

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE  
THAT INCLUDES LOW-INCOME SENIORS AND THE DISABLED

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OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my thanks to the House Democratic and Republican leadership and to our colleagues in the Senate for the bipartisan effort that has produced timely, targeted, and temporary legislation to stimulate our nation's slowing economy. I am also pleased that the legislation we are about to consider ensures that our nation's senior citizens and disabled veterans are not left out of this worthwhile package.

Because of my concerns that the bill we considered last week did not include low-income seniors and disabled, I led the effort in the House to ensure that those who depend entirely on their Social Security checks were included in the final version of this legislation. I am very pleased that the Senate agreed with me and expanded the economic stimulus package to provide these Americans with much-needed relief. I urge my colleagues in the House to do the same.

Our nation's seniors and disabled veterans are also facing difficult economic times. For years, these men and women have been forced to survive on less and less as their costs continue to increase and their incomes remain the same. These Americans need cash rebates just as much as the individuals originally included in the stimulus package.

I am also pleased to see that the legislation we are about to vote on includes language that would ensure that illegal immigrants do not receive cash benefits that should only go to those who rightfully deserve them. This language mirrors legislation that I introduced in the House today. Those people who are in this country illegally should not receive American tax dollars.

Finally, the bill before us contains an important provision that I helped to craft as the Chairman of the Subcommittee of jurisdiction. This reform will temporarily increase the conforming loan limits of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to enhance the liquidity of several local mortgage markets. I support this short-term change.

Madam Speaker, once again I wish to applaud the efforts of both the House and Senate in crafting legislation that will spur our economy, provide rebates to those that need them most, and ensure that those ineligible for federal benefits do not receive them. Thank you, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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