

Washington, DC –Congressman Charles Gonzalez (TX – 20) issued the following statement regarding the Budget Control Act of 2011:

“While I am relieved that the debt ceiling will be raised to prevent an economic catastrophe, I find it truly shameful that Republicans held the economy hostage and forced a deal to raise the debt ceiling at the expense of the most vulnerable Americans. This agreement fails to recognize the importance of shared sacrifice to the achievement of a compromise for the good of the country.

“For the time being, social safety net programs have been protected, but in a few months, power will be given over to a super committee of only twelve lawmakers, less than 3% of our elected Congress, that will decide the economic future of our country. If the past seven months are any sign of what is to come, the American people can expect the Republicans in this super committee to hold the American people hostage by refusing to compromise as they continue to advocate for reckless spending cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

“Twice this year, I voted to raise the debt ceiling so that Congress could focus on the important task of creating jobs and growing the economy. However, Republicans have refused to compromise all year long, and now they have forced a deal that will create a pathway for harmful cuts to Medicare, inhibit Members of Congress from representing the voices of our constituents, and continue the Republicans’ crusade to provide preferential treatment for a few at the expense of the most vulnerable Americans.

“While our economic recovery is in this fragile state, America cannot afford to make these drastic, ideological cuts to programs that people depend on for their safety and well-being. The American people need and demand a Congress that is focused on turning around the economy and creating jobs. The extremists in the Republican party are preventing this from happening.”

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