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FLORIDA'S 22ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
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Klein, House Pass Fix for Mortgage Crisis

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Representative Ron Klein, (FL-22) a member of the House Financial Services Committee, today joined with a bipartisan majority of his House colleagues to pass comprehensive housing legislation that will help curb foreclosures and restore market stability.

“Today, Congress has acted to stop the bleeding,” Klein said. “This legislation represents a real solution for the millions of Americans facing imminent foreclosure. Yet the mortgage crisis has repercussions far beyond the families fighting to keep their homes. All of our local communities are affected, from falling property values to higher crime rates. Today’s legislation is a critical fix for all of us.”

The package of legislation passed today includes the FHA Rescue and Neighborhood Stabilization Acts, (H.R. 5830 and 5818) which provide mortgage refinancing assistance to keep families from losing their homes, protect neighboring home values, and help stabilize the housing market. It will help troubled borrowers avoid foreclosure while minimizing taxpayer exposure, and at the same time, requires lenders and homeowners to take responsibility.

“Here in South Florida, the foreclosure crisis has hit home,” Klein said. “Ft. Lauderdale’s foreclosure rate is the highest in the state, with one foreclosure for every 73 households. This is the eighth highest foreclosure rate in the entire country, a dubious distinction we are working to erase.”

The package passed today also includes tax credits to first time homebuyers, which will spur home buying and stabilize the market. It also allows current homeowners who currently claim the standard tax deduction to receive an additional \$700 deduction on their property taxes. Another important provision protects the American dream of home ownership for our veterans by increasing the VA Home Loan Limit to give returning servicemen and women more home ownership opportunity.

“There is talk that the President may veto portions of this bipartisan solution, and I would strongly caution him against such a course of action,” Klein said. “The White House cannot, in good conscience, turn their backs on millions of struggling families across the country.”

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