

Down Payment to Protect National Security Act *Averting Sequestration with H.R. 3662*

“Facing such large reductions, we would have to reduce the size of the military sharply. Rough estimates suggest after ten years of these cuts, we would have the smallest ground force since 1940, the smallest number of ships since 1915, and the smallest Air Force in its history”
-Secretary Leon Panetta on Impact of Sequestration

Avert Sequestration for One Year

Chairman McKeon’s legislation would pay for the first year of sequestration – deferring the disastrous impacts on the military and creating more time to reach a negotiated deal to find the remaining savings mandated by the Budget Control Act.

- By paying for one year of sequestration now, we can meet the needs of our men and women in uniform- and their families- as we work through difficult political choices.
- By paying for the deficit reduction otherwise required in 2013, the bill does not cross any of the President’s red lines as expressed in his veto threat.

Fully Offset with Sensible Cuts

The legislation would make this down payment by requiring a government-wide reduction in the number of federal employees by 10% through attrition. This would allow federal agencies to hire 1 person for every 3 who leave their employment through attrition.

- For the Department of Defense, this would return the civilian workforce to its 2009 levels.
- This offset was part of the supercommittee deliberations.

Chairman McKeon’s legislation delivers \$127 billion in savings – more than is required for the first year in the Budget Control Act.

- Savings is sufficient to pay for sequestration for both defense and non-defense accounts in 2013.

Providing for the Common Defense

The coming political year is likely to be marked with gamesmanship and brinksmanship- this bill offers members an opportunity at statesmanship.

Not all government spending is created equal, and the Constitution is clear that Congress’ primary obligation is to defend our nation. Keep in mind that Defense has already been cut dramatically.

Even though defense represents just 19% of the budget, nearly half of the deficit reduction measures taken to date have come out of the military, to the tune of half a trillion dollars.