

children who are uninsured have parents who work but whose employers cannot or do not provide health care coverage for the children.

The Democratic plan will help children get coverage by requiring insurance companies to offer kids-only health plans and tax credits to help families pay for those premiums. The Democratic families first agenda will indeed offer real improvements to every life for America's working families, especially our children.

Let us work together bipartisanly to improve the health care for America's 10 million uninsured children.

A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, as a father I am concerned about not only my children but about the health and well-being of all children in this country. That is why I support a balanced budget amendment and a real balanced budget. But Mr. Clinton has determined that we will have neither.

The Clinton administration worked feverishly to defeat the BBA, and the balanced budget they submitted earlier this year falls short of balancing the budget by \$69 billion.

Mr. Speaker, our children deserve better. They deserve a future that is bright and free of the debt that this Government keeps piling on them year after year. We literally take money out of the back pockets of our children when we do not balance the budget.

The last time America had a balanced budget was 1969. Since then we have accumulated over \$5.3 trillion in national debt. It is a shame that the White House would block the only way to ensure our children will not have to face an 80- to 90-percent tax rate when they grow up to become taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, we need to balance the budget, we need a balanced budget amendment.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, reports say that record numbers of illegal immigrants keep running across the border, many with backpacks full of heroin and cocaine. To boot, the Immigration and Naturalization Service just granted citizenship to 71,000 criminals, 71,000 criminals.

Now, if that is not enough to tax your prison, check this out. For quote unquote "excellent work," the Vice President just gave the Immigration and Naturalization Service the national performance hammer award. For what? For a Border Patrol program known as Ollie, Ollie In Free.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. The Immigration and Naturalization Service

does not warrant or deserve awards. They should be getting subpoenas from the Justice Department.

I yield back the balance of all this prison space that will be taken up.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton has stated over and over his commitment to producing a real balanced budget. I do not doubt his commitment. It is his math that I am worried about. The CBO predicts the President's most recent budget will have a \$69 billion deficit in the year 2002, when there should be no deficit.

Mr. Speaker, we see that the White House worked feverishly to defeat a balanced budget amendment. Now we see why. He has no intention of producing a real balanced budget. During his State of the Union Address the President said, and I quote, "Balancing the budget requires only your vote and my signature. It does not require us to rewrite our Constitution."

Mr. Speaker, who is the President kidding? If he cannot even produce a balanced budget, why should we expect him to sign one? Instead of lip service, Bill Clinton should send Congress a real budget using real numbers and one that actually adds up.

UNINSURED CHILDREN

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, over 175 Democratic Members have signed a letter to the Republican leadership urging a date certain for floor consideration of legislation that provides health insurance coverage for the 10 million American kids that do not have it. So far the Republican leadership refuses to address the issue of kids health insurance. Last week many of my Democratic colleagues discussed a recent New York City survey that pointed to the growing numbers of children without health insurance.

Today the GOP is supposed to unveil its long-overdue legislative agenda for the 105th Congress. A present view of that agenda published in today's newspapers does not mention kids health insurance. Nor did the Republicans include the issue when they talked about a bipartisan agenda with President Clinton a few weeks ago.

I want to assure my colleagues, though, that this issue will not go away because the Democrats will not allow it to. It is a disgrace that 10 million American children, most of whose parents work very hard, do not have health care coverage.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about American families and American children and health care, and I know that the one way we can achieve that is to balance our budget. We will not achieve it if we do not balance our budget.

The President has sent down his budget. It is \$69 or \$70 billion out of balance when we get to the year 2002. In fact, the deficit is going to go up \$14 billion before it starts to go down. The American people are smart. We can tell them we are going to balance the budget, and the President can say it; but whether we come back with a plan that raises the deficit and then leaves 75 percent of the balancing of the budget to be done in the next administration, they know we are blowing smoke at them.

Mr. Speaker, we have got a job to do. The President has a responsibility to send a balanced budget down here. We need to get at it.

BLUE DOG COALITION BUDGET

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

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that in my first opportunity to speak on the floor of the House, I am rising to voice my strong support for the blue dog coalition budget. The coalition budget is a commonsense approach to deficit reduction. It does not rely on gimmicks, nor do we postpone the tough cuts until the final years of the plan.

At this point the blue dog budget is the only budget plan that will balance the budget by the year 2002 and take the Social Security trust fund off budget by 2005. As Members of Congress, we must show our constituents that we can make the tough choices necessary to put our fiscal house in order. The coalition budget proves that we can balance the budget, save Medicare and Social Security, and preserve our commitment on education.

If we colleagues are truly looking to balance the budget in a bipartisan manner, I urge them to take a long hard look at the blue dog budget. This is the right plan for Democrats and Republicans to begin to form a truly bipartisan consensus on a balanced budget.

TIME FOR A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this country is in a time of need. What our constituents need is a budget that will stay balanced. It is our obligation to provide that for them. Mr. Speaker, the President has proposed a budget that does not offer what we

have been striving for. The Congressional Budget Office has revealed that this plan would leave an unsettled deficit of at least \$69 billion by the year 2002. Additionally, his Medicare proposal does not keep the Medicare plan in balance for 10 years as he has proposed.

Furthermore, his savings in Medicare essentially amount to a shell game, moving expenses from part A to part B, out of the Medicare plan into the general revenue which comes out of general withholding of all taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that the President send us an honest balanced budget, additionally that he send us a plan that will truly achieve solvency for the Medicare plan so that our seniors will be able to have the health care that they need.

HANDGUNS AND KIDS

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

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, in Chicago on Monday, a man named Stephen Young told me that his oldest son had been killed by an 18-year-old with a handgun.

His son, Andrew, had earned the national ranking in speed skating and planned to attend a Chicago area tech school this fall. But the 18-year-old with the handgun put a stop to that outside a neighborhood fruit market. Andrew's father said, I was really looking forward to knowing him as a man. But the 18-year-old with the handgun put a stop to that as well.

Mr. Speaker, 18-year-old males have the highest arrest rates for weapons offenses, but Federal law still allows them to possess handguns. It is time we in Congress put a stop to that. In the memory of Andrew Young and the countless others who have fallen victim to gun violence, I am proud to introduce a bill that would make it illegal for anyone under 21 to possess a handgun.

I urge my colleagues to join me in stopping the lethal mix of kids and guns.

IMPROVE THE GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM

(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, I thank you for this opportunity, and I rise today to introduce legislation together with the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. McCARTHY] that would strengthen and improve the defense loan and technical assistance program, the so-called delta guaranteed loan program for small businesses.

As a former SBA Administrator, I saw firsthand the important relationship between defense industries and small businesses. Unfortunately in the

last decade with the downsizing of defense, we have seen areas of the country like my own Long Island, NY, region lose over 100,000 jobs as the defense industry cuts back.

This important delta program is needed to ease the transition between the defense-based business and moving them into other commercial applications. My legislation would provide for an extension of this important program for small businesses. It would expand the opportunities for small businesses to participate by allowing them to go back up to 7 years if they have done about 25 percent of their business in the defense industry. In addition, it would raise the guaranteed loan amount up to 90 percent so more banks could help small businesses. It is important legislation and I urge its consideration.

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KIDS-ONLY HEALTH INSURANCE

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House overwhelmingly passed a resolution regarding the Ten Commandments on the grounds that religious doctrine is the cornerstone of a just and fair society. Yet there are 61 countries around the world that ensure or provide health care for all of their workers and dependents. The United States is not one of them.

In this country our children are falling behind on many crucial health indicators. Ten million American children have no health insurance. Millions more do not have meaningful access to health care providers. Their parents have to rely on emergency services to care for their children.

This is unconscionable. Ninety percent of uninsured children have parents that work but they have no coverage for their children through their employers. We must take action to require insurance companies to provide kids-only health insurance and to provide a tax credit to help parents pay the premiums. A fair and just society provides for the health and welfare of its children, our future.

THE WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

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

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1, the Working Families Flexibility Act. Everett Dirksen once said nothing in the world can stop an idea whose time has come. Mr. Speaker, comp time is clearly such an idea.

This is a simple and straightforward piece of legislation that allows employers and employees the option of choos-

ing time off instead of overtime pay. In no way does this bill threaten the Fair Labor Standards Act, and in no way does this bill temper the rights of employees.

This is simply a bill which provides an option to help America's workers become full-time parents as well as full-time employees. Why do so many working men and women across America support comp time? They support comp time because it affords them choice.

For the mother of three working 40 hours a week, comp time means the choice to take time off and see her daughter's school play. For the father who is raising kids by himself, comp time means the choice to coach his son's little league team. And for the children of the 90's, comp time means a chance to spend more time with the two most important figures in their lives, their moms and dads.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1 as a means to an end. The means will be more choice for parents on how to manage their time, but more importantly, the end will be thousands of healthier, happier families. When this bill comes to the floor, I urge my colleagues to support it.

FIGHT FOR THE HEALTH OF OUR CHILDREN

(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, 30 years ago this country made a pact with our senior citizens. We promised our Nation's elderly that the Medicare Program would be there for them when they needed it most. Today the Medicare Program is one of our Nation's great success stories. Ninety-nine percent of our seniors have health care coverage in the United States today.

Last year Democrats stood up for our Nation's seniors and successfully fought to protect and preserve the Medicare Program. But surely our children are every bit as sacred as our senior citizens, and yet every day in this country another 3,300 kids lose their health insurance. This is a national crisis.

It is time for the Congress to focus on this problem because it is not going away. In fact, it is only getting worse. We need to stand up and fight for the health of our children just as we stood up and fought for the health of our seniors. We must act today and move the expansion of children's health care to the top of our legislative agenda.

SEND CONGRESS A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. BOB SCHAFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, you can't be a beacon if