“Congress should not get an automatic pay raise, especially when hard-working American families are suffering.”

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Congressman Tom Rooney (R-Fla.) today voted to block Members of Congress from receiving an automatic pay raise in fiscal year 2011. The House of Representatives approved the bill, H.R. 5146, passed by a 402-15 vote.

“Seniors didn’t get a cost of living adjustment in their social security payments this year, and Members of Congress should not get one either,” Rooney said. “Congress should not get an automatic pay raise, especially when hard-working American families are suffering.”

“As a freshman in Congress, I was appalled to learn that Congress gets an automatic pay raise each year. We should not even consider a pay raise until we’re out of this recession, unemployment is down and the federal deficit is addressed.”

Under the Ethics Reform Act of 1989, Members of Congress receive an automatic pay increase each year. According to the Congressional Research Service, Members would have received a 0.9 percent pay raise at the beginning of 2011.

Rooney was also an original cosponsor of the Stop the Congressional Pay-Raise Act, H.R. 156.

###