

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today sharply criticized Republican House Leadership for its failure to act in good faith to avert the impending fiscal cliff crisis. In July of this year, Slaughter joined with Democratic Leadership and Committee Ranking Members in issuing a letter to Speaker John Boehner urging “immediate negotiations with Democrats on replacing the scheduled 2013 sequester with a balanced deficit reduction plan.”

“It is shameful that we are faced with last-minute negotiations and 11th hour setbacks when I and my Democratic colleagues were calling for negotiations back in July,” said Slaughter. “It’s obvious that the House Majority slow walked their handling of this crisis because they anticipated a different outcome in the November elections. As a result, we are faced with an impending crisis that could prove devastating to American families and damaging to our fragile economic recovery. It just did not have to be this way.”

The letter, signed by Slaughter and the 20 other leading Democrats on each of the House’s standing committees, urged Speaker Boehner to “negotiate an alternative to the sequester.” Slaughter and her colleagues strongly recommended “that this bipartisan process begin before the August recess so that the American people can be reassured before September 30 that the sequester will not take effect.” Earlier this year, Slaughter introduced legislation requiring the U.S. House of Representatives to forego its scheduled August adjournment unless a law is enacted to provide for the extension of middle class tax cuts. In addition to supporting the extension of tax relief provisions for taxpayers with incomes below \$250,000 for married couples filing jointly and \$200,000 for single filers, Slaughter’s resolution called for legislation to specifically provide expanded tax relief for working families with children and college students. The legislation was defeated due to Republican opposition.