

News from Representative Mario Diaz-Balart



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**May 4, 2015**

Last week, House Republicans voted and passed on a budget resolution, which hasn't happened in over 10 years. I was chosen to be one of just eight House members tasked with settling our differences with the Senate's budget proposal and agreeing to a joint budget.

As part of the Budget Conference Committee, I know how much hard work and dedication has been put into seeing that our nation's national defense and other vital programs are prioritized. It wasn't easy, but we succeeded. The House passed the budget resolution on Thursday, and it's waiting for a vote in the Senate. So what exactly does the budget do and why is it so important?

- It strengthens entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security, **protecting our seniors** and their access to healthcare.
- It would **add 1.2 million jobs** over the next decade. ([Congressional Budget Office](#))
- It addresses Washington's out of control spending problem by including **more than \$5 trillion in savings**. ([Congressional Budget Office](#))
- It balances within 10 years **without raising taxes**. ([Congressional Budget Office](#))
- It ensures defense spending reflects the commitment of Congress to **keep America safe**.

We also voted on and passed the Fiscal Year 2016 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, providing for our nation's waterways and energy infrastructure. As Floridians, we are lucky to have the Everglades in our backyard, and we must do everything we can to restore it. This bill is significant to Florida, not only because of the Everglades restoration components, but it will improve our ports,

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channels, dams, and other infrastructure that supports our economy. Furthermore, Everglades restoration is critical for our drinking water supply in South Florida, while also providing a huge economic boost to our state.

Within the FY16 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, I worked to include the following provisions vital to South Florida:

- **\$64 million** for the Herbert Hoover Dike repair and restoration
- **\$130 million** for Everglades restoration and construction projects for the Army Corps of Engineers

As always, stay in touch on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#), or visit my [website](#) for any constituent services I am able to provide you with.

Warm Regards,  
Mario Diaz-Balart  
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