



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

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Congressman Heath Shuler Votes to Restore Fiscal Discipline to the Budget

Budget Ends All Earmarks While Increasing Funding for Vets

Washington, D.C. – Representative Heath Shuler voted today to restore fiscal discipline to the nation's budget and put Congress on-track for a balanced budget. H. J.Res. 20, was passed 286-140 and funds the federal government for the remainder of Fiscal 2007. The Continuing Resolution was made necessary by the failure of the 109th Congress to pass 9 of 11 Appropriations bills last year.

“With this Continuing Resolution we have started taking the necessary steps toward balancing our budget, eliminating waste, and funding needed programs,” said Rep. Shuler. “We eliminated earmarks from this budget, honoring the commitment we made to the American people to stop the practice until the process has been reformed.”

“While we had to make some tough decisions, we were able to make strong investments in some vital programs. We increased funding for veterans' healthcare to fulfill the obligation to those who have served our country. We increased funding for Pell Grants to help more students attend college. And we increased funding for the FBI and the COPS Program to better protect our nation.”

Veterans' healthcare received a \$3.6 billion increase to help the VA serve more veterans more efficiently. Pell Grants were increased \$615.4 million, raising a student's maximum Pell Grant by \$260 a year. The FBI sees a funding increase of \$216.6 million to fully fund over 31,000 positions – including over 12,000 agents and over 2,500 intelligence analysts. The COPS Program was increased by \$70 million to put more police officers in our communities.

Dr. Martin Lancaster, the President of North Carolina Community College System said of the increase in Pell Grant funding, “For the first time in four years, needy community college students have a real opportunity to benefit from a boost in this critical program. Pell Grants are essential for providing access to higher education for low-income students.

Rep. Shuler concluded, “The investments we are making today will be felt in every county of the 11th District, from Yancey County to Cherokee County, and the smart budget decisions we are making today will be felt by generations to come.”

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