

**WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) released the following statement in response to President Obama's remarks today on the sequester:**

“I strongly believe Congress must enact a big and balanced deficit reduction plan to turn off the looming automatic spending cuts imposed by sequestration. Today, President Obama reiterated his commitment to a long-term, comprehensive solution to reduce the deficit and replace the sequester. I agree with him and continue to urge my colleagues in Congress to take action on such a solution. In absence of that, the President has indicated that he would accept a short-term agreement to delay sequestration through spending cuts and revenues.

“Maryland’s Fifth District – and all communities impacted by defense spending – cannot afford political games. Congress must make the difficult choices necessary to replace sequestration with a balanced approach to reduce the deficit, and I am prepared to work with both parties to avert these painful cuts and protect local jobs.”