

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of local communities in my State and throughout this country that are fighting a terrible battle against methamphetamine, its production and use. And I rise to express grave concern about the impact of our President's budget proposal on that fight.

Let me share with you some troubling figures. The President of the United States has proposed to cut COPS funding by \$376 million, he has proposed to cut the Meth Hot Spots program by \$23.5 million, the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program by \$353 million, and he has proposed to completely eliminate Byrne grants.

Now, I can tell you that when I go back home and I talk to my sheriffs and police officers and treatment specialists, they tell me meth is a catastrophe in our communities and we must fight it. Regrettably, this President's budget cuts the funds we need to prevail in that fight.

We need to restore those funds, and we need to emphasize to this administration that we have terrorists operating right here at home in our communities, and methamphetamine is their weapon of choice.

HONORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 657, honoring the contributions of our country's nearly 8,000 Catholic schools. Catholic schools provide an invaluable service to our country and offer excellent academic instruction to their students.

Take, for example, St. Leo the Great Catholic School in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. St. Leo was recently named a No Child Left Behind nationally recognized blue ribbon school for its academic superiority. It was one of just 10 North Carolina schools to receive this award and was the only school in the entire State to achieve this recognition.

Not only do Catholic schools provide excellent academic preparation, but they also mold students into upstanding citizens who are strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities.

For this, I am proud to join many of my colleagues in congratulating our Nation's Catholic schools, students, parents, and faculty for the key role they play in promoting a brighter and stronger future for America.

□ 1415

FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the budget the President unveiled this week takes from the poor, gives to the rich, and leaves all of us in a worse fiscal mess.

At a time of war, when our soldiers are risking their lives halfway across the world, where is the call for shared sacrifice? Do millionaires deserve \$50 billion in tax cuts, paid for by reducing services for the lowest-income families? Can we afford to extend tax breaks for the wealthiest 1 percent when our fiscal obligations include spending over \$1 billion a week in Iraq, the rebuilding of the gulf coast, and protecting the homeland from terrorist threats?

Instead of responsibly budgeting for these costs, we are in a fiscal free-fall, giving breaks to those who need it the least while slapping away the hands of those who need help the most.

This administration is the most fiscally irresponsible in U.S. history, responsible for the four largest annual deficits ever. We have gone from a projected 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion in 2001 to a projected deficit of \$3.3 trillion, a reversal of \$9 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, this budget lacks compassion, is fiscally irresponsible, and does not reflect the priorities of this great Nation.

THE PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the President's budget. As a physician who used to take care of a lot of Medicare patients prior to my election in 1994, one of the first things I look at in the budget are the Medicare numbers, after I look at the NASA numbers and a couple of other things.

Members of this body need to know, and the American public, that the President's budget calls for a 15 percent increase in Medicare spending. You may be surprised to hear that because the press is talking about Medicare cuts. Indeed, Democrats are talking about Medicare cuts. You even heard that on the floor today.

It is projected to go from \$396 billion to \$457 billion in 2007, and by 2011 to grow to \$587 billion. Where is the cut? There is no cut. The President is trying to slow the growth of this entitlement program, which is unsustainable in the future unless we can enact significant reforms. God bless us if we are unable to do that.

This is, in my opinion, the right thing to do for the President, and he needs to be commended. And for those who mischaracterize this as a cut, they need to start telling the truth.

THE BUDGET

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, red ink, record budget deficits mount every year. On top of it, America has also been racking up record trade deficits this year, more imports than exports every single day. These twin deficits are stifling real economic growth for our country as we sink deeper and deeper into debt.

Every year, with all the unfair trade agreements that have been signed, the red ink just keeps getting deeper. We are hemorrhaging America's good jobs, with fewer people working at good jobs to create real wealth. It is no surprise we have fewer resources to pay off our debts.

At the same time, the United States becomes more and more beholden to foreign interests that are financing these deficits. We are not only giving them our money, we are giving them our future and paying them hundreds of billions a year in interest. Is it any surprise that retailing of foreign goods is now America's biggest business?

Federal Reserve's former chairman Alan Greenspan warned that this relentless deficit growth cannot persist. How long will it be before we put a foreclosure sign on our U.S. Department of the Treasury? What an embarrassment for a Nation founded in independence.

THE BUDGET

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

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the President for submitting a budget proposal that will meet America's needs while maintaining fiscal accountability and responsibility. He understands that if you are going to ask everybody to tighten up the purse strings, you have to be at the front of the line.

The American people don't expect us to agree on everything, but as Members of this great body they expect us to stop complaining about the issues before us and start working together to find solutions for our children and our grandchildren.

I hope someday I am down here debating the Government Waste Reduction Act, which would slow the growth of government by 5 percent and reduce the deficit by an estimated \$510 billion over 5 years. But until then, I will look forward to working with my colleagues on the Budget Committee, Republicans and Democrats alike, as we move through this process.

In submitting this budget, President Bush has set the tone and given Congress a great starting point. It is now up to us to act.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN VIRGINIA SMITH

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, this last month, former Congresswoman Virginia Smith died in Sun City, Arizona, at the age of 94. She served the Third District of Nebraska for 16 years through eight terms. It is a very large district. It covers 80 percent of the State of Nebraska, with 69 counties and 64,000 square miles. She and her husband, Haven, drove county to county, city to city, weekend after weekend; and there was no one who was more faithful in covering that area and being loyal and faithful to her constituents than Virginia Smith.

She served on the Appropriations Committee for several years and was responsible for an animal research center in Clay Center, Nebraska, which really is of worldwide renown. She was tenacious, she was aggressive, and she was very strong in constituent services. Nebraska was very well served by Virginia Smith, and she will be greatly missed.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, last week, in this Chamber, the President shared with the American people a reasoned and measured agenda for the future, an agenda that will lead us to meet the challenges of today and seize the opportunity of tomorrow.

The issues that the President addressed are not just his concerns; they are not just Republican concerns. They are the concerns of the American people. We must provide for the reform of our health care system that fixes the problems, not bandages them up, immigration reform that respects our sovereignty, and embrace a policy that will result in energy independence.

The American people want leadership. They want direction, and they want to know that their government is working for them, protecting them and providing a framework that preserves the ideal of the pursuit of happiness for all.

We in Congress have an obligation to our citizens and to the great history of our Nation to provide leadership that is equal to the task at hand. Our Nation, its security, its vitality, its health care and its livelihood depend on it. I urge all of my colleagues to embrace this responsibility together.

ADULT STEM CELL ADVANCES

(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, there has been a lot of news coming from the field of stem cell research lately, but it is all just a new variation on an old theme: Ethical or "adult stem cell" re-

search is working. Research that kills embryos, embryonic stem cell research, is not. While embryonic stem cell research's leading scientist has been disgraced for his research fabrications, adult stem cell researchers are announcing new breakthroughs.

One research group recently announced the development of a machine capable of taking adult stem cells from fat tissue and adapting them to treat other tissue damaged by heart disease and heart attacks. In a different study released recently, researchers have been able to turn adult muscle stem cells into cartilage, and in animal studies this regenerated cartilage has been used to treat damage caused by arthritis.

These studies add to the ever-growing list of treatments and cures that come from noncontroversial adult stem cells. Meanwhile, stem cell research involving the destruction of human embryos continues to be plagued by tumors, rejection, and research scandals. As we address this issue this year, we would do well to keep this in mind, what is working and what is not.

ADOPT HEALTH IT ACT

(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, I rise today to praise President Bush for his State of the Union remarks on health information technology, which he rightly noted will help control costs and reduce dangerous medical errors.

I would also like to encourage my colleagues to support health IT legislation that I have introduced, H.R. 4641, the ADOPT HIT Act.

Consider this: I can go to Antarctica and get cash from an ATM without a glitch, but should I fall ill during my travels, a hospital there could not access my medical records or know what medications I am on.

Right now the health care sector is woefully behind in using modern technology to reduce errors and save money, and that is why I introduced H.R. 4641. It provides increased tax breaks for physicians who invest in new health information technology.

As a physician, I know many doctors want to utilize new technology, but they find the cost prohibitive. Doctors will be more likely to adopt this technology if our Tax Code helps offset the substantial initial cost. By adopting the ADOPT HIT Act, by passing that act, we can move one step closer to a health care system that saves time, money and, most importantly, lives.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 8, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 8, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4636.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 69
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill on Tuesday, February 7, 2006:

S. 1932, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95).

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on the Budget:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 8, 2006.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT: I respectfully resign my seat on the House Budget Committee effective immediately. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to serve on this important committee.

Sincerely,

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.
There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions 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.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

□ 1430

CONGRATULATING THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS FOR WINNING SUPER BOWL XL

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 670) congratulating the National Football League champion Pittsburgh Steelers for winning Super Bowl XL and completing one of the