

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON — U.S. Representative John Carney (D-DE) will vote tonight to retain the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), an initiative that has helped 1,600 Delaware families stay in their homes. The program allows certain homeowners – who clear a rigorous application process – to refinance their mortgages to reduce monthly payments. The federal government provides incentives for servicers to modify the loans.

“Since the housing bubble burst, over 9 million Americans have gone into foreclosure,” said Rep. Carney. “In my state of Delaware, annual foreclosure filings nearly tripled over the past few years. And we aren’t even one of the hardest hit states.”

[WATCH REP. CARNEY DEFEND THE PROGRAM ON THE HOUSE FLOOR TODAY](#)

The program is part of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) signed by President George W. Bush in October 2008.

“The Republicans claim is that HAMP has hurt more people than it has helped. That is simply a ridiculous charge,” said Rep. Carney. “In my home state of Delaware, HAMP has helped 1,600 homeowners.”

As of the end of January 2011, there have been 539,493 successful modifications under the HAMP program. The median savings to homeowners receiving modifications is \$537 a month, and 85% who have received trial modifications have remained in permanent modifications. If the Republican bill passes today, approximately half a million homeowners may be denied mortgage assistance.

Many believe that HAMP has not been as successful as had been hoped. For example, the program has not reached nearly the 3-4 million at-risk homeowners initially projected. This is due in large part to the fact that the program has deliberately excluded entire categories of borrowers -- including investors, those with second homes, those who could not avoid foreclosure even with HAMP assistance, and those who do not really need assistance to avoid foreclosure.

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