

Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan (R-FL 13) today voted against a record-setting tax and spend federal budget that exceeds the \$3 trillion mark for the first time ever.

The House voted 214-210 for a fiscal year 2009 budget conference report (S. Con. Res 70) that increases spending by \$240 billion while raising taxes on Florida's families by as much as \$3,040 a year.

"The last thing our families need is an out-of-touch Congress that taxes and spends your hard-earned dollars in a reckless manner," said Buchanan. "But that is exactly what this budget does."

The five-year spending plan hikes taxes by \$683 billion to pay for record spending increases including increases on families with children, married couples, and small businesses. Furthermore, it fails to eliminate wasteful spending and does nothing to address long-term budget shortfalls for Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

"Florida's working families are already struggling with the rising cost of living. The last thing they need from Washington politicians is a tax hike," Buchanan said. "My constituents want Congress to pass a budget that keeps taxes low, promotes economic growth, and puts an end to the excessive waste, fraud and abuse in the federal government. And I agree."

The 13th District Congressman is the author of the Buchanan Balanced Budget Amendment to require a balanced federal budget and cosponsored legislation to make permanent a number of important middle-class tax cuts.

"Washington has a spending problem, not a revenue problem," added Buchanan. "American families have to carefully budget their hard-earned money and so should Congress."