

fuels and the fact that we really don't have a great plan at this point about how to produce electricity. So we've got this energy insecurity and we've got a danger there, but we have also got an incredible opportunity.

But speaking especially to fellow conservatives, I wonder if our conservative environmental policy is being controlled by former Vice President Al Gore. You know, it's said that he who angers you controls you. So I wonder if the fact that when we hear "climate change," we see Al Gore and we get angry; it makes him actually the one that's controlling our view of climate change. Wouldn't it be something if we conservatives were actually under the control of Al Gore because he angers us so much that we can't see past him and some claims he makes about climate change? Some conservatives think that's a bunch of hooey. But if we can't see past that to the job creation opportunity and to the national security risk, then is he really controlling us?

So what I'd like to ask, especially fellow conservatives, to consider is, is that really where we want to be? Do we really want to be controlled by a former Vice President, or do we want to see the opportunity, job creation opportunity, and the incredible national security danger, and then move to act to solve it?

Of course, I think that the solution that conservatives bring is an understanding of markets and how economics work, and how it is that people making profit will actually solve this energy insecurity problem.

So try this out for size: If I'm making Inglis widgets at my factory, and I'm belching and burning and basically dumping ash on my neighbor's property, it's a pretty good deal for me. It stinks for my neighbor. Now, under Biblical law my neighbor would have a cause of action against me. Under English common law, under American common law, and by virtue of EPA and regulations, my neighbor would have a cause of action against me or a regulatory regime to help him out.

Now, if I'm heard to complain to the local congressman, no, now, listen, you can't make me put scrubbers on my smokestack because that will drive up the price of my widgets. Inglis widgets will go up in price, and that will make it so that the customer is hurt. Well, will it? Or will it actually create the opportunity for another entrepreneur across town who is ready to compete with me and take me out because he's got a cleaner process, a smaller smokestack, if you will? So if society wants to move along to that better product that my competitor is offering across town, then what we have to do is figure out a way to make me keep my ash on my property. If you do that, it's called internalizing the externals. It's something that we conservatives can understand. It's a market distortion that we have got to fix. If we fix it, then my incumbent technology, the cheaper widgets because I get to dump ash on my

neighbor's property, suddenly becomes more expensive, and the competing technology now takes me out.

That's where we are with gasoline, for example. The reason the gasoline is so cheap, and it is so cheap, is there are all these negative externalities that aren't recognized by the market: the national security risk, the climate change risk, the environmental problems associated with it. If you stuck those onto the product of gasoline and said, now, gasoline, compete with plug-in hybrids, suddenly plug-in hybrids would be popping up everywhere because the competition would be able to take out the incumbent technology.

I think that's an inherently conservative idea. I think it's understanding how markets work, how economics work, and how profit can solve this energy insecurity. Because if we get to the place where that competing technology can take out the incumbent technology, we will break this addiction to oil, and we will improve the national security of the United States, and we will create jobs, because those new technologies have a lot of jobs in them.

So even if you think that climate change is a bunch of hooey, there are two other reasons to pursue it that are equally valid and very exciting opportunities to fix this energy insecurity that we face, and that I look forward to talking with you again about.

My colleagues, this is an opportunity for us to work together to build consensus, to collaborate as Republicans and Democrats. We can fix this problem.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. FUDGE. I am a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, better known as the CBC. Currently, the CBC

is chaired by the Honorable BARBARA LEE from the Ninth Congressional District of California. My name is Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, representing the 11th District of Ohio.

CBC members are advocates for the human family nationally and internationally and have played a significant role as local and regional activists. We continue to work diligently to be the conscience of the Congress.

But understand all politics are local. Therefore, we provide dedicated and focused service to the citizens and the congressional districts we serve.

The vision of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus to promote the public welfare through legislation designed to meet the needs of millions of neglected citizens continues to be our focal point for the legislative work and political activities of the Congressional Black Caucus today. More than ever, it is necessary that we, as leaders, help those whom we serve. As the floor moderator today for the Congressional Black Caucus special order hour, I have to add that it is more important than ever that we put the money where our mouth is.

For the past 8 years, we have lived in a cloud of corporate misdeeds, backroom dealings, and extreme tax cuts that have only benefited the wealthiest people in this Nation. Due to the Bush administration's lack of government oversight, intervention and inattention, we now face the toughest economy in our lifetime.

Such neglect and inattention have led to this storm called a housing crisis, a collapse of the stock market and rising health care costs that leaves most Americans in a state of shock. In 2008, nearly 4 million jobs were lost across the Nation. In February of this year, the Greater Cleveland area unemployment rate was at a staggering 10.2 percent. The overall African-American unemployment rate is even greater, currently over 13 percent.

In these dire times, something must be done to help our Nation and our people get back on their feet. The best way to address these issues and illustrate our desire to better the lives of so many Americans is with our budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.

I want to thank President Obama for his thoughtful budget that signals a new era of responsibility. I want to applaud his attention to our Nation's most urgent needs, job training and job creation, health care and education.

I would like to thank him for the particular attention that this budget gives to the mental health needs of our veterans. Finally, I applaud this administration for paying attention to those that need us the most, our children and our elderly.

As the former mayor of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, and on behalf of all mayors and all local leaders, I want to focus on the administration's full funding of Community Development Block Grants. The fiscal year 2010 budget provides \$4.5 billion to fully fund this program.

As legislators, our number one priority is to get ourselves out of this current economic crisis. To accomplish this, we must look to programs that help improve and grow our economy. Historically, for every \$1 of funding through a Community Development Block Grant, nearly \$3 is leveraged for economic development projects.

When a city needs a grocery store or more affordable housing, this block grant funding is utilized and helps build neighborhoods. This is one of the few programs where the money goes directly to the locality. It does not get tied up in State government or Federal affairs. The money immediately goes to the areas where local leaders can help expand economic opportunities for their local citizens.

In Cleveland, Community Development Block Grant dollars have gone to assist our housing trust fund. Every dollar of investment leverages \$5 of private investment. In 2008, housing trust fund funds were committed to projects that supported nearly 700 energy efficient housing units.

This money has also gone to combat foreclosure. CDBG funds are the principal source of funds for supporting a range of activities to respond to the aftermath of foreclosures. This year, block grants can provide \$300,000 for anti-predatory lending programs administered by Cleveland's Department of Consumer Affairs and other non-profit agencies, over \$400,000 for code enforcement and almost \$900,000 for nuisance abatement and land reutilization on properties that are either vacant or have been through foreclosure.

Community Development Block Grant dollars will help with housing services for low- or moderate-income families. These funds are a critical source of assistance for seniors and low-income families with funding to repair their homes. This year over \$2.2 million is expected to be used for home repair assistance from these funds.

This grant will also help community-based organizations. Approximately \$8 million supports a network of organizations that provide housing services, neighborhood safety programs and community outreach.

Finally, CDBG funding will help city-wide services, housing and financial services such as foreclosure counseling, homeownership counseling, landlord tenant counseling and fair housing assistance. The funds also support nonprofits that offer social services such as educational programming for youth and food programs for our seniors and low-income families.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished woman and our chair, the gentlelady from California, Ms. BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much. Let me thank the gentlelady from Ohio for yielding, but also for your leadership and for that very clear and powerful statement and ensuring that the Congressional Black Caucus each week has an opportunity

to talk about those issues that are affecting the African-American community, communities of color and the entire country. So thank you, Congresswoman FUDGE.

There are just a couple of things I would like to say tonight on the budget. I have to acknowledge and thank the Chair of the Budget Committee for the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT, who consistently each year pulls together his task force. I serve as a member of his task force to look at the overall budget and to make sure that the Congressional Black Caucus' focus is couched within the fact that historically we have been and continue to be the conscience of the Congress and that the budget reflects our values. The budget is a moral document, and it's within that perspective and lens that we look at the budget.

Let me say a couple of things with regard to the budget, specifically. As an example of what I am talking about, the HIV/AIDS pandemic is devastating the African-American community and communities of color both here and, of course, abroad, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

We believe the time has come to really put forth a national HIV/AIDS strategy, a plan, and fund it. We also established in 1999, under the great leadership of Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, a minority AIDS initiative. And this year we are pushing to fund that minority AIDS initiative at least at \$645, \$650 million. That's really a drop in the bucket, but we have to start somewhere, and we want to make sure that our tax dollars, as it relates to HIV and AIDS, are targeted and directed to where the problem is the greatest.

And, of course, we know, when you look at the statistics in the African-American community, HIV and AIDS is off the scale. So we must do more and we have to get this moving very quickly.

Secondly, I would like to just mention this defense budget. Each and every year there are a few of us who talk about the fact that we all, and as the daughter of a lieutenant colonel, I am, as I always say, a military brat, support a strong military, a strong national defense and our troops.

It's time that we look at a realistic national security budget that reflects our national security priorities, not to continue to fund many of those Cold War-era weapons systems, which are being built for a threat that doesn't exist. So we are looking at ways, and I have found in the GAO studies that have been conducted on the defense budget, there's billions of dollars in waste, fraud and abuse in the defense budget.

It's time we look at closing some of those items that GAO identified, and I believe we could get up to some \$80-some billion in cuts just based on closing the items that have been identified as waste, fraud and abuse.

So there is much to look at in terms of the budget. This is a very difficult year, it's a very difficult time, given the economic recession, and so we must have a budget that reflects the values of our country, including addressing poverty in a big way.

Eight more million people now are living in poverty as a result, unfortunately, of the policies of the last 8 years. We have to begin to look at how we address these moral gaps, and that's what they were. That's what they are, the dignity of all human beings must be reflected in our budget, and that is what the Congressional Black Caucus seeks to do to ensure that every man, woman and child, not only in the Black community, but throughout the country, have support and our Federal Government policies that support their dignity and their worth.

So I want to thank Congressman BOBBY SCOTT and Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE for their leadership on that and just know that we are working day and night to make sure that whatever budget comes out of here reflects the moral values of our country. Thank you.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you for your leadership as well.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I would like to yield to the distinguished Member from the Virgin Islands, Representative CHRISTENSEN.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Madam Speaker, I join my Congressional Black Caucus colleagues this evening for what I consider to be one of the important, if not the most important aspects of our Federal budget, health and health care spending. I also rise, not only as a colleague and as a physician, but as a Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Brain Trust, whose mission is to ensure that our community's unique health and health care issues are at the forefront as our budget process proceeds.

Finally, I rise to applaud President Obama for the steps he has taken and hopefully will continue to take to ensure that the social determinants of health are fully considered and solutions fully integrated into health care reform.

In recent years I have joined some of our other colleagues and religious leaders on the Hill to address the budget as a moral document, as you have heard our chairwoman speak to a few minutes ago, as a document that represents our country's values and our values of the people. In those years we decried the fact that the budget that was sent to Congress by the then President did not include support or in any way foster work that we are called to do by our faith, not just Christian faith but any faith, essentially to ensure that the needs of the least of these are met.

The Congressional Black Caucus, as a group, has also met with past Presidents, just as we met with President Obama 2 weeks ago. In these meetings

we outline our agenda priorities and indicate our hope for the President's support in health care, education, housing, economic opportunity, improved relationships with African and Caribbean countries and a number of other areas of concern.

Until now, neither have the goals of the religious community or the CBC, which parallel each other, even been partially approached. In fact, if it were not for the strong position taken by the Democrats in this body, and some of our colleagues on the other side who joined us, to protect them, programs like Medicaid, Head Start, Healthy Start, maternal and child health programs and many others would have been severely compromised and the lives of many of our fellow Americans with them.

We don't have to look far to remember that expanded coverage for uninsured children was impossible to accomplish until this new administration was sworn in. But change is coming. We, as a country, have reason to hope for a new and a better day. We are pleased, as we look at the outline that President Obama has sent for the year 2010, that it resonates not just with our request or that of religious leaders over the years, but that it responds to many of the long unmet needs of the American people.

It builds on the very important down payment made by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which funds are already beginning to reach communities like mine across the country and provide a lifeline to families in this time of dire economic stress.

I want to spend a few minutes to focus on the health care parts of our budget, because as long as I have been in Congress, the grave differences in health care access, quality and health outcomes that have had a detrimental impact on the health wellness and life opportunities of millions of Americans every single year have been the focal issues of my efforts and those of the Congressional Black Caucus. These differences not only exist along lines of race and ethnicity, but also along lines of gender and geography.

The sad reality is this, because we as a Nation have not taken the steps necessary to close these health and health care gaps, it is estimated that 100,000 people, a disproportionate number of whom are racial and ethnic minorities, die prematurely from preventable causes every year. Additionally, because progress to address the root cause of health inequities, the social determinants of health, have been stagnant, health disparities are no longer only a racial and ethnic minority health problem. Today, they are an American issue.

This failure to improve health, to address its root causes, not only affects the health quality and lives of people of color, but undermines them for everyone in this country and weakens our country's position of leadership in the world.

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The good news, however, is that we are in a new political day, and I am extremely heartened that our new President, President Obama, is aggressively taking steps to continue work begun in the ARRA and is making a sizable commitment—to the tune of \$634 billion over 10 years—on health care reform.

And so we are pleased that he is making good on his promise to ensure and improve the health and health care of those millions of Americans who have been left out and forgotten for far too long and, in doing so, to bring about meaningful and thoughtful reform to our Nation's very broken and outdated health care system.

What is more, I applaud the President's emphasis on prevention, with this budget's historic \$1 billion investment in prevention, as well as the other provisions that will address social determinants that are not normally seen as health-related, an investment worth making, especially since studies confirm that roughly 60 percent of the premature deaths in the United States are attributable to social circumstances, environmental conditions, and behavioral choices, all of which could be addressed through prevention and a more holistic approach to health.

For example, we know that educational attainment has a direct and indirect impact on health and health care. Well, so does President Obama, whose fiscal year 2010 budget strengthens and reforms the Nation's public schools and expands funds for college.

We know that having access to safe and affordable housing, as well as living in communities that are structurally and socially stable, has an impact on health. The President's budget provides \$1 billion for an Affordable Housing Trust Fund. He has a fund that will prevent homelessness and strengthen families. Additionally, the President's plans invests \$3.2 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program to help low-income families with their home heating and cooling expenses, which will not only prevent accidents, but will also help ensure that our homes are not places that make us sick.

We also know that the foods we eat have a direct impact on our health and well-being, which is why the President's budget, which includes robust funding to expand access to nutrition programs, especially among women and children and seniors, is so critically important to support.

Further, we are impressed that this budget seems to reflect an understanding of one aspect of health disparity elimination that previous budgets and many fail to grasp, that health disparity elimination will require far more than just covering all of our Nation's uninsured, as important is that is in itself.

In fact, we know that the lack of insurance accounts for roughly only 20 percent of the racial and ethnic differences and morbidity and mortality

that we hear about and experience year after year.

So, I am extremely heartened that this budget includes significant increases in funding to many of the critically important programs that are needed to ensure health equity.

For this reason, Madam Speaker and colleagues, I look forward as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Brain Trust to working with my colleagues in Congress and with the President to ensure that we reform our health care system in a manner that does not just get it done, but that gets it done right.

To that end, while this budget aptly and appropriately emphasizes reducing un-insurance, bolstering prevention, closing gaps in the health care workforce, and ensuring that our Federal programs are strengthened, I want to stress that health disparity elimination must be an integral component as well.

Not only do health disparities cause, as I said, about 100,000 preventable deaths each year; in fact, health disparities are among the key factors that drive up health care costs that we, as a Nation, struggle to contain every year.

I know that designing a health care system that addresses the social determinants of health that exacerbate health inequities will require the willing to take bold steps and the visionary leadership to ensure that more than one step is taken. However, I also know that we have both of those today—both in the administration and in this Congress.

Together, we can reform our health care system in a manner that champions health equity, and together we can make this Nation, one person and one community at a time, healthier, stronger, and better prepared for tomorrow.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I thank you for taking on the challenge of this Special Order every Monday evening, and for focusing on the President's budget tonight.

There are other health and health care spending priorities set by the President in this budget that are downright long overdue.

For example, the budget enhances HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment by increasing resources to detect, prevent, and treat HIV/AIDS domestically, especially in the hardest hit communities, a disproportionate number of which are African American communities.

The President's budget sets aside \$330 million to increase the number of doctors, nurses and dentists who practice in areas where there are known shortages in health professionals will play a very significant role in ensuring that whenever someone needs the services of a trained health care provider, he or she will be able to get it without having to travel 450 miles.

By investing \$19 billion in health information technology, we will ensure that as we modernize our nation's health care system to maximize its efficiency, coordination and privacy, that we do so in a manner that does not create a two-tiered health care system.

This investment in HIT also will ensure that if and when another natural disaster hits one

of our cities along the coast or in one of the U.S. Territories, that survivors do not have to fear that their paper medical records will have perished in the basement of a hospital or clinic, or that their health and that of their families will be compromised because they do not have immediate access to needed health records.

The budget's \$6 billion investment in cancer research—which reflects the Administration's multi-year commitment to double cancer research funding—will play a key role not only in reducing the egregious racial and ethnic disparities we see in cancer treatment, but also in cancer deaths.

And the budget's investment in Medicaid and Medicare to strengthen the programs, bolster their integrity and accountability, and expand the programs' research agendas is critically important, as these two programs play pivotal roles in ensuring that our nation's most vulnerable have access to needed health care services and treatments.

Finally, and of utmost importance to the people I represent in the U.S. Virgin Islands, President Obama signals in his budget outline his intention to move towards equity for the Territories in health and other related programs.

There are so many positive elements in this budget that indicate that we are headed in the right direction; especially as it relates to fixing our nation's health care system and that with his leadership and that of the leadership in this body we are beginning to build a health care system for the 21st century and beyond.

For this reason, Madam Speaker and colleagues, I look forward—as the Chair of the CBC Health Braintrust—to working with my colleagues in Congress and with the President to ensure that we reform our health care system in a manner that does not just get it done, but that gets it done right.

To that end, while this budget aptly and appropriately emphasizes reducing un-insurance, bolstering prevention, closing gaps in the health care workforce and ensuring that our federal health programs are strengthened, I want stress that health disparity elimination must be an integral component as well.

Not only do health disparities cause about 100,000 premature preventable deaths each year, but in fact, health disparities are among the key factors that drive up the health care costs that we—as a nation—struggle to contain each year.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank very much. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands, who is always, in our caucus and in this Congress, a leading advocate for health care reform. I thank her.

At this time I would yield to the distinguished Member from the State of Virginia, Mr. ROBERT "BOBBY" SCOTT.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Thank you. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from Ohio for organizing this Special Order. The budget is an extremely important part of our work, and I thank you for allowing us the opportunity to discuss what is going on with the budget.

Before we can discuss the budget going forward, we have to understand where we are and the mess that we are in. Sometimes you need charts to adequately describe exactly what the situation is.

This is a chart from 1989 showing the budget deficit. Starting in 1993, we went up to surplus. Unfortunately, in 2001, we had a complete collapse of the budget. 2008, the deficit will be about here. A little over \$400 billion. 2009, it will literally be off the chart. So, this is what we are dealing with.

In 1993, we made the tough choices and eliminated the deficit, went into surplus, and had enough in the beginning of 2001, enough of a surplus to pay Social Security for 75 years without reducing any benefits or to pay off the entire debt held by the public by last year. We were in good shape financially in 2001, but we made the wrong choices. And the rest is history.

The deterioration in the budget from the \$5.5 trillion surplus to the probably \$3 trillion, maybe \$4 trillion deficit, was a swing of almost \$9 trillion. Almost \$1 trillion a year deterioration in the budget.

This chart shows where the public debt has exploded. In 2001, we were headed by the budget projections to paying off not only the debt held by the public, but all of the debt; putting the money back in the trust funds and everything else. Instead, the debt has totally exploded.

Now, one of the problems with the debt is that more and more of it is coming from foreign countries. Primarily, Saudi Arabia, Japan, and China. And that has foreign policy implications. You can't negotiate a good trade deal when the next thing out of your mouth is, Can I borrow some money? When you're borrowing money from Saudi Arabia, obviously that has implications on our ability to negotiate gasoline and oil prices.

The debt held in foreign countries was headed towards zero. It has, again, exploded. Now we have over \$2 trillion of our debt held in foreign countries.

Now, we got in this mess because we had unaffordable tax cuts, primarily for the wealthy. People get mad when you say "primarily for the wealthy," but it was done, presumably, to create jobs.

This chart shows how, in the last 8 years, in terms of job growth, we have experienced the worst job growth since the Great Depression. Herbert Hoover is the only President on this chart who's done worse than the last 8 years.

There's very poor economic activity, as measured by the Dow Jones Industrial Average. This chart shows the Dow Jones Industrial Average from Hoover, Franklin, Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton. The worst since Herbert Hoover in terms of Dow performance in the last 8 years.

Now, some people have said that all those tax cuts actually increased revenues. Well, that is not exactly true. Since 1960, this chart, just to break down the color code, a green bar is a year in which we achieved record revenues in individual income tax. Record revenues. A red bar is one where a record was not achieved.

You will notice since 1960, tax cuts, tax increases, recessions, depression; everything since good years, bad years, since 1960, there were only 2 years in which we did not achieve a record. So, to say that we had additional revenues wouldn't be saying much, because we always have revenues.

But it's even worse than that because in 2001 we did not achieve a record. 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005. We went 5 consecutive years, something that has not happened since they started taking records in the 1930s, did you go more than 2 years without achieving a record. You have had world wars and everything else. The record: 5 years without a record.

So, the cuts in taxes did not increase revenues. It actually decreased revenues. And, as I said, they get mad when you say the taxes were cut for the rich.

This chart shows for people under \$20,000—from \$20,000 to \$50,000; \$50,000 to \$75,000; \$75,000 to \$100,000; \$100,000 to \$200,000; \$200,000 to \$1 million; over \$1 million, how much you got out of the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts. You notice that if you made over \$1 million, you did well. And if you made under \$20,000, or even under \$50,000, you hardly need ink to draw the bar.

There's one particular tax that, in the Obama budget, will be repealed. Put back the way was. It's about a \$20 billion tax cut every year. And this is how it's distributed. If you make over \$1 million, you get about \$17,000. \$200,000 to \$1 million, you get several hundred dollars. \$100,000 to \$200,000; on average, you will get you will get about \$1 a month. Under \$100,000; on average, you will get not a dime.

Now, one of the things that is extremely important and why it is crucial that we get this budget under control, and that is I referred to Social Security. This is a Social Security cash flow chart, showing the blue bars are bringing in now more than we are paying out. In 2017, we will start paying out more than we are bringing in.

This is \$200 billion deficit, a \$600 billion deficit. By 2040, we will be approaching \$1 trillion, paying out more Social Security than we are bringing in. If we had the \$5.5 trillion, you needed about \$4 trillion in the bank today, drawing interest. We could pay Social Security for 75 years without reducing benefits.

Unfortunately, we are going broke, and this is one of the reasons we have to get our budget under control quickly, because otherwise we will get into a deficit situation in Social Security that we will never get out of.

One of the things that we have to do is make sure that the expenditures and tax revenues get back under control. Federal revenues traditionally, in the past, have been less than the expenditures. We have been spending more than we are bringing in. That is deficit spending.

By the mid 1990s, we actually reduced spending and increased revenues, to the point where we had that healthy surplus that was set to go as far as the eye

could see. Unfortunately, in 2001, we passed tax cuts that we could not afford, collapsing revenues and, in fact, even increased as a percentage of GDP, increased spending, creating this deficit. We have to get back under control where the revenues are more than the expenditures.

This year, we are out of control because we have had the stimulus package, we have had the bailouts, and everything. But this is just a 1-year spike. And we need to get the budget back under control. And we can do that. Under the Obama budgets, we will be back into more traditional levels of deficits.

But, when we get down here, that should not be the end. That is just the first step. We are going to have to continue bringing spending down and revenues up so that we will have our surplus so that we will be able to afford Social Security.

The President's budget, the first thing it does is reinstates what is called PAYGO. One of the reasons that we could maintain fiscal responsibility in the 1990s is we had a process called PAYGO. Pay as you go. If you offer a spending program, you have to pay for it. You have to raise the taxes to pay for it or cut some spending somewhere else. If you want to cut some taxes, you have to cut some spending or raise some other taxes. Everything do you, have you to pay for it. And if you don't pay for it, you can't pass it.

Unfortunately, in 2001, PAYGO expired, and the tax cuts were passed without paying for it. Increased spending took place without paying for it. And we got into the ditch that we are in. We now are back under PAYGO, where we are going to have to pay for what we do.

One of the things that the Obama budget does, it presents an honest budget. There are many things in the last few budgets that were just kind of left out. We knew every year we'd been continuing some tax cuts year after year. We knew each year we'd put those back in. Those weren't in the budget as introduced.

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The war spending. We know we are at war. There was zero for the war in Iraq and Afghanistan in the budgets as introduced. We knew we were going to spend money on those wars. In fact, there were about \$250 billion worth of known expenditures that we knew we were going to spend that were left out of the budgets. The Obama budget includes everything that everybody knows that we are going to spend.

So with PAYGO and fiscal responsibility, we are going to at least reduce the deficit 50 percent in the first term of President Obama; and after we get there, we will continue to make progress.

The President's budget makes significant investments in energy, getting us from dependence on foreign oil and creating millions of jobs in energy, cre-

ating clean energy jobs. His budget brings down the skyrocketing costs of health care, and makes focused investments in education, one of the things on energy, alternative forms of energy and conservation and significant research investments.

In health care, we need to make investments in cost control to make sure that we can control health care. The Social Security chart and the Medicare chart are very similar. The Medicare chart is actually even worse because of the accelerating health care costs. We need to get those costs under control, because if we don't get Medicare under control, health care generally will consume the entire budget. We need to make sure that we are investing in access to make sure that those who have insurance can keep it, because as the costs go up, people are losing their health insurance.

He is making significant investments in education, making sure that tax credits for education expenses are increased and Pell Grants are increased so more and more people can go to college. And we want to make sure that we invest in elementary and secondary education, particularly early childhood education.

The budget makes a unique investment in nurse home visits. These have been shown to significantly reduce a lot of problems, one of which is child abuse, which is highly correlated with future crime by these nurse visits. The nurse visits have been studied. I serve on the Judiciary Committee, and they have found that those who have had the advantage of the nurse visits were one-third as likely to be arrested 18 years later as those who did not have the visits; education is much better off; child abuse is down. So those visits will be a very important investment in our future.

And, finally, the President's budgets continues large increases in veterans health care. We had significant increases 2 years ago and last year, and we will continue those increases so our veterans get the health care that they certainly have earned and deserve.

We need to make some tough choices. The President says one of the most difficult choices are making expenditures today that save money in the future. Nobody wants to spend the money today if the savings won't occur for 5 or 10 years.

One of the bills that I have introduced is the Youth Promise Act that makes investments in young people to keep them out of trouble. We are spending more money per person in incarceration. We have got more people locked up today per hundred thousand population than anywhere on Earth. We could significantly reduce the need for that correlation if we made investments up front, getting young people on the right track and keeping them on the right track. The Youth Promise Act does that. It has an interesting aspect to it. When you save money, the localities that come up with their local

plans will try to identify where they are saving money, and those agencies should kick in to keep the program running.

The State of Pennsylvania did the collaborative approach that is anticipated in the Youth Promise Act, and they funded a number of programs for a total cost of approximately \$60 million, \$60 million, and they calculate they save over the next few years over \$300 million, because they made those investments and reduced crime significantly. Nobody wants to make the first investment; so the Youth Promise Act will make those investments and, hopefully, the localities will continue the programs, saving significant money in the future.

But we have to make the tough choices. And if we don't make those tough choices, if we don't get the budget under control, we are going to be spending entirely too much money on interest in the national debt, we will jeopardize Social Security and Medicare. But with the leadership of President Obama, the Congressional Black Caucus is committed to addressing our priorities in a fiscally responsible way. Social Security, Medicare, and our future depend on it.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio for her leadership and giving us the opportunity to talk about the budget today.

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. BOBBY SCOTT.

For those of us in the Congressional Black Caucus, we clearly know that Representative SCOTT is the best in the Congress when it comes to analyzing budgets and providing information to his colleagues. So, again, I thank him.

Madam Speaker, I thank you. I thank the members of the CBC for allowing me to act in their behalf tonight; as well as I want to say that we do very much appreciate the fact that we now have an administration and a President who does believe in an honest budget, who does believe in doing the things that are necessary to get this country back on track.

I yield back the balance of my time.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to call attention to our economy and the fiscal discipline we