

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, once again, I rise to urge the Republican leadership of this House to bring legislation to the floor which would create the expansion of the child tax credit for many, many more families in America. Last week, many of us spoke on this floor urging the Congress to act, to act for America's children, to act for America's working families. The Senate has acted; and now the main obstacle, indeed the only obstacle to those children having the benefit of the tax credit, is the Republican leadership in the House.

Today, Senator DASCHLE, the distinguished minority leader in the Senate, and I sent a letter to the President thanking him for expressing his support for expanding the child tax credit. Unfortunately, again the Republican leadership in the House is blocking consideration of this vital legislation.

The President's immediate intervention with House Republicans is required to ensure that 12 million working and military families are eligible for the child tax credit. These families need the money now, but this tax relief will not be made available to them apparently unless the President intervenes and urges the Republican House leadership to pass this extension immediately.

How can we pass a tax bill that gives nearly \$100,000 in tax cuts to people making over \$1 million a year, \$100,000 tax cut to those making \$1 million a year, and yet say to people in our country who make the minimum wage, your children are not worthy of a \$400 expansion of the tax credit?

How do we say to our men and women in uniform, whose courage and patriotism we salute on a regular basis on this floor, how can we say to them we appreciate your courage, your patriotism and the sacrifice that you are willing to make for our country, but your children are unworthy of receiving the expansion of the tax credit because your military pay is not enough to qualify you for this tax cut?

Putting money into the hands of these working and military families will help increase demand in our economy, creating jobs and stimulating the economy. There is a very practical and economic reason to do this, in addition to just a sense of decency and doing what is right for America's children.

Because of the economic benefits and the fact that it is the right thing to do, the bill passed the Senate last week 94 to 2. But this week the bill is nowhere in sight.

We want this freestanding bill to come to the House of Representatives. We want the House Republicans to stop their opposition to this tax relief for America's children. We want them to stop refusing to bring it to the floor of the House.

Asking millions of working families who need the tax credit to help make ends meet in this stagnant economy, to sacrifice in order to pay for additional tax breaks for those who need it least

is simply not right. Approximately 250,000 children of our men and women in uniform are being deprived of the expansion of this \$400 tax credit in order to pay for a tax cut for millionaires in our country. I do not think it is an appropriate way to go.

Who is looking after the children in our country? Clearly it is the Democrats.

LOWERING THE COST OF PHARMACEUTICAL DRUGS FOR AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) to join me in this small 5-minute Special Order. He just read part of an article in The Washington Post about pharmaceutical products that are manufactured in part with taxpayers money, where the pharmaceutical industry is making billions and billions of dollars while the taxpayer is getting virtually nothing back in return. The American people are paying exorbitant prices for these pharmaceutical products as compared to the rest of the world.

When these products are imported by Americans when they go up to Canada and buy these products, either through the Internet or go to Canada, when they bring them home to use them because they cost one-tenth, one-fifth, or one-half of what they would cost in the United States, the Food and Drug Administration, our regulatory body, says there is a question of safety; and they actually try to block or stop the reimportation of these pharmaceutical products, where the research is paid for in large part by the taxpayers of this country.

So I would like to ask the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT), maybe he can enlighten me on this subject. Why is it that the Food and Drug Administration is not investigating why the pharmaceutical industry is manufacturing these products with taxpayers' money, or conducting the research with taxpayers' money, making these exorbitant profits, and the money that is given back to the taxpayer in royalties in this country is very nominal, almost nothing, compared to the \$9 billion the gentleman cited? Why is it the FDA is not investigating this, instead of stopping the American people from getting these pharmaceutical products at a reasonable price?

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, I cannot answer that question; but I think it is the question that we in Congress should try to get the answer to.

Why is it that the FDA is investigating little old ladies trying to save money on Tamoxifen? I spoke recently to the Pharmacists Association, and I asked them, how many of you have had

this experience, where an elderly person comes into your pharmacy, hands you a prescription. You tell them how much this prescription is going to cost, and their head drops, and they go, oh, well, I will come back tomorrow. Because we know from research done by the Kaiser Foundation, 29 percent of seniors in America are saying that they have prescriptions that go unfilled because they cannot afford them.

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And the answer is, the FDA is not investigating companies that make \$9 billion off of Federal taxpayer research; no, they are not investigating them, they are investigating little old ladies, treating them as common criminals.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Yes. And the question that comes up is why they are not doing that. They are supposed to protect the American consumer and they are supposed to make sure the American consumer gets a fair deal, and it is simply not happening.

I would like to just read from what the gentleman read, real quickly. Squid made \$9 billion from Taxol, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and it has been used to treat 1 million cancer patients, but the National Institutes of Health got only \$35 million back in royalties. Squibb made \$9 million and they only gave \$35 million back for the research money that was paid for by the taxpayer. And then down at the bottom it says the GAO, the investigative arm of Congress, said NIH spent another \$484 million in research on Taxol through 2002. So the taxpayers paid for all of this research, but Squibb is making all the money and the taxpayer is getting nothing for it, except a shot in the jaw when they try to buy this product from another country where they can get it cheaper. It makes no sense to me.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. It makes no sense to me. It is really time for us as Members of Congress to do something about it.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to join the gentleman and some of our other colleagues, a growing number of our colleagues, in demanding that the GAO do an entire study of this to find out why the American people are being ripped off by the pharmaceutical companies when, in large part, the taxpayer is paying for that research. It makes no sense to me. And why is the FDA, why is the FDA protecting the pharmaceutical industry? It is something that should not be tolerated.

Any other comments from my colleague?

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Well, the FDA is also responsible for all of the fruits and vegetables coming into the country. The issue they raise is safety, yet we import 318,000 tons of plantains that come into our borders, through our borders every year, and we do almost no investigation. We are much more likely to get sick from fruits and vegetables than we are from legal prescription drugs from FDA-approved facilities around the world.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. In fact, we found zero on the importation from Canada, we found zero problems with the reimportation, and yet they say it is the safety they are concerned about. It does not make any sense.

I thank the gentleman for all of his hard work.

HOUSE LEADERSHIP NEEDS TO GET THE MESSAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago, when the Republicans in the House and the Senate were getting together to decide the final version of the tax bill, under the direction of Vice President CHENEY, they made a very bad decision. They made a decision that families with children who earn between \$10,000 and \$26,000, a year who currently get a portion of the child tax credit, would not get the increase that this bill provides for families with children, a \$400 increase for many, many Americans per child that they will get checks this July. For whatever reasons, and we think we know why, because they used that money to provide additional tax cuts to the wealthiest people in this country; had they given this tax cut to these families between \$10,000 and \$26,000 a year, to those 12 million children, people like Mr. CHENEY, instead of getting \$93,000, would have gotten \$88,000. But they chose instead to take \$93,000 and these children did not get the tax credit.

This tax credit is terribly important to these families. What the Republicans fail to understand is that many of these families are people who the Republicans accused of being on welfare, they have accused them of not participating, but these families get up and go to work every day, and they work in difficult jobs, and they work in jobs that not a lot of people want to have. And at the end of the year, they end up basically poor. So one of the things this government did a number years ago was create the child tax credit. And a number of things we did in the last administration was to make it refundable so that we can make sure that those people would continue to have an incentive to stay in the work force.

Now, if the Republicans do not like the child tax credit, one of the things they could do is they could increase the minimum wage. They could make it easier for these families to earn more money. They would get less tax credit. But the Republicans do not want to increase the minimum wage. They do not want to provide those children health care. They do not want to provide them a tax credit, and yet, somehow, these people, they are not deserving of this effort.

It was a horrible decision they made. But now we see as that decision has

come to light, as the bright light of public awareness is focused on that, last week we saw the Senate, when they realized how upset the country was, how unfair people felt this was, the sense of economic injustice that reigned in the country, that these people would not be taken care of in a tax bill that is going to spend \$350 billion, they could not take care of these people for \$3 billion. The Senate, on a bipartisan basis, voted overwhelmingly to correct this injustice. They passed a bill in the last days of last week to send over to the House to correct this and to give these individuals the tax credit that they should have for their children, for these families who are working very hard, and even to extend it to some individuals in higher incomes.

But yet, what do we see the reaction of the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives, is that they are not going to do this bill. They want to hold these children, they want to hold these families hostage for some other tax cut that they can give to people who may be far less deserving than these children and these families. But they want to hold it hostage so that they can unite it with something they were talking about last week in terms of a \$100 billion bill or more.

These children and these families are entitled to get those checks in July just like every other family in America. It is important to our economy, it is important to the recovery of our economy, and it is important to the wherewithal of these families as they struggle to hold themselves together at low wages.

So the Republicans in the House and their leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority leader who has said he does not want to do this, that he was not going to take the bill, they must relent. They must relent for the benefit of these families and for the benefit of our economy.

Today, the President of the United States said he likes the Senate bill. He wants to work to see it passed. The President of the United States got the message. The Senate got the message. The Senate Republicans got the message, the Senate Democrats pushed for it, and were successful. And now what do we see? That it is the House Republicans that somehow cannot get the message that this is a matter of fairness, it is a matter of equity; that these people have played by the rules and they ought to be treated like every other American family with children. The time has come for the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), to step aside and let this bill be passed this week so these families can get their checks in July to help them with this economy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MILLER of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HOUSE REPUBLICANS SHOULD FOLLOW SENATE LEAD AND PASS CHILD TAX CREDIT LEGISLATION FOR WORKING FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I am coming to the House floor this evening to urge the Republican leadership to follow the Senate's lead and immediately approve the legislation that will provide a child tax credit to 12 million children, the children Republicans left out of their tax bill last month.

Included amongst these 12 million children are the children of U.S. military families. A report out last week showed nearly 1 in 5 children of active duty U.S. military families will not benefit from the increased tax credit because their parents earn too little to qualify.

Now, last week, Madam Speaker, Senate Republicans worked with Democrats to expand the child tax credit to the 12 million children they initially left out. And talk about a tale of two Chambers. While Senate Republicans were negotiating with Democrats to craft the bipartisan compromise, Republican leaders here in the House showed nothing but ambivalence towards the terribly unfair treatment of these working families. Madam Speaker, this House should follow the Senate's lead and immediately approve legislation extending the child tax credit to working families.

I hope that my Republican colleagues will follow the lead of their colleagues in the Senate and not their own leadership here in the House. Just last week, the House majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), and many of us have mentioned it, said he would not bring up a legislative remedy to this injustice, and he justified this inaction by saying, "There are a lot of other things that are more important than that." Well, I do not agree with him, and I have to say I hope that Republicans in the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY's) own party recognize the injustice.

Last week, conservative syndicated columnist Arianna Huffington said in the Los Angeles Times: "A magnetic compass always points north; a moral compass should always point out that heaping billions on the rich while ensuring that 1 out of 6 American children do not get a penny is dead wrong."