

Cutting appropriations for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by \$458 million below FY 2010 and \$634 million below the President's budget request.

These fiscal cuts have severe physical impacts on the American people and jeopardize the health and well-being of our children. H.R. 1 cuts funding for the Food and Drug Administration's ability to test and regulate medical drugs. It is counterintuitive to think that drugs that people take to cure illnesses may actually create more health problems than they solve. But that is an unfortunate experience that many Americans know all too well. For instance, thousands of Americans took the weight loss drug Fen-phen only to find out years later that it caused severe heart problems and had killed people who had taken the drug for only a short period. The sad truth is that Fen-phen is only one example of a drug that did not undergo the necessary FDA testing and scrutiny, and H.R. 1 will ensure that many more medical drugs receive similar inadequate levels of review. Cutting spending for testing and regulating drugs does not seem like smart fiscal or physical policy to me. It is eating our future.

I believe it is important for parents to be confident that the food they feed their children is making them healthier and not killing them. Unfortunately that is not the case. In the last year alone, we have had food recalls for spinach, peanuts, chicken, eggs, and dozens of other foods. It was not long ago that millions of Americans were combing through their pantries throwing away anything containing peanut butter. This feverish action was a result of a salmonella contamination that claimed the lives of 8 individuals and poisoned more than 500 Americans in 43 states, half of which were children. And it was only a few years ago that E. coli in spinach was responsible for 5 deaths and more than 200 hospitalizations.

The American people deserve better. They deserve the peace of mind of knowing the food they eat and feed their children is safe. But by slashing millions of dollars for the Food Safety and Inspection Service, H.R. 1 denies the American people that peace of mind. In 2010 alone, an estimated 76 million people got sick with foodborne illness and 5,000 individuals died because of the food they ate, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Cutting spending that would prevent many of these deaths and illnesses is not fiscally or physically responsible. It is eating our future.

The irony of H.R. 1 is that not only does it make the American people sicker, but it dramatically cuts funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop cures for diseases, instances of which will increase as a result of H.R. 1's attack on safe food, water, and air. The NIH conducts cutting edge research to cure the diseases that plague millions of Americans, from infants to seniors. Nearly every American has watched a friend or loved one fight Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, or cancer or has fought one of these life-threatening battles first-hand. For years, Congress has provided NIH the necessary tools to help people win these battles. But H.R. 1 stops NIH in its tracks by cutting funding for research that would save American lives. That does not seem like smart fiscal or physical policy to me. It is eating our future.

Although more than 70 percent of the earth is covered in water, only about 1 percent of all

the water on the planet is safe to drink. H.R. 1 would reduce that 1 percent by allowing major corporations and developers to pump toxins into our water and by failing to invest in the necessary infrastructure to maintain, treat, and deliver safe drinking water. H.R. 1 reduces the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund by 56 percent, a program that provides low and no-interest loans to states to fund drinking water infrastructure improvement projects. Already too many Americans are suffering from lead poisoning and chronic diarrhea as a result of antiquated infrastructure. We cannot afford to exacerbate the rate of these serious health threats by cutting funding to maintain and repair our water infrastructure. Doing so, does not seem like smart fiscal or physical policy to me. It is eating our future.

H.R. 1 eliminates several million dollars of funding for EPA to implement revised standards for the amount of mercury, lead, and other toxic air pollutants that cement plants across the country can emit into the air we breathe. These revised standards will safeguard the American people from breathing air that will harm their brains, hearts, lungs, and livers. But H.R. 1 strips EPA of any funding to implement this life-saving standard.

Mercury and lead target the developing brains of children and can cause devastating brain damage and death. Millions of American children already suffer from debilitating asthma and brain damage as a result of the dirty air they breathe. H.R. 1 does not try to clean the air; it makes the air even dirtier and exposes more children to air that will impact their health for the rest of their life or in some cases kill them.

According to EPA, these standards will save more than 2,500 lives a year and prevent 50,000 new cases of asthma and respiratory symptoms. But H.R. 1 cuts these funds. That does not seem like smart fiscal or physical policy to me. It is eating our future.

H.R. 1 will also increase the number of individuals in hospitals and doctors' offices as a result of illnesses related to polluted air, dirty water, and bacteria-filled food. And the kicker is that H.R. 1 will make these medical trips more expensive for these individuals and for the government. By eliminating funding for critical components of the Affordable Care Act, millions of Americans will not have access to affordable insurance to cover their respiratory medications to remedy the polluted air they breathe. Parents will have to pay out of pocket—if they can pay at all—for the treatment their children receive thanks to the E. coli in the hamburger they had for dinner. And seniors will no longer have access to free preventative care visits, which are imperative to detect possible ailments caused by inhaling harmful toxins with every breath.

Worse than any of these medical costs is the headache associated with the tens of thousands of deaths that will occur as a result of the dirtier air, water, and food every American will be consuming thanks to H.R. 1. It is clear that the American people will not be able to afford these costs, so this financial burden will continue to increase our deficit. That does not seem like smart fiscal or physical policy. It is eating our future.

The Republican majority is touting H.R. 1 as a fiscally responsible budget. Sure it looks nice on paper when you take the \$60 billion dollars in cuts as \$60 billions in savings. But by looking a bit deeper into the programs

being cut, one can recognize that many of these cuts will end up costing the federal government billions of dollars. Not to mention that H.R. 1 will reduce the physical health and wellness of millions of Americans.

I urge the majority to go back to the drawing board and create a truly cost-saving budget that looks at cost holistically. I encourage them to create a budget that not only restores the fiscal health of this nation but the physical health as well. And I strongly recommend that we develop a budget that wins the future rather than eats it.

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IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. BILL  
KELLEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Bill Kelley, the former director of the Cleveland Aquarium who was known for his ingenuity and creativity.

Bill Kelley was born in 1917 in Elyria, Ohio. From a very early age, he had a deep interest in science, and enjoyed building telescopes and crystal radios. In 1954, after serving as an interpreter for the Army in World War II, he worked to convert a small bathhouse in Gordon Park into Cleveland's first aquarium.

Mr. Kelley was well-known for his innovation. He invented special filters and developed an additive that could be added to tap water to make it habitable for salt-water fish. He travelled to Chicago and the Amazon to secure unique specimens for Cleveland's collection. He went on to head aquariums in Niagara Falls and Mystic, Connecticut.

A true renaissance man, Mr. Kelley's expertise was far from limited to sea life. He was also a fellow of Great Britain's Gemological Society and was known for developing a method to strengthen fragile opals and for founding Opals, Inc. He also served as associate director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please rise with me today in honor and remembrance of a passionate and unwavering individual. Mr. Kelley will be remembered for his many contributions to the sciences and for his hard work and dedication. I extend my sincerest condolences to his wife, Lois; his brother, Carl; and his sister, Jean.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIVE  
HAWAIIAN MEDICAID COVERAGE  
ACT OF 2011

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Native Hawaiian Medicaid Coverage Act of 2011. This legislation is a companion to S. 36, which was introduced earlier this year by Senator DANIEL K. INOUE.

This legislation would allow for 100 percent coverage under the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percent, FMAP, formula for Native Hawaiians who are Medicaid eligible and access

care from Federally Qualified Health Centers or through the Native Hawaiian Health Care System.

Native Hawaiians, like American Indians and Alaska Natives, are an indigenous, native people. Currently, states receive a 100 percent FMAP reimbursement for health care services provided through Indian Health Services facilities. The bill I am introducing today would bring parity in the treatment of our country's Native peoples.

Congress has previously recognized the unique and historical relationship between the United States and the indigenous people of Hawaii. I ask for my colleagues continued support for the health and wellbeing of Native Hawaiians.

Mahalo (thank you).

MILITARY HONORS FOR  
VETERANS' FUNERALS

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about a bill that I have just reintroduced, "Providing Military Honors for our Nation's Heroes Act" (H.R. 545), to reim-

burse expenses of volunteers who provide military funeral honors at veterans' funerals.

Because thousands of service members are deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan while thousands of World War II and Korean War veterans die each day, there is simply not enough military to provide a proper seven-person honors detail for these funerals. Some families of veterans have had to "make do" with a CD playing "Taps." I am saddened by this outrageous situation and determined to provide proper military funeral honors for all families who request them.

This bill will allow reimbursement to volunteers from members of veterans' service organizations (VSOs) and other organizations approved by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA). Transportation costs and other expenses, such as cleaning uniforms, incurred in providing funeral honors details will be reimbursed. A second change will allow reimbursement to details that are requested by funeral homes and the VA, as well as the Department of Defense, the current practice.

Currently, members of VSOs and other volunteers can assist the military by providing a color guard, pallbearers, a bugler or firing party, but the law does not address ceremonies in which VSOs render honors without military representation. My bill will allow volunteers to be reimbursed even when no military person is a part of the honor guard. This

change will increase the number of honors details available to families. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

REGARDING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2011*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps and to honor the memory of its founder Sargent Shriver.

The Peace Corps was created in 1961 to encourage Americans to travel abroad as ambassadors of good will and to engage other cultures in pursuit of world peace and mutual understanding. For 50 years, Peace Corps volunteers have helped to sow the seeds of friendship around the globe through their industry and enthusiastic service. Today, the Peace Corps endures as a living reminder of the spirit and dedication of Sargent Shriver, who was a tireless crusader for peace and justice, willing to lend a hand wherever one was needed, and building institutions like the Peace Corps that will carry on well into the future.