

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the President's budget released on Monday is a blueprint for failure. It projects a \$1.6 trillion budget deficit for this year alone; and in its entire 10-year window, the annual deficit never falls below \$700 billion. The much vaunted spending freeze only covers some 13 percent of the budget and only accomplishes this goal by moving certain programs from discretionary to mandatory spending. Once the freeze is picked at by the free-spending leadership of the House and Senate, it will be reduced to a lukewarm puddle of even more deficit spending.

To make the tough decisions about balancing our budget, the administration looks to create a nonbinding commission. The President doesn't need a toothless commission when he already has the power to direct his Office of Management and Budget to create a blueprint for solvency. We need leadership. We need the buck to stop with the President, not with the commission of unelected economists, academics or bureaucrats.

SOLVING THE NATION'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, while there continues to be signs of an improving economy, it is clear that Americans still need help. In my hometown of Wilson, North Carolina, unemployment rose to 12.5 percent in December. That's one out of eight, and 73 of my 100 counties are suffering unemployment rates of at least 10 percent.

President Obama's 2011 budget wisely provides for critical investments to spur job creation and strengthen long-term economic security. This budget includes \$100 billion in small business tax cuts, infrastructure and clean energy. This includes a new \$33 billion small business tax cut, an extension of the broadest tax cut in American history, the Making Work Pay tax credit. It also increases the child care tax break for middle-class families and eliminates the capital gains tax on investments by small businesses. I urge my colleagues to join me in working to ensure that we take the necessary and commonsense steps to solve these problems.

BIGGER BUDGET BLUNDERS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, unemployment is still at double digits across the country; and in my home State of South Carolina, it is at a record high of 12.6 percent. Families are hurting, losing jobs. With this dismal backdrop, why would the administration propose a budget that will increase taxes by more than \$2 trillion

over 10 years, killing jobs? The budget is more spending, more taxes, and more borrowing.

Media across the country are even calling this budget bluff. In the San Francisco Chronicle, liberal economists question the deficit reduction measures. Economist Isabel Sawhill called such measures "totally depressing," saying it is "depressing" to see the administration abandon even the goal of a balanced budget. The Associated Press reports it as a deficit commission "without teeth." Politico reports it is "betting heavily on the symbolism of" a spending freeze filled with loopholes and is already being undercut by Washington Democrats.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

NO PAY RAISE FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 4255, Stop the Automatic Pay Raise for Members of Congress in Fiscal Year 2011 Act. Representative RON PAUL and I introduced a bipartisan bill which has 117 cosponsors, because we think that at a time like this, it is simply unconscionable for Members to be seeking a pay raise.

Unless Congress acts, that is precisely what will happen. Americans are struggling. They're not getting a pay raise and neither should Congress. President Obama has frozen pay for senior White House officials. Chief Justice Roberts recently announced that he is not seeking a salary increase for Federal judges this year. Congress should follow suit. We hear an awful lot about fiscal discipline in this Chamber. We talk the talk. Mr. Speaker, it is past time for us to walk the walk. I urge my colleagues to do the right thing by cosponsoring H.R. 4255 and stop Congress from getting a pay raise.

BIPARTISANSHIP

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues and I were pleased to meet with the President last week about the many problems facing our Nation, the most important being that folks across the country are without jobs. We can no longer pretend that exploding deficits, bigger government, more taxes, and generational debt will lead us out of this dire recession.

During his State of the Union speech, the President said that Republicans have presented no solutions. Later that week when we handed him a copy of the Republicans' "Better Solutions," without reading it he said that many of our ideas have already been incor-

porated into his bills. Which is true? I urge the President to immediately abandon the government takeover of health care and other industries. Instead, he should actually consider some of these commonsense ideas so that we can solve this country's problems in a bipartisan way by immediately cutting deficits and restoring the thing this country wants most—jobs, jobs, jobs.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2011 BUDGET REQUEST

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday the President unveiled his budget to help restart our economy and get our deficit under control after years of mismanagement by the previous administration. As we make the hard choices that are needed, we must remember where we started. When President Obama was sworn into office, our economy was on the brink of collapse, 700,000 Americans were losing their jobs every month, and our financial and housing markets were in free-fall.

Working with Congress, President Obama took immediate and extraordinary steps to repair this economic and fiscal mess that he inherited. A year later, our economy is slowly but surely recovering but too many families continue to struggle. Unemployment remains unacceptably high. That's why job creation and economic recovery are the central focus of the President's budget. It requests \$100 billion for a job creation package to help small businesses access credit and hire new workers.

It also invests in education, clean energy and our infrastructure, all essential for our long-term economic vitality. Finally, the President takes the first steps toward restoring the fiscal responsibility that had been lost in the past decade.

Mr. Speaker, after the mess we've inherited, we clearly have our work cut out for us, but the President's budget provides us with a good blueprint to meet these huge challenges.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Members are reminded not to traffic the well while another is under recognition.

WE NEED A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, Congress will raise the debt ceiling \$1.9 trillion to \$14.6 trillion this week. The deficit last year, \$1.5 trillion. The budget introduced on Monday is another \$1.5 trillion. We're over \$12 trillion in debt, on our way to \$20 trillion.

The American people are saying, Enough is enough. Families and businesses in the last couple of years have had less revenues. They've made cuts. In the United States, 49 out of 50 Governors have had to balance their budgets. We need a constitutional balanced budget now. I would ask the President and congressional leaders to step up. Again, in the last 50 years, we've only balanced the budget five times. We need real leadership and real courage, and we need it right now. We need to make the cuts and get the budget in line.

MAKING ENDS MEET DURING THIS RECESSION

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

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Mr. Speaker, though our economy is growing again, we still face record budget deficits and a growing national debt due to the revenue lost during the Great Recession, the reckless tax policies of previous Congresses and the steps we took to turn around the economy. The President's proposal to freeze discretionary spending is an important step to meet this challenge, but we must do more. As we begin the budget process for 2011, Congress needs to make tough choices about spending just like millions of American families are doing to make ends meet during this recession.

As Members of Congress, we need to quit pointing fingers and come together to be smarter about the way we spend taxpayer money. We must enact strict PAYGO principles, stop abusive no-bid contracts, and crack down on wasteful earmarks. Noisy rhetoric about wasteful spending isn't going to reduce the deficit, just as it doesn't create jobs or stimulate the economy.

So I urge lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to put aside politics and business as usual so that our current deficit challenge doesn't become the burden of future generations.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FY 2011 BUDGET

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, President Obama submitted his fiscal year 2011 budget to Congress with the claim that he was planning on restoring fiscal discipline to Washington. However, once you look beyond the rhetoric, it's clear that the budget the President delivered to Congress does not deliver on its promises.

Mr. Speaker, the President's budget request totaled a new record of approximately \$3.8 trillion in Federal spending—that's 25 percent of our GDP—and increased our deficit to \$1.6 trillion for the current fiscal year 2010. In order to pay for this record level of

spending, the budget request increases taxes by approximately \$2 trillion over a 10-year period. His so-called spending freeze—well, that only applies to 13 percent of actual spending. With 10 percent of our workforce unemployed and over 15 million Americans out of work, there are families all across this country that are making sacrifices by cutting their expenses.

So, Mr. Speaker, we need a budget that recognizes that we cannot spend, tax, and borrow our way into prosperity. That's never worked. Unfortunately, the President's budget does not recognize this simple fact.

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FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased the President called for fiscal responsibility and more responsible spending in his recent State of the Union address. In 2009, we saw a \$1.4 trillion budget deficit and will likely see the same this year. At over \$12 trillion, our deficit is simply unsustainable. Clearly, it is time for us to do something about it.

I believe there are reforms that can bridge the gap between Republicans, Blue Dogs, New Democrats, and Progressives; policies like accountability and transparency in the appropriations process and a Bipartisan Fiscal Commission. This year, we must come together to pass these and other important policies. PAYGO is an important first step. It has a proven track record of success and has helped us reach record surpluses in the 1990s.

I am hopeful that my colleagues, Republican and Democrat, will join me in supporting this important legislation. Getting America back on the path to fiscal responsibility will take time. But with an incremental, systematic, bipartisan approach, we can secure a robust and productive economy for generations to come.

OFFSHORE DRILLING

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, last week Americans were encouraged when President Obama mentioned offshore drilling in his State of the Union address; yet, it took only 5 short days for the President to reveal his true intentions on offshore drilling. The President's budget plan shows revenues for new offshore leases dramatically declining in the next 5 years. If more areas are opened to exploration, revenues would increase, not decrease. Less revenue means less exploration. This shows this administration has no intention of opening up new areas to offshore drilling.

In 2008, the decades-long ban on offshore drilling was ended because the

public demanded it. As a result, we now have over 500 million new acres available for energy production. But this administration is purposely choosing not to act. The President's words don't match his actions. This administration's policies are preventing the creation of millions of new American jobs. Mr. Speaker, it's time for America to move forward with an all-of-the-above energy plan that includes new offshore drilling.

PAYGO: EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR ADDRESSING DEFICIT

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, we're going to be taking up PAYGO. It is an effective tool for addressing the deficit. It will strengthen fiscal responsibility.

Now, what does the legislation do? It requires that all new policies reducing revenues or increasing entitlement spending be offset over between 5 and 10 years. It ensures that we can afford to fund America's most important priorities such as education, clean energy, health care for future generations. It will force advocates of tax cuts to acknowledge their costs and show how they would pay for them. It would force a serious examination of wasteful subsidies in the budget and tax loopholes that can be eliminated to offset new worthwhile programs.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that Republicans and Democrats will join us this week in supporting this proven tool for fiscal responsibility.

FISCAL YEAR 2011 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BUDGET

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, in a moment in history where our Nation is facing the constant threat of terrorism, we should be passing a budget that addresses those urgent needs. The administration's Department of Homeland Security budget does not.

In the midst of the Mexican cartel drug war raging on our border, the administration cuts 181 Border Patrol agents. At a time when our Coast Guardsmen are risking their lives in everyday places like Iraq and Haiti, this budget slashes active duty Coast Guard personnel by 1,100 people. And yet, we see budget increases to fund DHS bureaucrats in Washington, not security boots on the ground. And perhaps the most troubling, this budget devotes \$200 million to try Guantánamo Bay terrorists on U.S. soil.

These exorbitant expenditures on misguided priorities are taking away from the critical needs of other DHS programs. What we need is a budget that addresses our current security needs, not a budget that brings terrorists to our soil and endangers Americans.