

for example, that is even better for the economy. Why is that? Because businesses that wish to expand to modernize and to grow need that investment money. When a company expands or a new company is started, jobs are created.

So I want to give rich people an incentive to save more of their money instead of spending it. That is why it is so important for the economy to cut the tax on savings and investment. It is all about jobs.

□ 1030

A BUDGET AGREEMENT THAT TAKES AMERICA IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, the balanced budget agreement that was reached here the last few days and hours is not just financially sound, it is also philosophically sound, because it begins to address some of the fundamental problems and inequities in our tax system.

In this country we value our families and our children, yet our tax system punishes those who want to start a family. This plan promotes families by providing a child tax credit. In this country we value frugality and saving for a rainy day, yet our current tax system punishes those who save. The budget agreement promotes saving by providing for expanded IRA accounts, and gives incentives for those who want to put away for retirement.

Finally, in America we are taught to value hard work and the things that go with it, like being able to provide for our children when we are gone. The death tax punishes those who try to pass their property on to the next generation. This budget agreement would allow one to pass more on to their children before they have to pay taxes on it.

This budget agreement takes America in the right direction. I think that is evidenced by the fact that over 300 Members of this body, over 75 percent of this institution, supported it. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to do the very same thing and to support it.

AMERICA WANTS MEMBERS TO COORDINATE TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, many people ask me, how can you come to an agreement on the balanced budget with a President whose vision for America is so much different than your own? That is a fair question. I think we should address that this morning.

The answer, of course, is with great difficulty. It is no secret that the

Democrats and Republicans have honest fundamental differences in our view of the role of government in our lives. It is no secret that the Democrats want government to have a greater role in our lives, and Republicans think that the Government's role is far too great.

It is no secret that the Democrats want to increase the size and power of government. Republicans want to reduce it. It is no secret that the Democrats think that more government can help to solve the problem of poverty. Republicans think that far from ending poverty, government welfare programs perpetuate it.

Mr. Speaker, we disagree on matters of principle, but the American people have asked us to work together to balance the budget. Let us go forward and carry out their wishes.

A BALANCED BUDGET AND A SMALLER GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, what a difference 4 years makes. Four years ago the President proposed the largest tax increase in U.S. history, the largest entitlement expansion in American history, and the strongest, clearest signal in U.S. history that big government, in their way of thinking, was truly the answer to all of our problems. This was in exactly the opposite direction from where many of us from across the country believe this Nation must be headed.

Now, 4 years later, I am happy to see that a majority of Americans and a majority of this Congress on both sides of the aisle agree that a reasonable government, as opposed to big government, is the way to tackle some of our more difficult problems.

Mr. Speaker, this country has been going in a direction of bigger government and higher taxes for the past 30 years. We have now signaled with action this week in passing a balanced budget, the first time in 30 years, we have signaled that we are ready to own up to our responsibilities as a Congress, Democrats and Republicans united, to pass a balanced budget. I commend the House and all my colleagues.

REPUBLICANS KEEP THEIR WORD TO AMERICA

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, there is something strange that has been happening here in the Capitol over the last 2½ years, something that we have not seen for quite a while. It is a group of politicians who are actually keeping their word.

In the fall of 1994, we laid out for the American people our set of promises in the Contract With America that we

would balance the Federal budget, that we would reduce taxes, we would solve the problems in Medicare, that we would deal with illegal immigration and reform it, that we would reform welfare. Guess what? All of those things are happening.

In 1995 and 1996 we had the most successful Congress in 20 years. Now, with our agreement to balance the Federal budget, to reduce taxes for American families, and to preserve and protect Medicare, we are continuing to keep the promises that we made to the American people. It is something that I am proud of in terms of my colleagues and their commitment to do what they said they would do. We are going to keep our promises.

FOREIGN POLICY REFORM ACT

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of our Foreign Policy Reform Act, which will be coming before the House next month. This bill is the first Republican-led foreign policy blueprint since our party wrote the Marshall plan legislation some 40 years ago.

The bill will consolidate two Federal agencies into the State Department, saving a number of employees. It will choke off aid and nuclear fuel for the Castro dictatorship, it will block aid to Russia until it stops its help to Iran, and it nails deadbeat diplomats, making sure they would be prosecuted either here or back in the host country.

This bill was endorsed by major PVOs and 40 major groups, including Mothers Against Drunk Driving and many of our Irish groups. Driving this measure are a number of organizations that are supportive of what we are doing. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support the Foreign Policy Reform Act that will be before us early next month.

COMMENDING EFFORTS OF COLLEAGUE TO FIND MISSING CHILDREN

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I just want to real quickly say that the gentleman from Texas [Mr. LAMPSON] ought to be commended for what he is doing in trying to find missing children. I think that should be an example for every Member of this House, and this shows his real bipartisan support for this kind of effort.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, just as an example, this is the envelope we are using with Bianca's picture on it,

Bianca Lozano, and I thank the gentleman for his commitment that he also makes to this major catastrophe that is facing our country, and I look forward to working with the gentleman on it.

IN SUPPORT OF CORRIDOR X AND ISTEA LEGISLATION

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the completion of Corridor X as an important transportation project, not only for the Fourth Congressional District, but also the southern region of the United States.

Few people realize there is no four-lane highway that connects the cities of Birmingham, AL, the largest city in the State of Alabama, and Memphis, TN. For economic development and safety reasons, this is an unacceptable omission from our national highway system.

The completion of Corridor X could connect these two major metropolitan areas by running through Birmingham and through the Fourth Congressional District. It must be remembered that 30 years ago Congress passed legislation to create a system of highways in the 13-State Appalachian region, including a route to connect Memphis and then through Birmingham.

Unfortunately, today the people in my area still are waiting for this four-lane highway to be completed. Economic growth is hampered because it is so difficult to transport goods and services between Birmingham and Memphis and through the northwestern part of Alabama. The current inadequate two-lane route is extremely dangerous, with traffic incidents or a fatality occurring almost every month in my district. Mr. Speaker, we need to reauthorize ISTEA and ensure that all States receive an equitable share of funds.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall vote, if postponed, will be taken later in the day.

DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES ACT OF 1997

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 956) to amend the National Narcotics Leadership Act of 1988 to establish a program to support and encourage local communities that first dem-

onstrate a comprehensive, long-term commitment to reduce substance abuse among youth, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 956

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Drug-Free Communities Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Narcotics Leadership Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by inserting between sections 1001 and 1002 the following:

"CHAPTER 1—OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY";

and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"CHAPTER 2—DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES

"SEC. 1021. FINDINGS.

"Congress finds the following:

"(1) Substance abuse among youth has more than doubled in the 5-year period preceding 1996, with substantial increases in the use of marijuana, inhalants, cocaine, methamphetamine, LSD, and heroin.

"(2) The most dramatic increases in substance abuse has occurred among 13- and 14-year-olds.

"(3) Casual or periodic substance abuse by youth today will contribute to hard core or chronic substance abuse by the next generation of adults.

"(4) Substance abuse is at the core of other problems, such as rising violent teenage and violent gang crime, increasing health care costs, HIV infections, teenage pregnancy, high school dropouts, and lower economic productivity.

"(5) Increases in substance abuse among youth are due in large part to an erosion of understanding by youth of the high risks associated with substance abuse, and to the softening of peer norms against use.

"(6)(A) Substance abuse is a preventable behavior and a treatable disease; and

"(B)(i) during the 13-year period beginning with 1979, monthly use of illegal drugs among youth 12 to 17 years of age declined by over 70 percent; and

"(ii) data suggests that if parents would simply talk to their children regularly about the dangers of substance abuse, use among youth could be expected to decline by as much as 30 percent.

"(7) Community anti-drug coalitions throughout the United States are successfully developing and implementing comprehensive, long-term strategies to reduce substance abuse among youth on a sustained basis.

"(8) Intergovernmental cooperation and coordination through national, State, and local or tribal leadership and partnerships are critical to facilitate the reduction of substance abuse among youth in communities throughout the United States.

"SEC. 1022. PURPOSES.

"The purposes of this chapter are—

"(1) to reduce substance abuse among youth in communities throughout the United States, and over time, to reduce substance abuse among adults;

"(2) to strengthen collaboration among communities, the Federal Government, and State, local, and tribal governments;

"(3) to enhance intergovernmental cooperation and coordination on the issue of substance abuse among youth;

"(4) to serve as a catalyst for increased citizen participation and greater collaboration

among all sectors and organizations of a community that first demonstrates a long-term commitment to reducing substance abuse among youth;

"(5) to rechannel resources from the fiscal year 1998 Federal drug control budget to provide technical assistance, guidance, and financial support to communities that demonstrate a long-term commitment in reducing substance abuse among youth;

"(6) to disseminate to communities timely information regarding the state-of-the-art practices and initiatives that have proven to be effective in reducing substance abuse among youth;

"(7) to enhance, not supplant, local community initiatives for reducing substance abuse among youth; and

"(8) to encourage the creation of and support for community anti-drug coalitions throughout the United States.

"SEC. 1023. DEFINITIONS.

"In this chapter:

"(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator appointed by the Director under section 1031(c).

"(2) ADVISORY COMMISSION.—The term 'Advisory Commission' means the Advisory Commission established under section 1041.

"(3) COMMUNITY.—The term 'community' shall have the meaning provided that term by the Administrator, in consultation with the Advisory Commission.

"(4) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

"(5) ELIGIBLE COALITION.—The term 'eligible coalition' means a coalition that meets the applicable criteria under section 1032(a).

"(6) GRANT RECIPIENT.—The term 'grant recipient' means the recipient of a grant award under section 1032.

"(7) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term 'nonprofit organization' means an organization described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

"(8) PROGRAM.—The term 'Program' means the program established under section 1031(a).

"(9) SUBSTANCE ABUSE.—The term 'substance abuse' means—

"(A) the illegal use or abuse of drugs, including substances listed in schedules I through V of section 112 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812);

"(B) the abuse of inhalants; or

"(C) the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other related product as such use is prohibited by State or local law.

"(10) YOUTH.—The term 'youth' shall have the meaning provided that term by the Administrator, in consultation with the Advisory Commission.

"SEC. 1024. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Office of National Drug Control Policy to carry out this chapter—

"(1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1998;

"(2) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 1999;

"(3) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2000;

"(4) \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2001; and

"(5) \$43,500,000 for fiscal year 2002.

"(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than the following percentages of the amounts authorized under subsection (a) may be used to pay administrative costs:

"(1) 10 percent for fiscal year 1998.

"(2) 6 percent for fiscal year 1999.

"(3) 4 percent for fiscal year 2000.

"(4) 3 percent for fiscal year 2001.

"(5) 3 percent for fiscal year 2002.