

Washington, DC - Last night, the two chambers of Congress agreed to send the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (HR 1105) to President Obama, preventing the federal government from shutting down. The House passed the bill in late February and, with the Senate's concurring vote yesterday, the President is expected to sign it into law. Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20), issued the following statement on the bill's passage.

“During tough times like these, when people rely on the government more than ever, it is critically important that we fund the vital programs covered by HR 1105. This bill was written months ago, giving everyone a chance to read through it and be certain they understand every provision. While there have been plenty of suggestions otherwise, San Antonians should know that the bill will fund vital resources in San Antonio like the Channel Improvement Project on the San Antonio River and VIA's bus system, as well as keeping Social Security checks going out on time.

“I was proud to work with San Antonio's local leaders in government, education, business, and health care, to ensure that every dollar I requested would constitute a worthy reinvestment of San Antonians' federal tax dollars. As San Antonians themselves, these men and women know, better than those not as familiar with local needs, what the best use of our money would be.”

The bill's size results from its being a combination of nine spending bills on which the government was unable to reach agreement in 2008. It includes spending for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, State, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, among others. These general funding programs make up more than 99% of the bill's total cost.

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