

enough to mention: Ezra Klein, of the Washington Post, cleverly points out in a recent article titled, "The Worst Idea in Washington" that under a BBA, not a single budget of the Bush or Reagan Administrations would qualify as Constitutional. In fact, the only recent Administration which would not violate the requirements of the Balanced Budget Amendment would be President Clinton for only two of his budgets.

Mr. Speaker, if President Reagan's budget wouldn't qualify, is this really something we should even be considering?

Conclusion: I've listed a few, and certainly not an exhaustive list, of arguments against the Balanced Budget Amendment. The truth is the federal budget is quite unlike the fiscal practices of businesses, families, and states. Contrary to popular myth, except in times of war and recessions, the country has a conservative record of keeping deficits in line.

Our government needs the flexibility to respond in times of economic downturn or war, in a way that businesses, families and states never have to consider.

I've been in the House long enough to know, that when my colleagues on the other side of the aisle came into the majority with large deficits and debt, I knew their first response would be to cut social spending, weaken government regulation, and underfund protection of workers' rights, civil rights, environmental protections, you name it.

I wish I could say I didn't see this coming. But, conservative politicians want to get the government "off the backs" of business, finance and industry. They are willing and ready to use the current economic situation to do it and they intend to place the burden on the backs of middle class families, seniors, children, veterans and the poor.

The Republican budget we voted on today does just that. The Balanced Budget Amendment aims to make it a permanent fixture.

Mr. Speaker, I know we can do better. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of middle class Americans. We need to achieve the America of everyone's dreams. The burden of that dream must rest squarely on the shoulders of every American that can carry it.

I find it offensive that some of the most profitable corporations in this country pay no taxes and some even get a refund. I find it offensive that the richest 400 people in the country who have more wealth than half of all Americans combined have an effective tax rate of only 16.6%.

In the words of William Jennings Bryan, "When I find a man who is not willing to bear his share of the burdens of the government which protects him, I find a man who is unworthy to enjoy the blessings of a government like ours." With those wise words, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING ALVIN AURELIANO
DAVIS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Alvin Aureliano Davis, who was recently named the 2012 Macy's Florida Department of Education State

Teacher of the Year. With this honor, Mr. Davis will serve as the Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for education, touring Florida as an education advocate. Mr. Davis is the band teacher at Miramar High School and has been a music educator for the past 11 years. By actively encouraging his students and keeping them engaged on obtainable goals, his students find success both in and out of the classroom. For the past three years, every student who was a regular participating member of the Miramar High band program has gone on to college under his guidance and leadership.

Alvin Davis graduated from Florida A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education. He began his professional career as the band instructor at Crystal Lake Middle School, teaching the fundamentals of band to 6th thru 8th graders. As the director of the Miramar High School band, Mr. Davis, has continuously constructed his music program and performances with the philosophy of developing an award winning, academic-focused music program on the cutting edge of creativity and band pageantry.

Mr. Davis has a genuine and vested interest in his students. Passing on the legacy of music appreciation is only part of his greater mission of instilling academics and discipline. He requires his students to receive one-on-one counseling with a member of the band staff, and he personally reviews students' report cards and interim reports. Every school band rehearsal includes a one-hour study hall where students are tutored. He has implemented guidelines that high school seniors can perform only if they have registered to take the ACT or SAT college entrance exams, and must prove they have applied for admission to a college or university.

Over the years he has developed a reputation as an educator with a heart as big as the moon as he is wholeheartedly dedicated to the entire educational welfare of students.

Alvin Davis is the husband of Tiffani Davis and the proud father of 16-month-old Caitlyn. I proudly acknowledge his achievement as the 2012 Macy's Florida Department of Education State Teacher of the Year and appreciate his commitment to the many students whose lives he has positively impacted.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL DOLLAR COIN EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2011

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Presidential Dollar Coin Efficiency Act of 2011." This bill makes some changes to a law I was proud to cosponsor back in 2005, the "Presidential Dollar Coin Act of 2005." At the time, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the bill would reduce the deficit by \$280 million over the life of the program. However, since the law has been in place, it is clear that demand for the dollar coins has not been as high as predicted. The Federal Reserve is now spending its resources to house excess coin stock that comes back to the reserve banks after they have been in circulation.

The bill I am introducing today will address the problems of a lack of coordination between the Fed and Treasury and will remove some of the statutory restrictions in the law that keep the two agencies from running the program efficiently in an environment of lower demand. But the bill will maintain the program which numismatists, citizens, and businesses have invested in and which should continue.

The bill seeks to make changes to the program that will allow it to function more efficiently with the goal of reducing the number of coins that have to be stored at the Fed. It will also require the Fed and Treasury to coordinate administration of the Presidential Dollar Coin program by: requiring the two agencies to come up with a plan to reduce excess reserves; eliminating the introductory period for unmixed coins; capping the number of coins that the Mint can produce based on numismatic demand from the year before; removing the requirement that the Mint spend money on marketing the coin; and moving up the reporting requirement under a law passed last year that gives the Mint the authority to research and develop new metals for coins.

By removing some of the statutory constraints that were placed on the Fed and Treasury in the original law, I believe that this worthy program can continue in a more limited manner which will reduce excess coin stock being housed at the Fed. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

INTRODUCING THE PARENTAL
CONSENT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Parental Consent Act. This bill forbids federal funds from being used for any universal or mandatory mental-health screening of students without the express, written, voluntary, informed consent of their parents or legal guardians. This bill protects the fundamental right of parents to direct and control the upbringing and education of their children.

The New Freedom Commission on Mental Health has recommended that the federal and state governments work toward the implementation of a comprehensive system of mental-health screening for all Americans. The commission recommends that universal or mandatory mental-health screening first be implemented in public schools as a prelude to expanding it to the general public. However, neither the commission's report nor any related mental-health screening proposal requires parental consent before a child is subjected to mental-health screening. Federally-funded universal or mandatory mental-health screening in schools without parental consent could lead to labeling more children as "ADD" or "hyperactive" and thus force more children to take psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, against their parents' wishes.

Already, too many children are suffering from being prescribed psychotropic drugs for nothing more than children's typical rambunctious behavior. According to the article "Better but Not Best: Recent Trends in the Well-Berling of The Mentally Ill" (Health Affairs, May/June 2009) in 2006 more than one in 20 children were prescribed medications for mental-health conditions!

Many children have suffered harmful side effects from using psychotropic drugs. Some of the possible side effects include mania, violence, dependence, and weight gain. Yet, parents are already being threatened with child abuse charges if they resist efforts to drug their children. Imagine how much easier it will be to drug children against their parents' wishes if a federally-funded mental-health screener makes the recommendation.

Universal or mandatory mental-health screening could also provide a justification for stigmatizing children from families that support traditional values. Even the authors of mental-health diagnosis manuals admit that mental-health diagnoses are subjective and based on social constructions. Therefore, it is all too easy for a psychiatrist to label a person's disagreement with the psychiatrist's political beliefs a mental disorder. For example, a federally-funded school violence prevention program lists "intolerance" as a mental problem that may lead to school violence. Because "intolerance" is often a code word for believing in traditional values, children who share their parents' values could be labeled as having mental problems and a risk of causing violence. If the mandatory mental-health screening program applies to adults, everyone who believes in traditional values could have his or her beliefs stigmatized as a sign of a mental disorder. Taxpayer dollars should not support programs that may label those who adhere to traditional values as having a "mental disorder."

Mr. Speaker, universal or mandatory mental-health screening threatens to undermine parents' right to raise their children as the parents see fit. Forced mental-health screening could also endanger the health of children by leading to more children being improperly placed on psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, or stigmatized as "mentally ill" or a risk of causing violence because they adhere to traditional values. Congress has a responsibility to the nation's parents and children to stop this from happening. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Parental Consent Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BILL
MCKEON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill McKeon, a member of the All-American Amateur Baseball Association (AAABA) Hall of Fame's Class of 2011. Mr. McKeon has been an extraordinary player as well as a motivating coach with several minor and major league baseball organizations. On August 6, 2011 Mr. McKeon will be inducted into the AAABA Hall of Fame and I applaud his distinguished and outstanding career.

Bill McKeon played to the highest standards and held those around him to similar expectations. Mr. McKeon made his minor league debut in 1952 with the Welch Miners and continued to produce impressive offensive statistics for three consecutive years. He later signed with the Boston Braves and was voted the All-Star Catcher of the Appalachian League in 1952. He continued his professional

baseball career as a member of the Northern League of Wisconsin and Sooner State League of Oklahoma. In 1955, U.S. Army Private Bill McKeon was appointed coach of the 516th Divisional Baseball team. He guided his team to a win in the European Baseball Championship game. Mr. McKeon also participated in the 516th Division's basketball and football teams, demonstrating his athletic versatility. A devastating rotator cuff injury in 1956 ended Mr. McKeon's ability to perform on the field.

Mr. McKeon's baseball career also included roles as a scout for the Philadelphia Phillies, the Los Angeles Angels, the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Kansas City A's, the Oakland A's, as well as Eastern Scouting Director for the Kansas City Royals, and a Major League Special Assignment Scout with the San Diego Padres. Mr. McKeon looks back on his time with the San Diego Padres fondly as he enjoyed watching the team win the 1984 National League Championship as a member of their ball club. Mr. McKeon was also the coach for the Kansas City Royal's minor league affiliate in Corning, New York and also coached in Elmira, New York as a member of the Eastern League. In 2006, Mr. McKeon coached the Evansville Otters Baseball Club to a Frontier League Championship, having been the league runners-up in the previous year. His collegiate coaching experience includes head coach for Ashland University as well as an assistant coaching position for the University of Evansville.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in leading this body in acknowledging Mr. Bill McKeon's lifetime commitment to the game of baseball. His commitment to the sport is unparalleled and serves as an example of an influential, dedicated player and leader.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL BRIAN
AFT

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize United States Marine Corporal Brian Aft.

On April 18, 2011, Corporal Aft was heavily injured by an IED explosion while patrolling on duty in Afghanistan. Corporal Aft sustained life threatening injuries, losing his lower extremities. Like many of our brave and dedicated men and women in the United States armed forces, Corporal Aft demonstrates great courage in the midst of his rehabilitation and as he moves forward toward the next phase of his life.

Indeed, the families and loved ones of injured soldiers like Corporal Aft play a vital role in their journey to recovery. Their unwavering love and support provide these injured warriors great strength. These family members place their own lives on hold while focusing primarily on the injured warrior. Stories such as Corporal Aft's and his family remind us why we are proud to be Americans. May God bless them all in the midst of this difficult time. I ask that the following poem "Forever . . . Aft . . . Er" inspired from Corporal Aft's story be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FOREVER . . . AFT . . . ER

(By Albert Caswell)

FOR.

FOR EVER . . .

FOREVER . . . AFT . . . ER!

All in the days of our lives . . .

All in the moments that we're alive . . .

That which so make the Angel's cry!

All in what we have so left behind?

All in our lifetimes, so to find . . . , that
which so does shine . . .

That which so lives on, long Aft . . . er we
are gone!

To march off to war, all for your Country Tis
of Thee . . . to her freedom to so in-
sure!

All in your most magnificent shades
of green . . .

To wear that mantel, and hold that high
honor of being The Best . . . A United
States Marine!

As on each new day you so faced death, all
but for this our Nation to so bless!

As out on point Brian, somehow you so bold-
ly went . . . all out into such death!

As you Corporal Aft, so selflessness, so
bravely moved forth in all they asked!

All with your Brothers In Arms, with that
blood that binds you so yes!

Is that but not what heaven is for?

For such things as these Brian, live forever
on!

Long Aft . . . er, we are gone!

And then on battlefields of honor bright,
As you so courageously lost your two strong
fine legs . . . this dreadful sight!

As the tears came rolling down, lying there
. . . halfway to heaven, as you had to
so decide!

When, from somewhere so very deep down in-
side . . . , you chose life, and began to
try . . .

For such things Brian live on, Ever . . . Aft
. . . er . . . Ever . . . Aft . . . er we are
gone!

You see my son, some people like you are
put upon this earth!

All by our Lord To So Teach Us, To So
Reach, and So Beseech Us in all their
worth!

Reminding us all in life, what so surely so
comes first!

For you Brian will walk, and you will run
. . . as your fine heart shines like the
mid-day sun!

For you are a United States Marine, one of
the greatest things our Nation has so
seen!

And if ever I have a son, I but wish he could
so walk as courageously all in those
shades of green!

Ooo . . . Rah! Ooo . . . Rah, Jar Head . . . ,
all for our country you have bled!

Arms and legs we all need, but we can live
without . . . but without a heart we
can so breathe!

As you Star of Texas, shine so brilliantly!
Because, in Heaven with our Lord you need
not arms or legs!

And that's where your going Brian
one day . . .

Forever . . . Aft . . . er!

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF GULF BREEZE, FLOR-
IDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Gulf Breeze,