republican House will result in thousands of firefighters and cops being laid off.

"But I firmly believe that making our nation more secure is about far more than spending more money on Homeland Security programs, and the cuts to homeland security support and first responder grants are just the beginning of my concerns about this reckless Republican plan.

"Republicans severely curtail funding for Pell Grants. The President's budget preserves Pell Grants of vital concern in my district where over 27,000 students depend on some federal aid to attend college. Republicans slash overall investments in Education by $5 billion, including reducing assistance for educating children of low-income families, and assistance funding

programs for school-aged children with disabilities. As the President has said, we should seek to out-educate other countries, giving our children a competitive edge in today's global economy. The Republican proposal does not meet this call.

"Nor does it meet the call to out-build our competitors. Republicans effectively 'zero-out' funding for high-speed rail this fiscal year, while the President proposes investing in a national high-speed rail network that will move people and goods from one place to another faster and more efficiently.

"The Republican plan would also undermine the very foundation of the American economy—our innovative spirit. Among other things, Republicans would cut $147 million from National Science Foundation education programs and fund the National Institutes of Health's research programs at our nation's universities at a level $2.5 billion below the FY11 request. These programs are of critical importance to our economy right here in the Research Triangle. The President is right to support this research in his budget because medical and scientific breakthroughs should be made in America, and because these breakthroughs create jobs.

"In short, Americans want a plan to 'Win the Future,' The President has one, and the Republican vision—less access to education, less research, ignored infrastructure—is not the plan we've been looking for."

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