

The plan takes steps to reduce health care costs, one of the largest contributors to the deficit and a growing burden on American businesses like the auto industry. The budget includes \$2 trillion worth of savings, ending the war in Iraq, cutting programs that are not effective, and ending tax breaks for corporations that ship jobs overseas.

My constituents who are struggling to make ends meet continue to urge me to support this budget. The American people understand this commonsense blueprint for change is exactly what we need for these challenging times. They understand it cuts taxes for 95 percent of Americans, cuts wasteful spending, cuts the deficit in half over 4 years. What this budget grows is jobs. We can't afford to wait.

SMALL BUSINESS

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

Mr. LEE of New York. Mr. Speaker, small businesses created over 80 percent of the jobs in this country in the past decade, yet Washington continues to apply erroneous legislation that hurts and dampens the entrepreneurial spirit we have in this country.

Whether it is health care costs, high taxes, or promoting legislation which opens businesses up to more frivolous lawsuits, Washington is making it very difficult on hardworking Americans when we ask them to shoulder more burdens which they continually face.

That is what I heard yesterday when I conducted a small business roundtable in my district. One of these small business owners said, "We don't want to depend on the government for anything, but they can help us by understanding that the burdens they are placing are trickling down and breaking the backs of small business."

We can start to change that by passing H.R. 1552, legislation I have introduced with my colleague from Maryland, FRANK KRATOVL, that will give a boost to new small businesses by increasing the maximum tax deduction on their startup costs from \$5,000 to \$20,000. This bipartisan initiative will provide firms with the much-needed resources they need.

ENERGY

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon for 1 minute, 60 seconds, during which this great Nation will send \$200,000 abroad to pay for foreign oil, each of those dollars hard earned in one of our factories, small businesses, or offices.

My colleagues, we have failed to act on energy for far too long, we, who represent a Nation who has always taken the hard choices and done the right thing to invest in our future.

Much is said in this House about our children. Now the eyes of those chil-

dren are on us, and they have one question, and that question is: When all the work, when all the world, and when all of us stood waiting for you to do the right thing to act on our behalf, to change the way we use and get energy, did you act? Did you act for us, or did you just kick the can down the road one more time?

REAUTHORIZE THE PATRIOT ACT

(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, FBI Director Mueller in his recent testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee urged Congress to renew what he called exceptional intelligence-gathering tools. Earlier this month, I introduced legislation to do just that.

The Safe and Secure America Act extends for 10 years the sunset on two expiring PATRIOT Act provisions: Roving wiretaps, and Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act business records.

Director Mueller reports that obtaining business records "has been exceptionally helpful in our national security investigations."

And the roving wiretap authority means that agents are no longer required to obtain a separate warrant for each phone, cell phone, or device a suspect uses.

I hope Director Mueller and the administration will ensure that these critical national security tools are reauthorized and kept in place.

THE BUDGET

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Democrats' budget resolution.

At long last, we have an honest budget that will mark another significant step forward on the road to recovery. This budget reverses 8 years of absolutely failed policies under the Bush administration which led to record deficits, a doubling of the national debt, and loss of 4.4 million jobs since the end of 2007.

Mr. Speaker, this budget makes necessary investments to lead the country toward a future of economic prosperity, creating good-paying American jobs by investing to reform our health care system, developing and manufacturing clean energy economy, and upgrading our educational system so our children can compete in the 21st century global economy. The budget returns fairness and fiscal responsibility by cutting taxes for the middle class.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this budget is clear. It is a clear choice to invest in our country's future, and I urge my colleagues this week to vote "yes" on this budget resolution to support House Democrats and to end 8 years of failed Bush policy.

TAX, TAX, TAX . . . SPEND, SPEND, SPEND

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Tax, tax, tax, spend, spend, spend. Sounds like the movie Groundhog Day. Doesn't it? Well, actually, that would be an insult to my most famous constituent, Punxsutawney Phil. It is the Democratic budget.

Mr. Speaker, as the budget comes to the floor this week, the American people deserve to know the truth. This budget will increase taxes on every single American. This budget will stifle economic growth. And, this budget will increase the tax burden on small businesses, the very segment of the economy that is best equipped to get us back on track.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the change the American people voted for in November. At the current pace, the 111th Congress is going to leave one legacy for which it will be remembered, and that is a legacy of debt for future generations, \$9.3 trillion in debt over the next 10 years, if the President's budget is rubber-stamped by this Congress.

It is time for the American people to hear the truth. This budget taxes too much, spends too much, and borrows too much.

BUDGET FACT CHECK: RESPONSIBLE SPENDING TO GROW AMERICA'S ECONOMY

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the President's budget includes \$2 trillion worth of budget savings through ending the Iraq war, cutting programs that are not effective, ending tax breaks for corporations that ship goods overseas, and asking those who make over \$250,000 per year and have had huge tax cuts over the past 8 years to pay a little more. It includes key integrity initiatives to protect taxpayers' money by rooting out any waste, fraud, and abuse.

The President's budget also contains critical investments that will grow the economy. It makes critical investments in the modernization of our Nation's infrastructure, and it helps small business and innovative companies grow their bottom line by eliminating the capital gains tax on small business. It improves opportunities for future generations. It makes the \$2,500 American opportunity tax credit.

Let's make a difference. Vote for the budget.

THE BUDGET

(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, after leading our Nation to the brink of financial disaster through their reckless economic policies, our Republican colleagues now have the audacity to launch attacks on the budget proposed by President Obama and the Democratic majority in Congress.

After taking the healthy budget surplus left by the Clinton administration and turning it into the most disastrous deficit in history, Republicans are actually attacking a budget proposal which cuts the deficit by nearly two-thirds by the year 2013, cuts taxes for middle-income families by \$1.5 trillion, creates jobs with investment and reforms in health care, clean energy, education, and reduces nondefense discretionary spending to its lowest level as a percentage of the economy in nearly half a century.

By contrast, the Republicans have put forth a so-called budget which, unbelievably, contains no numbers. None. What their budget does is propose more of the same failed policies that got our country into this deep financial economic crisis.

CLEAN CAR REBATE ACT OF 2009

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, in our budget vote this week we need to do three things: We need to get Americans back to work; we need to get them spending money again; and we need to get them to reduce their dependence on oil. Today, I will introduce a bill to address all three of these concerns.

The Clean Car Rebate Act of 2009 will provide a direct consumer rebate check to anyone buying a fuel-efficient vehicle, beginning at \$1,000 for a 2009 car getting 28 miles to the gallon, that is any car, foreign or domestic; and, increasing for more efficient vehicles, topping out at \$2,500 for cars getting 33 miles to a gallon.

The Clean Car Rebate Act is good for jobs, it is good for the American car industry, and it is great for our environment.

OUR BUDGET VOTE

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, President Barack Obama assumed the presidency with the United States in a condition worse than any President in the history of our Republic. He came in with problems on every single front, not the least of which was our budget.

I am very pleased to be supporting the President's budget. It includes over \$2 trillion worth of budget savings through ending what at one point cost us more than \$10 billion a month, which was the war in Iraq; we are ending the tax breaks for corporations

that ship their jobs overseas; and, asking those who make more than \$250,000 a year and have had huge tax cuts over the past 8 years to pay just a little bit more.

This budget cuts taxes for 95 percent of American workers, it cuts the deficit in half in over 4 years, and ends an era of irresponsibility and budget gimmicks. So I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to support the President's budget.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1388, EDWARD M. KENNEDY SERVE AMERICA ACT

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 296 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 296

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws, with the Senate amendments thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI, a single motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Education and Labor or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendments. The Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

SEC. 2. House Resolution 289 is laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. MATSUI. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida, my good friend, Mr. DIAZ-BALART. All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

I yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MATSUI. I also ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 296.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 296 provides for consideration of Senate amendments to the bill H.R. 1388. The rule makes in order a motion by the chairman on the Committee on Education and Labor to concur in Senate amendments to H.R. 1388. The rule provides 1 hour of debate on the motion controlled by the Committee on Education and Labor.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a vital piece of bipartisan legisla-

tion, legislation that directly affects all of our communities and the lives of millions of Americans, legislation that has seen broad support in both this House and by our colleagues in the Senate. This legislation strengthens our communities, helps educate future generations, teaches our youth to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, and fosters a growth of respect and compassion throughout our entire society.

The Senator Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act will help launch a new era of American service and volunteerism. The bill answers President Obama's call for Americans of all generations to help get the country through the economic crisis by serving and volunteering in their communities.

The bill has been named after the "lion in the Senate," EDWARD KENNEDY, to recognize his lifetime commitment to national service and to making America a stronger, more collective nation. The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act reauthorizes for the first time in 15 years our country's investment in community service and volunteerism. As a cochair of the National Service Caucus, it is a pleasure to call attention to the tremendous work of those involved at every level and in every program of the corporation.

Mr. Speaker, service and volunteerism are the bedrock of our emergency preparedness and national security. In times of strife, the American people have always shown a spirit of service and ingenuity. Investing in service and volunteer programs prepares us to handle any crisis.

We saw firsthand the importance of having trained volunteers in the wake of the 2005 hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Following the devastation in the gulf coast, more than 92,000 national service volunteers contributed over 3.5 million hours of work to the recovery effort. They repaired homes, neighborhoods and lives.

The assistance from trained volunteers following the devastating storms represents only one example of the many accomplishments that our service volunteers achieve every single day. Since September of 2005, over 4,070 National Civilian Community Corps, or as we call it NCCC, members have served more than 2.1 million hours in the gulf coast on over 830 relief and recovery projects.

Last year, NCCC members from my hometown of Sacramento served thousands of hours to help fight the fires that devastated the lives and livelihoods of thousands of Californians, and in doing so helped protect thousands more. AmeriCorps NCCC members are disaster-trained and available for immediate deployment in the event of a natural disaster anywhere within the United States, just as they were in the gulf coast and in California.

Through programs such as AmeriCorps State and national, Volunteers in Service to America, or VISTA,