

I recently complained to our Congressman, John Yarmuth, that since the House members are so insistent that fellow Americans take cuts in services, be satisfied with less income and have less educational opportunities available, all in the name of reducing the budget, why don't the Congress itself take a cut in their salaries as well?

John's replied:

Dear Mr. Schuler,

Thank you for contacting me to share your ideas for reducing the federal deficit. I appreciate hearing from you on this important matter.

Like you, I believe it is important for elected officials to show fiscal restraint. That is why, last Congress, I cosponsored the Cancel the Pay Raise for Members of Congress in Fiscal Year 2011 Act, which was signed into law on May 14, 2010. This legislation stopped a scheduled automatic pay raise for Members of Congress, who would have otherwise received an increase in salary of \$1,600 in 2011 as a part of an annual cost of living adjustment.

Further, on January 6th, the House of Representatives passed – with my support – H.Res. 22, which reduces the amount of money authorized for operating expenses for all House offices in 2011 and 2012 by five percent and the amount authorized for the House Appropriations Committee by nine percent. These reductions will immediately save \$35 million. While there are no quick and easy fixes for the deficits facing our country, like you, I believe it is important for Member, Committee, and Leadership offices to share the burden of fiscal responsibility.

Thank you again for contacting me on this important issue, and please do not hesitate to get in touch with me in the future about any matter of concern. In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about my work in Washington and in Louisville, please visit my website at [www.yarmuth.house.gov](http://www.yarmuth.house.gov) where you will find the latest news, my weekly schedule, video from hearings, and information about constituent services. You can also sign up for my e-newsletter to receive periodic updates on important issues and services for your family.

Sincerely,

John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress