

DENNIS REHBERG:
**PROTECTING HIS OWN PAY RAISES AND RAISES FOR OTHER
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**

***FLASHBACK: REHBERG SAID HE WOULD NOT VOTE FOR CONGRESSIONAL PAY
RAISES OR ACCEPT CONGRESSIONAL PAY RAISES***

1996 – Rehberg: I Will Not Vote for Nor Accept a Pay Raise and That is a Promise.

During a 1996 radio call-in show, Rehberg said, “I can honestly tell you I have never voted for a pay raise, nor have I accepted one as a legislator, as Lieutenant Governor, and I will not vote for, nor accept a pay raise as a United States Senator and that is a promise. I will not take a cost of living increase, because that’s a hidden pay raise. If I have to take it, I will donate it to a Montana charity. I do not believe in the multi-million dollar pensions that these guys give themselves. They go back poor and come back rich. That’s not right. That’s a promise.” (KEMC public radio, Jackie Yamanaka and Jim Gransberry, hosts, 5/17/96)

1996 – Rehberg Insisted He Would Not Accept Any Pay Raises.

As reported by Roll Call, “With Rehberg, he insists, people will get a different kind of Senator. One who won't accept any pay raises or take a Congressional pension. ‘I won't kid you, I can use the money,’ he admits.” (Roll Call, 7/10/96)

1996 – Rehberg: “I Will Not Accept a Pay Raise, Cost of Living or Otherwise.”

In 1996, Rehberg said that if elected to the U.S. Senate, “I will not take a pension. I have not and I will not. Nor will I accept a pay raise, cost-of-living or otherwise, as a U.S. Senator.” He said it wasn’t because he was rich, saying, “I kind of resent people implying that I don’t need the money. My wife and I are both working, like everybody else, and we’re socking some away. We worry about college expenses. But these multi-million dollar pensions for members of Congress I think are wrong.” (Miles City Star, 5/22/96)

2000 – Rehberg Opposed Pay Raises for Members of Congress.

As reported by the AP, “Both (Rehberg and Keenan) oppose pay raises for members of Congress. Rehberg also said he would support term limits as long as Montana retained the opportunity to build seniority in Congress.” (AP, 10/12/00)

GONE WASHINGTON: REHBERG VOTED FIVE TIMES TO INCREASE HIS OWN PAY

Rehberg Supported Congressional Pay Raises 5 Times.

Rehberg has voted against efforts to block the annual cost-of-living increases that Members of Congress receive 5 times during his ten years in Congress. Rehberg has supported a majority of efforts to enact a Congressional pay raise.

Rehberg Supported Congressional Pay Raise, Voted to Raise His Own Pay by \$3,300 in 2006. In 2006, Rehberg voted to raise his own pay by \$3,300 to \$168,500. Rehberg voted to kill an amendment that would block an automatic pay hike for members of Congress. By killing the attempt to block the pay raise, Rehberg voted to receive a 2 percent increase and an annual salary of \$165,200. The effort to block the anti-pay raise amendment passed 249-167. (H RES 865, [Vote #261](#), 6/13/06; Congressional Research Service, *Salaries for Members of Congress: Congressional Votes*) NOTE: This pay raise was later blocked by the Democratic Congress in 2007.

- **HEADLINE – House Lawmakers Accept \$3,300 Pay Hike.** As reported by the AP, “House lawmakers Tuesday embraced a \$3,300 pay raise that will increase their salaries to \$168,500. The 2 percent cost-of-living raise would be the seventh straight for members of the House and Senate. Lawmakers easily squelched a bid by Rep. Jim Matheson, D-Utah, to get a direct vote to block the COLA, which is automatically awarded unless lawmakers vote to block it...But by a 249-167 vote, the House rejected Matheson's procedural attempt to get a direct vote on the pay raise.” [AP, [6/13/06](#)]

Rehberg Supported Congressional Pay Raise, Voted to Raise His Own Pay \$3,100 in 2005. In 2005, Rehberg voted to raise his own pay by \$3,100 to \$165,200. Rehberg voted in favor of a measure intended to prevent the introduction of an amendment blocking an increase in the annual salary for House members by \$3,100 to \$165,000. The House blocked a bid by Congressman Jim Matheson (D-UT) to force an up-or-down vote on the pay raise. The effort to block the anti-payraise amendment passed 263-152. (HR 342, [Vote #327](#), 6/28/05)

- **HEADLINE – Congress OKs Raise Despite Matheson.** As reported by the [Deseret Morning News](#), “Rep. Jim Matheson, D-Utah, tried again -- and failed again -- to persuade his colleagues to reject the automatic congressional pay raise that is wrapped inside an appropriations bill. ‘We are at war, and that requires shared sacrifices,’ Matheson said. ‘Let us send a signal to the American people that Congress gets it. A little belt-tightening wouldn't hurt anyone around here.’” [[Deseret Morning News](#), [6/30/05](#)]

Rehberg Supported Congressional Pay Raise, Voted to Raise His Own Pay by \$4,000 in 2004. In 2004, Rehberg voted to raise his own pay by \$4,000 to \$162,100. Rehberg voted in favor of a motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on adoption of the rule to provide for House floor consideration of the bill that would appropriate \$89.8 billion in fiscal 2005 for the departments of Treasury and Transportation and related agencies. If the motion had been defeated, an amendment to block the Congressional pay raise would have been allowed. The motion passed 235-170. (H Res 770, [Vote #451](#), 9/14/04)

- **HEADLINE – U.S. House Members Vote to Give Themselves Salary Increase.** [[Las Vegas Review-Journal](#), [9/16/04](#)]

Rehberg Supported Congressional Pay Raise, Voted to Raise His Own Pay by \$3,400 in 2003. In 2003, Rehberg voted to raise his own pay by \$3,400 to \$158,100. Rehberg voted in favor of a motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on adoption of the rule to provide for House floor consideration of the bill that would appropriate \$89.6 billion in fiscal 2004 spending, including \$27.5 billion in discretionary spending, for the departments of Treasury and Transportation and related agencies. If the motion had been defeated, an amendment to block the Congressional pay raise would have been allowed. The motion passed 240-173. (H. Res. 351, [Vote #463](#), 9/4/03)

- **HEADLINE – Another Pay Raise for Congress? House Approves Measure to Give Lawmakers a 2.2 Percent Boost.** As reported by the AP, “The House on Thursday approved a 2.2 percent pay raise for Congress — slightly less than average wage increases in private business but enough to boost lawmakers' annual salaries to about \$158,000 next year. The House members decided to allow themselves a fifth straight cost-of-living raise after rejecting them for several years during the 1990s. Their annual pay has risen from \$136,700 in 1999 to about \$158,000 in 2004, if the legislation clears Congress and is signed by the president. Their salary this year is \$154,700. [AP, [9/4/03](#)]

Rehberg Supported Congressional Pay Raise, Voted to Raise His Own Pay by \$4,700 in 2002. In 2002, Rehberg voted to raise his own pay by \$4,700 to \$154,700. Rehberg voted in favor of a motion to order the

previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on adoption of the rule to provide for House floor consideration of the bill that would appropriate \$35.1 billion in fiscal 2003 Treasury-Postal appropriations. If the motion had been defeated, an amendment to block the Congressional pay raise would have been allowed. The motion passed 258-156. (H. Res. 488, [Vote #322](#), 7/18/02)

- **HEADLINE – House Clears Way for \$5K Pay Raise.** (AP, 7/18/02)
- **HEADLINE – Lawmakers Give Themselves Pay Increase to \$155,000.** ([Roll Call](#), 7/22/02)
- **Columnist Sid Salter: “One Has to Question Propriety of Senators and Congressmen Taking a Pay Raise.”** Wrote columnist Sid Salter of the [Clarion Ledger](#), “Over the next several days, the country will revisit the Sept. 11 attacks. In the wake of those attacks, one has to question the propriety of senators and congressmen taking a pay raise - no matter how large or small and no matter the consequences. What about the war effort? What about the tremendous losses on Wall Street and the thousands of investors and employees who lost their savings in the crash of the Enrons, WorldComs and Adelphias of the American economy? Congress is behind on the budget, behind on confirming presidential nominees to the courts and other import posts and behind doing anything to fix the U.S. Postal Service or Amtrak. In the private sector, raises are hard to come by when the company is losing money and work isn't being completed on schedule. Why in the world should that not be the case in Congress?” [[Clarion Ledger](#), 9/4/02]

CONGRESSIONAL PAY HAS INCREASED NEARLY \$30,000 SINCE REHBERG TOOK OFFICE

Congressional Pay Has Increased Nearly \$30,000 Since Rehberg Took Office.

When Rehberg first took office in Congress, he earned \$145,100 per year as a Congressional salary. Today, Congressional salary is \$174,000 per year, an increase of \$28,900. (Congressional Research Service)

- **Congressional Pay Has Increased Nearly 20 Percent Since Rehberg Office.**

When Rehberg first took office in Congress, he earned \$145,100 as a Congressional salary. Today, Congressional salary is \$174,000 per year, an increase of \$28,900. Congressional salary has increased nearly 20 percent since Rehberg took office. (Congressional Research Service)

Year	Congressional Salary
2001	\$145,100
2002	\$150,000
2003	\$154,700
2004	\$158,100
2005	\$162,100
2006	\$165,200
2007	\$165,200
2008	\$169,300
2009	\$174,000
2010	\$174,000

(Congressional Research Service)