

Washington, D.C. – Today, Representative David Price (NC-04) plans to vote in favor of a six month Continuing Resolution (CR) funding the government through next year. In remarks on the House floor this afternoon, he said the measure proved the failed Ryan budget was "a lemon." Rep. Price released the following extended statement.

Video of Rep. Price's Remarks

Mr. Chairman, a Continuing Resolution is a sign that a budget has failed—and this appropriations process was destined to fail from the start as Republicans unilaterally abandoned the Budget Control Act's (BCA) statutory spending caps in favor of the unworkable caps in the Ryan budget. This six-month stop-gap spending bill proves the Ryan budget is a lemon—a lemon is a car that won't start, and the Ryan budget is still a non-starter because it is out of step with the BCA, with our priorities and with our values.

While the CR avoids the worst of the Ryan budget's cuts to education, infrastructure, and research, this isn't the way Congress should be budgeting. We should be considering final appropriations bills for Homeland Security and other agencies, or an omnibus bill, that would provide certainty about funding levels for fiscal year 2013. The whole notion of a six month CR begs the question—if we can pass a six month bill, why not return to regular order and pass a twelve month bill?

In many cases, a CR's level funding does not allow adequate flexibility for government programs that would see their funding change under a new appropriations bill. For example, funding for transit, highway grants and transportation safety programs cannot be increased.

I am pleased that the CR incorporates a number of 'anomalies,' which accommodate the Department Homeland Security's need for flexibility in both cyber security and Customs and Border Protection personnel. By providing funds for both the EINSTEIN 3 system and for Federal Network Security, we are ensuring the federal government is prepared to tackle the next generation of cyber attacks before they disrupt the federal network. I am also pleased that

this CR drops the many ill-conceived and unworkable immigration riders that were adopted on a partisan basis during floor consideration of our FY13 bill.

On the other hand, I remain concerned that, by not enacting the Committee product, we are providing inadequate funding for both FEMA first responder grants and for the Science and Technology Directorate. These accounts were badly underfunded in 2012, and passing a CR rather than our 2013 bill continues the shortfall.

The CR, some say, at least lets us keep the government open. We're really in bad shape if all we can say for ourselves is that we're keeping the government open. Any claim of success simply underscores how low the bar was set earlier in the current Congress as House Republicans forced the country to lurch from one manufactured crisis to the next.

The next Congress must get serious about charting a course to fiscal balance. All spending must be on the table and revenue must be a part of the solution, as it was in the 1990s. It is unfortunate that the current Congress is punting not only on this important issue, but also on its basic responsibility to budget for the coming fiscal year.

We must do better.

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