

**Washington, DC** - Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20) issued the following statement after House leadership announced an agreement on a proposed bipartisan economic stimulus package:

"This proposal takes appropriate steps towards stimulating our economy in the short term by specifically targeting middle class families to receive rebate checks. In the face of mounting fears over the possibility of a recession, this stimulus package will give money directly back to consumers and their spending can jumpstart our struggling economy.

"This stopgap measure must, however, serve as a foundation for more comprehensive solutions that address additional looming economic concerns. The abuses of sub-prime lending and the resulting credit crunch must also be addressed as part of a larger effort to prevent further economic downturn.

"The bipartisan spirit in which this package was crafted will play a crucial role in enacting this and future economic proposals, and I am optimistic that Congress can continue to work in this fashion. Most importantly, it is imperative that we move swiftly to implement this proposal and issue rebate checks so that the package's intended impact is quickly felt throughout our economy."

The package will provide tax relief this spring of up to \$600 for an individual and up to \$1,200 for joint filers in addition to \$300 per child. It also doubles the small business tax write off for capital expenditures such as plants and equipment, a measure that will stimulate economic growth and investment in the small business sector.

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