

Israel Represents Democrats in Debate on Economy

Washington, DC— U.S. Congressman Steve Israel (D-NY) participated in the inaugural session of the new, bipartisan “Congressional Debates” series. Hosted by the House Democratic Caucus and the House Republican Conference, in cooperation with the Democratic Leadership Council and the Congressional Institute, “Congress Debates” was launched to foster bipartisan debate and discussion of the most important issues facing the country. Today’s kickoff debate will focus on the American economy. Israel is one of four House Democrats that traded ideas and approaches to economic policy with four Republican colleagues.

“Three years ago, I founded the House Center Aisle Caucus—a bipartisan group of Members of Congress—who want to raise the level of debate and focus on solutions instead of partisan attacks,” said Congressman Israel. “I was concerned that CSPAN was becoming the most violent network on television. Tonight’s debate is an opportunity to show that Democrats and Republicans can fundamentally disagree on strategies and priorities without personal attacks and name calling. I can hold my ground on the issues without having to throw a bomb at my opponents.”

Joining Rep. Israel were: Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-IL), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus; Rep. Adam Putnam (R-FL), Chairman of the House Republican Conference; Rep. Rob Andrews (D-NJ), Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA), Rep. Artur Davis (D-AL), Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), and Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI). The debate was moderated by former Los Angeles Times columnist and current Atlantic Media columnist Ron Brownstein.

The debate was held Monday February 25, 2008 at 8 p.m. at The Jack Morton Auditorium at George Washington University. You can watch the debate < [here](#) .>