

impact the families of veterans. \$14.3 billion in student loan cuts will impact the children of veterans. And those National Guard and Reservists who came home after battling in Iraq to Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, and Louisiana will find that \$7 billion has been cut from the most vulnerable, and their homes that have been destroyed will be impacted by this budget because there will be no money at the end to be able to provide for the restoration of their lives.

This budget reconciliation legislation will not honor our veterans. We honor them tomorrow. Why do we not honor them today? We can do better.

□ 1015

HONORING AMERICA'S VETERANS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as the son of a World War II veteran, as a 31-year veteran of military service and the father of three sons serving today in the military, Veterans Day is particularly meaningful to my family. America exists today only because of the courage of the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States military. Generations of American soldiers have turned impossible challenges into incredible victories, and they have earned our highest respect.

As troops continue to risk their lives in the war on terrorism, we are especially inspired by the bravery of America's 25 million veterans. By risking their lives to protect our freedoms, there is a greater spread of freedom today worldwide than ever in history. We will forever remain grateful for their service.

I would like to encourage all citizens to take time on Friday to personally express their sincere appreciation to the veterans of their communities.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11 or the terrorist attacks on Jordan.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin our day here by quoting from the book of Deuteronomy, the 15th chapter, the seventh verse:

"If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the Lord thy God hath giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother."

Remember this today when in the name of deficit reduction, you would vote to cut health care for poor children. Thou shalt not harden thine heart.

Those who would today cut food stamps, school breakfast and school lunch benefits for the poor, thou shalt not harden thine heart.

Those who would cut rental housing benefits for hurricane victims, there is a moral imperative about us being in this House. And we cannot just look at this as business as usual when we choose to just cut benefits for the poor and then turn around and give tax cuts for the rich.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, this year is the 40th anniversary of Medicare. Medicare has come a long way. Initially, it started off as a hospitalization policy. Later we added physician benefits and physician visits and even some tests. Now we have put the third leg of that stool on; and we are going, effective January 1, to add prescription drugs to Medicare, making Medicare now a full health care policy for our seniors.

The reason that Congress did this was because many times the physicians would prescribe prescriptions for our seniors, yet they would have to make a decision between buying food or the prescription. Congress did not think that was a good idea; and so effective January 1, seniors will have a prescription drug option. The sign-up begins next Tuesday, November 15. We encourage seniors to begin to go shopping.

I held a town hall meeting in Abilene, Texas, on Monday at the Rose Park Senior Center and encouraged our seniors to go shopping. One of the things that was so important about this new process was that we allowed seniors the ability to make their own choices and brought competition in it.

I urge our seniors to look very closely at this new great prescription drug benefit that has been provided for them.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET DOESN'T REFLECT AMERICA'S PRIORITIES

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Congress is about to slash nearly \$50 billion from investments in our children's future, in health care and education. Yet because of Republican priorities, they are going to actually add \$20 billion to the \$3 trillion in our deficit. Only in a Republican Congress.

What kind of Congress passes a budget that cuts \$9.5 billion from children's health care, affecting 6 million children, while overpaying HMOs by \$5.4 billion? What kind of Congress hands out \$16.5 billion to oil and gas companies, while cutting 40,000 children's nutrition programs and seniors from home heating assistance?

What kind of Congress cuts 330,000 children from child care assistance, while giving special tax breaks to bow and arrow manufacturers, NASCAR track owners, and logging companies?

What kind of Congress cuts \$14.5 billion from student college assistance, the largest cut ever, while cutting taxes for millionaires?

A Republican Congress, but of course. Those are the wrong priorities for America. Americans know.

Mr. Speaker, we should cut spending, but we should not do it by throwing our children under the bus. America can do better. It is time for a change.

CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we celebrate Veterans Day to honor America's most courageous men and women of the past and the present. In conflicts around the world, those serving in our military protect our country and safeguard the values that Americans hold dear: safety and freedom and democracy.

The Defense Department has a program allowing a recorded phone call so that soldiers from my district serving overseas can listen to it and then contact me. The opinions of those serving our country are so very important, and I encourage all Members of Congress to participate in this program.

Veterans Day is often marked by parades. However, we in Congress must remember that the celebration of our veterans is more than just a once-a-year event. Over the past 5 years, we have increased benefits to veterans by over \$20 billion, from the GI Bill to VA home loan guarantees to benefits for disabled veterans, widows, and dependents.

However, dollars and cents cannot measure the sacrifice of our soldiers. We enjoy our freedoms today because of what they do every day of every year. To those who have served, a grateful Nation says thank you.

REPUBLICANS STIFLE OPEN AND MEANINGFUL DEBATE ON BUDGET RECONCILIATION

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, having served in the California State legislature for 24 years, half of which was spent in a leadership role, I know how to engage in a bipartisan process. This budget reconciliation bill is not bipartisan.

Rather than provide the House with an opportunity to engage in a serious and meaningful budget discussion, we are left with this take-it-or-leave-it package that, if passed, will increase our budget deficit nearly \$20 billion.

Rather than accept an offer by the Blue Dogs to discuss our 12-point deficit reduction alternative, we are left

with this plan as our only option. It is a Hobson's choice, which is no choice at all.

Rather than do what our constituents expect us to do, which is discuss, debate, and have meaningful oversight and make tough policy choices, we are left with a budget reconciliation package that is nothing more than a fig leaf to cover up a host of fiscal shortcomings.

I may be new to Congress and the process, but I know this budget reconciliation package is wrongheaded and sadly lacking in transparency. I urge a "no" vote.

TIME TO REDUCE FEDERAL SPENDING

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today, this body is going to address and pass the Deficit Reduction Act. While we are doing this, the left is out in full force telling Americans that we are about to cut Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, shame on them.

Next year, under this bill, Medicaid will grow 7 percent. That is not a cut. We are taking the rate of growth from 7.3 to 7 percent.

If the left wants to lie about it, there is not a lot that we are going to be able to do to stop them, but the American people should know that they are not being told the truth.

So when the Democrats come down here today talking about how we are hurting the poor and hurting seniors and hurting children, they are being dishonest, because they know they cannot win this argument. The American people are ready to see Federal Government spending reduced.

STANDING UP FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, who is telling the truth? The Democrats are telling the truth on this. This is smoke and mirrors, and the Republicans are offering a budget reconciliation package that is definitely harmful to the American people.

We can do better, this Congress deserves to do better, and the American people are expecting us to do better.

Here is the truth: the truth is that this is not deficit reduction. It will add a total of \$16 billion to our deficit. Here are the facts: The cuts are \$54 billion. Yet there is a tax cut in here for \$70 billion. Separate it, the math is there: 54 from 70 is 16. It adds \$16 billion just in adding the tax cuts to it.

I tell my colleagues, there was a young fellow named David who came from the sheep and they told him to go back and mind his sheep, and he was to go get Goliath. David looked at him and said, Is there not a cause?

Well, I am here to tell my colleagues there is a cause for you and a cause for me, and that cause is to stand up for Americans, stand up for the American people. We can do better. Let us vote down this awful budget reconciliation.

SUPPORT THE DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today Congress will debate the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, which includes over \$50 billion in mandatory savings. Thanks to the Republican majority in Congress, Mr. Speaker, we have today the opportunity to reduce the size of the deficit, protect the American taxpayer, lessen the burden on future generations, and also fund the priorities of the American people.

Now, there are two reasons why the extreme left will not support this historic legislation. As a matter of fact, they will and they already have, like Chicken Little, claim that the sky is falling, the sky is falling. The reason that they will not support it is because tax increases and irresponsible spending are nowhere to be found in this bill. In fact, this legislation reduces spending and has no tax increases whatsoever, something that the left cannot deal with.

A vote, Mr. Speaker, in favor of this legislation is a vote against the left-wing economic agenda of tax increases and reckless spending, and for the American people.

BLUE DOGS OFFER ALTERNATIVE 12-POINT DEFICIT REDUCTION PACKAGE THAT IS BETTER FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, later on today, the House is going to vote on a budget reconciliation package and, from what we are hearing, up is down and down is up.

We are supposed to be here to be lowering the deficit. I am concerned about the deficit. We should not be burdening future generations with our consumption today. Yet the package being put forth today by the majority, the package of spending cuts, but also tax cuts, is going to end up with an increase in our deficit of \$16 billion. That is not right.

Look, deficit reduction is hard to do. It requires some tough choices. The only way, in my opinion, that this Congress is going to take on those tough choices is if we put in a set of rules that force us to do it.

The Blue Dog Democrats have a 12-point plan that will put those provisions in place: a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, real pay-as-you-go rules. Those are just two

of the 12 provisions that would require this Congress to come together and make those very tough decisions; and they will be tough, let us not deny it.

Mr. Speaker, if we want to show fiscal responsibility, if we want to do right by future generations, we will come together in a bipartisan way. That is not what is happening today. It is very unfortunate.

I encourage my colleagues to vote down this package today.

□ 1030

HONORING OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the Good Book tells us if you owe debts, pay debts. If honor, then honor. If respect, then respect. As Washington, D.C., begins today to embark on a healthy debate over the future course of the Federal budget, I rise in the quiet of this morning to pay a debt of gratitude to those that will be remembered in ceremonies and parades wearing moth-balled uniforms and gray hair across the land as Veterans Day is remembered and celebrated.

Memorial Day in the spring is that day we remember those who did not come home; Veterans Day is the day that we remember those who did. I will never forget a close friend of my late father, who said years after he returned from having served in combat in Korea, "I don't think your dad ever got over the guilt of coming home."

My dad said good-bye forever to many close friends who served alongside of him in Korea, but he carried a special weight, having fired shots in anger for the United States in uniform. Let us remember our veterans and celebrate them across the land tomorrow.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, a budget is about planning. It is about the future. And for me the idea of the future is intertwined with my granddaughter, Anna, who is 2 years old. We all have someone like that, someone for whom we want to build a better tomorrow, but to do so we must address the real challenges our Nation faces, including an ever-increasing debt.

Unfortunately, the package that we are dealing with today passes more debt on to future generations, my Anna and your Anna, while making it more difficult for working families to achieve the American dream. This does not reflect the values and priorities of our constituents.

The American people want courage, leadership and shared sacrifice and we are giving them a bill that is short-