

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) today voted for comprehensive legislation to rescue the faltering economy. Included in the bill are taxpayer safeguards to protect middle-class families and stabilize the American economy.

“This action to stabilize the economy isn’t about Wall Street, it is about Main Street, it is about protecting small businesses, families and seniors across New York and America whose economic future could be in danger,” **Arcuri said**. “I am not 100 percent happy with this legislation and I’m gravely disappointed that we even had to consider such a rescue, but inaction is simply not an option. I remember the stories my parents and grandparents told me of the dire situation our nation faced during the Great Depression. We can not afford to risk that happening again.”

The economic stabilization plan, which passed the House of Representatives today, would allow the U.S. Treasury Department to immediately purchase \$250 billion in distressed mortgage-backed securities and other troubled assets from financial institutions, and would allow the President to later authorize use of an additional \$100 billion to prevent future disruption in the financial system and to stabilize the economy.

The Economic Stabilization Package (H.R. 1424, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act), includes:

- Strong independent oversight and transparency;
- Limits on excessive compensation for CEOs and executives of participating financial institutions;
- Provisions to ensure that taxpayers share in any profits resulting from the federal government’s assistance, requiring that in five years the President submit to Congress a proposal that recoups any projected losses to taxpayers; and,
- Help for homeowners by directing the Secretary to implement a plan to mitigate foreclosures and encourage servicers of mortgages to modify loans through Hope for Homeowners and other programs.

“This crisis extends far beyond Wall Street as credit for small business owners, banks and average Americans dries up – affecting everything from your ability to finance a new car to small business job creation to student loans.” **Arcuri said**. “This economic stabilization plan

includes critical regulation and oversight, ensures CEOs responsible for the problem don't run off with billion dollar severance packages, and guarantees the American people get their tax dollars back."

"This situation may have been avoidable, but unfortunately, previous Administrations and past Congresses took the referees off the field when they removed regulations put in place after the Great Depression," **Arcuri continued**. "It's critical that we act now to protect taxpayers and consumers from a larger economic crisis."

H.R. 1424 also includes provisions to save an estimated 25 million Americans from increased taxes through the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) this year. It increases the AMT exemption amount to \$69,950 for joint filers and \$46,200 for individuals. In the 24th district, this legislation would ensure that more than 42,000 people are protected from having to pay higher taxes under the AMT, including approximately 6,051 individuals who make less than \$75,000 a year and have never had to pay the AMT before.

###