

PROPOSED LEGISLATION WOULD GUARANTEE LONGER HOSPITAL STAYS ON CERTAIN VAGINAL DELIVERIES

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, having a baby is surely one of the most wonderful and important events for a family. Unfortunately, to maximize their profits, many insurance companies treat this event as just another opportunity to cut costs.

Many insurance companies cover only 1 night's stay in the hospital after a normal vaginal delivery. For some women, this is enough time to recover from the delivery and get adjusted to breast feeding and caring for the baby. But for many other women, this is not enough time.

Doctors are increasingly alarmed that babies are being discharged from hospitals within 24 hours. In that short time they cannot receive critical health assessments to prevent routine child illnesses from becoming serious health problems.

Unfortunately, the decision to give more extensive care to a newborn baby and the mother—such as monitoring for early signs of jaundice—is in the hands of insurance companies, which either limit stays or pressure doctors to recommend short stays.

Today I am introducing legislation with my colleague, PETER DEFAZIO, to require insurance plans contracting with the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program to cover a minimum stay in the hospital of 48 hours after a normal vaginal delivery, and 96 hours after a caesarean section. In the case of plans that offer at-home visits, this minimum is waived as long as the plan provides extensive at-home, postpartum visits.

Mr. Speaker, let us start our babies off on the right foot. The health of the baby, not of insurance company portfolios, should be our No. 1 concern. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

ENOUGH GAMESMANSHIP

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, as I read the paper this morning, I could not believe what I read about what the liberals are up to today. As we are reaching an agreement between the House and the Senate regarding a balanced budget by the year 2002 by responsibly slowing the rate of government spending increases, the other side of the aisle is planning another spate of July fireworks.

According to the Washington Times, the minority leadership is encouraging their Members to go to a local nursing home and engage in scare tactics about

what they call unfair Medicare cuts. Have they no shame? They want their Members to go to our senior citizens in a nursing home, many of whom are on fixed incomes and dependent on Social Security and their Medicare benefits, and try to scare them into thinking their benefits will be cut. Is this what the once mighty Democrat Party has been reduced to? Are they completely bankrupt of ideas?

We want to work together to increase Medicare spending every year, for every eligible person for 7 years. Is that a cut? No. We want to increase Medicare spending by 33 percent over 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for partisanship, gamesmanship, and scare tactics to be set aside. We must work together and solve the Medicare problems.

REMOVING THE ROADBLOCKS TO A COLLEGE EDUCATION

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I have just this moment come from a meeting with many young Americans who are deeply troubled about why the Republican budget proposes the largest cut in Federal assistance to students who want to attend college of any time in our Nation's history, and they are asking why, and one of the individuals who is asking why down in my district is a woman named Tina Henderson, who I had the opportunity and privilege to meet a few weeks ago in Austin.

Tina Henderson is the first person in her family to go to college. She did so after working as a member of the U.S. Air Force. She is a single mom. She has a great daughter, a 5-year-old, Erica, that she is mighty proud of, but she told me that without Federal student assistance she would not be able to go to college.

Mr. Speaker, every family like hers across America is being told in this budget, "Come up with an extra \$5,000 if you want to support a young person through college in America in the future." With the tremendous cuts that are being made in this budget, roadblocks are being erected to Tina Henderson, to her daughter, Erica, and we need to get those roadblocks out of the way.

THE LARGEST DEBT EVER IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, \$3 per month over the 10-year period; that is the amount extra that students who take out student loans are being asked to pay in response to the gentleman from Texas; \$3 per month over 120 months.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 30 years the Federal Government has ignored the simple virtues that made America a

great Nation. For generations, the American people built their lives around simple virtues: Thrift, hard work, and personal responsibility.

Starting in the 1960's, though, the Federal Government began to reject these tried and true American virtues in favor of a value system that placed government at the center of any policy consideration.

The results have been phenomenally disastrous.

The Federal Government has racked up the largest debt ever in the history of mankind; a debt that will be passed to future generations.

Mr. Speaker, this week, Congress will vote to balance the budget in 7 years. Not only will this budget return sanity to chaotic Federal spending, it will return our Government to the basic American virtues of thrift, hard work, and personal responsibility.

CLOSING OF FORT MCCLELLAN SEEN AS A DANGEROUS MISTAKE

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

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, I am asking Alabamians and all Americans concerned about chemical weapons and terrorism to write or call President Bill Clinton and urge him to save the world's only live-agent chemical defense training base.

The recommendation to close Fort McClellan is a serious and dangerous mistake. Closure of the only live-agent chemical defense training facility will disrupt and degrade the ability of America's military forces to fight and survive chemical warfare.

Furthermore, with the threat of terrorism on the rise, this is no time to deprive American civilians of the only base that can respond to chemical attack.

Again, I am asking Alabamians and all Americans concerned about chemical weapons and terrorism to write or call President Bill Clinton and urge him to save the world's only live-agent chemical defense training base.

PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT IN NEW JERSEY

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

Mr. ZIMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Governor Christie Whitman and the legislature of the State of New Jersey.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the New Jersey Legislature by overwhelming bipartisan majorities voted to pass the third and final phase of Christie Whitman's 30 percent income tax cut.

Two years ago, when Governor Whitman and the Republican candidates for the legislature promised that they would cut taxes in New Jersey by 30 percent, a lot of people did not believe that they were going to do it, but they

kept their promise. They cut taxes, they cut spending, and they delivered for New Jersey families and for the New Jersey economy. No wonder Governor Whitman has made New Jersey a model for the other 49 States and for this Congress.

Promises made, promises kept. Lower taxes, more jobs. The New Jersey message resonates throughout the Nation and should be remembered in this Chamber.

STUDENTS PROTESTING PROPOSED CUTS IN STUDENT LOANS

(Ms. LOFGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today in the Capitol hundreds of students will be visiting with each of us protesting the proposed cuts in student loans. Why? Because these cuts are like opening up with an assault weapon on the American people.

As my colleagues know, 8,000 students at San Jose State University in my district received help in education last year, and many of those students would not be able to go to college without the loans and grants and work student programs that have been provided.

I was terribly shocked to read in the paper the other day the supposition that somehow this is class warfare, that the high school graduates of the country should not be asked to use their tax money for students to get ahead and become college graduates and even more.

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I think the person who said that does not understand blue collar America. I grew up the daughter of a truck driver and secretary, and I will tell you the thing that mattered most to my parents and every adult on the block, none of whom had college degrees, was that all the kids get ahead and be successful. Do not cut down on the American dream. Allow students who work hard to get good grades to get ahead.

TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, when President Clinton was running for the Presidency, a tax cut was one of the main features of his campaign. But when the President was elected, he raised taxes on the middle class. Where does the President stand now? Who knows.

Mr. Speaker, in the absence of leadership from the White House, Republicans have introduced a tax relief plan that allows working Americans to keep more of the money they earn. We have not flip-flopped or changed our position. Instead, we stand with the vast majority of Americans who know all too well the impacts of higher taxes and who struggle to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, the President may not know where he stands, but Republicans have consistently stood for tax relief, smaller Government, and a balanced budget.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DETROIT RED WINGS AND 1995 STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONS NEW JERSEY DEVILS

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the National Hockey League playoffs concluded last Saturday with the victory of the New Jersey Devils. I am here today as a result of a friendly bet with my colleague from New Jersey, BOB FRANKS.

Unfortunately, my favorite team, the Detroit Red Wings, lost to the Devils after a brilliant run in the playoffs, defeating Dallas and San Jose and Chicago. In the finals, New Jersey and Detroit battled through four grueling games, but the Devils prevailed. Due to the excellent play of Devils skaters such as Claude Lemieux, Scott Stevens, goalie Martin Brodeur, and the other excellent skaters, they secured Lord Stanley's Cup.

I wish to commend both teams in advancing in the playoffs and further to the NHL finals.

In closing, consistent with our bet, I show my tail, I show my horns, and I show my fork, and I would like to present this to BOB FRANKS, the Stanley Cup winners, the New Jersey Devils.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The Chair would rule that the gentleman should not wear those materials on the floor.

DO NOT SUPPORT A BALANCED BUDGET THAT IS ANTIFAMILY AND ANTI-ELDERLY

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, tonight the Republicans will release the details of their budget, setting the stage for national debate on budget priorities. The top priority of their budget is a \$245 billion tax cut to the wealthy, better known as the crown jewel. Yet the Republican leadership will tell the American people that this plan is fiscally responsible.

Fiscally responsible? Where is the responsibility to working families? Is it responsible for Republicans to cut \$11 billion from student loans for the middle class to help to pay for a tax break to the wealthy?

Fiscally responsible? Where is the responsibility to our seniors? Is it re-

sponsible for Republicans to steal \$270 billion from Medicare to finance a tax giveaway to their wealthiest friends?

Seniors have every reason to be scared. Democrats support a balanced budget, but we will not support a plan that is antifamily and anti-elderly. We will not support a plan that asks the middle class working families to sacrifice not to balance the budget, but to pay for a tax cut for the privileged few.

CALIFORNIA TIMBER WORKERS WANT A HAND UP, NOT A HAND-OUT

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

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I might point out to the gentlewoman that the Republican family tax credit will completely remove or eliminate the tax liability for 4.7 million working poor families.

Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago, Bill Clinton told thousands of timber workers they could not go back to work in productive high-wage private sector jobs when he vetoed the timber salvage amendment. This veto, his first, triggered a protest back here in Washington, DC, by mill workers and loggers and their family members in a stormy headlined loggers protest in the District of Columbia.

Today, the President is announcing extra unemployment grants and some loans for our area, northwest California. Well, we are glad that the administration has not forgotten about us completely, but do not insult the hard working people in northern California with your charity at taxpayer expense, when you personally vetoed the bill that would have put thousands of California loggers back to work.

The fact that he would provide us welfare style assistance, but will not let loggers go back to work, tells us a lot with the President. There is just one problem: California timber workers want a hand up, not a handout.

GIVE YOUTH OF AMERICA THE FUTURE THEY DESERVE

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

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students who are visiting our Capital City. These students have brought a message to Congress, stressing the importance of funding the student loan programs. If the Republicans cut or eliminate student aid, many bright young people will not be able to go to college.

I have seen the wonderful results of education funding. I have hosted several financial-aid recipients as interns in my congressional office. Currently, I am proud to have Vernetta, from Selma, AL. Without the benefits of the student aid program, Vernetta would