

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement after the Senate approved an economic recovery bill that differs from the House version that Hinchey helped approve on January 28.

"I am deeply disappointed with the economic recovery bill that the Senate approved today because it includes significantly less funding for New York and all states. The bill will force New York and its communities to either make further budget cuts or raise property taxes and other fees to cover the difference, which would only exacerbate the extraordinary financial burdens being faced by so many New York families.

"Most troubling is the fact that the Senate cut \$40 billion to help states avoid major budget shortfalls. New York intended to use those funds to avoid cuts to critical education and public safety programs. The bill also cuts \$10 billion for states to provide health insurance to residents who recently lost their jobs. Additionally, there are \$14 billion in cuts for school construction projects across the country, including \$1.3 billion for such projects in New York where school repairs and modernization efforts are desperately needed.

"New York stands to lose greatly when comparing the Senate version to the far better House bill. Our state has been hit incredibly hard by the loss of revenue as the result of the economic recession and is counting on the federal government to deliver federal funding that will spare residents major cuts or tax increases and create jobs while restoring economic stability. Across New York and the entire country, schools are crumbling and in need of major repairs; education programming is being jeopardized by budget cuts; and health insurance is being denied to our most vulnerable neighbors. All the while, Senate Republicans are sitting idly by watching this unfold. It's deplorable.

"Two weeks ago, the House approved a well-balanced economic recovery bill that provided significant investments in education, transportation infrastructure, health care, renewable energy and other important areas. The House bill would help save and create 3 to 4 million jobs across the U.S., including an estimated 390,000 jobs here in New York. Those figures are now in jeopardy as a result of a much weaker bill that came out of the Senate.

"I am aware that the Senate operates under different rules than the House, but the fact of the matter is people are hurting all across this country and are depending on their elected officials in

Hinchey Statement on Senate-Approved Version of the Economic Recovery Bill

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Washington to pass a major economic growth bill that will begin to get us out of this mess. While the House began to move us forward, the Senate is holding us back from achieving the full potential of a comprehensive economic growth bill. As House and Senate leaders now gather to resolve the two different bills, I will be joining with many of my House colleagues in putting pressure on House leadership to stand firm and insist that we find ways to ensure adequate funding goes to education, health care, renewable energy, and other fields."