

fiscal year 2003 by \$90 million. I hope that we can do even better in the end.

I can think of few programs with as wide-ranging support as these centers. Parents, teachers, youth groups, law enforcement, and others all recognize that providing extensive, effective after-school programs is one of the most important things we can do to support working parents and to help our children be safe and reach their potential in school and in life.

As evidence, a survey taken in August by the Afterschool Alliance found that nine in ten voters agree that there should be organized activities for children and teens after school every day that provide opportunities for them to learn.

By more than two to one, voters disagree with the President's proposal to freeze federal funding for after-school programs, and sixty-three percent are concerned that existing programs may have to reduce their services or close their doors due to lack of increased funding.

More than nine in ten voters who have children in after-school programs believe that their children are safer and less likely to be involved in juvenile crime than children who aren't in after-school programs.

Finally, 92 percent of these parents say their children do better in reading, writing and math because of after-school programs, and 87 percent say that their children are less likely to use alcohol and drugs because of after-school programs.

I thank the Afterschool Alliance for all their work, and urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating Lights On After School!

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss an issue of great importance to our Nation's children: afterschool programs. Children are much more likely to be involved in crime, substance abuse, and teenage pregnancy in the hours after school. In fact, about 10 percent of violent juvenile crimes are committed between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. alone. The Urban Institute estimates that at least 7 million and as many as 15 million "latchkey kids" go to an empty house on any given afternoon. These children need a place to go—an empty house should not be an option.

It is essential that we provide children with organized activities or programs to go to during the critical afterschool hours. According to the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services, extracurricular activities like those provided by afterschool programs have proven to reduce the number of students likely to use drugs by 50 percent and the number of students likely to become teen parents by 33 percent. Furthermore, studies have shown that students who participate in extracurricular activities have better grades, feel greater attachment to school, have lower truancy rates and reach higher levels of achievement in college.

We have made great progress in the last 5 years toward making these kinds of programs more widely available. Through the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program, federal support for local afterschool programs increased from \$1 million in fiscal year 1997 to \$1 billion in fiscal year 2002. As a result, over 900 communities across the Nation are now providing their children with a positive alternative to unsupervised care. In addition, Senator ENSIGN and I offered an amendment to the Leave No Child Behind Act to increase funding for afterschool programs. As enacted, the bill will raise afterschool funding to \$2.5 billion by the year 2007.

To highlight the growing need for afterschool programs, the Afterschool Alliance—a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that all children and youth have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs by the year 2010—has announced the third annual nationwide day of awareness for afterschool programs called "Lights On After School!." Today, schools, community centers, museums, libraries, and parks across America will host activities to inform families about the places currently open to children after school and the need to provide additional centers where children can participate in engaging, stimulating activities until their parents return from work.

I applaud the Afterschool Alliance for recognizing the important role of afterschool programs in the lives of children, families, and communities, and I enthusiastically support the effort to build awareness through "Lights On After School!." Promoting the safety and well-being of our children is the best way to ensure that they have a genuine opportunity to succeed.

CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, on October 1, I introduced legislation, together with Senator MIKULSKI, to redesignate Catoctin Mountain Park as the Catoctin Mountain National Recreation Area.

Catoctin Mountain Park is a hidden gem in our National Park System. Home to Camp David, the Presidential retreat, it has been aptly described as "America's most famous unknown park." Comprising nearly 6,000 acres of the eastern reach of the Appalachian Mountains in Maryland, the park is rich in history as well as outdoor recreation opportunities. Visitors can enjoy camping, picnicking, cross-country skiing, fishing, as well as the solitude and beauty of the woodland mountain and streams in the park.

Catoctin Mountain Park had its origins during the Great Depression as one of 46 Recreational Demonstration Areas, RDA, established under the authority of the National Industrial Recovery Act. The Federal Government

purchased more than 10,000 acres of mountain land that had been heavily logged and was no longer productive to demonstrate how sub-marginal land could be turned into a productive recreational area and help put people back to work. From 1936 through 1941, hundreds of workers under the Works Progress Administration and later the Civilian Conservation Corps were employed in reforestation activities and in the construction of a number of camps, roads and other facilities, including the camp now known as Camp David, and one of the earliest, if not the oldest, camps for disabled individuals. In November 1936, administrative authority for the Catoctin RDA was transferred to the National Park Service by Executive Order.

In 1942, concern about President Roosevelt's health and safety led to the selection of Catoctin Mountain, and specifically Camp Hi-Catoctin as the location for the President's new retreat. Subsequently approximately 5,000 acres of the area was transferred to the State of Maryland, becoming Cunningham Falls State Park in 1954. The remaining 5,770 acres of the Catoctin Recreation Demonstration Area was renamed Catoctin Mountain Park by the Director of the National Park Service in 1954. Unfortunately, the Director failed to include the term "National" in the title and the park today remains one of eleven units in the National Park System, all in the National Capital Region, that do not have this designation.

The proximity of Catoctin Mountain Park, Camp David, and Cunningham Falls State Park, and the differences between national and State park management, has caused longstanding confusion for visitors to the area. Catoctin Mountain Park is continually misidentified by the public as containing lake and beach areas associated with Cunningham Falls State Park, being operated by the State of Maryland, or being closed to the public because of the presence of Camp David. National Park employees spend countless hours explaining, assisting and redirecting visitors to their desired destinations.

My legislation would help to address this situation and clearly identify this park as a unit of the National Park System by renaming it the Catoctin Mountain National Recreation Area. The mission and characteristics of this park, which include the preservation of significant historic resources and important natural areas in locations that provide outdoor recreation for large numbers of people, make this designation appropriate. This measure would not change access requirements or current recreational uses occurring within the park. But it would assist the visiting public in distinguishing between the many units of the State and Federal systems. It will also, in my judgment, help promote tourism by enhancing public awareness of the National Park unit.

I urge approval of this legislation.

ECONOMIC GROWTH NOW

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, today the members of the Senate are focused on Iraq. There's no task more serious than deciding whether to send our young men and women into harm's way. My position is clear: The time has come for decisive action to eliminate the threat of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction once and for all.

But as we act to defend America's interests abroad, we must also act to make America strong at home. With 8 million people out of work and millions more struggling to make ends meet, our government is falling down on the job of protecting economic security. To restore an economic environment where businesses are creating jobs and parents are earning a better living for their children, I believe we need to act, and act now. I want to explain very specifically why and how we should act. And I call on the President and my colleagues to join together immediately to take decisive action.

Nobody is a greater optimist about America's future than me. Our long-term economic outlook remains strong because our free enterprise system remains strong—our spirit of innovation, our leadership in new technologies, and of course our people's hard work and productivity.

But sound economic fundamentals and strong economic growth are not things we can take for granted. They are things we have to work for.

Like all Americans, I have hoped that our economy is on the way to a speedy recovery. While I continue to hold out hope, I do not believe that hope can stand in the way of action any longer. There is too much uncertainty and there are too many disturbing signs. Economic indicators that had started to turn up, including consumer confidence and manufacturing, have turned back down again. Many industries, particularly telecommunications, have far too much capacity, and they will continue to cut back in order to restore profitability. Job growth remains stagnant, and CEOs report that they are planning to cut jobs rather than hire. As more and more Americans worry about their prospects, the last bulwark of the economy, consumer spending, shows signs of weakening.

We should not overreact. We need to keep our faith in the fundamental strength of our economy. But we cannot turn away from the reality we face. This administration has spent months saying that recovery is just around the corner, but wishful thinking will not create jobs, pay the bills, or get the economy going again.

America is right to prepare for action against Iraq. But we ought to apply that same logic to our economy. If you look at the recent economic evidence, the risks of inaction on our economy now outweigh the risks of action. We cannot wait until thousands more people lose their jobs before taking steps to defend our economic security. We

can and should take preemptive action against this economic slump.

The President's plan is: Do nothing to promote economic growth in the short-run, and pretend that deficit-exploding tax cuts for the wealthiest will promote economic growth in the long-run. That is wrong for our economy and our security.

What our economy needs is the reverse prescription: a shot-in-the-arm in the short-term, and a tighter grip on fiscal discipline in the long-term.

Contracting the economy in this environment makes no economic sense. On the other hand, stimulating the economy while exploding the long-term deficit would be self-defeating. The loss of confidence in long-term fiscal discipline can undermine both long-term confidence and short-term progress.

With a shot-in-the-arm now and a tighter grip on fiscal discipline in the long run, we can have the best of both worlds. Right now, we can increase demand, prevent a negative or even deflationary cycle, create jobs, and get incomes growing again. In the long run, we can get back to balanced budgets and maintain the investment climate we need for prosperity.

Let me be very specific about what we should do.

On the long-run side, we have to take two major steps. Number one, we have to tackle excessive spending by restoring the budget enforcement rules that have lapsed. Congress should not go home without making sure these rules are back in place. If Congress and the administration can't agree on spending bills before the election, let us at least show the voters that we are serious about holding down spending.

Number two, we must ask our most fortunate citizens to forgo the full extent of future tax cuts. Since the President took office, a \$5.6 trillion surplus has almost entirely disappeared, and the biggest single reason was a tax cut whose full cost was over \$2 trillion. As I have said before, we need to ask Americans at the very top of the economic ladder to live with smaller tax cuts than the tax bill passed last year. If we stop cuts in the top two rates, eliminate new deductions for very high-income earners, and triple the estate tax exemption without repealing it, we can save over \$1.3 trillion in the next two decades.

This kind of fiscal discipline will have at least five advantages for our country: Number one, it will help bring us back to the strong economic fundamentals that led to growth during the 1990s. Number two, it will enable us to save for grave national security needs. Number three, it will help us save Social Security and address the coming explosion of baby boom retirements. Number four, it will reduce our dependence on foreign capital. Number five, it will allow us to confront emergencies when we need to. The fiscal surplus inherited by President Bush has helped our country to meet its challenges since September 11. Restor-

ing long-term fiscal discipline will help us meet the challenges of the future.

To meet the challenge of today, we need decisive action that satisfies two basic principles. First, we should provide an efficient and effective spur to the economy. Second, the effect must be immediate and temporary—with incentives for business investment and consumer demand that will jumpstart the economy now, and get out of the way when they are no longer needed.

We all have to admit that the stimulus package of last spring did not meet that test. In the fall, I advocated a stimulus package that would have provided greater depreciation in the near-term, then tapered off quickly. That package would have been efficient and temporary. Unfortunately, the President and his party blocked proposals like that because they supported special-interest giveaways that the independent Congressional Budget Office found to be the most ineffective on the market. While we all hoped for the best, the business incentives that eventually passed did not create the surge our country needed. In addition, the tax rebates bypassed in part or in full 50 million Americans who would have been most likely to spend the money and increase economic activity.

This time, we should do it right. Here is how.

First, and most important, we have to make sure the economic uncertainty and higher energy prices we're likely to face this winter don't hurt the economic confidence and consumer spending that have been so critical over the last year. Today, I am proposing a one-time refundable energy tax cut of \$500 per family. This tax cut will put money into the pockets of Americans who will spend it where they need it most: to pay their heating bills; make their homes more energy-efficient, and prevent higher energy prices from squeezing out other vital needs. Unlike last year's rebate, this energy tax credit will leave no American behind.

Earlier this week, this administration's own experts said that families in the Midwest will be paying 19 percent more for natural gas and 22 percent more for heating oil. Increases in the Northeast will be even higher. All the price hikes will fall particularly hard on the elderly, who have watched their life savings disappear in the stock market and have no way to make up the lost income.

Americans are prepared to sacrifice to win the war on terrorism and in Iraq. But America can win a war without leaving old people to cut back on their medicine to keep from shivering in the dark. We can protect people against rising oil prices and, at the same time, reduce our country's dependence on Middle Eastern oil. This administration approaches energy the same way it approaches the economy: doing nothing in the short-term and ignoring the big problems in the long-term. That is wrong.