

Common Sense found that a disproportionate share of earmarks went to relatively few Members of Congress.

Now, obviously Federal priorities are not concentrated in the districts of appropriators and leadership. Those Members are simply in a better position to steer Federal money home. That's hardly a defensible way of spending taxpayer money.

I've often said that we had higher aspirations when we were elected than to grovel for crumbs that fall from the appropriators' table. But given the lopsided share of earmarks that appropriators got this year, here's hoping that enough Members will finally say, why bother, and we can finally end this practice.

SCHIP

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, the President has asked for another 190 billion more dollars for the war in Iraq. That's 190 billion more dollars for more of the same.

For 41 days for the cost of the war, 10 million American children would get their health care. For 1 month for the cost of the war, 7½ million American children would get their health care. And for 1 week for the cost of this war, 2½ million would get their health care.

The President is asking for an open-ended, open-wallet commitment to Iraq, and the American children get an empty stocking.

Meanwhile, under the President's own plan, 1 million American children would lose their health care, according to the experts. Nearly 1 million children would create a very long line in America's emergency rooms. The emergency rooms are President Bush's answer to America's health care crisis.

Seventy-two percent of Americans support our reauthorization of the children's health care bill. The President and 15 Republicans stand in the way of 10 million children receiving the health care that we receive here as Members of Congress.

There have been three vetoes in President Bush's term: one to end the war, one to permit stem cell research, and now one to allow 10 million children to get their health care. That says it all about President Bush.

EARMARK REFORM

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the majority party ascended to power with a promise that they would make this Congress the most open and ethical Congress ever. Most open and ethical indeed.

Perhaps the majority party should have said something like, We will be open and ethical when it suits our purpose. That wouldn't have been a catchy

phrase maybe on the campaign trail, but at least it would have been honest.

For instance, the majority promised to clean up the earmarking process, but so far that, too, has been a hollow promise.

Recently, we had the SCHIP and it was riddled with hidden earmarks. And yet not one sponsor of these provisions has ever been identified, and they have denied that there's any earmarks in them whatsoever.

Now the Republican Party has now offered a simple resolution to clean up the process of earmarks, but not a single Democrat has signed on to this resolution.

I call on my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, in the majority, to allow for a real debate on ethics and earmarks. Let the House debate H.R. 479 so that we can have an open and honest discussion and we can truly get to what you promised, an open and ethical Congress.

CHIP

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, today the President has before him legislation to strengthen and expand CHIP for 10 million children of hardworking American families. And if the President lives up to his promise, he will veto this important bill and turn his back on American families.

The President's veto makes it clear that he simply does not understand the financial struggles of working families in this country who are unable to afford health care for their children. The President's veto makes it clear that health care for America's children simply is not his priority.

CHIP, the public-private partnership, has enabled millions of American children and hardworking lower-income, middle-income families in this country to afford high-quality private health coverage. Our Nation's Governors, business community, health care providers, children's advocates, insurance industry, labor unions, religious leaders, parents and grandparents support this affordable commonsense plan. All but the President and his Republican allies in Congress support extending CHIP to more of America's uninsured children.

The President's veto is shortsighted, callous and wrong. We must override the President's veto and vote for health care for America's children.

□ 1015

ENSURE THAT FREEDOM AND FAIRNESS REMAIN ON OUR RADIO AIRWAVES—SUPPORT THE BROADCASTER FREEDOM ACT

(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 enmity that exists between American talk radio and the Democratic Congress came into high relief this Monday as leaders in the Senate engaged in repeated and distorted personal attacks of a prominent American commentator.

Now, while many see this as more politics as usual in Washington, DC, I see something more. I believe these attacks on talk radio are a precursor for returning censorship to the airwaves of America in the form of the Fairness Doctrine.

This week Congressman GREG WALDEN and I requested that the Democratic leaders bring the Broadcaster Freedom Act to the floor of this Congress immediately and take the power away from the FCC in this or any future administration to regulate the airwaves of America. The Broadcaster Freedom Act is cosponsored by 203 Members of Congress, and it enjoys broad bipartisan support.

The freedom of the press should not be a partisan issue. Let's reject the attacks on American radio personalities and ensure that the Fairness Doctrine stays on the ash heap of broadcast history, where it belongs.

THE PRESIDENT'S VETO OF THE SCHIP EXTENSION

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the deed is done. The President just vetoed the Children's Health Insurance Program. He is asking for \$190 billion for the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and yet vetoed \$35 billion that would provide health care to 10 million low-income American children over the next 5 years.

Let's be perfectly clear. The President is refusing to spend \$7 billion a year on children's health while insisting on \$10 billion a month in Iraq. The President and Republicans in Congress say that we can't afford this bill, but where were the fiscal conservatives when the President demanded hundreds of billions of dollars for the war in Iraq? He along with many of the Republicans in Congress are willing to throw these hundreds of billions of dollars into a disastrous war, and yet when it comes to providing health care to children, they say we don't have the money.

The truth is we do have the money and, in fact, the children's health bill is fully paid for, unlike the half a trillion dollars we have already spent on this war.

It is time for us to say you are either for covering uninsured American children or you are with a President who prefers to spend this money on an endless war.

VETERANS FUNDING

(Mrs. DRAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I have joined several of our colleagues in a letter requesting that the Senate majority leader end the partisan wrangling and move forward with the veterans appropriations bill.

Our veterans have always been willing to man the front lines in the defense of this Nation and deserve to be honored for their service. From 2001 through 2006, this House increased funding for our veterans from \$48 billion to \$70 billion. This year the House came together in a bipartisan manner to increase funding for our veterans by an additional \$6 billion.

This is why I am so disturbed to read in Roll Call that Democratic leaders have made "a decision to delay sending the veterans bill to the President so they can use it as leverage to pass other spending bills."

In my mind, veterans and especially those waiting for services at VA facilities or working to secure their VA benefits are not bargaining chips. They are heroes. And we should not allow partisanship to interfere with our commitment to protecting their best interests.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS SHOULD WALK AWAY FROM PRESIDENT BUSH ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, last week most of the Republicans once again marched in lockstep with the Bush administration. I have just been informed that the President has vetoed the CHIP bill. That is a shame and it is a disgrace. Despite the fact that this Democratic Congress crafted a bipartisan bill with Republican input, most Republican Members chose to ignore the health care needs of 10 million children. It is a shame and a national disgrace.

The Children's Health Insurance Program has helped our Nation reduce the number of uninsured children. During each of the 8 years of the program, the number of uninsured children decreased, but over the last 2 years these numbers have actually gone up. Based on these troubling trends, this Democratic Congress did not believe that a straight reauthorization was enough. We needed to strengthen the CHIP program, and that is exactly what we did.

And now I have been informed that the President has vetoed it. That's a disgrace.

SUPPORT OUR 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, this Democrat-led Congress

has yet to send one spending bill to the President. In particular, they have failed to pass funding for our veterans, and because of their inaction, our veterans are being shortchanged and denied needed resources and benefits.

Despite widespread support for the Veterans' Affairs spending bill, the majority is refusing to take final action. This delay is jeopardizing our ability to get the necessary funding and resources to those who need it most. The bill includes \$4.1 billion for VA hospitals and clinics, \$600 million for posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury care, \$2.9 billion for mental health and substance abuse treatment for veterans, and \$480 million for research into prosthetics for wounded warriors and amputees.

We can all agree that our veterans deserve our utmost support, and as a grateful 30-year member of the American Legion, it is time for Democrats to work with Republicans for our veterans.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th.

THE PRESIDENT'S VETO OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH BILL

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, during a speech at the Republican National Convention in 2004, President Bush said, "In a new term, we will lead an aggressive effort to enroll millions of poor children who are eligible but not signed up for the government's health insurance programs." But instead the President, just minutes ago, vetoed health insurance for 10 million low-income children.

The President's objections were without merit and did not warrant a veto. The bill does not expand the CHIP program. Instead, it maintains current eligibility requirements while enrolling more uninsured children. It is not a move towards "socialized health care." States will continue to receive funding through block grants, which nearly all States use. And this investment in the health care of our Nation's children is fully paid for, unlike the President's ongoing Iraq funding requests.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely had hoped the President would have a change of heart and fulfill his promise to enroll children in this health care program. But he failed to do so. Now every Member of this House must vote to override the President to provide for the health care of America's children.

STOP PLAYING POLITICAL GOTCHA AND START SERVING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I think most people in politics know is that the ratings of Congressmen are very, very low. And perhaps part of the reason for that is the public can see that we are playing more political gotcha than we are in really solving problems.

Today we have just seen an example of that as Democrat after Democrat condemned the President for this SCHIP bill, which has all these little hidden gizmos, among other things that we are going to provide health care to the children of illegal immigrants. It is a massive expansion of basically Hillary socialized medicine. And yet we are going to use this children's health issue as a way to play political gotcha.

We don't need to do that with the veterans bill. The House and the Senate have both approved funding for veterans, which comes down to \$18.5 million of extra money for veterans hospitals, for prosthetics, for our wounded soldiers. Those bills are just sitting, waiting.

Are we going to use that as another way of doing political gotcha, or shall we just start solving problems and serving the American people?

Mr. Speaker, for the past few years we have heard the Democrats in Congress say they support our troops and veterans even if they do not support the war in Iraq.

Yet, many of those brave veterans who served in Iraq, as well as other military campaigns, are being denied as much as \$18.5 million a day in veteran's care that was promised to them.

The Democrat majority has delayed a vote on a bill to fund veterans care. These delays are denying our veterans millions of dollars that would fund prosthetics for our wounded warriors and amputees.

Are the Democrats hoping to save a vote on veteran's health for later in the year? Maybe, they plan to attach wasteful earmarks to that bill?

Members of Congress, you can't say that you support our troops and veterans if you won't fund their care. It's time we make good on our promises. Give our veterans what they need.

DEMOCRATIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS PRIORITIZING THE NEEDS OF VETERANS AND SOLDIERS

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, this Democratic Congress has a strong record of delivering on our promise to the American people and providing real and meaningful change. And we have done so in a fiscally responsible way, instituting pay-as-you-go, deficit reduction discipline.

One area where we have made real progress for the American people is by supporting the men and women who serve our Nation in the Armed Forces. Under Democratic control, this House provided substantially more than the President requested for the new M-