

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico’s Third District released the following statement today on House Republicans’ efforts to block a vote on a bipartisan agreement to extend a payroll tax cut and unemployment benefits and prevent a cut to Medicare providers.

“Just a few days ago, 89 Senators in a bipartisan effort, passed a two-month extension of a payroll tax cut and unemployment benefits that gives us a path forward to work out a full year extension. This came after Senate Republicans – not once, but three times – rejected the partisan House bill that would extend the tax cut on the backs of seniors. Yet in an attempt to score political points and bend to the will of the Tea Party, House Republicans are denying the House a vote on this bipartisan legislation that even Speaker Boehner called a ‘good deal’ on Saturday.

“Rather than allow an open and honest debate on the Senate deal, House Republicans are reverting to procedural stunts in order to prevent an up or down vote on a bipartisan agreement that protects 900,000 New Mexicans from a tax hike at the beginning of the year. It ensures that those struggling to find work will have a safety net to help them through this difficult time. And it guarantees that Medicare providers will not see deep cuts that jeopardizes seniors’ access to the doctor they trust. House Republicans are putting politics above policy and the American people, even admitting that the vote would ‘be scrapped to avoid having House Republicans oppose a tax break for working Americans.’

“At a time when New Mexico and our nation face difficult challenges that require real solutions, it is disappointing to see House Republicans play these political games that threaten to raise taxes on 160 million working Americans. Passing the bipartisan Senate bill is the only way to guarantee certainty for the American people.”

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