



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District
For Immediate Release
December 19, 2007

Contact: Andrew Whalen, Communications Director
office: (202) 225-6401 / cell: (202) 731-5116

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0",
Hanging: 1"

Rep. Shuler Opposes Fiscally Irresponsible AMT Patch *Continues Fighting for Financial Security of Future Generations*

Washington, D.C. – Representative Heath Shuler issued the following statement today on the fiscally irresponsible Alternative Minimum Tax patch voted on in the House of Representatives.

“There was never a disagreement between Democrats and Republicans about protecting the middle-class from the AMT. I am, however, severely disappointed with what occurred in Congress this week. Twice I have supported fiscally responsible AMT patches that protected 23 million middle-class Americans from higher taxes, while not adding a cent to our nation’s debt. However, fiscally irresponsible Republicans in the House and Senate have chosen to side with a select few who hide their incomes in off-shore bank accounts and cheat the tax system, against America’s long-term fiscal security. Republicans have chosen to borrow \$50 billion from China and other foreign nations to finance this bill, borrow an additional \$30 billion to pay the interest over the next ten years, and pass an even greater debt on to our children and grandchildren. Republicans in the Senate and House have chosen to avoid making the tough decision today, and instead they have taken the politically easy path. Congress must pay its bills just like families and businesses across America do every single day.”

The House of Representatives voted twice to protect middle-class Americans from paying the AMT in a PAYGO compliant manner. PAYGO budgeting requires that any new entitlement spending or tax cuts be fully paid for. However, Senate Republicans filibustered those bills.

###