

McCrery-Shaw-et al. plan does zero to address the shortfall. It avoids the issue. It is what the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) called a "no-pain plan." It is a "duck-the-issue plan."

Essentially what the Republican plan proposed by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCREERY) is, it is filled with gimmicks. We need honest talk, not more gimmicks.

#### IT IS TIME REPUBLICANS TAKE SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATIZATION OFF THE TABLE

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

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, let me just say, first, before I start, you are doing a wonderful job this morning.

Mr. Speaker, last week, we learned how determined the majority party is to approve any Social Security reform bill as long as it includes privatization. Despite the fact that the American people have already rejected President Bush's privatization proposal, it appears that the Congressional Republicans are not willing yet to let privatization die.

The American people should know that this latest proposal is similar to the President's plan in several respects:

First, the new proposal would divert payroll contributions that are now being held for future beneficiaries into these risky, private accounts. By merely diverting Social Security funds, the plan would still force large benefit cuts on today's seniors and tomorrow's beneficiaries. And, just like the President's plan, the Republican legislative proposal does nothing to address the real issue facing Social Security, and that is solvency.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have seen what can happen to pensions and the stock market and how important a guaranteed Social Security benefit is to their retirement security. It is time that our Republican colleagues realize that privatization just is not going to fly, no matter how you package it.

#### MISGUIDED PRIORITIES AT THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was appalled to learn that a VA Undersecretary stated that the highest priority of the VA was to display a picture of the VA Secretary in every VA facility.

I was appalled, because that very day I also learned that the VA Secretary admitted that there was a \$1 billion shortfall in the veterans health care budget and that the administration knew this in April but presented their budget to Congress anyway, knowing that it was shamefully inaccurate and

inadequate to meet the health care needs of our veterans. They lied to Congress.

As a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I saw firsthand the administration mock the veterans service organizations when they testified that the VA needed an additional \$1.2 billion to provide health care to our veterans. They defended their numbers, knowing that they were \$1 billion short.

One VA official said, upon learning that the highest priority was putting the VA Secretary's photo in every VA facility, "And here we are trying to figure out where our next patient meal is coming from and what furniture to sell to buy drugs next year."

Talk about misguided priorities.

#### SUPPORT PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL TO REFORM SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the President's proposal to reform our Social Security system. I also rise in support of the Members of the House of Representatives that have put forward a plan which would allow each individual in this country that is covered under Social Security to make a decision to have part of their payroll taxes invested in government securities, in U.S. Treasury bonds.

There are two differences between this proposal and the current law. Under current law, the surplus in the Social Security fund is invested aggregately in what are called Social Security Trust Bonds. Those are government bonds, except they are not marketable, and they are not in any individual's names.

The proposal that some Members of the House of Representatives propounded this week is to allow an individual to take parts of their individual payroll tax and invest it in a government security, a U.S. Treasury security in their name, which would be a marketable security.

I think this proposal is long overdue, and I rise first in strong support of the President's proposal to reform our Social Security program and in the proposal that the Members of the House have put forward.

□ 1045

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT REAUTHORIZATION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to be an original cosponsor of the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization authored by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN).

I am very pleased to say that the Violence Against Women Act has been a success in terms of protecting women, but the statistics on domestic violence remain alarming. Nearly one in four women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner during her adulthood. It is important that we stand united in protecting women across America.

I am delighted that two of my provisions will be included in this legislation containing issues on DNA and trafficking. We can stand together to protect women around America, and I hope this Congress will be wise enough to move this legislation along quickly so that we can stamp out the devastation of violence against women.

As women are violated, children are impacted, and protecting families means protecting women; it means having strong laws.

Support the Violence Against Women reauthorization for it to be reauthorized and to be able to stand tall against violence and to stand for protecting the sanctity of the family and our children.

#### OPPOSE CUTS TO HOUSING PROGRAMS

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, later today, the House will consider the Transportation, Treasury, HUD, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 2006. While I commend the Committee on Appropriations for rejecting the President's Strengthening America's Communities Initiative, which would have transferred the Community Development Block Grant from HUD to the Department of Commerce for consolidation of 17 other programs, I am concerned with the gross underfunding of HUD programs in this bill.

The good and decent people around this Nation need to know that the Department of Housing and Urban Development's programs are primarily designed to address the housing and community development needs of disadvantaged communities. Unfortunately, the House bill slashed its funding for a number of vital Federal programs that have been central to the revitalization efforts underway in our Nation's cities, including Kansas City, Lee's Summit, and Independence, Missouri. The bill proposes to fund CDBG at \$250 million below fiscal year 2005 levels and provide zero funding for important programs such as section 108 loans, Youthbuild, Brownfields, Hope VI, and Empowerment Zones.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in opposing these cuts.

While we have all heard the Administration tout national homeownership rates, it is confusing because the House majority has proposed cutting programs that are designed to increase the homeownership rates for lower-income and minority households. These actions demonstrate that some in this legislative

body seem more interested in securing tax breaks for the wealthiest 2 percent than they are in closing the homeownership gap or the creation of affordable housing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in opposing these cuts.

#### WAR IN IRAQ MAKES U.S. LESS SECURE

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, as I listened to the President last night, I questioned just how much longer he will milk the tragedy of 9/11 to defend his actions in Iraq.

Maybe he does not know yet that the Iraq situation had nothing to do with 9/11, but the people of this Nation absolutely do know; and what we would want from the President and what we wanted last night was a promise to the troops, to their families, and to this country that he is putting together a plan to bring them home.

But, no. He continues to use 9/11 for his excuse for a preemptive war, a war that has made the United States less secure, not more secure.

#### REAUTHORIZING AND FULLY FUNDING THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, ending violence against women should be a concern not just for the victims; it should be a national priority.

In 1994, Congress moved violence against women from behind closed doors into national policy. The Violence Against Women Act was reauthorized in 2000, and it must be reauthorized and fully funded this year.

The Violence Against Women Act is a comprehensive program that strengthened legal sanctions against stalkers, batterers, and rapists. It established a toll-free national domestic hotline. It funded battered women's shelters, and it provided funding for programs to improve both prosecution and victim services.

Last year, Congress strengthened VAWA by passing the Justice For All Act, which included my legislation with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN). Our legislation gave law enforcement tools to process the backlog of rape kits containing DNA evidence that could convict rapists.

But there is still much, much more that remains to be done. We must pass the reauthorization and fully fund it this year.

#### COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE ACT OF 1962 AMENDMENTS

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Energy and Commerce be discharged from further consideration of the Senate bill (S. 1282) to amend the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 to strike the privatization criteria for INTELSAT separated entities, remove certain restrictions on separated and successor entities to INTELSAT, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill as follows:

S. 1282

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. FINANCIAL INTERESTS OF OFFICERS, MANAGERS, OR DIRECTORS.

Section 621(5)(D) of the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 (47 U.S.C. 763(5)(D)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “(I)” in clause (ii);
- (2) by striking “signatories, or (II)” in clause (ii) and all that follows through “mechanism;” and inserting “signatories; and”;
- (3) by striking “organization; and” in clause (iii) and inserting “organization.”; and
- (4) by striking clause (iv).

#### SEC. 2. CRITERIA FOR INTELSAT SEPARATED ENTITIES.

Subtitle B of title VI of the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 (47 U.S.C. 763 et seq.) is amended by striking section 623 (47 U.S.C. 763b).

#### SEC. 3. PRESERVATION OF SPACE SEGMENT CAPACITY OF THE GMDSS.

Section 624 of the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 (47 U.S.C. 763c) is amended to read as follows:

#### “SEC. 624. SPACE SEGMENT CAPACITY OF THE GMDSS.

“The United States shall preserve the space segment capacity of the GMDSS. This section is not intended to alter the status that the GMDSS would otherwise have under United States laws and regulations of the International Telecommunication Union with respect to spectrum, orbital locations, or other operational parameters, or to be a barrier to competition for the provision of GMDSS services.”

#### SEC. 4. SATELLITE SERVICE REPORT.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Federal Communications Commission shall review competitive market conditions with respect to domestic and international satellite communications services and shall include in an annual report an analysis of those conditions. The Commission shall transmit a copy of the report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce.

(b) CONTENT.—The Commission shall include in the report—

- (1) an identification of the number and market share of competitors in domestic and international satellite markets;
- (2) an analysis of whether there is effective competition in the market for domestic and international satellite services; and
- (3) a list of any foreign nations in which legal or regulatory practices restrict access to the market for satellite services in such nation in a manner that undermines competition or favors a particular competitor or set of competitors.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later today.

#### TANF EXTENSION ACT OF 2005

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3021) to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through September 30, 2005, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3021

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “TANF Extension Act of 2005”.

#### SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2005.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Activities authorized by part A of title IV of the Social Security Act, and by sections 510, 1108(b), and 1925 of such Act, shall continue through September 30, 2005, in the manner authorized for fiscal year 2004, notwithstanding section 1902(e)(1)(A) of such Act, and out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for such purpose. Grants and payments may be made pursuant to this authority through the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2005 at the level provided for such activities through the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2004.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 403(a)(3)(H)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(3)(H)(ii)) is amended by striking “June 30” and inserting “September 30”.

#### SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF THE NATIONAL RANDOM SAMPLE STUDY OF CHILD WELFARE AND CHILD WELFARE WAIVER AUTHORITY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2005.

Activities authorized by sections 429A and 1130(a) of the Social Security Act shall continue through September 30, 2005, in the manner authorized for fiscal year 2004, and out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for such purpose. Grants and payments may be made pursuant to this authority through the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2005 at the level provided for such activities through the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2004.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) each will control 20 minutes.