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January 22, 2009

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"Today marked my third vote on the \$700 billion financial bailout and, for the third time, I stood adamantly opposed to legislation that would force hard working American taxpayers to rescue Wall Street from its own poor judgment and reckless mismanagement," said Congressman Childers. "American families continue to struggle in the face of tough economic times and it is fundamentally unfair to ask them to once again dig deeper into their pockets for this poorly-crafted bailout.

"I am disappointed that the Senate voted to authorize the remaining \$350 billion. However, I will continue to work with my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee to ensure that these funds are implemented with the oversight, accountability, and transparency that the original authorization lacked.

"In acknowledgment of the Senate's approval of these funds last week, I voted yesterday in support of reform legislation to guarantee that the remaining \$350 billion are spent with the oversight and accountability that October's authorization should have initially required. While I am displeased that H.R. 384 gives the Treasury the authority to provide TARP funding to the automobile industry, the overriding requirements for oversight, accountability, and transparency provided by the TARP Reform and Accountability Act are too important to oppose.

"Additionally, I strongly support the reform legislation's provision for mandatory foreclosure relief. This measure will help ensure that the remaining TARP funds are implemented as they ought to have been intended. Many hard working families are still struggling to avoid losing their homes. These funds, along with other improvements in homeowner and home buyer programs included in H.R. 384, will help protect American homeowners from foreclosure."

H.R. 384 includes the following measures to strengthen TARP accountability:

- Reporting and Accountability. The Treasury must require that all TARP recipients provide regular public reports on use of the funds to increase lending, and must enter formal agreements with new TARP recipients on how assistance is to be used. Recipients will be formally examined for compliance. Treasury may also have observers at board meetings of TARP recipients.

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Executive Compensation. Requires stringent executive compensation restrictions for all new TARP assistance, and authorizes the Treasury to apply the new restrictions retroactively.

H.R. 384 also calls for the following measures to prevent home foreclosure:

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TARP Foreclosure Mitigation Plan. The Treasury must commit at least \$40 billion to foreclosure relief.

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Hope for Homeowners (H4H) Improvements. Make crucial changes necessary to improve use of the H4H program.

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Home Buyer Stimulus. Requires the Treasury to develop a program outside of TARP to stimulate demand for home purchases and clear property inventories, in part by ensuring the availability of below-market rates for qualified home buyers.

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