

The amendment states that "The Congress and the States shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the Flag of the United States." Almost every State, 46 of the States in this country have asked us to do just that.

Let us give the States and the American people what they want and what our flag deserves.

Our Stars and Stripes stands for the principle of democracy. It represents all the hard fought battles for freedom and preservation of the American way of life. I call on my colleagues to join Representative JERRY SOLOMON, Representative SONNY MONTGOMERY, myself, and others to cosponsor this legislation in the coming weeks.

A SAD DAY FOR VETERANS

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, today is the 56th day of the imperial speakership.

Mr. Speaker, 9 months ago a majority of my colleagues recognized the debt owed our veterans, and the need to ensure they receive proper and adequate medical care. Today I must rise to inform my colleagues that the contract we have with our Nation's veterans has been labeled expendable by the Republican majority, and I am here to issue a warning to the Nation's veterans that our contract pledged to our veterans is up for renegotiation under the Republican contract on America. Last week an appropriations subcommittee slashed \$206 million from the Veterans Administration and eliminated funding for six veterans care facilities as a way to help pay for the tax cuts promised to the rich in their contract on America. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day in America when we place the desires of wealthy special interests over the needs of men and women who risked their lives to defend America.

AMERICA NEEDS THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today as we face final congressional action on passing the balanced budget amendment, it is a moment of national truth. Will we squirm and wiggle and sidestep our responsibility, will we cop out with politically palatable excuses or will we take the action because if we vote no today how much easier will it be to continue to vote for deficit spending?

Since 1969 we have not had a balanced budget. And every Democrat and Republican who has voted for this deficit spending has had a good excuse to do so. But it is time to stop this.

We need a balanced budget amendment. We can think of, and taxpayers

above all can think of 4½ trillion reasons to vote for a balanced budget amendment.

Ladies and gentlemen of America, watch today carefully. It is a critical day in the history of our Nation.

BALANCE THE BUDGET WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING CHILDREN

(Mr. HINCHEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, the majority party of the House of Representatives has declared war on our Nation's children.

The leadership has taken their campaign against working Americans to one of its lowest points yet attacking the most vulnerable in our society—millions of American children who rely on school lunches for a well balanced meal every day.

The most profound effect will be upon the ability of our children to learn. Undernutrition effects a child's behavior and performance.

In support of a 1969 expansion of school nutrition programs, President Nixon once said: "A child ill fed is dulled in curiosity, lower in stamina, distracted from learning." What has happened to the Republican Party?

In my home State of New York, more than 1,700,000 children currently participating in the school lunch program will be affected by a cut in funding.

We can do better than to try to balance the budget by jeopardizing the health and nutrition of 13 million American children who depend on the School Nutrition Program each day for a balanced meal.

THE BATTLE LINES ARE DRAWN

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the American people are clearly seeing where the battle lines are drawn. The Democrats will defend the Great Society of Lyndon Johnson and the \$4.5 trillion we have already been spending on a failed system.

Republicans are working to transform the welfare state into a work-for-benefits system.

Democrats will fight to keep the money flowing for the beltway bureaucrats here in Washington.

The Republicans will keep the money flowing back to the States like Kansas to help the American people.

The liberal Democrats have accused the Republicans of being mean-spirited because Republicans want to change the system that promotes destruction to the family, hurts children and that seriously undermines the future of our Nation.

The Republicans will work to change a system that has failed the American people completely.

The battle lines have been drawn. May the best ideas win.

SUPPORT FOR THE RISK ASSESSMENT AND COST-BENEFIT ACT

(Mr. STENHOLM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, as a long-time supporter of small business, I rise in support of H.R. 1022, the Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Act. It's simple: Risk analysis is good for small business.

Small business has had to contend with a literal blizzard of Government regulation in virtually every aspect of their operations. It is not just one or two big or major impacts from regulations, it is also death by a thousand cuts. It is the cumulative burden of paperwork, planning, and other compliance requirements that are often overlooked in the process of creating Federal regulations that are especially burdensome to smaller businesses. Mechanisms like those contained in H.R. 1022 will help to ensure that Government considers the total impact of the cumulative regulatory burden.

The small businesses impacted by many new regulations, especially in the environmental and worker safety area, do not have the resources to challenge or assess the increasingly scientific methods or exposure assumptions used by Federal agencies to justify new regulations.

Discussion and provision of regulatory options and risk scenarios early in the regulation development process will help small business by focusing resources and providing at least some assistance in an analysis process they cannot hope to shoulder on their own behalf.

In short, small business needs H.R. 1022 so that Federal agencies will be compelled to develop cost-effective regulations that will allow small businesses to both comply and remain economically viable.

THE REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA IS ALIVE AND WELL

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, wishful thinking is all there is to the statements that were made by the minority leader and the minority whip, wishful thinking based on the New York Times poll that came out this morning which had people raising some understandable concerns about the Contract With America. The reason for that is that it has not been understood appropriately.

Is there really a desire on the part of Republican Members of this House to ensure that young children are not able to gain lunches at school? Absolutely not. We believe that it can be done better.

The arrogance which is regularly shown by Members of the minority party in this House that only those of us here in Washington, DC, are in a position to make that decision is I believe reprehensible. The people who elected us also elected Governors, State legislators, city council members and school board members, and we believe that by eliminating this massive bureaucracy here which oversees the School Lunch Program we can better address those needs.

The Contract With America is alive and well and has the support of the American people; 80 percent of them support our balanced budget amendment which we hope will pass in the other body later today.

STAND UP FOR THE FREEDOM THE FLAG STANDS FOR

(Mr. SKAGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, today several Members announced the introduction of an amendment to the Bill of Rights. While its purpose, to protect and encourage respect for the flag, is something we can all endorse, it means, a Government mandate, would do tragic violence to one of our most cherished freedoms: the first amendment guarantee of free speech.

The flag of our country stands for values and ideals that are enormously important and it is a symbol that we all cherish.

One of the things the flag stands for is a people and a government strong enough to tolerate diversity and to make room even for unpopular views. That is what the Bill of Rights and the first amendment is all about.

Respect for the flag does and will always flow from our patriotism, our love of country, but it is time again for us to stand up for what the flag stands for, the freedoms that we cherish in this land.

REPUBLICANS TRUST LOCAL LEADERS TO MAKE DECISIONS

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, Georgia's Governor Zell Miller favors the Republican school lunch plan. Nineteen of the Nation's governors want the money and the flexibility to feed the children of their State.

It does not take a straight A student to conclude that if we do not feed the Federal bureaucrats we can feed many more children.

Republican trust local leaders to make better spending decisions than the Federal Government. The creativity of the Governors, State legislatures and parents will be critical to our block grant programs. They will decide where their money is spent. Imagine that. Individuals and localities, not the

Federal Government, will decide how to spend their own money. That is what the November revolution was all about. This is the kind of change that we promised and it truly frightens the pencil-pushers in Washington. Money is power, and the Republicans aim to return that money and power to the States and the people.

Governor Miller—a Democrat—said it best, "Give us the money. We can use it more effectively and efficiently than any Federal bureaucrat."

EXPLAINING THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM TO CHILDREN

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, in light of recent committee action I cannot help but be struck by the irony that next week is National School Breakfast Week. I cannot help wonder what I am saying today to students at Barnard School in Greece, NY, when I go to their breakfast and say what I heard this morning was the Republican contract said that if you give school lunches and school breakfasts it helps to break up American families.

What am I going to say to a group of homeless students tomorrow, students who would not be in school today if the Congress had not provided for their education? Do I explain to them that Congress no longer believes that they are worthy of our support?

Should I say to the school children in the city of Rochester, NY, where over 35,000 students are eligible for free or reduced-priced lunches that they need a more effective lobby? Should I say to the homeless students that perhaps if they were to tie their needs to that of the agricultural industry, they could expect their program to be preserved?

Mr. Speaker, we all love to talk about how our children are our future, but with the recent actions of this body, our children must be wondering how they are supposed to be prepared for it.

SCARE TACTICS

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I am tired of the scare tactics the Democrats are using. I legislated and helped write the school nutrition block grants. We had Governors that came before us and the welfare system has failed. I took and separated the school breakfast and school lunch program out of the welfare grants with our contract. I also separated Women, Infants and Children and increased them by 4½ percent, increased them a billion and one-half dollars, yet the Democrats are saying we cut the program. What we did is limit the growth to 4½ percent from 5.2 percent. We did not cut, we in-

creased it a billion and one-half dollars.

What we did cut on this side of the aisle is big Government bureaucracy rules and regulations and made it cheaper to support those programs, and what they do not want to happen is to lose their little fiefdoms. That is what they are upset about. We support the children's nutrition program, and separated and increased the program. Even 80 percent of the money that goes to WIC is more than under the old plan.

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MANY AMERICANS DUBIOUS ABOUT THE CONTRACT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, many Americans are dubious about this contract on America, but I tell you one thing, they are not doubtful about their children. They know what they want for their children, education and an opportunity to learn and, yes, they want school breakfasts and school lunches.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to share the great concern of many of my constituents who have made it clear to me they want me to fight to protect America's children from the unprincipled and draconian budget cuts proposed by the Republican majority.

Texas will lose at least \$1 billion through these cuts. While planning tax cuts and their sacred other cuts which will cause deficits to soar, my colleagues from the other side of the aisle have decided to declare war on America's children.

Mr. Speaker, included with various assaults on child nutrition contained in title V of H.R. 4 is a proposal to eliminate competitive bidding on infant formula purchases under existing programs. According to the Department of Agriculture, competitive bidding saved the States \$1 billion.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that we must concern ourselves with all of America's children. Feed the children. Let us not feed our egos.

HONORING OUR CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, day after day after day they come to the well of the House, the four horsemen of the liberal apocalypse: demagogery, distortion, obstruction, and hypocrisy.

The doomsday prophets of the lost battalion of the left, with chilling contempt and complete disregard for the will and wisdom of the American people, they ignore the call for change that sounded across this Nation last November. The question becomes: How