



# *The Blue Dog Coalition*



February 15, 2005

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker,

As members of the Blue Dog Coalition, we are writing to express our strong support for enacting HR 685/S256, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. Blue Dogs voted overwhelmingly to pass bankruptcy reform during the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, and have endorsed passage of HR 685 this year. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that bankruptcy reform becomes a reality during this session of Congress.

The number of personal bankruptcy filings has skyrocketed in recent years. Estimates show that personal bankruptcy rates increased 400% over the last twenty years. The proliferation of bankruptcy filings has resulted in major financial losses and could have a significant adverse effect on our nation's economy.

We all can agree that it is important to provide protections for consumers in debt and those with legitimate bankruptcy claims; however, the current system is broken. An overhaul of the bankruptcy code is needed to ensure that those with the means to pay at least some of their debts are not able to wipe their debts clean by gaming the system. Allowing bankruptcy to become a financial planning tool rather than a last resort forces many of our constituents who pay their debts to pay for those who do not.

In closing, we encourage you to expedite consideration of this legislation in the House of Representatives. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you to ensure passage of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Jim Matheson	John Tanner
Jim Cooper	Allen Boyd
Dennis Cardoza	Lincoln Davis
Steve Israel	David Scott

Stephanie Herseth	Ed Case
Leonard Boswell	Ken Salazar
Ellen Tauscher	Marion Berry
Sanford Bishop	Bud Cramer
Collin Peterson	Jim Costa
Mike Thompson	Harold Ford, Jr
Dennis Moore	
John Barrow	Mike Ross
Mike Michaud	Joe Baca
Jane Harman	Mike McIntye