



CONGRESSMAN RON KIND

Dear Friend,

Responsible budgeting means adhering to some basic principles: don't spend more than you take in and make smart investments that will help you down the road. The 112th Congress needs leadership that will come together to solve the challenge of creating good paying jobs while remaining dedicated to reducing our nation's deficit. As a member on the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, I'm committed to making the tough decisions to actually cut wasteful and unnecessary spending. When times are tough, western Wisconsin families tighten their belts and that's exactly what we need to do in Washington.

In this newsletter, you will find the many ways I am working to restore fiscal responsibility and discipline in Congress. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to be in touch. I also encourage you to visit my website, [www.kind.house.gov](http://www.kind.house.gov), where you can find additional information, as well as sign up for my e-newsletter.

Sincerely,

Ron Kind

Congressman Ron Kind  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

*Ron Kind*  
M.C.  
Prsrt Std

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## I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

How do you think we can reduce the deficit? Please visit [kind.house.gov](http://kind.house.gov) to send me an e-mail and share your thoughts and ideas.

What happens in Washington, DC can have a major impact on western Wisconsin. That is why I want to hear your thoughts on the issues most important to you. Please visit my website at [www.kind.house.gov](http://www.kind.house.gov) or call my office at 888-442-8040 to provide your comments and input as well as find a listening session in your area.

## WASTEFUL GOVERNMENT SPENDING

- **\$800 BILLION** for unnecessary health care tests and procedures
- **\$300 BILLION** over budget for weapons programs
- **\$10 BILLION** for outdated farm subsidies
- **BILLIONS** of dollars for unnecessary earmarks

## CONTACT CONGRESSMAN RON KIND

### WASHINGTON DC OFFICE

1406 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-5506  
Fax: (202) 225-5739  
TTY: (202) 226-1772

### LA CROSSE OFFICE

205 Fifth Avenue S., Suite 400  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
Phone: (608) 782-2558  
Fax: (608) 782-4588  
TTY: (608) 782-1173

### EAU CLAIRE OFFICE

131 S. Barstow St., Suite 301  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
Phone: (715) 831-9214  
Fax: (715) 831-9272

TOLL FREE: (888) 442-8040 • TTY: (888) 880-9180

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Ron and USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack speak with western Wisconsin farmers about outdated agriculture subsidies and the need for reform to better support family farmers.

CONGRESSMAN RON KIND

# PUTTING AMERICA BACK ON A SUSTAINABLE FISCAL PATH

**“I’m committed to making the tough decisions to actually cut wasteful and unnecessary spending.”** — Rep. Ron Kind

**MY PLAN TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT**

I am working to eliminate inefficient and excessive government spending by reforming the following four categories as part of my deficit reduction plan:

**Rising Health Care Costs**

Health care is the largest and fastest area of spending in the federal budget, accounting for over \$800 billion in taxpayer money going to unnecessary tests and procedures. If we do not address how health care is delivered and how we pay for it, we will never reduce the deficit. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the health care reform bill begins addressing rising health care costs and reduces the deficit by \$143 billion over the next ten years and \$1.2 trillion the decade after. I’m committed to building on health care reform’s foundation so that we keep moving toward a health care system that provides better care at a better cost. Repealing this law would mean increased out-of-pocket costs, higher prescription drug prices, lost coverage for western Wisconsin families, and exploding budget deficits.

**Defense Spending**

We must end wasteful spending and cost overruns in the defense budget. According to the GAO, current weapons programs are \$300 billion over budget. This blank check that defense contractors expect from the American taxpayer must end. Fortunately, both the current and former Administrations have embraced eliminating outdated weapons programs and reforming the procurement process.

I supported the Weapons System Acquisition Reform Act (signed into law), which saves taxpayers money by cracking down on Pentagon waste and the Improper Payment Elimination and Recovery Act (signed into law), which reduces wasteful, improper federal payments by \$50 billion between now and 2012. These are important first steps but even more must be done to address cost overruns in military and government projects.



Ron discusses ways to cut health care costs with Eau Claire seniors.

**Farm Subsidies**

We must reform the farm bill, it is essential to getting our deficit under control. I am working with a bipartisan coalition in Congress to reform outdated agriculture policies so they reflect the need of family farmers, not giant agribusinesses. Each year the federal government doles out over \$10 billion in outdated agricultural subsidies, mostly going to few very large agribusinesses. These subsidies are not responsible to taxpayers, do not help family farmers, have distorted the marketplace and made it more difficult for beginning farmers to start. It’s time to put an end to these wasteful government subsidies.

**Earmarks**

Earmarks continue to be a symbol of reckless spending, accounting for billions of taxpayer dollars each year. I’m proud to be part of a bipartisan coalition in Congress that has worked to eliminate earmarking. Projects and research grants should be awarded through competitive bidding based on their merits rather than through the relevant clout of Members of Congress.

I have worked to introduce bills to prohibit earmarks for private, for-profit entities and also to prohibit Members of Congress from receiving contributions from entities who have sought an earmark. I forgo earmarks and have voted against billions of dollars in earmarks because I’m fighting to reign in that wasteful spending.

**Budgetary Dicipline**

Having investigated some of Senator Bill Proxmire’s Golden Fleece awards pointing out wasteful government spending, I have long been committed to fiscal responsibility. We must find savings in our day to day budget. It’s something I’ve been doing ever since I came to Washington, working with my staff to find ways to cut our office budget and give back for a portion for deficit reduction. I’m proud to have given back every year, for a total of \$1.2 million since taking office. I also oppose the automatic cost of living increase for Members of Congress and recently voted in favor of legislation to cut my office budget by 5 percent.

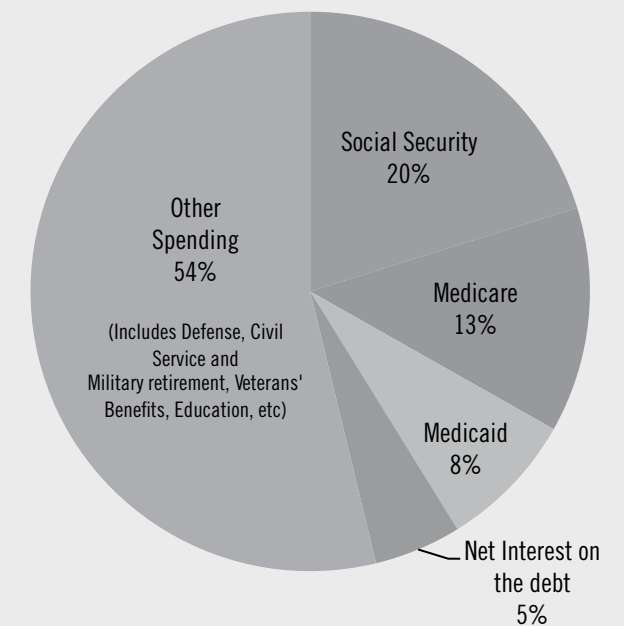
**I am also a proud supporter of the following pieces of legislation that will keep Congress on the path to fiscal responsibility:**

**Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act (signed into law February 2010)** – This law forces tough choices by restoring the 1990s law that helped turn record deficits into surpluses by ensuring that Congress must find a way to pay for or offset new policies that reduce revenues or expand entitlements.

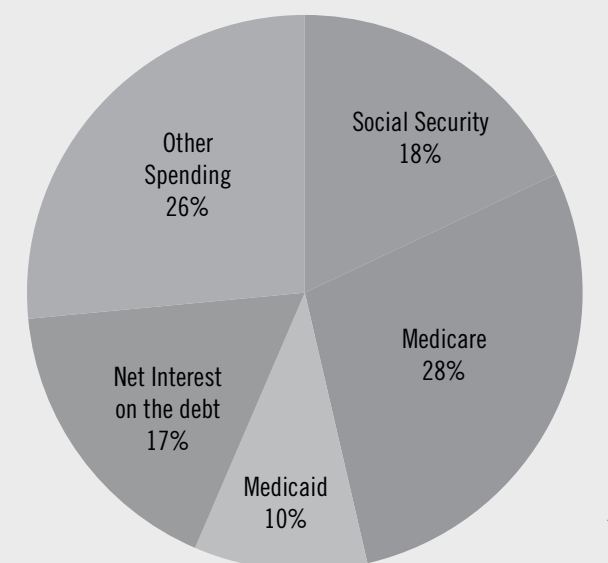
**Truth in Spending Act** – I cosponsored this legislation, which would require Congress and the Administration to examine and reassess the costs and projected savings of spending legislation every 5-10 years, and creates a fast track process to eliminate cost overruns.

**Government Accountability Resolution** – I was an original cosponsor of House Resolution 40 which passed unanimously last Congress and requires yearly oversight hearings by every committee on combating waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in agencies. It is critical to hold government accountable for spending taxpayer dollars.

**Major Categories of Spending 2010**



**Major Categories of Spending 2050 (if Health Care reform had not become law)\***



\*with a balanced budget and no change in revenue

Source: CBO Long-Term Budget Outlook, June 2009