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February 8, 2014

Recently, the House and Senate both voted to pass legislation that will fund the government for the remainder of the 2014 fiscal year. This bipartisan agreement was reached by the House Appropriations Committee, a committee of which I am a member. The legislation cuts more than \$165 billion in federal spending, and the House majority achieved a 4th consecutive year of spending reductions. It focused on funding priorities in every part of the federal government, while staying within budgetary constraints. Several items in the appropriations bill positively impact job growth in Florida's 25th District:

- \$92 million in IRS funding is set aside to **improve taxpayer services** and address refund fraud, identity theft, and overseas compliance, a huge victory for our Southern Florida community that faces significant tax fraud issues
- A provision allowing the PortMiami Deep Dredge Project to move forward without more delays and is expected to **create more than 33,000 jobs in our area** (via [Miami-Dade County](#))
- \$7.5 million for the second phase of the **Tamiami Trail bridge project**
- Reinstates the **cost of living adjustment** for medically retired military personnel, as well as survivor benefit plan annuitants
- Fully funding the much needed improvements to the aging **Herbert Hoover Dike** in Hendry County
- An additional \$20 million in one-time funding to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to continue efforts in **combating the spread** and eventual eradication of **citrus greening**, a serious problem to Florida's citrus industry
- \$30 million for Spinal Cord Injury grant funding research for institutions such as **The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis**

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I am pleased that a number of these provisions will directly help grow our local economy and boost economic development, especially the continuation of projects like the PortMiami Deep Dredge and the Tamiami Trail Bridge.

I could not finish this note without mentioning how impressed my staff and I have been by the student groups who have been visiting our nation's capitol over the past few weeks and have stopped by to meet with us. Our Lady of Lourdes Academy and Florida Christian School were in town participating in the Close-Up Program, and Edison State College and Miami Dade College were attending a conference with the Florida College System Student Government Association. We truly enjoyed meeting with our country's future leaders.



Congressman Diaz-Balart meets with members of Miami Dade College's Student Government Association.

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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