

agree with K Street Republicans, who do not agree with Wall Street Republicans; but they are hopelessly out of touch with the street where most Americans live.

The Republican Congress seeks to mask their fiscal irresponsibility with cuts for millions of poor, the sick, for students and their families, literally taking food from the mouths of poor children to pay for more tax cuts for people who need them the least.

There is much talk of scandal here in Washington D.C., but to have a proposal offered up that would actually increase the deficit more than if they just gave up and went home is a scandal. It is a scandal how tragically out of touch my Republican colleagues are from the needs and desires of the average American.

HONORING VETERANS

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to honor the sacrifices of their local veterans by cosponsoring H.R. 1951, which would mint a coin for America's disabled veterans. The proceeds would be used for a Disabled Veterans Memorial on the National Mall. The Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart all support our bill for a first-of-its-kind tribute to America's disabled veterans.

This Congress needs to remember the sacrifices of veterans not only on Veterans Day, but throughout the year. For that purpose, we also must pass the SAVE U.S. VETS Act to restore the equitable VA funding to veterans health care facilities in the Northeast. The VERA formula is unfair and ineffective. A GAO study found that through 2002, VERA misallocated nearly \$1 billion in funds that should have gone to the Northeast veterans hospitals like Montrose and Castle Point in New York's Hudson Valley.

New York veterans served our country in areas throughout the world. They should not be punished now for living in the northeast area of our country that is being neglected by bad funding through the VERA formula. VA funds must reach these areas where veterans' needs are the greatest. The health care needs of all northeast veterans must be met, as they count on us to protect them with the same loyalty with which they protected our country.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET DOES NOT REFLECT AMERICA'S PRIORITIES

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, tomorrow the House is planning to vote on America's future. The budget vote will decide who wins, who loses. The Republican budget does not reflect

America's priorities. Where else would you protect corporate welfare like \$16.5 billion in handouts, taxpayer handouts to oil and gas companies, and all the while throwing America's children over the side. A Republican Congress, of course.

Where else would you cut \$9.5 billion from children's health care affecting 6 million children, while helping protect big oil and gas companies. Where else would you cut 330,000 children from child care assistance while protecting big HMOs. Where else would you cut 40,000 children from nutrition programs while protecting America's polluters. Where else would you cut \$14.3 billion in student college aid, the single largest cut in the history of the student aid program. A Republican Congress, but of course.

These are not the right priorities for America. They are not America's priorities for its future. Madam Speaker, we should cut spending, but we should not jeopardize our future by cutting programs for our children. It is time we made a change. It is time that we choose our priorities. We can do better, not protecting Big Oil at the expense of taking America's children and throwing them over the side.

RESTRICTIONS ON PARENTING

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the out-of-touch notorious Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has struck again. They have created their own version of restrictions on parenting. These wayward judges rule that parents do not have a constitutional right to prevent a public school from teaching students whatever it wishes, including sexual information.

Instead, they say that the State has ultimate power over the education of our children. This ruling stems from a case filed by parents whose children, ages 7 through 10, were given a survey that asks questions pertaining to sex that are even too expressive to repeat on this House floor.

According to the education police judges, when parents decide to send their child to a public school, the parents lose authority and control over what the child is taught. The State decides.

This ruling violates the Constitution. The Supreme Court long ago ruled that parents do have the fundamental right to make decisions about the care, custody, education, and control of their children. This is just another example of elite judges trying to replace parents with bureaucrats. Out-of-control judges are taking away property rights, our pledge rights, and now they are after our parenting rights. This ought not to be.

STATE OF THE UNION

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, for the first time in about 50 years, the Republicans control the White House, the House, and the Senate. So let us look at the real state of the union and what they have given us:

\$8 trillion in debt. In fact, this Nation is borrowing \$907 million a day, \$188 million a day going to Iraq, \$33 million a day going to Afghanistan. In fact, this President and this Republican Congress have borrowed more money from foreigners in the past 5 years than the previous 42 Presidents combined. And all this before the hurricane season. Now they are proposing in tomorrow's budget reconciliation cutting Medicaid \$12 billion, cutting food stamps and farm programs \$3.7 billion, cutting student loans \$14.3 billion. And for what? To pay for another \$70 billion in tax cuts for those earning over \$400,000 a year.

Madam Speaker, these are not my priorities. These are not America's priorities. These are not the kinds of conservative, small-town values that I was raised on and still believe in.

RENEWABLE DOMESTIC FUELS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, in July of this year, the President signed into law the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which enacted the first-ever renewable fuel standard in order for a portion of our Nation's fuel supply to be provided by renewable domestic fuels like ethanol from corn and biodiesel made from soybeans. This provision is an example of public policy that is moving in the right direction. For example, E-85, a blend of 85 percent ethanol fuel, is becoming more and more available in the Midwest and it costs less at the pump. Just this week in my southern Illinois district, E-85 was on average 22 cents cheaper than regular gasoline at the pump. In some cases, E-85 stayed below \$2 per gallon.

The expanded use of renewable fuels like E-85 helps stretch domestic oil supply and decrease our reliance on foreign imports of oil. As we all know, no crude oil refineries have been built in the United States since 1976. During that time, close to 100 ethanol refineries have been built. It is my hope that this growth continues to happen. Renewable fuels are an environmentally friendly, domestic alternative fuel source that we can utilize to increase U.S. supply and decrease our reliance on foreign imports of oil.

CUTS TO STUDENT AID

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, when I was

elected to Congress, I never thought I would be asked to participate in crushing the dreams of American children. But that is exactly what the House majority is asking me to do. The House budget reconciliation bill includes \$14.3 billion in overall cuts to Federal student aid programs over the next 5 years. This cut will be the single largest cut in the entire history of the student aid program. I thought the majority did not want to leave any child behind. But obviously what this cut means is they do not want to leave you behind, until you want to go to college.

I know firsthand the importance of student aid. I would not be standing on the floor of this House if it were not for student aid programs. These loans made my education dreams a reality. I am the only member of the California congressional delegation still paying off her student loans. Each month I proudly write that check because I know the best investment I and my seven brothers and sisters could have made was our investment in our own education.

Can you imagine where we will be in 20 years when we lack the professionals that we need in this country? Make no mistake, these proposed cuts to student aid programs will negatively impact the future of our workforce and our economy.

THE MAINSTREAM

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, some liberals opposed to the nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court claim that Judge Alito is "outside the mainstream" because he supported the spousal notice provision of the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act. Mind you, this was not paternal notice; it was spousal notice. This was not spousal consent. It was spousal notice. Polling showed nearly 75 percent of the Americans support this provision.

So what is the mainstream in America today? In 2004, 13 States included on their ballot a constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union between a man and a woman. All 13 States passed the measure by wide margins. Today, it is up to 19 States. The polls overwhelmingly support this definition.

A Zogby poll showed 77 percent of Americans support a law requiring a pregnant woman be given information about fetal pain prior to an abortion. Other polls show nearly 90 percent support including the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. A 2005 Gallup poll shows 75 percent of Americans think that State government entities should be allowed to display the 10 Commandments.

Let us not allow liberal interest groups to arbitrarily define the mainstream for us.

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BUDGET RECONCILIATION

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, tomorrow the leadership of this House will bring up a budget reconciliation bill which makes cuts to Medicaid, food stamp programs for children, student loan aid programs that will force thousands of college students to leave school and prevent thousands more from even beginning higher education at the community college or university of their choice.

At a time when we are importing scientists, engineers, doctors, nurses and other highly trained workers to keep our economy running, this House is going to siphon off student aid dollars to provide \$70 billion of tax cuts for the rich. According to the Congressional Budget Office, there will be nearly \$8 billion in new charges to students and families that will raise the cost of their college loans at a time when the cost of higher education is rising much faster than the rate of inflation.

This reconciliation bill is not about controlling runaway Federal spending. It is about destroying our future for the short-term benefit of a privileged few. I urge my colleagues to oppose this shortsighted budget reconciliation bill.

MEDICAID

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, in the midst of our effort to rein in Federal spending, you have Members of this body and special interest groups telling the American people that we are slashing Medicaid. They are saying that our Deficit Reduction Act will actually cut Medicaid.

Madam Speaker, our plan does not cut. Since when does slowing the growth, and tremendous growth at that, from 7.3 percent to 7 percent a year constitute a cut? The left needs to stop playing games. If they want us to keep spending and spending until there is nothing left, until we cannot spend any more, then they need to be honest about it and they need to say that. But don't call a 0.3 percent reduction in growth a cut. It is dishonest and our constituents deserve better.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

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

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I stand united with my fellow Blue Dogs in protest of this reckless budget vote that we will be taking this week. I have said time and time again that our budget is a moral document and it is about our priorities and values as a nation.

Let us be clear about this budget reconciliation and what it will do for America.

It will pay for tax cuts for the rich on the backs of our Nation's poorest, including low-income seniors who receive help from Medicaid.

It abandons rural America by proposing \$1 billion in cuts to ag commodity programs.

It takes aim at valuable research and conservation programs that will help farmers to stay on the land.

And in a time when everyone is concerned about rising energy prices, this bill cuts funds for renewable energy programs. Yet none of these savings will go towards balancing the budget.

Together we can do better. We need to return to responsible budget principles that include pay-as-you-go spending. We need a balanced budget amendment. And we need a Federal budget that is honest with the American people.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this budget reconciliation.

PRESERVING OUR SYSTEM OF JUSTICE

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, last March Atlanta experienced one of the worst instances of courthouse violence on record. A defendant overpowered a courthouse security guard, grabbed her weapon and shot a judge dead in his own courtroom. The defendant then escaped, setting off a massive manhunt until he was captured a short while later.

Incidents of courthouse violence are spreading. Chicago, Illinois, and Tyler, Texas, have also experienced vicious crimes against our judicial system. Many States are working to prevent this from happening again by improving courthouse security. This is a step in the right direction. But we must do more to protect judges, attorneys, jurors, and other courthouse employees from ever having to confront this kind of danger. We must not allow criminals to compromise our judicial system.

Today we have an opportunity to act to strengthen penalties against those who commit courthouse violence and protect Federal judiciary employees from falling prey to criminals attacking their personal finances.

Madam Speaker, the Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act is before us today, and I urge my colleagues to support this important initiative to preserve and protect our system of justice.

CRUEL REPUBLICAN MEDICAID CUTS AND MISGUIDED PRIORITIES—AMERICA CAN DO BETTER

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

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, tomorrow House Republicans will show