

Congressman Brady Introduces Legislation to Provide Fiscal Relief to Cities

Aid would help Philadelphia and other cities facing budget deficits

PHILADELPHIA --- Congressman Robert A. Brady (D., Pa) today introduced legislation to provide critically needed help to major cities like Philadelphia. The "Save America's Cities Act," would provide immediate relief to cities of the first class experiencing serious budget deficits.

"Ninety percent of the U.S. GDP comes from metropolitan areas," Brady said. "The cities are the heart of our economy. And, with the 10 largest cities currently facing budget deficits of over \$2.2 billion they are being forced to cut basic and essential services including funding for education, housing and public safety services in municipalities across the country."

Congressman Brady said his legislation would provide \$7,800,000,000 in funding for police, fire, and sanitation services as well programs that support children and youth in cities with populations of a million or more. "Our cities are not looking for a bailout but they need federal support to maintain the infrastructure and basic services. The cities represent the fabric of the nation and that fabric is fraying badly," the Congressman said.

Brady, who worked with Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and urban development expert Ed Schwartz in drafting the legislation, said that the effort is long overdue. "We need to move as quickly as possible. Our cities need help and they need it now," the Congressman said. "Mayor Nutter has projected a \$5 billion deficit over the next five years. Philadelphia and other major cities are suffering."

On November 13, Mayor Nutter delivered a letter to Treasury Secretary Paulson signed by him and the mayors of Atlanta, and Phoenix. The mayors requested that the Treasury Department use a portion of the \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program to provide loans to city governments to assist with pension costs, provide \$50 billion in loans and grants to cities for infrastructure investment, and provide short-term loans for cities to address cash flow needs resulting from an inability to borrow.

Brady is Chairman of the House Administration Committee, which oversees the operations of the Congress. He is the first Philadelphian since William Gray to serve as a full or sub committee Chairman.

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