

REID DEBT PLAN

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the American people can finally see HARRY REID's debt ceiling plan. Only 5 days before the deadline set by the President, the Senate majority leader finally put something on paper and submitted it to the Congressional Budget Office. I think we understand why he waited so long to do this. The plan before the Senate is filled with gimmicks and does almost nothing to put our country on a better fiscal footing.

Of course, the largest gimmick is claiming to save \$1 trillion by shutting down wars that are already winding down. Despite having these phantom cuts in his bill, Majority Leader REID gives the President the full amount of debt ceiling increase that he needs to push everything past next year's election. Once again, the financial security of our country would be sacrificed for political expediency.

By contrast, Speaker BOEHNER's plan cuts spending by \$1 for each \$1 increase in the debt limit. It may not be perfect, but it is necessary to keep us paying our bills and prevent a debt rating downgrade. It is a start to getting our country back on the path to a balanced budget.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today with a coat of many colors. It is a little unusual to do this, but I'm very proud of it. And I think everyone will recognize this because this is the traditional white coat that doctors wear. It was given to me by the passionate residents at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital in my district.

All of its pockets hold notes, and the notes were signed by the doctors and the nurses, all in support of a remarkable program in our country that has trained thousands of pediatricians and pediatric specialists over the last 12 years, the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program.

It was first created in 1999 because there was a shortage of pediatricians in our country and subspecialists. And this program today has been wildly successful, increasing the number of pediatricians by 35 percent. Congress needs to approve this and keep in place those that take such good care of our children.

WHAT KIND OF LEGACY WILL WE LEAVE?

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of an important debate.

It's a debate on the debt ceiling and our spending crisis. But fundamentally, it's a debate about the future direction of our country, the next generation, and getting Americans back to work. Jobs are the cure for an ailing economy and the elixir for a bright and secure future. We cannot continue down the current path of fiscal irresponsibility. We cannot continue to commit generational theft of our children's and grandkids' futures.

What kind of legacy will we leave for this country and its future generations? Will we leave a legacy of debt? No, that's not what I want. We must not pass on to the generation of tomorrow the mistakes of our leaders today who, until now, remain unwilling to make the tough decisions and cut spending to create jobs and grow our economy. We can and must do right; and by God's grace, we will.

□ 1210

COMPROMISE AND A BALANCED APPROACH

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, Republicans claim that they want to lower the government spending, but they sure have a funny way of showing it. First, they refused to compromise with the President on a proposal that would lower the deficit by \$4 trillion. Now they refuse to compromise on a long-term plan that would result in meaningful deficit reduction.

Even after the stock market plunged yesterday, Republicans still refuse to compromise. Why? Because they're more interested in scoring political points and protecting the tax breaks for the ultrarich corporations that ship jobs overseas.

We must not balance the budget on the backs of our seniors and the poor by cutting Social Security and Medicare. We need a balanced approach. We need to work together. No taxes, no jobs.

Let's stop this dangerous game of chicken before we have an economic disaster. We must compromise, and it shouldn't be "my way or the highway."

BALANCING THE BUDGET

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to thank every vocal constituent and American for pushing us up to this point today when we will consider a tax-free and sensible budget control plan in exchange for raising our Nation's debt ceiling.

Is it perfect? Far from it. Will I vote for it today? Yes. The alternatives are too scary to comprehend.

No matter how many times you try to put them down or call them names, the Tea Party movement and many

others that share their views have had a monumental impact on the debt ceiling debate. Know this: If left to its own devices, Washington would have completed just another perfunctory raising of the debt ceiling, or worse, more taxes and more spending.

Call them hobbits. Call them what you like. I call the Tea Party and others who wish to fight to get this country on a proper fiscal trajectory true patriots.

The reality here on Earth, Mr. Speaker, is that America is a great Nation, and we wish to remain that way.

DEFAULT IS NOT AN OPTION

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, with the clock tick, tick, ticking away towards a default on our financial obligations for the first time in American history, we need to come together to find bipartisan solutions. It's time to stop holding America's credit rating hostage.

To be clear, what we face is not a possible government budget shutdown. The consequences of default would have far-reaching and long-lasting effects. The increase in interest rates resulting from a default could cost Americans an additional \$10 billion in borrowing costs, and the loss in confidence from investors in government securities worldwide could easily send America into another recession. Default is simply not an option.

I support commonsense compromise solutions to reduce our deficit and return to balanced budgets.

I hope that my colleagues on both sides are ready to put the partisan politics aside and move forward with a plan to help keep America and the U.S. in good financial standing.

REPUBLICAN DEFAULT ACT

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Republican Default Act, which will require deep cuts in Medicare while preserving tax breaks and loopholes for millionaires and large corporations. It is beyond disappointing that Republicans have squandered a real opportunity to put our Nation on a sustainable fiscal path.

Many of my constituents are afraid the Republican leadership will continue bending to the Tea Party demands to drive our economy toward a self-inflicted recession.

The risks here are very real. Default or a credit downgrade will hurt middle class families with higher mortgage and credit card interest rates and higher costs for food, gas, and utilities.

Republicans need to stop playing reckless games with our economy and start working for what the American people want: comprehensive deficit reduction that shares the burden equally,

strengthens Medicare and Social Security, ends tax giveaways, and puts our country back on the path to fiscal stability.

HOPING FOR A SPIRIT OF CONSENSUS

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to hope that a spirit of consensus will come forth to avoid this self-inflicted wound, I think it's well to think of a general principle on how we should approach our fiscal challenges, and that is that a nation that does not learn from its clear, unambiguous mistakes is bound to repeat them. And, in fact, the problem with the Republican plan that will be on the floor today is that it not only repeats the mistakes that occurred during the Bush administration, it enshrines them into permanent law.

Now, I remember very well where Alan Greenspan came before us years ago during the last President's administration and said that we needed to have massive cuts for multimillionaires and further cuts for the oil industries, because if we didn't do that the United States Government would just have too much money in the kitty.

That didn't work out too well. In fact, because of those giant mistakes, it blew a hole in the deficit.

Do not repeat them. Let's go back and solve this problem the real way.

RECOGNIZING CAPE COD BASEBALL LEAGUE'S ALL-STAR GAME

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

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Cape Cod League's All-Star Game, which is taking place in Fenway Park on Friday, July 29.

I rise, not just because this organization embodies the best of America's pastime, but because the league has decided to dedicate this year's game to the memory of Christina-Taylor Green, the youngest victim of the Arizona shootings that took the lives of six people and injured 13 others, including our colleague, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS.

Christina was an avid baseball fan who hoped one day to become the first female major league baseball player. Her father, John, is a scout with the Los Angeles Dodgers, and the family spent summers in Cape Cod, in part so he could scout players in the Cape Cod Baseball League.

For those of you who are not familiar with the Cape Cod Baseball League, it's the Nation's premier amateur league and gives fans like Christina the opportunity to watch future major league players up close.

In Christina's honor, league players will wear commemorative patches on

their shirts, and her brother, Dallas, will throw out the first pitch.

Additionally, Christina inspired the league to arrange for a Cape Cod Baseball League baseball to be brought into space by Congresswoman GIFFORDS' husband, Mark Kelly, and the astronauts on board the final mission of Space Shuttle *Endeavor*. The "Spaceball" covered 6.5 million miles during this trip.

Baseball games are wonderful examples of old-fashioned American fun, and I commend the Cape Cod League for their heartfelt tribute. Sadly, Christina, whose innocent life was lost too early, will only be there with us in spirit; yet that unique American spirit, to achieve new heights, the same we saw in her desire to be the first female major league baseball player, will continue to inspire us.

BOEHNER DEFAULT PREVENTION BILL

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I'm told that this afternoon this House will vote on the Boehner default prevention bill, in direct contravention of House rules, with limited debate and no opportunity for amendment. One of the most important discussions we need to have as a country—limited debate and no opportunity for amendment.

I would welcome that debate. I'd love to talk about what's involved in gutting Medicare and Social Security without asking the very wealthiest people in this country to participate in solving this problem. I'd love to have that debate. And we will, later, not today.

What I'm rising to talk about today, though, is the fact that this bill would have us having exactly this discussion 6 months from today, talking about default and credit ratings and the impacts of default, instead of talking about what every American wants this Chamber to be focused on, which is what we can do to bring about jobs.

This is not a good bill. But the notion that it would have us having this conversation again in 6 months is reason enough for every Member of this Chamber to reject that bill this afternoon.

□ 1220

STOP THE GOP FROM ENDING MEDICARE

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to work together to resolve our debt reduction strategy, and I rise to urge my GOP colleagues to abandon their efforts to end Medicare as we know it.

For 45 years, Medicare has been that fundamental promise to our parents

and our grandparents that if they work hard, if they play by the rules, and if they pay into Medicare, they're going to be able to live their retirement years in dignity, and that their children will have economic security because we won't be worried about the economic challenges that a diagnosis or an emergency situation or health condition would bring.

It's fundamentally unfair that the debt racked up over the last decade with two wars put on a credit card, tax breaks for special interests, and other special provisions, and now the GOP is looking to end Medicare as we know it and to undermine that fundamental promise. We're not going to stand for it. We can work together on a more reasonable solution, and I urge my colleagues to do so.

LIFE SCIENCES JOBS AND INVESTMENT ACT

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. As we seek ways to get America's economy growing again, one part of this effort must be to create the right environment to grow private-sector, cutting-edge jobs and cutting-edge industries. That is why I have joined several of my colleagues in a bipartisan, bicameral basis to introduce legislation that will keep America on the front edge of scientific research and development and offer new opportunities for job creation in America's life sciences industry.

This legislation provides targeted tax credits to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and new, high-quality jobs here at home. It expands on the research and development tax credit, and allows companies to bring back overseas earnings for the purpose of creating American jobs and investing in American startup companies.

American universities, research centers, and private companies are the world leaders in medical sciences and the development of new medical devices and therapeutics, but we are no longer alone. This legislation will help ensure that our life sciences industries maintain their competitive edge in the global marketplace.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of innovative small businesses and the new jobs that they create. Let's help them create the cures and treatments of tomorrow right here at home today.

LINCOLN'S WARNING STILL STANDS

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. "Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history," said Lincoln in an address to Congress in 1862. "We of this Congress and this administration, we will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance or insignificance can spare one or another