

years. The principle of pay-as-you-go played an instrumental role in creating the budget surpluses of the 1990s. Unfortunately, those commonsense principles were rejected by the Bush administration, and helped lead to the record deficit that our country must now address.

And, third, President Obama is expected to propose mandatory, across-the-board spending cuts to offset any new initiative that expands the government's red ink.

Mr. Speaker, these reforms will help us cut the budget deficit in half over the next 5 years, which is not bad, considering what we inherited from our Republican friends.

#### ALICE IN WONDERLAND WORLD OF CONGRESSIONAL BUDGETING

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, welcome to the Alice in Wonderland world of congressional budgeting, a place where Congress calls for fiscal responsibility, but then spends well beyond our means, even as the budget deficit grows to over \$1.4 trillion.

We're all too familiar with the litany of the spending that's already occurred this session; \$350 billion for the TARP bailout, \$787 billion for the pork-filled stimulus bill, and this week, right after the so-called fiscal responsibility summit, Congressional leaders will bring up a giant omnibus spending bill that will spend another \$410 billion, an 8 percent increase over funding from last year, and has over 9,000 earmarks. My constituents aren't seeing an 8 percent increase in their paychecks.

The nonpartisan Brookings Institution also cited recently, and I quote, "these are just not deficits as far as the eye can see, but they're trillion-dollar deficits as far as the eye can see."

Mr. Speaker we're making sacrifices every day. Congress should continue to do the same.

#### CHRYSLER PLANT'S FUTURE IN FENTON, MISSOURI

(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, Chrysler Corporation has a proud history of producing cars, trucks and vans in the Fenton, Missouri, plant. The workers there helped Chrysler survive its darkest hours in the 1980s, and helped it thrive during the 1990s and 2000s.

The U.S. Government has stepped in to help our American automakers survive and to protect American jobs. I was truly disappointed to read in the St. Louis Post Dispatch that the Fenton, Missouri, plant may be at risk under Chrysler's viability plan. By almost every measure, the Fenton, Mis-

souri, plant has the key ingredients to be part of the survival and success of Chrysler.

The workforce at the plant is among the most productive in the industry, and the plant itself has had a half billion dollars invested in it for flexible manufacturing to give it the ability to build the cars of the future today. The manufacturing technology reduces the carbon footprint, and provides long-term savings and energy use. This state-of-the-art plant and its record-setting workers are the example of what can help the industry and Chrysler survive and thrive in the future.

#### MAKING QUALITY CARE ACCESSIBLE TO PATIENTS

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, tonight President Obama is expected to unveil some of his health care reform, and I hope to work with the President to lower costs for American families and make health care more accessible without dramatically raising taxes.

Some of my Democratic colleagues advocate for government-run universal health coverage, but coverage alone does not guarantee access. Too many rural communities currently lack doctors, and Medicare payment cuts and frivolous lawsuits have driven providers out of business in underserved communities.

Health care reform should be based on three basic principles, information, choice and control. Information that provides real information to patients and doctors, choice that allows freedom of choice to choose a doctor and develop a doctor/patient relationship, and control, which creates real portability for families.

Working together, I believe we can achieve real results and make health care much more affordable and accessible. We all agree that our system will make America more competitive and give families peace of mind. And that's why we need to work together to put the doctor and patient back in control.

#### BUSH BUDGET LEGACY—DEEP DEFICITS AND ECONOMIC DECLINE

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, over the last 8 years, the Bush administration turned our budget situation from rosy to grim. President Bush and the Republican Congress pushed their economic policies as an answer to the prolonged growth that never came. They let budget rules lapse and enacted expensive tax cuts for the wealthiest few, with no offsets.

Now it turns out, instead of spurring long-term growth, these trickle-down policies have cost our Nation dearly.

Our economy nationwide and in my home State of New Jersey is in worse shape than ever.

As a result of the economic deterioration that occurred under President Bush's policy, the projected deficit for fiscal year 2009 has reached an unprecedented \$1.2 trillion. This deficit did not arise overnight, and out of the blue. President Bush inherited a healthy \$5.6 trillion surplus.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we need to bring our country back to fiscal responsibility.

#### ACT FISCALLY RESPONSIBLY AND IN A BIPARTISAN MANNER

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago this body spent over \$1 trillion of taxpayer dollars on programs that will grow the size of government, but won't stimulate the economy to help us get out of this financial crisis.

Consumer confidence remains low, and fear of the future remains, as evidenced by the lowest Dow since 1997.

Last week I held two town hall meetings in my district in Northwest Louisiana. In both meetings, the feelings were the same. People are scared and they are angry. They are looking for solutions. Instead we give them wasteful spending and social programs funded with one-time money. Now we hear of a plan to finance this with taxes on the back of small businesses and on the taxpayers themselves.

To help this economy, we must allow business to expedite depreciation schedules, eliminate capital gains taxes and reduce payroll deductions and dedicate dollars to infrastructure projects, including I-49 in Louisiana.

As we move to consider the half trillion dollar omnibus, I urge my colleagues to act fiscally responsible and in a bipartisan manner.

#### COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. I rise today to urge my colleagues, our leadership, Speaker PELOSI, President Obama, to work with CHC on comprehensive immigration reform.

Two weeks ago this legislative body passed a significant bill that will help our devastated economy. We cannot forget the other gaping wound here, our broken immigration system. We are making a big mistake if we continue to ignore the 12 to 14 million undocumented immigrants who are part of this economy. This is not something that we should sweep under the rug with more unrealistic enforcement-only fixes to the immigration system. Enforcement-only approaches makes the situation worse by generating an underground economy and encouraging

a demand for vulnerable, undocumented workers.

I urge my colleagues not to let politics cloud a real solution. The only answer is comprehensive immigration reform.

#### ANTICIPATING THE JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, tonight, when President Obama speaks to a joint session of Congress, I will be on the aisle to greet him, as I have for the past 20 years. It's always my honor and privilege to shake the hand of the President of the United States. And it's really electrifying. But I think tonight, Mr. Speaker, the anticipation is even more electrifying than usual. Our new President, who has done such a wonderful job in bringing us hope, is going to come tonight to speak with the Congress and tell us his plans. I hope and I know that under his administration, we will fix health care and have it universal for everyone.

We know, and under his administration, we will look at our energy policy and wean ourselves off of foreign oil so that America can truly be energy independent.

We need to get our fiscal House in order, and the President's going to address that as well.

So as we anticipate his speech, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the President of the United States, that I am willing and want to work with him hand-in-hand, hope we can do it on a bipartisan basis, and I look forward to his words tonight.

#### NO PATIENT LEFT BEHIND

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, we're going to be listening this evening to President Obama, and one of his featured subjects will be health care. What we don't need in the United States is socialized medicine. We don't need more government control of our personal lives.

What we do need is access to affordable health care for everyone. And to guarantee access to affordable care for every citizen, we need to enact the essential elements of health care, which are, first, that there shall be no discrimination against any citizen due to any pre-existing condition.

Second, there should be open disclosure of all prices, so we know the price of a pill before we swallow it.

And, third, we need to secure the same discounts for all citizens so we all pay the same price for the same service or product.

We can also create the largest risk pools possible to leverage down prices

for all of us. Imagine this: We are only one law away from guaranteeing access to affordable care for everyone everywhere in these United States.

#### REPUBLICAN ALTERNATIVE RECOVERY PLAN

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

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, House Republicans refused, to a person, to support the economic course that President Obama's recovery plan offered.

The Republican proposal is made up almost entirely of tax cuts for the wealthy and strips virtually all of the job-creation investments that was necessary to transform our economy for the future. Their alternative plan had no funds for American infrastructure needs, no investment in energy efficiency, and no protection for health care, no money for police officers and teachers and no food assistance for struggling families, and offered no chance for America to come out of this recession stronger and more able to compete economically.

Mr. Speaker, when are House Republicans going to realize that you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time?

□ 1230

#### PROSPERITY AHEAD FOR ALL AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, what an exciting and wonderfully forward day that we have today when we will be addressed by the Commander in Chief regarding the state of the Nation. All I can think about is we have planted the seeds of the economic stimulus package, a plan that should help no matter who you are and where you are in the nooks and crannies of this Nation, how this Commander in Chief will tell us of the prosperity ahead, of the brighter days ahead. I look forward to that kind of leadership, for, when you are in troubling times, you plant the seeds to make it better.

Our instruction to America is that no area should be left out. The rural poor should not be left out. The urban centers should not be left out. As we are watching the States, we are seeing that some of them are making decisions that do not impact all of the people. We are going to call them to be able to be held accountable because this money is not for their own personal piggy banks.

Let me also say, Mr. Speaker, that I was gratified that the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee allowed me to travel to Guantanamo Bay yes-

terday. It is, in fact, a place where our soldiers are working very hard, but it is also a place where we can find another location. We are studying the issue, but I think it is possible to close Guantanamo Bay.

#### A PROPOSED TAX HOLIDAY

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I have proposed a tax holiday plan. The bill has been filed. I think the first one was laid over here on the Clerk's desk as soon as we were sworn in. It would allow the American people to keep their own income for 2 months. It would allow them to keep their withholding.

When I brought it up to President Obama, he seemed intrigued by the idea. He said, "Ah, you need to talk to Larry Summers about it."

Larry Summers said, "Sure, I'll talk to you."

Well, he didn't take my calls, but nonetheless, I was really gratified Saturday to hear the President say he was going to put people's money, their withholdings, in their paychecks so they wouldn't have to wait for a rebate check. I said, "Wow, fantastic. He's going to help the American people."

The average household was going to get to keep about \$1,000 a month under the proposal. It was going to be great. It was going to help people buy cars. Yet, as it turns out, he said it's \$65 a month. Boy, that's like throwing somebody who's drowning a toothpick and saying, "Grab hold and hang on and we'll help you." Let's get them their real money back.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER). 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 later.

#### HONORING PAUL NEWMAN

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 18) honoring the life, achievements, and contributions of Paul Newman.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 18

Whereas Paul Newman, a great American actor, film director, entrepreneur, humanitarian, and automobile racing enthusiast, passed away on September 26, 2008;

Whereas Paul Newman was born on January 26, 1925, in Shaker Heights, Ohio;