

out of nursing homes. The President's plan would shift tens of billions of costs to States like Ohio already facing severe financial shortfalls.

The President cannot eliminate basic needs by ignoring them. He cannot eliminate the need for nursing home care by ignoring it or by shifting the responsibility to the States. In the short run, his budget cuts will create victims. In the long run, it will force the States to spend more. And how will the States cover these costs?

The States will levy taxes on students through tuition, homeowners through higher property taxes, workers through higher income taxes, consumers through higher sales tax. That is what is happening in State after State, whether it is controlled by Republicans or Democrats, as we cut those programs. Nationally, the States pick them up so the wealthy get their tax breaks, the wealthiest 1 or 2 or 5 percent, and middle-income people get hit hardest by, again, students through higher tuition, consumers through sales tax, and property homeowners by the property tax, and workers through higher income taxes.

Medicaid is a partnership between Federal and State governments. Cutting the Federal share hurts our families, hurts our communities, hurts our schools, hurts our country.

We can give up many things in the name of shared sacrifice, but common sense should not be one of them.

The President's "every man for himself budget" neglects our Nation's values, neglects our communities, and betrays our Nation's values.

#### COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with pleasure in support of the administration's budget proposal for our Nation's community health centers. I would also note that community health centers have received bipartisan support over the years.

These health care organizations provide an essential function in all of our districts, and I believe that they are one of the most effective entities in delivering quality care to low-income populations at cost-effective prices.

□ 1245

In my State of New Hampshire alone, over 81,000 citizens received treatment at a community health center in 2004. A substantial portion of these patients, over one-third, were uninsured. The administration has been cognizant of the impact of community health centers, pledging to add 1,200 new centers between 2001 and 2006. The budget released last week completes this commitment and has resulted in increased

access to health services for Americans throughout our country.

Community health centers provide vital outreach services to individuals who may otherwise not have access to the care they need. These services include educational campaigns to raise awareness of preventative options in health care such as health screenings and nutritional campaigns. By educating individuals about primary care options, community health centers are able to both improve the quality of life and restrain health care costs.

Dental and behavioral health care services are also critical to the populations served by community health centers. The medical staff of these organizations are often the front line for establishing quality dental health habits and responding to mental health needs as they develop. An established hallmark of community health centers is their ability to intervene in health problems before they become crises.

One of the goals of community health centers is to establish partnerships with local community leaders and coalitions. These individuals and groups are acutely aware of the pulse and the needs of the community and can effectively advocate for appropriate outreach and medical services. The ability of a health organization to understand its community is essential in bringing tailored, efficient, and effective care to the people it serves. It is clear that community health centers are adept at gaining this insight, in turn benefiting all Americans.

As my colleagues can see, community health centers play a vital role in the delivery of care in our communities. Too often, low-income or uninsured patients delay receiving treatment due to the costs, and then they are ultimately forced to receive care at the health industry's most costly access point, which is the emergency room. Community health centers provide quality primary care to patients, often resulting in the prevention of unnecessary ailments. This results in a cost savings to all health care facilities and subsequently yields lower health insurance premiums for Americans. Community health centers have demonstrated that they have a positive effect on both the health and economic well-being of their communities, and indeed our Nation, as a whole.

In particular, I would like to congratulate Lampsey Health Center of Newmarket, New Hampshire, and Ann Peters and her fantastic staff for their service to the people's health care needs in that region of my State. Their efforts and those of their colleagues are particularly noteworthy and worthy of commendation.

#### EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE ASSASSINATION OF EX-PRIME MINISTER RAFIK HARIRI

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gen-

tleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer heartfelt sympathy to the people of Lebanon and to the many, many leaders of that country who have suffered a great loss yesterday with the assassination of the former Prime Minister, Rafik Hariri.

Over the last 10 years, I have had the opportunity to visit the small country of Lebanon. I have taken an interest in the country because of my Lebanese heritage and the fact that Lebanon needs a few advocates in the House of Representatives, and I have tried to be a strong advocate for this small country.

During the 10 years that I have visited Lebanon, I had the opportunity to become well acquainted with Prime Minister Hariri. Over the 10 years that I have had a chance to visit Lebanon, I have seen the country rebuilt almost literally by the Prime Minister and his efforts and his resources in not only bringing people together but using many of his own resources, certainly, to rebuild the city of Beirut.

Prior to the war, the city of Beirut was known as the Paris of the Middle East. Today, and what happened yesterday, will not only really hurt that opportunity for Beirut to continue to have that kind of a beauty because of what happened yesterday, it will also hurt our opportunities to bring about peace in that region of the world.

Prime Minister Hariri did so much for the country and, in particular, for the city of Beirut. Ten years ago, there were many, many burnt-out buildings. Today, there are many beautiful hotels and condominiums, and the center of the city has a project known as Solidare that the Prime Minister took a great deal of interest in in really rebuilding the business center and creating a business center in downtown Beirut.

He was also responsible for helping over 2,000 students a year by giving them scholarships so that they could attend universities and colleges all over the Middle East and also here in this country. His foundation in this country has been very, very generous. His presence in the country will be sorely missed. He was one who did try and bring about peace, did try and bring people together, did rebuild the country and rebuild the city of Beirut and, in that essence, tried to forge a peace among Nations in that region of the world.

I know for his family this is a terrible loss, and I know for the people of Lebanon it is a terrible loss, and I know for the people of the region, it is a terrible loss.

We will probably never know who those terrorists were who decided to snuff out his life. I hope that at some time we will be able to find them, but for now we say to the Prime Minister's family, to the people of Lebanon, you have suffered a great loss, we have suffered a great loss, those of us that have

known the Prime Minister have suffered a great loss. The Prime Minister and his family are in our thoughts and prayers today and will be in the future.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m. today.

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□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 2 p.m.

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#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Sovereign Lord, You settled our foundation in faith and raised up this Nation throughout its history. Today we recall our early days in America's history.

The day after Congress approved the Bill of Rights, it called upon President Washington to "recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God."

President George Washington responded with these words: "Lord, it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly implore His protection and favor."

Lord, may Congress and this Nation be guided by Washington's exhortation both in these days and forever.

Amen.

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#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

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#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

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#### CUBAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD FREE DR. BISCET

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the Cuban Government thinks that our top diplomat to their nation, James Cason, is a fourth-rate bureaucrat whose mission is to deceive and subvert.

Well, I think he will be the first to admit that if promoting the human rights of all Cubans is subversive, then that is exactly what his mission is. And let me be among the first to say, Mr. Cason is no fourth-rate bureaucrat. No fourth-rate bureaucrat would so openly share the story of Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet.

Dr. Biscet is a physician who has courageously stood for human rights and today sits in a tiny prison cell imprisoned for peaceful protest in April of 2003.

Despite Cuban propaganda, Dr. Biscet is sick and has been denied food and medical attention by his captors. The Cuban Government should allow Dr. Biscet medical care, and it should unconditionally and immediately release him.

Dr. Biscet, we stand with you. And if we had more fourth-rate bureaucrats like James Cason, our world would be a much better place.

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#### DEATH OF MILTON DAVIS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened earlier to learn of the passing of Mr. Milton Davis, the former chairman and president of Shorebank.

Shorebank is one of the most innovative, creative community financing operations in the Nation.

Milton Davis was a pioneer in community banking. I simply want to extend condolences to his family, and I trust that his legacy will continue to live as neighborhoods and communities reap the benefits of the lending policies and practices that he developed.

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#### CARTER WALLACE TRIBUTE

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Carter Wallace, a Brookstone High School student from Columbus, Georgia, who has been named one of the top two youth volunteers in the State.

On Tuesday, Carter accepted the Prudential Spirit of Community Award for his inspiring work on behalf of low-income families in western Georgia.

Carter is the founder of Habi-TOT for Humanity, a nonprofit foundation that purchases and assembles playgrounds for children who move into Habitat for Humanity homes. Carter motivated friends from his Boy Scout troop and Brookstone High School to lend a hand in building the playhouses.

He said he was moved to start this project because many of these children had never had a back yard to play in, and he wanted to make their first one special. Carter's creativity and dedication to low-income children is inspiring.

He organized fundraising bake sales and wrote to nearly a hundred community members soliciting support. His efforts paid off. In the first year and a half, Habi-TOT for Humanity bought, assembled, and delivered 36 playhouses to needy families.

Carter is a role model for us all. He set a fine example of community service for young people across this Nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in commending Carter Wallace for this award.

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#### OPPOSING BUDGET CUTS TO EDUCATION

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to the President's budget proposal to turn his back on low-income and ethnic minority students, particularly Latino and African Americans, and in particular first-generation students who have never had a chance to go to college.

And I say that because in the President's budget proposal he wants to eliminate completely the GEAR UP Program, the Upward Bound Program, and the Talent Search Program. As a result, 1.3 million students, 70 percent who are minorities, will lose a chance to go to college.

California was awarded about 15 percent of the funding for the GEAR UP program. In fact, in my school district in East L.A., El Sereno Middle School and Belvedere Middle School are the recipients of the GEAR UP program, middle school meaning 7th and 8th grade students who are learning about the opportunities to go to college.

How dare the President turn his back on our youth, on those who want to succeed and go on to college. We need to ensure that this President has to keep the compassion that he says that he has for all people of color.

And I would ask my colleagues and urge them to reject these proposals that will put back our community by many, many decades. Let us restore funding in higher education for all of our students.

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#### PROTECTING THE FIRST AMENDMENT, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

(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, in 1786, Thomas Jefferson said: "Our liberty cannot be guarded but by the freedom of the press, nor that be limited without danger of losing it."