

PREPARE ALL KIDS ACT OF 2007

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, this week I introduce the House companion to Senator CASEY's Prepare All Kids Act of 2007. This bill is designed to help States expand their pre-K programs and child care services.

As this chart shows, we get the biggest bang for our education dollars by investing in our children before they even go to school. Estimates show that the return on investing in early care in education is between 17 to 18 percent annually. If this were a stock, all of Wall Street would be buying it.

The legislation is very helpful to the children we represent in our States. For example, more than one-quarter of a million 4-year-olds in New York State would be eligible for the programs created in this bill, including 100,000 children who would qualify for free pre-K. The future prosperity of our Nation rests on setting our children on a path for success early in life.

HONORING OUR TROOPS THIS
FOURTH OF JULY

(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. Madam Speaker, as we approach the Fourth of July, I want to thank our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and across the world. It is because of their service that we are able to celebrate our freedom.

In my seven visits to Iraq and three to Afghanistan, I have seen firsthand the new greatest generation. Our coalition forces are stopping the terrorists overseas to protect American families at home. Osama bin Laden's right-hand man and al Qaeda spokesman Zawahiri has proclaimed that Iraq and Afghanistan are the central fronts in the global war on terrorism.

I look forward to honoring the sacrifices of our troops this Fourth of July weekend at the Celebration of Liberty service with Pastor Wendell Estep of First Baptist Church in Columbia.

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

GENERAL PETRAEUS ADMITS
THAT CONDITIONS WILL NOT IMPROVE
IN IRAQ BY SEPTEMBER

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, conditions on the ground in Iraq are not getting any better. In fact, things are getting worse.

During a 48-hour period last week, 14 of our soldiers were killed, and then over the weekend another eight were

killed in one day. April and May were two of the most violent months for our troops since the beginning of the war. It is clear the President's troop surge or escalation plan is not working. In fact, last week General David Petraeus acknowledged there would not be any significant improvements in Iraq by September.

Why is that significant? Because that's when President Bush said we would be able to see if the plan was working. The fact is we won't know in September because it's not working, according to the President's own general.

Then this week, two respected Republican Senators, Senator LUGAR and Senator VOINOVICH, said the current policy is not working and a significant change is needed. The comments of these Senators, coupled with those of General Petraeus, should serve as a wake-up call to congressional Republicans. Join us in ending this war, bringing our troops home, and saving America's face.

DEMOCRATS PROMISED NOT TO
HOLD RECORDED VOTES OPEN

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

Mr. WICKER. Madam Speaker, less than 6 months ago, House Democrats promised not to hold recorded votes open to change the results. They went even further. They changed the House rules to prohibit this practice. But last night the Chair held a 2-minute vote open so that five Democrat Members could have their arms twisted, change their votes and pass the Udall amendment.

And what was this amendment? Democrats broke their promise for a provision that prohibits America from producing energy from our plentiful supply of shale, further demonstrating what a fraud the Democrats' energy policy is, a policy repeatedly preventing us from developing our own petroleum reserves.

Shame on the Democratic leadership for going back on their promise with such breathtaking speed. More importantly, shame on the Democrats for a policy that stops Americans from producing our own energy, for causing gasoline prices to continue to rise, and for making sure we are increasingly dependent on foreign oil.

VICE PRESIDENT CAN'T HAVE IT
BOTH WAYS WHEN IT COMES TO
HIM BEING A MEMBER OF THE
EXECUTIVE BRANCH

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

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, for the last 7 years, Vice President CHENEY has perfected the art of meaningful oversight and avoiding any accountability to the American people. But who would

have ever thought that such a defiance would lead the Vice President to the absurd, claiming that he is not a member of the executive branch. That's right, Cheney does not want to play by the established rules of safeguarding classified national information. He is now saying that he is not actually a member of the executive branch.

If the Vice President is not a member of the executive branch, shouldn't he be forced to turn over information to the congressional Democrats requested regarding his secret energy task force? After all, CHENEY used executive privilege as an excuse for his secrecy.

Also, why should the office of the Vice President receive funding through the bill that funds the executive branch? That bill is actually on the floor today, and the House Democrats will offer an amendment to remove funding for the Vice President's office from this bill. House Democrats are not going to support the Vice President's latest attempt to avoid any accountability to the American people.

HONORING JIM NUSSLE

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

Mr. MCCRERY. Madam Speaker, today, a good man and former chairman of the House Budget Committee will be honored by his colleagues. A portrait of Jim Nussle will be unveiled and displayed in the committee room where he held the gavel for 6 years.

Jim Nussle is a passionate man. He strongly believes that we are sent to Washington to be good stewards for taxpayers, and he was one of their best advocates. Under Jim's leadership of the Budget Committee, and for the first time in nearly a decade, we took a first step in reforming our mandatory, or entitlement, spending, the largest and least sustainable part of our budget, saving taxpayers nearly \$40 billion over the next years.

Jim also worked to reform the budget process itself and reached across the aisle to develop a bipartisan solution. He coauthored the Comprehensive Budget Process Reform Act in 1988 with Representative BEN CARDIN. He has also supported the legislative line item veto and earmark reform.

Given his experience, knowledge and commitment to public service, it is fitting that the President has selected Jim as his nominee for Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

VICE PRESIDENT HAS A PROBLEM
OF FIGURING OUT WHICH
BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT HE
BELONGS TO

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, we need a history lesson right here.

Article II, the executive powers shall be vested in the powers of the President of the United States. He shall hold

his office for a term of 4 years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same term.

The Vice President has a problem of figuring out which branch of government he belongs to. But in Federalist Paper No. 68, Alexander Hamilton was very, very clear about this. The appointment of an extraordinary person as Vice President has been objected to as superfluous. Take the Senator of any State from his seat as a Senator to place him in the President of the Senate would be totally ridiculous, would be to exchange a regard to the State from which he came a constant for a contingent vote.

The other consideration is that as the Vice President may occasionally become a substitute for the President, in the supreme executive magistracy, all the reasons which recommend the mode of elections prescribed for the one apply for the great, if not with equal force, to the manner of appointing the other. It is remarkable that this, as in most other instances, with the objection which is made, would be against the Constitution of this State.

Mr. Vice President, go back to the Constitution and learn where you belong.

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CONGRATULATING FORMER CONGRESSMAN JIM NUSSLE

(Mr. LATHAM asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATHAM. I thank the Speaker for the opportunity to speak this morning.

I want to congratulate my good friend, former colleague from Iowa, Jim Nussle, on the unveiling of his portrait today and I would encourage all of his former colleagues to attend that ceremony at 4 o'clock this afternoon in 210 in the Cannon House Office Building.

Jim Nussle was a tireless advocate for the future of this country, and through the Budget Committee that he chaired for 6 years, did an outstanding job of fighting for the next generation to understand that the entitlement programs that are going to really cause devastation in our budgets in the future should be addressed, and fought tirelessly for the next generation.

As we all know, Jim Nussle has been nominated to be the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. There is no one better qualified than Jim Nussle, that has the skill to do this job, that has the budget knowledge. Jim Nussle is the most knowledgeable person we could possibly have in that position. He'll be a tireless advocate for a balanced budget, someone that can work across the aisle, as he did on the Budget Committee. And the comments from the ranking member last year really indicate how well Jim Nussle will work for our country and to lead our Nation and to manage this enormous government that we have.

So let's commend Jim Nussle, show up for the unveiling and really be advocates for him to continue his service for the country.

BRAVE ACT

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute our men and women in uniform. Every year at this time we gather with our friends and family to celebrate Independence Day and the freedoms we hold dear.

But this year, and every year, when families are missing the presence of a spouse, parent or child or worse, mourning the loss of a loved one, we must also pause to remember the sacrifice of our veterans. That's why I'm introducing the Benefit Rating Acceleration for Veteran Entitlements Act, or BRAVE Act, which would make it easier for our most disabled veterans to obtain their benefits.

That's why I'm working with others to initiate a national conversation on how veterans can participate in service corps programs and how those programs can serve our veterans.

Madam Speaker, on the Fourth of July, when we celebrate liberty, we must give special recognition and honor to those who are doing so much and have done so much to protect our freedoms.

DEMOCRATS ARE MAKING A BAD SITUATION WORSE

(Mr. AKIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, there once was an incompetent pharmacist who administered too much medicine and thereby made a bad situation worse, and the patient died.

The Democrats are like the incompetent pharmacist. They recognize that gas prices are too high and they recognize it's bad for us to be dependent on foreign oil. So the Democrats have voted to administer a dose of their favorite medicine, tax increases. They plan to increase taxes on American oil and gas. But the oil companies will simply raise the price of gasoline. In addition, by making American oil more expensive, it will further make us dependent on Middle Eastern oil.

The Democrats should look at drilling for American oil and liquefying coal, two things that they have opposed in the past. The Democrats are writing the wrong prescription and they make a bad situation worse. I just hope the patient doesn't die.

WE MUST END THE WAR IN IRAQ NOW

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to others who are calling for an end to the war in Iraq. We must end this war and we must end it now. We cannot wait, and we must not wait.

Every month, every week, every day, every hour, every minute, every second, every moment that another young man OR another young woman is killed, their innocent blood is on all of our hands. We have a moral obligation, a mission and a mandate to bring this madness to an end.

Nothing, but nothing good can come out of this war. It is destroying Iraq and destroying the very soul of our Nation.

As Members of Congress, we must find a way to stop it and stop it now.

FREE SPEECH VS. FAIR SPEECH

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the unfair "Broadcast Fairness Doctrine" has reappeared. It is an attempt by the feds to force radio stations to be fair and balanced by forcing broadcasters to air opposing views of public importance. Sounds good, but who's going to determine what fair is, the Federal fair police?

Are we going to let a bunch of Potomac River bureaucrats determine if a radio station in Tomball, Texas is being fair when it discusses politics? Sounds like government control of speech to me. And fair means different things to different folks. It's too subjective a word for us to even agree on.

The Fairness Doctrine would not even promote public discourse. It would, in fact, force radio broadcasters to do away with controversy and maybe go to airing 24-hour music like Willie Nelson's greatest hits. Oops. Someone here might say Willie's not fair and balanced.

Anyway, the Constitution is clear. Congress, that's us, shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech. You notice, it doesn't guarantee fair speech.

Our forefathers wrote that first amendment to prevent government control of our free speech. So this Fairness Doctrine is neither fair speech, free speech or constitutional speech.

And that's just the way it is.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS MAKING PROGRESS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, since I've been here in Washington, in January, this Congress, under strong Democratic leadership, is making progress on the American people's priorities, despite intense opposition on many issues.

In spite of this opposition, Democrats have succeeded by increasing pay for 13