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Contact:

Joe Katz, (202) 225-2315

Rep. Kirkpatrick Stands Up for Fiscal Discipline With Votes to Block \$1.9T Debt Limit Increase, Re-establish PAYGO Rules
Congresswoman Was Original Co-Sponsor of PAYGO Legislation As Part of “Do More With Less” Initiative

WASHINGTON, DC – Representative Ann Kirkpatrick today continued her “Do More With Less” Initiative to restore fiscal discipline in Washington, voting against a \$1.9 trillion increase in the debt ceiling and helping to pass a measure re-establishing the statutory “pay-as-you-go” (PAYGO) requirement for Congress.

The Congresswoman has been pushing hard for Washington to make real progress on reducing the deficit and paying down the national debt, and voted against the previous debt ceiling increase in December. With the Senate’s failure to approve a strong, independent debt commission and a budget proposal from the White House that adds \$100 billion to last year’s record deficit, she believes that not nearly enough is being done to get our fiscal house in order.

“The federal government has not lived up to its responsibilities on the debt. Everyone understands how serious the problem is, yet Washington is unwilling to start making the tough choices it will take to fix it,” said Rep. Kirkpatrick. **“We cannot allow this country to go trillions of dollars deeper in debt without committing to a plan to pay it back.”**

The debt limit hike was approved by the House despite bipartisan opposition. It will allow the debt to grow to an unprecedented \$14.294 trillion.

However, the Congresswoman also helped earn a key victory for fiscal restraint. Enacting PAYGO has been a major focus of Rep. Kirkpatrick’s “Do More With Less” Initiative, and she was an original co-sponsor of this measure in the House. The rule, which helped produce the budget surpluses of the late 1990s, requires the House and Senate to offset new spending dollar-for-dollar with cuts to other programs.

“PAYGO is simple common sense. When times are tough, you spend only where you have to, and if you need to spend an extra dollar you cut back and save a dollar somewhere else,” said Rep. Kirkpatrick. **“Families in my district are finding ways to live within their budgets. This will help make Congress follow their example.**

“This law is not a silver bullet, and we will need to do much more to clean up the fiscal mess we are in. But it will force us to make decisions about what priorities we can afford and what we must cut that Washington has ducked for too long.”

Rep. Kirkpatrick has been a leading advocate for fiscal discipline in the 111th Congress. She has sharply criticized the White House's FY2011 budget proposal and is calling for significant spending cuts as part of "Do More With Less." She also supported deep reductions in last year's appropriations bills, was an early voice for using bank bailout funds to pay down the debt and is part of the bipartisan coalition supporting a strong, independent deficit reduction commission.

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Joe Katz | Press Secretary
Office of Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-01)
1123 Longworth Building | Washington, DC 20515