

there isn't inflation. Well, no, wait a minute; the thing you used to buy is still more expensive and you're buying something else? But in the pointy-head economics world, this makes sense.

So let's say how this would work for someone on Medicare: Okay, you can't afford your heart bypass, so instead you'll say to the doc, "Hey, look, I can't afford the copay on the heart bypass. Why don't you do a hernia instead?" That's substitution. In Mr. Furman's world, this makes sense.

Now what this would do to seniors on Social Security, we already understate inflation. Seniors haven't gotten a COLA for the last 2 years. Tell me the price of prescription drugs and medical care hasn't gone up over the last 2 years. We need, in fact, a different measure for seniors, for Medicare, for our veterans and others who consume more health care and more essentials, which the CPI doesn't measure. It just measures junk that people buy. That's all it measures. And they're saying because people buy cheaper junk, we should change the CPI. That means the senior, by the time they reach 85 in this brave new world of the chained CPI, will get 100 bucks less a month in their Social Security—not too good. Veterans would see their benefits also be restrained and go down about the same amount.

And then there is this other little impact they're not mentioning. If you're earning \$20,000 a year, the tax brackets get adjusted every year. Well, they wouldn't get adjusted so much anymore under the chained CPI. So someone who earns \$20,000 a year over 10 years would see their taxes go up 14 percent, but for the rich people, you earn \$500,000 a year, you're already at the top; their taxes will only go up .3 percent, three-tenths of 1 percent. Fourteen percent for someone who earns \$20,000 a year; .3 percent for someone who earns \$500,000. And Obama has embraced this?

What's happened down there at the White House? They're listening to these pointy-head economists, and they're going after programs that are important to the American people. All of this, all combined of this great "Gang of Six," would save \$4 trillion over 10 years. That is, seniors will pay more, working people will pay more, veterans will pay more—rich people, not so much—but it would save \$4 trillion. Guess what? If we let all the Bush tax cuts expire at the end of next year—all of them, and the stupid Social Security tax holiday—that would be \$5 trillion over 10 years and we wouldn't have cut Social Security, we wouldn't have cut veterans benefits, we wouldn't have asked low-income and middle-income people to pay more in taxes. Now does that make more sense? I think so.

Let's hope they rethink this down at the White House, and I hope the American people are watching closely.

#### CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Last night, we were asked to amend the Constitution, after two-and-a-quarter centuries, in a way that will permanently limit the ability of our government to foster competitiveness in a global economy, to generate greater equality of opportunity, to treat our seniors with dignity and respect, and to defend and define this great Nation as an ever-shining democratic beacon of hope and prosperity.

So I was proud to vote against the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act. It is the House Republicans' vision for America's future. This is a vision in which the country turns its back on the achievements of the last century and chooses not to invest in meeting the challenges of the next century.

Republicans aim to use a crisis of their own making to hamstring future Congresses, limiting our ability to make necessary infrastructure investments, to care for the poor, aged and disabled, and to respond to national and international crises.

The 18 percent spending cap mandated by the bill would return the government to spending levels not seen since the establishment of Medicare and Medicaid. The impending retirement of more than 70 million baby boomers means that these spending levels are woefully inadequate, unless we condemn our grandparents to a severely diminished quality of life.

□ 1050

The Republican Party would enshrine constitutional protections for tax cuts and loopholes for wealthy individuals and corporations, requiring an unattainable two-thirds majority in both the House and the Senate for the government to increase the currently unsustainably low revenue levels of roughly 15 percent of GDP.

This would necessarily result in unprecedented cuts in student loans and grants, transportation, education, environmental protection, law enforcement—in other words, the physical and the human infrastructure of our economy.

The only budget plan that comes close to meeting the requirements of these constitutional amendments is the Republican Study Committee budget which eliminates 70 percent of non-defense discretionary funding by 2021, contains deep cuts to Medicare, cuts Medicaid, food stamps, supplemental security income for the elderly and disabled and poor in half by the end of the decade, and raises the Social Security retirement age to 70 years of age.

Yesterday's vote means that the Republican majority is demanding that in return for avoiding an economically disastrous default on our debt, we make \$111 billion in immediate spending cuts. These cuts seriously increase the likelihood of a double-dip recession. It is estimated that they could

cause the loss of more than a million public sector jobs just in the next year alone.

Last month, the economy added an anemic 18,000 jobs; but the private sector added 57,000 jobs, while 39,000 public sector jobs were lost in addition to the 49,000 public sector jobs lost in the prior month. This is a continuing trend. Half a million public sector employees have now lost their jobs, 200,000 of them teachers, while student enrollment has increased by 750,000. Firing more government workers will only decrease aggregate demand, making it that much harder to sustain the recovery.

We have witnessed this before. In 1937, President Roosevelt responded to similar conservative pressure by substantially reducing Federal spending before the Great Depression was fully in the rearview mirror. It drove us right back into economic depression. The economy wouldn't recover until the increased spending and hiring that accompanied the World War II armaments buildup got the country moving again. After the war, spending on education and housing for our GIs, the Marshall Plan for Europe, and the construction of the interstate highway system established a permanent middle class and sustainable prosperity.

This is not the time for the Democratic Party to sacrifice our values, values held by a majority of the American people, even in the face of opposition that has reached unprecedented levels of ideological radicalization.

We have to address our long-term deficits for the sake of future generations, but we must do so in a balanced manner, combining rational spending cuts and increased revenue. That's what has worked in the past. That's what we need to do now. We must not abandon the people that depend upon the government for a decent quality of life, but we must not let this great Nation become a second-class society and a third-rate economy. If the bill that was passed last night were to be enacted into law, that's the limited vision it would yield. That's why I was proud to vote against it.

#### WIC ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to clarify a mischaracterization of the administrative costs of the supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants and Children, commonly known as WIC.

It's interesting, you can come down here to the floor or speak in committee, and we are protected as Members of Congress to say anything we want. It isn't required that everything we say is factually correct. Sometimes those mischaracterizations, misstatements get into the record. And in this case, the complaint or the statement in subcommittee and full

committee and even in debate here on the floor of the Agriculture appropriations bill, it was asserted that the administrative costs in this program are up to 40 percent of the total cost of WIC, this is a misstatement of fact, although it was included in the report language and it was adopted by the committee.

So I come today to point out that the 40 percent administrative cost claimed by the majority is based on selective data from a 2008 Brookings Institute report. It didn't come from the Department of Agriculture, which administers the program. The Brookings report collapsed several legislative mandated nonmonetary programs, including the education of nutrition, the requirement that we support and inform people on how to do proper breast feeding, other client services, issues like health care referrals, even immunization screenings, these were counted as administrative costs when they are mandated by us in Congress to be carried out. They are programmatic costs, and it wasn't proper for the Brookings report to include those as administrative costs.

Breast feeding, nutrition education, and immunization screening are vital programs which improve birth outcomes and reduce the incidence of health problems for WIC participants. They should not be categorized as administrative costs for the purpose of budgeting.

So today, I would like to point out in a recent letter to our Subcommittee on Agriculture Appropriations, of which I am the ranking member, from the Sec-

retary of Agriculture, Secretary Vilsack, and I will include this letter at the end of my comments today, he notes that the food and nutrition service delivers its program management and actual administrative costs at a steady 9.09 percent rate, far less than the 40 percent purported in the Brookings Institute report and included in the committee report.

WIC is effective in improving the health of pregnant women, new mothers and their infants. I feel it is important to clarify that the WIC program is meeting its mission. It is meeting the law to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children who are at nutrition risk by providing nutritional food and supplemental diets and information on healthy eating and referrals to other health care services.

As Members of Congress, we should not do the program any further disservice by erroneous figures being included in the report. So today, Mr. Speaker, I insert in the RECORD the letter from Secretary Vilsack pointing this out and to make the record clear that the WIC program is indeed being administered very soundly and fiscally conservatively.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, July 14, 2011.

Hon. SAM FARR,  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Agriculture,  
Rural Development, Food and Drug Admin-  
istration and Related Agencies, House of  
Representatives, Longworth House Office  
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FARR: Thank you for your work on behalf of the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) appropriations for fis-

cal year (FY) 2012. I appreciate the difficult decisions and choices that were before you and the Committee.

As identified in the Statement of Administration Policy, the Administration has serious concerns with H.R. 2112; however, I wanted to weigh in specifically on what I perceive as misstatements regarding administrative costs for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). I understand that during full committee debate and on page 43 of the committee report, selected data from a 2008 Brookings Institute report were referenced, giving the impression that administrative costs in the WIC Program are over 40 percent of Federal expenditures for the program. The true figure is much lower.

Beyond simply providing assistance in the form of supplemental food benefits, WIC provides low-income mothers, infants, and children with other legislatively mandated non-monetary program benefits, including nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and other client services such as healthcare referrals and immunization screening, which improve birth outcomes and reduce the incidence of health problems for WIC participants. The Brookings Institute report collapses these important additional benefits under the category of administrative costs. However, these legislatively mandated program benefits provided to participants should not be classified as administrative costs.

For reference, I asked USDA's Food and Nutrition Service to provide me with a breakdown of the Federal cost of food benefits, non-monetary program benefits and administrative expenses for FY 2010. I am sharing this information with you to correct the record and so that you can share it with your colleagues:

Category	Obligations	Percentage of obligations
Supplemental Food Benefits .....	\$4,561,570,027	70.44%
Nutrition Services and Admin. (NSA): .....		
Additional Benefits: .....		
Nutrition Education .....	418,437,331	6.46%
Breastfeeding Support .....	149,133,594	2.30%
Other Client Services .....	758,015,711	11.70%
Program Management .....	588,984,767	9.09%
Total Nutrition Services & Admin. (NSA) .....	1,914,571,403	29.56%
Total Food and NSA .....	6,476,141,430	100.00%

I consider the category of program management, which is 9.09 percent of total Federal obligations, to be the true measure of administrative costs needed to deliver the complete suite of benefits to WIC participants. This percentage has remained consistent over the past 5 years.

It is my hope that this will clear up any misunderstanding regarding administrative costs in WIC, and I look forward to working with you in the future. A similar letter is being sent to Congressmen Jack Kingston, Harold Rogers, and Norman Dicks.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK,  
Secretary.

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE  
MILITARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, for the last few months I have come to this floor every week to talk about a moral black eye on this country—the issue of

rape and sexual assault in the military. I have mentioned the fact that the Pentagon has estimated that 19,000 servicemembers are raped or sexually assaulted each and every year. The victims typically are blamed and the assailants are promoted.

I have shared the personal stories of several women who needed to have a bright light shined on this ongoing epidemic. But it is not only females in the military that are victims. Men are being victimized as well.

In an April 2011 article entitled “The Military’s Secret Shame,” Newsweek looked at the subject hardly anyone talks about: male on male rape and sexual assault. Mr. Speaker, it is time to break this silence.

Last year, nearly 50,000 male veterans screened positive for “military sexual trauma.” Think about that, 50,000 men. That’s nearly double what it was in 2003. Another 110 men made confidential reports of sexual assault

by other men, nearly three times what it was in 2007. We know the number of actual victims is much higher.

The latest Department of Defense report showed that only 13 percent of those who are raped in the military actually report them. Men keep quiet for the same reasons women do—a military system that gives them virtually no chance of justice.

In 2010, the Pentagon anonymously asked active duty soldiers who had been sexually assaulted why they did not report their attacks. Half of them said they didn’t want anyone to know. A third of them said they didn’t think anything would be done. And 30 percent said they were afraid of retaliation or reprisal.

□ 1100

I now want to share with you the story of Blake Stephens. I warn you that some of the material is graphic.