

## Md. Republican bucks 'Contract'

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WHEATON (AP) - Republican Rep. Constance A. Morella sees no need to jump on the "Contact With America" bandwagon rolling through Congress.

In the fifteen votes on items included in the GOP document in the first 100 days of the 104th Congress, Mrs. Morella has voted against the contract seven times, more than any other House GOP member.

No other House Republican opposed the contract more than four times. And some Democrats came closer.

The Montgomery County lawmaker voted against proposals for term limits, welfare reform, a regulatory freeze and tax cuts - all issues on which the party campaigned last year.

"You vote each issue on the merits," said Mrs. Morella, 64. "You don't have to follow blindly what the party leadership says you should do."

Mrs. Morella's independent record raises few eyebrows in her predominantly Democratic district. Ironically, her moderate stance gained her influence on some issues during her four previous terms in a Democratic Congress, but now she appears to face a struggle for influence within her own party.

In April, for instance, party leaders failed to yield when she strongly objected to a Republican proposal to increase federal employees' retirement contributions as a way to help pay for a tax cut.

"Among a certain group, there is a high degree of frustration with Connie," said Albert Bullock, a member of the party's Republican State Central Committee. "There is some resentment against her among Republicans because she doesn't always follow the party line."