

**WASHINGTON, DC** –U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., expressed disappointment in the House's failure to pass a Constitutional Balanced Budget Amendment calling it a "prime example of why Washington is broken." The vote for the Amendment was 261-165, which fell short of the constitutionally-required 2/3 super-majority.

"The national debt recently surpassed \$15 trillion and Washington still doesn't get it," said Buchanan, whose very first measure introduced in Congress was a Constitutional Amendment requiring a balanced budget. "For too long, Republicans and Democrats have turned a blind eye to our government's budgetary mess. This was a historic opportunity to restore fiscal responsibility to the halls of Congress and help ensure the long-term financial security of our children and grandchildren."

Buchanan noted that the 111th Congress added more to the national debt than the first 100 Congresses combined. As a whole, the current share of the debt is \$45,000 For every man, woman, and child U.S.

"Unbelievably, in the last 50 years, the federal budget has only been balanced five times," said Buchanan. "49 out of 50 states, including Florida, have balanced budget requirements. Why should Washington be any different?"