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## PENCE ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR BUDGET RESOLUTION

*Congressman Calls Budget 'Important First Step' In Putting Fiscal House In Order*

**Washington, Mar 25, 2004** - WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence announced his support for H. Con. Res. 393, The Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY 2005, during debate on the House Floor. His remarks follow:

"Federal spending has been growing at a record-breaking pace recently, particularly in the wake of our national emergency on September 11th.

"The Congressional Budget Office projects current policies could produce a cumulative deficit of nearly \$2 trillion dollars for the 10 years that lie immediately ahead of us. Federal spending breaks down today to a burden of more than \$20,000 per household, the highest since World War II. And yesterday's report by the Social Security and Medicare board of trustees was disconcerting, to say the least, about the long-term obligations that this government faces.

"Many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle know I've taken some strong stands recently to confront my concern for runaway federal spending. It's with equal conviction that I rise today to endorse and support the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY 2005.

"The good news today in this budget is that Republicans in Congress are taking an important first step, under the leadership of Chairman Jim Nussle, our Speaker, our Majority Leader and the balance of the majority in this Congress, to right the fiscal ship that has been listing in the direction of increased government spending.

"We are taking an important step to put our fiscal house in order. And I, as a conservative member of this Congress, rise to extol its virtues. This budget holds the line on spending, it makes permanent the tax cuts of 2000 and 2003, and it funds our vital defense during a time of war.

"During World War II, President Roosevelt signed a budget that actually reduced non-defense spending. President Truman did the same during the Korean War. And this budget resolution follows the same ethic by freezing non-defense, non-homeland security spending at current levels for the first time in a generation.

"This budget is a tough solution to a tough problem. The easy solution, on the other hand, would be to listen to many who propose that simply someday, in the not-to-distant future, we will raise taxes. But one of the undeniable truths of the modern era is that when we raise taxes on the American family, the Congress simply raises the amount of money it spends in Washington, D.C.

"Budgets are all about priorities, and there are those in this body who claim that we're not spending enough in this budget. But in the very same breath we will hear on this floor tonight and tomorrow a lament about deficits and about debt. They can't have it both ways.

"This budget sends a clear message to the American people that we are truly committed to cutting the deficit, to winning the war on terrorism, and to growing this economy through tax cuts.

"Again, I commend Chairman Jim Nussle for his yeoman's work on this budget as evidence of the fiscal conservative principles for which this Republican majority is endorsed and celebrated by millions.

"As a conservative, I support these priorities and as a conservative I support this budget and urge all of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, who lament the deficits and the fiscal spendthrift ways of the past, to support and pass this '05 budget."

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