

(WashingtonExaminer.com)

By: Philip Klein

House Rep. Allen West, a freshman Republican from Florida who plans to vote against the budget deal, on Thursday said GOP leaders needed to have a "come to Jesus moment" on spending.

West said he was disappointed after learning that the budget deal wouldn't reduce spending by as much as advertised.

"Character and integrity are important to me and I like people to be upfront with me," he told reporters outside the House chamber as a vote approached on the measure to fund the government for the rest of the year. "Surprises are for birthdays. When you wake up, all of a sudden you look at the National Journal, and they say there's really only \$352 million in cuts, I don't like that."

West said he voted for the stopgap measure to keep the government open for another week, but had hoped that would allow for more time to craft a better deal.

"What was supposed to be the largest spending cut since World War II, now is whittled down to \$352 million, it seems like nothing," he complained, comparing it to a "raindrop in the ocean."

West said he was disappointed that they had not returned spending to 2008 levels.

"I think my leadership needs to sit down and have a come to Jesus with themselves," West said.

