Washington has a spending problem. Our national debt now exceeds $13 trillion and there is no end in sight to mounting deficits.

Balanced Budget

The first bill I introduced was a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. We cannot afford to continue the reckless and irresponsible spending policies of the past decade. My bill would force lawmakers to take a hard look at the programs they fund and hold federal agencies accountable. Forty-nine out of 50 states, including Florida, have balanced budget requirements. Cities, counties, and states routinely balance their budgets; the federal government should hold itself to the same standard.

Government Spending

Instead of spending trillions of dollars on Wall Street bailouts and big-government programs that continue to increase the $1.5 trillion budget deficit, we should enact targeted measures to help small businesses and working families, boost the economy and put people back to work. In fact, a recent Wall Street Journal column noted that it surveyed dozens of economists, and the majority of them said the economy didn't need any more federal spending attempting to stimulate our economy.

Washington Needs to Lead By Example

In tough times like these, Congress needs to lead by example. That is why I introduced legislation that would stop automatic pay raises for Members of Congress. My bill would allow for a pay raise only when Congress finally balances the budget.

Earmark Reform

This year I did not request any “earmarks” because spending it out of control and we need to reform the process. To combat abusive earmarks, I have introduced legislation which would require a 72-hour notice to give the public time to review legislation, grant the President line-item veto authority to strip wasteful earmarks, and ban last-minute additions of earmarks in conference committee.

Eliminate the “Sweet-heart” Deals

Several unseemly add-ons were inserted into the new health care law costing the taxpayers billions of dollars. My bill would strip- out these “Sweet-heart” deals, including the infamous “Louisiana Purchase” and save American taxpayers $2.9 billion.