

"If you begin every debate like it is a game of chicken with the American people, you end up with egg on your face."

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, spoke on the House floor today after the House reached an agreement to fund the federal government through the 2012 fiscal year.

Despite a Pledge to America from GOP leadership that promised to "advance major legislation one issue at a time," and "ensure that bills are debated and discussed in the public square by publishing the text online for at least three days," House Republicans brought a \$1 trillion, 2,000 page megabus posted online for less than 24 hours to the House floor. Last night, the Majority on the Committee on Rules waived a 3 day reading requirement, issued a martial law closed rule, and brought the legislation to the House Floor less than 12 hours after finalizing the legislation text and making the legislation available to Members of Congress.

"Many are breathing a sigh of relief today because the government will not shut down at midnight. But just because we averted a crisis doesn't mean this is a cause for celebration. In fact, it is a demonstration of failure. We passed a massive, 2000-page bill that no Member of the House even pretends to have read. It represents a failure to meet our basic responsibilities to the American people.

"But it's not just about process. It's a consequence of the Republican all-or-nothing approach to governing -- a vision based on brinksmanship and threats. We learned something important today: if you begin every debate like it is a game of chicken with the American people, you end up with egg on your face."