

American People Vote to Cut \$2.5 Billion Non-reformed Welfare Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S Congressman Tom Rooney (R-Fla.) today announced that after more than 280,000 Americans cast their votes on [YouCut](#) , participants have chosen to have the House of Representatives vote on repealing a \$2.5 billion per year program that gutted the bipartisan welfare reforms of the mid-1990s.

“Over the last week, more than a quarter-million Americans have cast their votes and told Congress they are fed up with the culture of spending in Washington,” Rooney said. “People from my district in Florida and across the country have made it clear: they want Congress to get serious about cutting the deficit, and they are tired of being ignored.

“With more than 81,000 votes, the winning spending cut for this week is a proposal to eliminate a \$2.5 billion annual welfare program created by the so-called stimulus bill. This new program incentivizes states to increase their welfare caseloads without requiring able-bodied recipients to work, get job training, or make other efforts to move off of taxpayer assistance. The program is not only duplicative and costly, but it also undermines the bipartisan welfare reforms of the 1990s that saved billions of taxpayer dollars.

“On Thursday we will bring this spending cut proposal to the House floor for a vote, and I hope that my colleagues will listen to the American people and eliminate this wasteful program.”

Rooney said that of the more than 280,000 [YouCut](#) votes cast, less than one percent came from inside the beltway. Americans have submitted more than 15,000 spending cut ideas.

Final Results:

- 17.45% for 1 – Presidential Election Fund
- 27.06% for 2 – Taxpayer Subsidized Union Activities
- 11.89% for 3 – HUD Program for Doctoral Dissertations
- 29.07% for 4 – New Non-Reformed Welfare Program
- 16.53% for 5 – Eliminate Wealthier Communities from CDBG

BACKGROUND ON WINNING SPENDING CUT: In 1996 Congress and the President joined together to implement a bipartisan reform of our nation’s welfare system. Since then welfare caseloads dropped by an unprecedented 60% as work and earnings by low-income parents rose by record levels. Despite the bipartisan support for the 1996 reforms, Congress included several provisions in the 2009 stimulus law to undermine the successful welfare reforms – including a new “welfare emergency fund” designed to promote welfare dependence.

The welfare emergency fund provided States with up to \$5 billion in new Federal funds in 2009 and 2010 if they increase welfare caseloads, among other outcomes.

Here is just one example of how States spent this money on “non-recurrent short-term assistance.” Last summer New York State used welfare emergency funds to make one-time

\$200 per child “back to school” payments to welfare and food stamp recipients. But many recipients didn’t use the money for back to school supplies. As [CBS News reported](#) , the funds were used in many cases to purchase “flat screen TVs, iPods and video gaming systems;” and convenience stores in certain areas “noted marked increases in beer, lotto and cigarette sales.”

Despite the documented waste of taxpayer funds, the majority in Congress is proposing to continue the program for another year and add another \$2.5 billion in new money.

Visit the YouCut Website [HERE](#) .

###