

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24), a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, released the following statement today regarding President Barack Obama's Fiscal Responsibility Summit in Washington yesterday:

"We have inherited a record-high budget deficit that requires tough decisions in the coming years. I am glad to see that the President is taking the necessary steps to begin to examine and set a timetable to restore the long-term fiscal health of our country when this economic crisis is over. The only way to truly fix our economy in the long-term is to restore fiscal responsibility and ensure accountability in how we spend taxpayers' hard-earned dollars.

"I am especially pleased that the President has committed to Pay-as-You-Go budgeting rules, which I have fought for since taking office, and which the House of Representatives implemented two years ago. Families across Upstate New York have to balance their checkbooks – it is only right that the federal government does the same with their tax dollars.

"The key to long-term economic growth and success requires investing in our priorities now, without saddling our children and grandchildren with crushing debt. I will continue to pressure the Administration and Congressional leadership to cut the deficit and bring balance to the federal budget in a responsible way."

On February 10, 2009, Arcuri met with President Barack Obama at the White House, along with fellow members of the Blue Dog Coalition, to discuss bipartisan solutions for long-term fiscal responsibility. Many of the solutions addressed in this meeting, including Pay-As-You-Go budgeting, were featured during the President's Fiscal Responsibility Summit.

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