

not been responsive to these changes. The Balancing Act brings public policy out of the Ozzie and Harriet era and into line with the realities and pressures of modern life.

Specifically, the Balancing Act will provide paid family leave after the birth or adoption of a baby or young child; make major investments in child care, training and benefits for providers, construction and renovation of facilities, and expanded child care for infants and disabled children.

It will establish voluntary, universal preschool. It will expand the school breakfast program and provide dinners for children in afterschool programs whose parents are working late and make part-time employees eligible for job benefits while encouraging businesses to let more employees telecommute.

The Bush administration could not be more hostile to families trying to perform the balancing act. Their tax cuts benefit wealthy Americans, whose lives are already balanced. They think we can afford to rebuild the Iraqi society, but we have to cut vocational education and family literacy right here at home. They even think we can afford a manned mission to Mars, but for life back here on earth, we have to lop \$408 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The administration does, however, want to help the poor acquire interpersonal skills so that they can promote and strengthen marriage, at a mere cost of \$1.5 billion. But, Mr. Speaker, the people I talk to do not want the government to be their family therapist. They want a government that helps create good jobs, flexible workplaces, universal health insurance, affordable child care and safe after-school programs.

No amount of counseling, Mr. Speaker, would have saved my marriage to a man who left me alone and destitute with three young children to raise. I was 29 years old. What I needed at that desperate moment in my life was not right wing moralizing but a compassionate safety net, the very social safety net conservatives seem determined to tear down. Although I had a job, I needed public assistance to provide my family with food, health insurance and child care. Only truly compassionate government policies helped me turn my life around.

If one is a Republican, however, pro-family means that heterosexual marriage is so indispensable that we must spend \$1.5 billion to promote it, but gay and lesbian marriage is so devalued that we ought to consider writing discrimination into our Constitution to prevent it.

The Balancing Act offers a real pro-family agenda for all families. It addresses the issues families struggle with at the kitchen table, not the things they do in their bedrooms.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting my legislation.

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OUTSOURCING AMERICAN JOBS IS BAD FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, when President Bush campaigned for his election in 2000, he was very persuasive, and he is a very persuasive President, and he persuaded the American people that he was a compassionate conservative and most of us thought he would be. Then he used his persuasion techniques to convince the American people that Saddam Hussein, a bum dictator in the Middle East who was busy writing novels, not worried about weapons of mass destruction, was an imminent threat to the United States of America.

But today, Mr. Speaker, the President is trying to use his persuasion techniques on an issue that will be very difficult. President Bush is now saying that outsourcing United States jobs is good for the United States of America. This takes the cake. Many of these articles have been cited here tonight: L.A. Times, "Bush Supports Shift in Jobs Overseas"; Seattle Times, "Sending Jobs Overseas Helps the United States"; Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 1 hour from my district in Youngstown, Ohio, "Bush Economic Report Praises Outsourcing Jobs"; Orlando Sentinel, "Bush Says Sending Jobs Abroad Can Be Beneficial."

Mr. Speaker, give me a break. This President said in his State of the Union address, "Much of our job growth will be found in high-skilled fields like health care." President Bush's economic adviser said, "We will outsource jobs to lower-wage countries as a way to help control the upward spiral of health care costs in the United States of America."

How can we believe for one second that losing United States jobs, losing high-wage, high-paying manufacturing jobs, medical jobs, science jobs in the United States of America is somehow good for this country?

Mr. Speaker, I ask the President to please be straight with the American people. In Ohio, we have an unemployment rate of almost 6 percent; 264,000 jobs have been lost in the State of Ohio. On Labor Day, the President came to Ohio. He passed up Youngstown and he passed up Toledo and he passed up Steubenville and Akron, and he passed up Lima, and he went to Richfield, one of the wealthiest suburbs in Ohio for Labor Day. He passed up all of the cities that have seen manufacturing erode and all of the manufacturing jobs shipped overseas, and now he is trying to convince us that losing all of these jobs is good.

Mr. President, look in the eyes, as I have to do every weekend when I go home, and as many Members of Congress have to do when they go home, look in the eyes of these workers and

tell them that their losing their job is somehow good for the United States, them losing their job is somehow patriotic.

When we talked about all of these free trade agreements, and I remember hearing it during NAFTA and the debates during the 1990s, and now the President wants to pass the Central American Free Trade Agreement all the way down to South America, the promise always was that we were going to invest money into education, we were going to invest into the American people. As we have to compete globally, we have to invest. And now we have a President who has done nothing on Pell grants, nothing on No Child Left Behind, underfunded by billions of dollars, putting more regulations on our young people and our teachers, school boards and superintendents, not making the proper investment. Mr. President, be straight with the American people.

We cannot believe, and we will not believe, and I look forward to the President and this administration trying to convince the American people that losing jobs in the United States of America is good. This is going to be a great election year where we have one candidate saying that outsourcing of United States jobs is a good thing, and another candidate that is saying outsourcing of American jobs is a bad thing.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to make a big claim here tonight. I am going to say that I believe the American people will side with the candidate that says keeping jobs here in the United States is what is best for America.

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

(Mr. STRICKLAND 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 Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

HISPANICS ARE LOSING UNDER RECENT POLICIES ANNOUNCED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight very concerned with the state of America under the Bush Administration. On the issues of immigration, education and the budget, this President has failed to live up to his promises. Too many Americans have been left out of the prosperity that this President pledged to them, and his only reaction to past

failed initiatives is to introduce a new series of irresponsible policies. This President has lost all credibility on his agenda; it is clear that his vision is one that is not in line with those of average Americans.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Despite an egregious history of failed temporary foreign worker programs in the United States that have hurt immigrant and domestic workers alike, the President proposes a new, vastly enlarged temporary worker program that will do nothing to strengthen protections for wages, benefits and other rights of immigrant and domestic workers. The President's plan would formalize an even larger class of workers accorded only second tier status in American workplaces and will exacerbate the decline in job quality and job security for all workers.

The Bush approach may just create a quasi-permanent class of second-class citizens in the form of temporary workers whose status is tied to their employer. If they quit their jobs, they lose their status. We need an assurance that they can maintain their status under new employment.

Reforms to provide legal status to the millions of hardworking, undocumented workers living in this country must be comprehensive and fair. They cannot and should not be designed primarily to provide a steady stream of vulnerable workers for American companies. Instead, immigration reform must provide a certain path to legalization for workers from around the world who are already living and working in the United States; repeal and replace employer sanctions with stiffer penalties for employers who take advantage of workers' immigration status to exploit them and undermine labor protections for all workers; reform, not expand, temporary worker programs; and reform the permanent immigration system so that those who play by the rules are not penalized by unconscionably long waiting periods.

The Bush plan does not provide a path for permanent residency for the undocumented workers presently in the United States or the new ones who will enter the U.S. to participate in the program. They will work in temporary status and then be expected to leave the country.

The Bush proposal leaves it up to Congress to solve the problem of backlogs in benefits applications. The Department of Homeland Security has a backlog of more than 6 million benefits applications. The Bush proposal easily could double that number. How will the new temporary worker program be implemented if the applications can't be processed?

Many people are enduring hardships and inequities on account of IIRIRA, the republican immigration reform bill of 1996. Immigration reform must address these problems too. The Bush bill does nothing to deal with these problems.

The Bush plan does not address the needs of young, undocumented students who have lived most of their lives in the United States. Under current law, they cannot get State resident status for college, and any employment they take to support themselves would be considered unlawful.

Immigrant advocates have long held that the current admissions system does not work for immigrants, their families, their employers, or American workers. A comprehensive solution has three main components: permanent legal status for undocumented immigrants already

here, a "break the mold" work visa program for future migrants, and updating the family preference system so that close family members do not face decades-long separation from relatives in the U.S. The Bush plan does none of these things.

I encourage Bush to consider advocating several balanced legislative approaches to immigration reform that are awaiting action by the Republican leadership. These bills include the Dream (Student Adjustment) Act (H.R. 1684); the "Agricultural Jobs Opportunity, Benefits, and Security Act of 2003" (H.R. 3142); and the Restoration of Fairness in Immigration Act of 2003 (H.R. 47). These bills are the result of extensive cooperation with advocacy groups from varying viewpoints and members from both sides of the aisle.

EDUCATION (NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND)

Education Department figures report that over 7.9 million Hispanic children are currently of school age. The Hispanic community is the youngest and fastest growing segment of America, and the number of Hispanic school age children is expected to increase by 60 percent over the next 20 years. The number of black school-aged children is expected to rise by 3 percent over the next 20 years. By 2100, about 64 percent of children are expected to be from minority groups.

Education is a top-tier priority for the Members of the CHC, with funding priorities outlined in The Hispanic Education Action Plan (HEAP). HEAP encompasses programs such as bilingual education; migrant education; Migrant and Seasonal Head Start; English as a Second Language (ESL) programs for middle and high school students; aid for Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) and the national dropout prevention program. The majority of HEAP programs did not receive additional funding from the previous year and the Nation's dropout prevention program budget was sliced from \$5 million to zero, eliminating the program.

Despite stressing the importance of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) during the State of the Union Address, the President underfunds the program by \$9.4 billion, leaving many local school districts and students without necessary funding for educational success.

Budget analysis shows that educational programs designed to improve Hispanic and low-income students' performance received no additional funding despite an increased need for these programs.

The Bush budget also freezes the maximum Pell Grant at \$4,050, enough to cover just 34 percent of the average annual cost of college, despite the nationwide rise in college tuition. Many Hispanics, including those in my district in Texas, rely on these Federal funds to pay for college; these caps will create yet another roadblock in the Hispanic community's access to higher education.

President Bush shortchanges education for the third year in a row with historically low Federal investment. President Bush provides a meager 3 percent increase (\$1.7 billion) in education funding over last year, despite rising enrollments and a shortage of resources to meet our education needs. President Bush also eliminates dozens of key programs, reducing the Federal investment in education by \$1.4 billion.

President Bush denies critical services to millions of disadvantaged children. President

Bush shortchanges his own No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) by \$9.4 billion—including \$7.2 billion for Title I. The President breaks his promise to provide \$20.5 billion for Title I under NCLB. His Budget will deny nearly 5 million disadvantaged children critical education services, such as extra help to become proficient in reading and math.

President Bush freezes or cuts college aid, forces taxes on students, and fails to stop tuition hikes. Not only does the President fail to address the rising college tuition, but he also makes college even more expensive by freezing or cutting student aid and taxing students.

President Bush jeopardizes aid to children of military families. The Bush budget freezes all Impact Aid funding at the fiscal year 2004 level, jeopardizing programs and services for children of military families.

President Bush breaks his NCLB promise on afterschool programs. The Bush budget freezes funding for afterschool programs. As a result, nearly 1.3 million children will be shut out of afterschool programs.

President Bush adds new money for private school vouchers while shortchanging students at public schools. The Bush budget proposes \$50 million in private school vouchers. At a time when our public schools are trying to meet the challenges of NCLB, the Administration is diverting resources away from public school students and local efforts to improve public schools.

President Bush makes certain that full funding of special education will never happen. The Bush budget proposes a \$1 billion increase for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This marks the 4th year in a row President Bush has proposed this exact level of increase, placing disabled students at an even greater disadvantage. At this rate of increase, we will never reach full funding of IDEA.

President Bush cuts \$316 million from vocational education and community colleges—again. The Bush Budget would cut \$316 million, or nearly 25 percent, from vocational education. On top of this, President Bush has cut more than \$1.5 billion out of job training and vocational education programs since he took office. In addition, the budget proposes to turn this program into a block grant to States, eliminating accountability and targeting of resources to disadvantaged students and programs.

FISCAL YEAR 2005 NATIONAL BUDGET

I am once again disappointed with this Administration's efforts to truly represent the values of average Americans. President Bush's latest effort in the form of his 2005 national budget continues his irresponsible economic policies that have resulted in so many Americans suffering. This Administration has a credibility crisis. President Bush has said his tax cuts would act as a stimulus for our flagging economy and create jobs; this clearly has not happened. Instead of adopting more inclusive policies this President has decided to give even more tax cuts to benefit the wealthy. This Administration has misplaced priorities that are leaving average working Americans in a bind.

DEFICIT

The most disturbing aspect of President Bush's flawed budget proposal is the soaring deficits that will result from his policies. This administration has tried to say that deficits don't matter; we know that that is simply not

true. History has proven that chronic deficits threaten our economic strength by crowding out private investment, driving up interest rates, and slowing economic growth. Indeed foreign investment in the United States has dried up because foreign investors have no confidence in the Bush economic agenda. This Administration's irresponsible budget policies have turned a surplus into a large deficit that is choking off growth in the American economy.

President Bush likes to say his budget is geared towards tax cuts for all Americans. When in fact the average American won't receive a substantial tax cut, but will instead be hit with a tax hike in the form of an ever-growing deficit. A large deficit means taxpayers have to shoulder the costs of paying the interest on this new national debt. The end result will be a debt tax on the great majority of Americans. This will be a tax on lower and middle class Americans; it will be tax on our heroic war veterans; it will be a tax on the elderly and, most unfortunately, it will be a tax on our children. The truly sad part of the President's budget is that, while it is bad for America today, it is even worse for future generations of American taxpayers.

TAX CUTS

I want to highlight some of the most egregious examples of this Administration's misplaced priorities. President Bush believes we can spend tens of billions of dollars a year to provide \$66,000 tax cuts to the top 1 percent of tax payers, but he does not feel we can afford many vital programs, some of which are even tied to our national security.

Perhaps the most blatant example of this Administration's irresponsibility is the fact that the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) budget was actually cut. At a time when our national security is under such great scrutiny, I cannot think of too many agencies that face greater pressure than the FAA to keep our Nation safe. How can this President spend so much time and effort stressing the importance of homeland security and then cut the budget of the agency on the front line of stopping terrorists from attacking our Nation? The irresponsibility does not stop there; the President's budget fails to provide the U.S. Postal Office with \$779 million needed for bioterrorism technology that guards against anthrax-like attacks. After the Ricin incident in the Senate Office Buildings a week ago, how can anyone in this body in good conscious approve a budget that does not address our vulnerability for bioterrorism attacks through the mail? This is where President Bush lacks credibility; he has taken drastic, and some would say unconstitutional, measures in the name of national security, but now when it comes to fully funding our most sensitive security concerns he decides it is more important to appease the richest 1 percent of Americans with irresponsible tax cuts.

Unfortunately the misplaced priorities do not stop with out national security. I point again to the "No Child Left Behind" initiative that has been left underfunded by \$9.5 billion—a full 27 percent less than Congress authorized. In addition, funding for America's veterans will be cut by \$13.5 billion over the next five years. It's truly sad how this President not only doesn't fully fund sensitive security issues, but is also cutting funding to two of our most sensitive constituencies: Our children who are our future and our veterans who in the past have

sacrificed so much so that we may live freely. Instead of supporting those constituencies, this President believes that the richest 1 percent of Americans deserve yet another tax cut. These misplaced priorities are evident throughout the President's budget and demonstrate a fundamental lack of understanding about the needs of the average American.

President Bush's budget is threatening to so many deserving American interests. We have seen how this budget continues his failed policies and in fact this budget will further the damage that this President has already done. Because of President Bush's insistence on making the tax cuts permanent, many central programs will be cut. This President will have no problem cutting Medicare to our seniors. It is also clear that this Administration's goal is to privatize Social Security. These policies will deeply affect my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas. So many of my constituents in Houston rely on these programs, and this President has decided to take advantage of the trust they had placed in him to protect their interests. The more I go through this budget the more I realize it's bad for my constituents in Houston, it is bad for the people of Texas, and we cannot allow ourselves to stand idly by while this President continues an irresponsible agenda that's just simply wrong for America.

JOB LOSS

President Bush has been one of the worst Presidents ever to take office when it comes to job creation. Simply put, our economy can never truly be considered successful until Americans who want jobs can find jobs. This is simply not the situation that the average American faces today. Under the Clinton Administration job growth continually improved. In contrast, under the Bush Administration the rate of unemployment has soared. In his State of the Union Address the President stated that jobs are on the rise; unfortunately the rise in employment he spoke of amounted to 1,000 jobs created in the month of December. At that rate of job growth, it will take 192 years and 8 months for the economy to return to the number of jobs at the beginning of President Bush's term of office. We are 8.4 million jobs behind where we are supposed to be at this point. That is a staggering number and it should be unacceptable to every Member of this body. The Bush Administration assured the American people that tax cuts would result in job growth. The American people are still waiting to see this growth; too many of them are waiting unemployed and fearing for their prosperity. This Administration has argued that deficits do not matter and that job growth is not an economic priority. I can't think of too many Americans who would agree with that assessment. This President is not in touch with the needs and aspirations of the American people. This budget continues to reflect his irresponsible agenda based on a few special interests.

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

It's unfortunate that this Administration does not understand the necessity of proper planning and vision. It has become painfully obvious to many of us in this body that this President did not have a plan to deal with post-war Iraq and Afghanistan. That point is exacerbated by the fact that in this entire budget there is no funding included for the 2005 costs of ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is truly irresponsible; our brave

fighting men and women are risking their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan and this President cannot even provide figures for the costs that these military operations will incur. Does this President want us to believe that the costs for this War on Terror have disappeared? Or is he telling us that he plans to pull our troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan? Once again, this President's irresponsible agenda is being exposed; he does not have the credibility for us to allow yet another flawed budget to pass this body.

NASA

I was there a few weeks ago at the White House when President Bush announced his new NASA initiative to return America to the moon and eventually manned missions to Mars. The funding for NASA has been increased in this budget, but it only begins to pay for future exploration efforts; a detailed plan on how the President plans to achieve his NASA initiatives is still needed. I believe the President when he says he has the aspiration to get America back to the moon, it's just unfortunate that he does not have the proper planning to do so. His actions in Iraq and Afghanistan leave him no credibility in this body to believe that he can achieve his ambitious agenda. This entire budget in fact is riddled with false promises and underfunded ambitions.

This President has consistently asked for patience from this body and from the American people to allow time for his policies to start showing progress; unfortunately time has run out. Too many Americans are suffering and it is clear that President Bush's vision for America is not one that coincides with that of the average American. I hope we will continue to stress the danger of this budget; together we will be the ones to push the true interests of our constituents, to push for a real vision of America.

REFORMING IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I am here this evening to highlight one of the most important issues facing this country and this Congress: how to make our immigration system work for us, not against us.

First of all, I think it is a positive sign that President Bush has put forward his proposal to get this debate started again. I wish he was as concerned for employees in this country as he is for employers. But whatever his motivation, his involvement does put pressure on his Republican colleagues in Congress to at least consider taking action to address our failed immigration system.

The Democrats have also put forward their immigration reform principles outlining the changes necessary to shape immigration policy in this country. The Democratic plan is much more comprehensive, compassionate, and concrete. Our principles put a face to the immigrant who is trying to build a better life for himself and his family while making a better America for all