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(WASHINGTON, DC) - Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-03) today released the following statement regarding the House passage of legislation that would block Members of Congress from receiving a cost-of-living pay increase:

"It should be obvious to every single one of us that a pay increase for Members of Congress at a time when many Americans are out of work is fundamentally wrong.

"But we should do more. With so many families still struggling to make ends meet, we shouldn't just freeze our pay; we should cut our pay and use that savings to help pay down the deficit. Families and businesses have had to tighten their belts; we should do the same.

"We are starting to see some encouraging signs that the economy is moving in the right direction. But there are far too many Missourians still worried about whether they can pay the mortgage or afford to send their kids to college, or save up enough money to retire.

"What's more, if we don't take steps to rein in the deficit, it could threaten our long-term economic strength. Today, a bipartisan panel met for the first time to discuss ways to bring down the national debt. Well, this seems like common sense step that Members from both sides of the aisle can and should get behind right now."

Carnahan is cosponsoring H.R. 4720, the Taking Responsibility for Congressional Pay Act, which would provide a 5% reduction in pay for Members of Congress.

In advance of today's first meeting of his bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, President Obama urged members to put politics aside and explore any and all options as they searched for solutions to reduce the national debt.

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