

Madam Speaker, I rise also today to congratulate Jessi, Jedediah, Josiah, and Josephine Smith, better known as "J4," who were declared the winner of the CBS Early Show's Singing Family Face Off this week. The competition began months ago when roughly 700 videos of family bands performing were submitted by Early Show viewers.

The "J4" siblings performed the Mary Mary's song "Shackles," on the Early Show, which advanced them to the finals. CBS said they were chosen as the winner based on votes through the network's Web site.

"J4" is made up of four siblings, aged 7 to 15, all with names beginning with the letter "J" from the Smith family in Bluff City, Tennessee. The oldest two have played for a couple of years for services at the church across the street from their home where their dad, Mark, is pastor.

The Smith kids are the children of Mark and Lori Smith. They're home-schooled and very involved in music, including piano and violin.

Congratulations again to "J4." They make East Tennessee proud.

#### THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, earlier today I recounted the calamity that we find ourselves in with the budget and the spending of money here in the United States. Frankly, of course, the budgets over the past 8 years and the enormous expenditure of funds created a huge and growing deficit.

I indicated earlier that we spent \$667 billion for the Iraq war, high unemployment still ongoing, stories that you hear from constituents about mortgage foreclosures, inability to have their loans re-modified, and so you can see the importance of the debate today.

And I'm very proud that, of the number of budgets that I had the opportunity to participate in and to argue for and to suggest the direction that they should take, they all focused on restoring the humanity and dignity of the American people.

The Congressional Progressive Caucus budget focused on reducing the deficit by 58 percent in fiscal year 2012. In addition, it targeted waste, fraud, and abuse. It repealed the Bush tax cuts for the top 1 percent of taxpayers. Let me emphasize that, the top 1 percent of taxpayers. That means that 99 percent of the American people would not get a tax increase of any kind. In fact, alongside of that principle is the principle of the President's budget, the budget we passed finally that guaranteed middle-class Americans a tax cut.

The budget included in the Progressive budget health care for all, affordable, accessible health care so that there would be no tragedies such as

young people, children needing transplants or transfusions, and they can't get it because their insurer denies it.

We add an additional \$300 billion as an additional part of the economic stimulus package so that there can be added assistance for unemployment insurance, food stamps, infrastructure spending, housing assistance, job creation.

I come from the gulf region, where we are still suffering both from Hurricane Katrina and Rita and now Hurricane Ike. My neighbor to the south, the city of Galveston, the mayor and city manager and many of her constituents are still facing the calamity of trying to build housing, trying to restore the University of Texas medical branch, and we, as a Texas delegation, worked with the district Member to try to ensure that restoration.

The budgets that were put here today respect the fact that there will be disasters in America, calamities such as fires and floods and, of course, hurricanes, storms, volcanos, that are spilling out such as in the State of Washington, that create havoc if those issues occur. And so this is a time when we opted to opt on the side of the people of America.

The Congressional Black Caucus budget puts in place \$18 billion more in health care, \$17 billion more on education and job training. What happens to a person who is unemployed? They look for jobs or they look to steer themselves into another career. And what do you need to do that? You need job training, whether it's in the community college system like the Houston Community College, whether or not it is going into nursing school, going to become a truck driver, or going into IT, you need job training.

Eight billion dollars on infrastructure so that the roads and the potholes and the bridges and the tunnels can be fixed, but more importantly, people can be put to work as we make a new America; \$5.5 billion on justice programs; and \$4.5 billion on veterans benefits and services. And of all of these budgets, Madam Speaker, the Congressional Progressive Caucus and CBC and the President's budget all reinforce our commitment to veterans and our returning soldiers who put themselves and their families on the front lines.

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Families and our soldiers are likewise on the front lines. So I'm very proud to stand here today to say that we did the right thing in voting on this budget. We did the right thing in focusing on health care reform—trying to fix the broken system of some 44 million to 47 million Americans who are still uninsured.

In that effort, we managed to save some \$316 billion over 10 years; several provisions to improve quality and efficiency in health care. Then, as well, we made a significant down payment on health care reform by putting these savings, along with \$317.8 billion from a

tax policy change on upper-income taxpayers, into a \$634 billion health reform reserve.

We're holding a spot, Madam Speaker, so we can fix this for the American people. I mentioned education and energy. That is going to bring about green jobs.

Madam Speaker, we did the right thing for the American people and I'm proud to be part of this Congress and go home to speak with my constituents on how we have helped to change their lives.

#### THE DIRECTION OF OUR COUNTRY

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. As part of my commitment to the people of Arkansas' Third District, I hold mobile offices in all 12 counties so that I can hear their concerns and help them when I can. As part of that, I relay their troubles here.

For many of the people I saw in Fayetteville on Friday, their attendance at the mobile office was a first. Like so many other people that I hear from through phone calls, e-mails, they are scared with the direction of our country.

They've seen Democrats pass a massive stimulus bill that was full of pet projects but short on job creation, job protection, and protections for pension plans. They've seen President Obama tout an omnibus bill that increases government spending, but what they're looking for is how Washington is tightening its belt, just like so many of them are.

Last week, President Obama said, "It's with a budget that leads to broad economic growth by moving from an era of borrow and spend to one where we save and invest." Unfortunately, President Obama isn't living up to those words with his budget proposal that spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much.

My constituents are upset—and they have every reason to be. "No more Federal deficit spending, please. I beg you to stop the financial bleeding." This is from Leslie in Harrison. She e-mailed me last week, "We cannot afford to continue spending for programs we don't need. What we need are legislators with the veracity and tenacity to stand up and cut the spending programs and pay off the national debt."

Leslie, I hear you. I too have serious doubts. One reason is the proposed Federal budget would enact the largest tax increase in the history of the United States.

I also hear Rebecca from Wesley, who wrote, "I'm 63 years old and have worked very hard. I pay my bills and do not want to pay the bills of others. I'm so furious with what is going on in Washington. No to all tax increases, no to any laws that will increase utility rates, no to government-run health care. I have no confidence that the government can run anything."

We need to work to regain the confidence of the hardworking Americans like Leslie and Rebecca that they had in the past in our government, but no longer. This requires us to vote against budget proposals that include cap-and-trade and that hurt small businesses and discourage charitable giving.

We need a road to recovery that includes curbing wasteful spending, focusing on job creation and debt control. We need to do what is best for our country, and I'm committed to looking for alternative solutions and fighting for a capitalistic democracy.

#### FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, today this House passed H.R. 1256, which takes tobacco regulation to a whole new level and, at the same time, imposes onerous new fees that are going to be transferred to consumers as higher prices. The entire debate over the bill was over what method should be used to do so. Before we close today's proceedings, I'd like to offer a somewhat different perspective.

Many years ago, author and commentator Bruce Herschensohn made this point. He said, "For every pleasure in life, there is a corresponding risk. I think that's a universal truth—for every pleasure in life, there is a corresponding risk."

And he pointed out that it's true that with enough taxes and laws and restrictions and regulations and penalties and lectures, government can produce a virtually risk-free society. But it will also be one of the most colorless, pleasureless, tedious, and miserable societies ever conceived by the mind of man. I believe that's the case.

The health risks of smoking are real and they are well-documented. Our schools rightly make a concerted effort to inform every child of the health risks of tobacco—and they do a good job of it. Our government warns every adult of the health risks of tobacco—and they do a good job of it, too.

As a result, I don't believe there's a single individual in the United States who doesn't well and fully comprehend the health risks of tobacco. But once those warnings are issued, how much farther should government go to make individual decisions for rational adults if they weigh the risks of smoking for themselves?

Ten years ago, after California had imposed yet another tax on tobacco products, I got a letter from a woman who said, "I'm 81 years old. I have been smoking my entire life. If I have to quit now, I'm going to die." She then went on to meticulously calculate how much the new tax cost would cost her on her limited, fixed income, and asked if I could help.

Madam Speaker, in every society, in every part of the world, in every period of history there is always a large group of people who simply want to be left alone to live their lives according to their own best judgment. And there's always a smaller but more domineering group who believe they're so good at running their own lives that they're just naturally entitled to run everybody else's as well.

Rarely has that conflict between these two groups come into sharper focus than in the ongoing efforts to restrict and regulate and tax and harass and intimidate individuals who, after weighing all the risks, decide to smoke anyway.

Personally, I think they're making a very bad decision. But they probably think others are making a very bad decision when they decide to go skiing or bungee jumping or skydiving or thousands of other pleasures that incur corresponding and calculated risks.

I wonder tonight whatever happened to the notion of personal responsibility and whatever happened to the notion, as Jefferson put it, of "a wise and frugal government which shall restrain men from injuring one another but shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement."

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 265

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, the gentlelady from Texas, who is still here on the floor, had inadvertently put me as one of the cosponsors on H.R. 265. I would ask unanimous consent to have my name removed from that particular bill.

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

There was no objection.

#### MAKING A PARADIGM SHIFT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. A few weeks ago, I was in my office and a respiratory therapist had come into the office. He was talking about one of the patients that he had who came up and asked him if she could have a stronger medicine because what she was using simply did not work for her.

So he said, Well, why don't you show me how you're using it. She showed him how she used it, and he said, Is that the way you always use it? The patient said, Yes. Then he said, Well, let's try it one more time—except this time why don't you take the cap off first.

Now, sometimes I think in the policies that we develop here in the United States we have the same process—we go through the motions but we simply

don't flat out take the cap off first. One of the things we need to do to solve our problem is simply take the cap off.

We have had an energy policy in this country for the last 40 years. It's basically been, we develop nothing in the United States and we insist on living on cheap foreign oil. The problem is, doing nothing in the United States for 40 years has put us into a situation that is very tenable. The other problem is there is no longer cheap foreign oil.

We have just recently voted on this floor on a budget—a budget outline. A budget outline that, quite frankly, taxes too much and spends too much and borrows too much. We've all heard that before because, to be honest, whether you talk now about the budget itself or the phrases of taxing, spending, and borrowing, they're basically a redundancy. They are indeed the same thing.

What we have also done in this House is make a major paradigm shift. For the last 20 years, we have been functioning under the basic philosophy that the individual is significant and important. The individual has a worth that is divine. That once you empower that individual and give that individual options, you're ennobling that person.

Well, the budget we just passed changes that basic philosophy. It changed that basic philosophy to say instead of empowering individuals, it is now the role and function of the Federal Government to solve people's problems. The Federal Government must now be given the power because the Federal Government now becomes the sole solution to the issues and needs of individuals.

Those of us in the West, members of the Western Caucus, have a different point of view because we basically trust people. We recognize that one of the most important things that should be given to any individual is options and choices.

People of the United States must be given options and choices so they can make a decision on how they want their life to develop. States should be given options and choices, regions should be given options. Whenever we try to establish a one-size-fits-all system from Washington, what we do is limit the ability to empower individuals to make decisions for themselves and to change their own lives.

When I was growing up, the only kind of music you could buy were on vinyl records. If you wanted a particular song, you had to basically buy the entire record.

With new gadgets today, even though they have become much smaller than this one that I still have absolutely no idea how to use, with gadgets like these today you can actually download the one record you want. You have a choice. You have options.

And it seems one of the ironies of our life today is that in every facet of human life, options prevail. People have choices—except when it comes to