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Matsui Remarks on Payroll Tax Package

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Congresswoman Doris Matsui (CA-05) spoke on the House floor on the payroll tax cut extension package. While Congresswoman Matsui is supportive of extending the payroll tax cut and unemployment benefits, as well as a fix to the Medicare physician payment rate, she does not agree with many of the pay-fors in the legislation.



Congresswoman Matsui's remarks, as prepared for delivery, are below:

“M. Speaker, this bipartisan agreement will ensure 160 million Americans will not see a tax increase at a time when so many families are still struggling to make ends meet.

“The payroll tax cut provides American families an average of 1,000 dollars annually to help pay their bills and for day-to-day necessities, and is something that is much needed at this time.

“I am also pleased that this agreement will extend unemployment insurance for all of those Americans who lost their jobs due to the economy. With the unemployment rate in my district over 12 percent, continued unemployment benefits are important for so many to make ends meet while they are seeking work.

“Additionally, providing for a Medicare physician payment fix will ensure that seniors have continued access to care. But, I do urge my colleagues to continue working for a long-term solution to the SGR.

“And, I am supportive of the spectrum provisions in this bill, which will ensure a path for continued American innovation.

“However, M. Speaker, I do have reservations about other ways this package is paid for. The second largest job provider in my district, behind the state government, is the health care sector, employing nearly 30,000 workers.

“The Medicare Bad Debt reductions in this bill would seriously hamper the health systems in my district. UC Davis Medical Center, for example, would lose 4 million dollars over 10 years, while Dignity Health would lose 3 million dollars annually.

“Additionally, I am greatly disappointed by the cuts to the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which I actively worked to get included in the Affordable Care Act, as prevention is the best way to improve public health.

“While passage of this bill is critical for America’s middle class, unemployed, and seniors, I do not agree that it should be at the expense of our country’s health care and federal workforce.”

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