



## **NEWS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Herger Strongly Supports Passage of Bill Preventing Felons from Receiving Congressional Pensions**

**(WASHINGTON, DC) - Congressman Wally Herger today voted in favor of H.R. 476, the "Congressional Pension Accountability Act," which the House passed unanimously. This measure would deprive members of Congress convicted of certain crimes of their congressional pensions. Herger has been a longtime advocate of this reform. Today's measure is based on a provision included in lobbying reform legislation (H.R. 4975) that the House passed last year. Herger made the following comment upon House passage of H.R. 476:**

"For over fifteen years, I have strongly supported legislation that would deny pensions to members of Congress convicted of crimes that violate the public trust," Herger stated. "Members who were recently convicted of appalling criminal misconduct lost the honor of serving and their freedom. I'm pleased that today's action will help ensure that members who abuse their office in the future will also lose their congressional pensions."

Herger concluded, "I firmly believe that the vast majority of public servants of both parties uphold their public responsibly with integrity and honor. Sadly, however, we know that some do not. That is why I believe this legislation is an important first step toward greater accountability. Still, I'm disappointed that it covers only a fairly narrow list of crimes. As a cosponsor of a more comprehensive bill (H.R. 14), I believe members who commit other felonies such as fraud and tax evasion should also lose their pensions."

The Senate last week passed S.1, the "Legislative Transparency and Accountability Act of 2007," which includes a similar provision. Differences between the two provisions must be resolved in a conference committee.

***For more information, please visit <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!***