

Health care cost increases are on an unsustainable course, and we can no longer hide behind budget gimmicks and just pass along the tough fiscal decisions for future Congresses. The time has come to act.

□ 1015

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET TAKES US IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

(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, the \$3.6 trillion budget released by President Obama spends too much, taxes too much, borrows too much, and wastes too much.

Today, middle-class families and small businesses are making sacrifices when it comes to their own budget, yet Washington continues to spend trillions of taxpayer dollars on bailouts and other government programs. The spending in this budget is so massive that independent estimates suggest roughly 250,000 new Federal bureaucrats may be needed just to spend it all.

Rather than government cutting back, showing restraint, operating more efficiently on basic government responsibilities, the President proposes to create massive new programs, vastly expanding the scope and reach of the Federal Government. The energy taxes alone will cost every household over 3,000 additional dollars per year.

This budget will cost American jobs at a time when we can't afford it. The majority of those hit by the new tax increases are small businesses, the engines of job creation in our economy. This budget takes us in the wrong direction.

CONGRATULATING MAHONING VALLEY

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to congratulate the Mahoning Valley on a much-deserved honor. It recently ranked seventh in the Nation among mid-sized metropolitan areas for business attraction and expansion, according to Site Selection magazine. This is the first time the Valley has been chosen since the survey began 30 years ago.

Amidst all the bad economic news, this announcement was a bright spot that demonstrates all the hard work our businesses, workforce, and elected officials have put into making our community a great place to live and work and expand. The Mahoning Valley is ripe for economic development, and I am so pleased to see it receive such positive recognition. The magazine recognizes the local metropolitan area, which includes Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana Counties in Ohio.

Congratulations, Mahoning Valley. I am so proud to represent you, and look forward to continuing to help foster economic development in Ohio's Sixth District.

MEDIA'S IMMIGRATION BIAS PREVENTS AMERICANS FROM GETTING FACTS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, many of us remember the tragic case of Chandra Levy, a former Washington, D.C. intern who disappeared suddenly 8 years ago.

The man charged recently with murdering Ms. Levy entered the United States illegally, but you might not have known that by following the news. CBS, CNN, and the AP, among many other media outlets, failed to mention even once that the suspect entered the country illegally. Instead, the media used terms like "incarcerated felon" and "jailed attacker" to refer to the suspect in news reports. They neglected to point out that the suspect would not have been able to commit the alleged murder if he had not entered the country illegally in the first place.

This is an example of how the media's liberal bias on immigration issues prevents Americans from getting the facts. Whether it's immigration or any other issue, the media should report the facts, not slant the news.

BUSH BUDGET LEGACY—DEEP DEFICITS AND ECONOMIC DECLINE

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, in January, 2001, President Bush inherited a fiscal situation stronger than any in half a century. When President Clinton left office, the Federal budget was on track to retire all debt for the first time since 1835 and add \$3 trillion in net national savings. But Republican trickle-down economic policies changed all that—squandering the entire budget surplus and instead creating deficits in the trillions.

Republicans let budget rules lapse. They increased spending, they cut revenue, and enacted expensive tax cuts for those who needed them the least. On President Bush's watch, the debt held by the public grew from \$3.4 to \$6.3 trillion. The gross Federal debt doubled, and foreign-held debt more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, the healthy fiscal forecast the Bush administration inherited 8 years ago has now been replaced by record budget deficits as far as the eye can see and an economy in a tailspin. This is the unfortunate situation that President Bush left President Obama. It stands in stark contrast to what President Bush inherited in 2001 and

demonstrates the harmful effects of Republican economic policies.

REJECT THE FLAWED CAP-AND-TAX PROGRAM

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

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, while our Nation is suffering a severe economic recession, the Democrat majority is working behind closed doors to enact the largest carbon regulatory scheme in our Nation's history in the form of a cap-and-tax system. In fact, President Obama's budget includes a \$646 billion cap-and-trade energy tax that will be paid by every American who drives a car, turns on a light switch, or buys a product made in the United States. And that's every single American, regardless of income. No matter how you slice it, this issue is a huge tax. Government revenues are, of course, taxes on the American people.

This cap-and-tax scheme would cost the average American household in every State up to \$3,000 a year, and that's a very conservative estimate. This is really not a good way to stimulate our economy in economic bad times like we are in.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to reject the flawed cap-and-tax program in the President's budget. The Democrat majority is borrowing too much money, taxing too much, and spending too much. When is it enough?

AMERICA WILL RECOVER AND EMERGE STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. According to a poll released this week, more Americans believe that the country is on the right track than before the election, and they believe that President Obama is handling his new job very well.

What I hear from folks back home in Florida is they have faith that the recovery plan is going to help them. Indeed, the moneys are being delivered to local communities to create jobs. In Tampa, we're going to construct an important link for economic development out of our port, moneys for our public schools, and students will arrive this month.

Energy efficiency. We are going to weatherize homes throughout the Tampa Bay area and the State of Florida.

On Monday, we announced a computer initiative to computerize medical records throughout the Tampa Bay region. Health care for Floridians will be provided because we are not going to let our neighbors fall through the crack during this economic downturn.

The budget priorities President Obama has sent us are right—health care reform, education, and investments in energy. We will recover, and

America will emerge stronger than ever before.

PMA SCANDAL

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, later today or tomorrow, the House will be voting again on a privileged resolution to look into the matter of the PMA scandal. There is an outside investigation by the Department of Justice into PMA, a powerhouse lobbying firm that will close its doors at the end of the month because of suspect contributions to Members of Congress, Members of Congress who secured no-bid contracts on behalf of that firm.

Mr. Speaker, several years ago we had the Jack Abramoff scandal. The leadership at that time was slow to recognize that scandal, and it kept spreading until it got worse and did damage to the reputation of this body. Let's not make that same mistake today. This scandal promises to be far larger if we let it go. So let's have the investigation go on by the Ethics Committee. We have an obligation to uphold the dignity and decorum of this body and we are not exercising it yet.

I urge a vote not to table the resolution, and let the Ethics Committee investigate this scandal.

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Safe Place Week, the organization and the critical services it provides to young people in need.

Of the more than 1 million youth who experience homelessness annually, some are born without homes, but most run away to escape abuse; and with no hope in sight, one-third attempt suicide. Thankfully, National Safe Place recognizes that in each of these young people is hope for the future, a chance to succeed, and an opportunity to become productive members of our communities.

In the 26 years since National Safe Place began in my hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, it has served nearly a quarter million disconnected youth nationwide, 100,000 in Kentucky alone. In 40 States and 1,400 communities across the Nation, Safe Place has provided the services and support to help a child's potential become a reality. No wonder Safe Place is the largest recipient of funding through the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act, which we just reauthorized with legislation I authored with my colleague, JUDY BIGGERT.

Time after time, adolescents devoid of hope have traveled a path that seems sure to dead end, only to find themselves in front of one of 1,600 stores, restaurants, and businesses bearing the Safe Place logo. Inside,

they find a new path that begins with the support every child needs and ends with a chance that every child deserves.

I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating National Safe Place Week.

IT IS TIME TO TAKE BACK TAXPAYER MONEY FROM AIG

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the hardworking families of my district and the State of Pennsylvania who, like me, are shocked and outraged by recent actions taken by the insurance company, AIG.

Mr. Speaker, the current economic downturn has been especially difficult for my constituents. Traveling across my district, I have heard the same story from far too many middle-class families about how they are bearing the brunt of our faltering economy. Paychecks can't stretch far enough anymore to make payments on the mortgage, buy groceries, and pay the utility bills. In fact, many of my constituents who have worked hard and played by the rules have had to take a pay cut simply to keep their jobs.

My constituents work hard and meet their responsibilities every day, and they don't have the benefit of government bailouts or multimillion-dollar bonuses. However, they have seen their hard-earned tax dollars go to bail out companies like AIG, whose own greed and recklessness are responsible for the economic downturn in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to understand why AIG executives think they have earned bonuses in the first place; but, more importantly, how dare AIG use tens of millions of taxpayer dollars to reward themselves for bad behavior. How can they justify this outrage to taxpayers who are keeping their company afloat?

I say enough is enough. And that is why I am supporting legislation that will safeguard the taxpayers' money and hold AIG executives accountable once and for all.

CHANGING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am so grateful for a President that believes in the American people. I thank him for his budget, thank him for his outrage regarding outrageous AIG employees receiving bonuses, thank him for recognizing the 47 million plus that are growing who need health care reform, and thank this leadership that is beginning to open the discussion on American health care reform that is so very important.

I happen to believe a single-payer system is a health care payment system, not a health care delivery system.

Health care providers will be in a fee-for-service practice and will not be employees of the government. Therefore, it is not socialized medicine. Single-payer health care is not socialized medicine any more than the public funding of education is socialized education or the public funding of the defense industry is socialized defense.

What we simply want is the ability for that single payer to negotiate prescription drug prices, hospital prices, nursing home prices. We simply want the ability to give the American people the insurance on health care that they and their children need.

Interestingly enough, polls show that 60 to 75 percent of Americans believe in this type of system. But the most important aspect is, we have a leader—and the leadership in this Congress—that says Americans count. Let us change the health care system today, not pay AIG employees bonuses.

AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. TIBERI. Ladies and gentlemen, in the coming weeks, we are going to debate the budget for the United States of America for the next 10 years, for next year and beyond. This budget clearly taxes too much, spends too much, and borrows too much from the American people. In fact, not only does it do that, but for someone like my mom and dad who are on fixed incomes, seniors, this will cause their taxes to go up every time they fill the tank of their 14-year-old car, turn on the lights of their 35-year-old house, or turn up the thermostat to heat or turn it down to cool their home.

This is a huge tax on American consumers, particularly from my State in Ohio, with this cap-and-tax issue that is within this budget, a debate that we're going to have in this House this month and next month.

Americans deserve better. They deserve better solutions. Republicans in the minority here are willing to be part of those better solutions. I hope that the Speaker and the leadership of the House will be partners with us for those better solutions.

□ 1030

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDITS

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

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, the American people are demanding leadership, and we will be judged in this House by two measures, by action or inaction, and whether what we do in this House is going to put our economy and our people back on track.

And let me tell you, while some of my colleagues stand with their arms