

that they would have during the year and melt them all together to put together those Christmas candles. I don't know if you all grew up with one of those Christmas candles in your home, but they couldn't afford to go out and buy a candle. They had to put together all the nubs and put in the wick themselves.

My dad tells the story of a lot of cold winters and a lot of very hot summers. He tells the story of every time the Klan would threaten to come and burn a cross on the lawn, my grandfather would sit out there on the front porch in his rocking chair with a shotgun. If you can picture that: a United Methodist minister, a man of peace, sitting out there on the porch with his shotgun, but that's the way things were in that part of the world and in those days.

And then he went on to become the superintendent of the United Methodist children's home in the South Georgia Conference. He died about a decade ago without two nickels to rub together, but it was the largest funeral I had ever seen in my life, because he touched people, he nurtured people, he reached out to those who didn't have anyone else to advocate on their behalf. His entire career he spent building people up. His entire career he spent reaching out to those who had no one and being their "someone."

As this discussion goes on here this morning, I promise you there is not a bureaucrat in Washington, D.C., there is not an agency funded by Federal dollars, that loves people like my grandfather loved people. There's not one. There is not one bureaucrat in Washington, D.C., and there is not one agency under Federal control that loves children the way my grandfather loved children.

Folks, we have a choice each and every day that's going on in this debate that we're having over deficits, debts and defaults. Freedom and security. My big fear is not that there's going to be a default on United States debt. My big fear is that there's going to be a default on the promise of America. My big fear is that the government is doing so much, that we as people may think that we get to do so little, that government's not taking care of anyone. The government is taking from people who would have taken care of someone and is stealing that responsibility for nurturing our neighbors.

It is not the government's job to feed the hungry in my community. It's my job. It's not the government's job to reach out to the least of these. It's my job. As we're talking about children here on the House floor today, as we're talking about the most vulnerable of these, I think back to STENY HOYER's words in 1995, that when it comes to balanced budgets, when it comes to running up deficits, the person who gets hurt the worst when reckless government spending goes unchecked are the least of these, are the children. I agree with him a hundred percent.

What are we teaching our children today? What are we teaching our children about our responsibility as individuals to take care of one another? Where is the proposal? I've been in Congress 7 months now. There has not been a single proposal to encourage individuals to take care of one another. Time and time again what there are, are proposals to take away the responsibility from individuals of taking care of one another and to transfer that responsibility to government.

Now, I say that with passion. I know, Mr. Speaker, as you know, that everyone who brings those proposals to the floor brings it with a full heart. I do not question the motivations or the intentions of anyone who is reaching out to the least of these. I only question the results.

Mr. Speaker, the longest and most expensive war in this country's history is not the war in Afghanistan. It is the war on poverty, and the government's results are poor. We need to put it back in the hands of individuals.

#### SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON THE STIMULUS

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The best anti-poverty program is a job. The stimulus bill saved 3.3 million jobs just this year. After 8 years of reverse Robin Hood under Bush, we were losing 800,000 jobs a month. I repeat: We were losing 800,000 jobs a month. Eight hundred thousand people headed toward poverty. The stimulus bill reversed the slide toward poverty for this Nation.

Earlier this week, I submitted data for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD showing

that the stimulus bill has funded 700,000 education jobs, more than all of the jobs lost due to Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill combined. Today, I submit for the record data on jobs saved or created by transportation funding in the stimulus bill. Since February 2009, 335,000 positions have been funded directly by the Department of Transportation. That figure does not include the jobs indirectly created by the stimulus bill as States and local governments leverage these funds for improvements that get goods and services moving throughout this country.

So far, the DOT has paid out \$30 billion in grants and has authority for another \$18 billion. Over 15,000 projects have been made possible by the stimulus bill. Mr. Speaker, can anyone seriously argue that \$48 billion for roads, rails and infrastructure will not put millions of people to work? Of course they can't.

In my district, construction of a new Amtrak station in Sanford, Florida, employed 46 subcontractors. Forty-five of them are from Florida. Does anyone want to call that a disaster?

The real disaster is that we didn't put enough money in the stimulus bill for transportation. This country gets a failing grade for the conditions of our roads and bridges, and we're going to have disaster after disaster like what occurred in Minnesota, the collapsing of the bridge that killed people.

Mr. Speaker, the stimulus bill put us on the road to recovery, and I will continue to set the record straight. Let's not stop this recovery by reversing course. The pending transportation reauthorization bill will take us backwards a decade and will kill the millions of jobs. That is what I call a disaster.

I am placing in the RECORD the transportation and how much each State received and how many jobs it created. For example, in Florida, 782 projects, over 16,000 people put to work. Let me just mention one other State—Pennsylvania, 384 projects, 13,000 jobs reported.

Mr. Speaker, people come to this floor and they talk all the time, and I guess people on TV think that what they're saying is actual, or factual. You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time.

#### AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANTS AS OF MARCH 31, 2011

State	Projects	Total Awarded	Funds Per Capita	Jobs Reported
Alabama	364	\$689,783,797	\$146	4107
Alaska	54	388,794,321	557	2771
American Samoa	4	8,468,599	N/A	348
Arizona	249	808,989,561	123	7964
Arkansas	150	422,379,045	146	4021
California	1244	7,348,869,737	199	33355
Colorado	151	667,300,538	133	6441
Connecticut	169	472,631,172	134	6667
Delaware	49	143,098,747	162	1196
District of Columbia	26	1,733,232,733	2,890	13812
Florida	782	1,839,648,149	99	16596
Georgia	438	1,136,153,103	116	11212
Guam	12	30,591,897	N/A	186
Hawaii	39	214,745,880	166	3185
Idaho	107	221,927,181	144	2235
Illinois	920	2,727,586,568	211	10433
Indiana	1163	828,803,322	129	6910

## AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANTS AS OF MARCH 31, 2011—Continued

State	Projects	Total Awarded	Funds Per Capita	Jobs Reported
Iowa	255	424,232,778	141	3741
Kansas	180	397,374,332	141	3465
Kentucky	183	518,755,460	120	5079
Louisiana	156	578,683,578	129	4313
Maine	91	212,986,398	162	1252
Maryland	191	649,531,314	114	4029
Massachusetts	152	897,777,105	136	4173
Michigan	819	1,139,143,390	114	10209
Minnesota	266	692,002,343	131	4104
Mississippi	199	419,224,091	142	4988
Missouri	377	800,082,800	134	5269
Montana	98	305,897,160	314	3344
Nebraska	142	272,964,222	152	2493
Nevada	89	331,090,324	125	2844
New Hampshire	54	154,196,422	116	1192
New Jersey	202	1,156,651,333	133	8467
New Mexico	129	355,934,416	177	2927
New York	521	2,853,649,172	146	14377
North Carolina	460	1,413,137,683	151	10512
North Dakota	184	211,838,719	328	1369
Ohio	493	1,313,714,616	114	10045
Oklahoma	304	646,213,981	175	5174
Oregon	385	530,282,667	139	3560
Pennsylvania	384	1,450,896,521	115	13060
Puerto Rico	65	186,789,071	N/A	1597
Rhode Island	84	205,287,296	195	1656
South Carolina	219	552,208,453	121	3922
South Dakota	65	250,604,563	308	2717
Tennessee	370	839,526,398	133	6448
Texas	642	2,851,769,034	115	25458
U.S. Virgin Islands	11	31,184,858	N/A	319
Utah	143	398,498,657	143	2577
Vermont	82	198,703,920	320	1181
Virginia	193	934,531,617	119	7558
Washington	306	1,467,863,369	220	9414
West Virginia	184	253,292,304	139	2013
Wisconsin	479	699,094,342	124	4252
Wyoming	77	202,044,754	371	1934
Totals	15155	\$46,480,663,811	\$11,312	\$332472

Sources:  
<http://www.dot.gov/recovery>  
<http://www.recovery.gov/Transparency/RecipientReportedData/Pages/StateTotalsByAgency>

## DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The time for talk is over. The time for action has come. We are in a spending-driven debt crisis. Washington is spending money it doesn't have, and it's leaving the American people, our children and our grandchildren, with the tab. The national debt now stands at \$14 trillion, which is equal to 95 percent of the economy of the United States.

In his first 2 years in office, President Obama has added more to our national debt than was added between 1776 and 1992, totaling close to \$4 trillion in new debt in less than 36 months. We are now borrowing 40 cents on every dollar. I was a small business owner before I came to Congress, and if I borrowed 40 cents on every dollar, my business would have been out of business. American families know that if they're borrowing 40 cents on the dollar, it's not long before they're in crisis.

President Obama inherited an economy in distress. There's no denying that. However, practically every decision he has made and every policy he has pursued has made matters worse. Between a failed trillion-dollar stimulus and a trillion-dollar government takeover of health care, this administration has spent without restraint and without regard to our financial health.

If spending is the problem, then controlling Washington spending is the solution. My colleagues stand on the

House floor and talk about increasing revenues by raising taxes, but history tells us a different story. We can raise revenues by lowering tax rates. President Kennedy did it in the sixties, President Reagan did it in the eighties, and even President Bush in 2000 when he lowered tax rates. What happened was not a decrease in revenues to the Federal Government but an increase. In fact, in 2000, after the 2001, '2 and '3 tax cuts, we had record revenues in the Federal Government.

Our problem is spending. That's why I joined my colleagues in voting to pass Cut, Cap, and Balance. My passing this legislation, the House stepped in and filled the vacuum of leadership left by the President of the United States in the debt limit negotiations. We acted to cut spending by over \$110 billion, cap the growth of spending, and force Congress to balance its books through a constitutional balanced budget amendment.

No one wants the United States to default on its debt. The consequences would be dire, not only for our economy but for the world. However, we cannot continue down the path that has led us to this crisis. The House has acted. It's time for the President to step in and act as well.

□ 1110

## LET OUR EYES REST UPON WHAT POVERTY IN AMERICA TRULY IS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I would like to particularly thank the Out of

Poverty Caucus: Congresswoman LEE, Congressmen TOWNS, CONYERS, HONDA, and a number of other Members who have joined that caucus and all of us who are here on the floor who are members of that caucus and who believe that this could not be a more important time.

A few days ago, I got on the floor to rename the Cut, Cap, and Balance legislation that was passed that would cut \$6 trillion out of the hearts and needs of the American people. I called it the "Tap Dance, Losers' Club, and Bust the Benefits" bill because this is not a question of Members who are standing here today, wanting to recklessly spend your money. In fact, we are excited about opportunities that help boost the middle class, but we want to remind our colleagues that there are Americans who are impoverished.

Do you know that there are Americans who are on the front lines—young soldiers of the ages of 18, 19, 20, and 21 who have come out of places like the Delta in Mississippi or the Fifth Ward in Texas or the Appalachian Mountains or from the urban centers around the Nation—who are suffering from the highest degree of poverty, not poverty that they have generated on themselves?

Yes, there are issues sometimes with legacy poverty: families that have never broken the cycle, who are living in public housing or, even worse, who are living in housing that is not fit to be lived in. Travel in some of the shoes that many of us travel in, and go to places in America where there is no running water.

So we come today to acknowledge the fact that there is poverty in America.