

back on track, pave the way for sustained recovery, and get Rhode Islanders back to work. And that's why my colleagues and I in the Democratic minority are focused on job creation, economic development and debt reduction.

However, the first actions by the new Republican majority during their first month have not been consistent with these principles.

Unfortunately, my constituents, like Rhonda Taylor, for example, from North Providence, Rhode Island, whom I met with yesterday, do not have months and months to wait for my Republican colleagues to get their priorities straight. She's already been waiting and waiting. And that's because Rhonda lost her job in the information technology field due to outsourcing almost 3 years ago. And her unemployment compensation benefits were exhausted nearly a year ago.

Rhonda is a mother of three. She's liquidated her savings and sold all of her possessions, and now she's afraid she'll become homeless.

Rhonda proves why there is no time to spare. We need to focus on policies that create jobs today. The struggles of our unemployed friends and neighbors are heartbreaking and, unfortunately, all too common. People like Rhonda have no time to wait. The partisan games have to end.

Unfortunately, Rhonda's story is not unique. I've been hearing similar messages for the past year from men and women all across Rhode Island. But instead of working on policies that will help real Americans like Rhonda, my friends on the other side of the aisle are playing politics with the Federal budget and the national debt, a budget that even Republican economists say could lead to double-digit unemployment and reverse the economic growth that is starting to take hold.

Blind budget cuts my colleagues in the majority are pursuing won't help people like Rhonda but would, rather, do more to cut jobs than save or create them. What my friends fail to recognize is that partisan political games will not solve our Nation's unemployment crisis which plagues nearly 14 million of our friends and neighbors.

The fact of the matter is the challenges facing us as a Nation are not Democratic challenges or Republican challenges. They are our challenges, and they require American solutions.

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The work is demanding, yes, and it will test the will of both parties to make difficult choices. But as a Congress, we need to both responsibly reduce the deficit, cut spending, but also make the smart investments that will create jobs now and guarantee the prosperity of our great Nation.

Our Nation must make the investments in education, innovation, infrastructure, science and research that are critical to rebuilding our economy and putting people back to work because we cannot compete in the short

term if we cannot innovate. And we cannot innovate in the long term if we fail to provide our children with access to a high-quality education. We cannot move goods and services throughout the economy if our infrastructure is crumbling. And America cannot make things again if we do not support the research, the entrepreneurs, the small businesses and manufacturers that transform ideas into new products.

People like Rhonda back home in Rhode Island, and hardworking people all across this Nation, have suffered for too long. We must have the courage to set the right priority, cut what doesn't work or isn't needed, live within our means, and make the right investments that ensure our ability to compete in the global economy today and into the future.

I call on my Republican colleagues to join me so we can focus on putting Americans back to work by developing commonsense solutions and focusing on jobs.

INGERSOLL-RAND OF MOCKSVILLE NAMED "BUSINESS OF THE YEAR"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to hear my colleagues start talking about the need for jobs. For the last 4 years, since they have been in control of the Congress, Republicans have been talking about that and how their job-killing policies have worked against the American people.

But, Mr. Speaker, today I want to speak about an outstanding industry in the Fifth District of North Carolina that has gone about creating jobs.

Businesses that create jobs and invest in their communities are our ticket to economic growth and recovery in today's economy. That's why it's impressive that Ingersoll-Rand's manufacturing facility in Mocksville, North Carolina, recently received the Davie County Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year award.

The hardworking people at Ingersoll have brought about 200 jobs to Davie County in recent years, which, during these difficult economic times, is a tangible boost to the community. These are good jobs that are strengthening the local economy.

Ingersoll's major investment in Davie County is a tribute to the fact that the area's skilled workforce is composed of men and women who are dedicated to producing the best products in the world. The hundreds of workers at Ingersoll in Mocksville are the driving force behind this award, and I tip my hat to everyone at Ingersoll-Rand in Mocksville for this important recognition for their hard work and investment in Davie County, North Carolina.

THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, next week President Obama will send his budget to Congress, and news coming from the White House will not be good. But the rumors of a budget war from the Republican leadership promises to make a bad situation much, much worse.

From what we are hearing, all of us can expect the same Republican policies which took an over-\$5 trillion surplus that Democrats and President Clinton sacrificed to create and turned it into the dream-crushing deficit that we are faced with today.

They have made cutting spending sound like a good thing, but it is not when you look at where the cuts will come from. They will not come from the tax cuts for the wealthy and not from the wars we need to end, but they will come from programs that communities and families need now more than ever. This is Bush *deja vu* all over again. And every economist that I have read says that with this economy in such a fragile state, with the country only at the beginning of recovery, and with far too many of our fellow Americans hurting, this is not the time to cut spending.

It is not that I am against making prudent cuts to reduce the deficit, but the cuts I am hearing about so far will hurt those the President said should not be hurt: the most vulnerable, children, the poor, the majority of whom are racial and ethnic minorities, and our disabled and elderly.

We in the Congressional Black Caucus have placed ourselves in the breach on behalf of those who would otherwise remain nameless because no one is willing to name them. They are Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian and Pacific Island Americans, and the poor and rural Americans of every race and ethnicity.

As we do every year, we will develop a budget that treats all Americans fairly, does not leave anyone behind, but gives a helping hand to those who need it, and also reduces the deficit.

We agree with President Obama that his budget must put the country on a firm path to winning the future, and we know that winning the future means creating opportunity for everyone who lives in this country. But the CBC is further committed to making sure that everyone means everyone, to making sure that those who have been most hurt by this recession and those who have long been marginalized even in the good times have the special help they need to be a part of creating that future and benefiting from it.

I cannot believe that there could be one Member of Congress who does not support our country being number one, who does not want to win the future. But we can't win the future without ensuring that every child has access to a quality education and that those schools which have lagged behind because they lack resources and adequate

and well-trained staff are helped to meet the standards that are required to do that. And we cannot win the future if we turn back all of the newly gained benefits and savings in the Affordable Care Act. We will never win the future if we allow the Republicans to pass a budget that causes us to lose those provisions which enable minorities, rural residents, and the poor to achieve better health, to be more productive, and to have a better quality of life. These health equity provisions will begin to end the inequality and injustice in health care that Dr. King called shocking and inhumane.

And we cannot win the future if we don't do all that we can to make sure we address the mortgage crisis and help families keep the homes they need to raise their families in. We cannot win the future without jobs and more jobs. And I'm talking about good jobs.

So we know that there will have to be limits of spending, but we want to make sure that it starts at the most effective time and that the sacrifice is fairly spread, that those who have sacrificed over the last decade while corporations and the rich made off like bandits will not be the ones that continue to bear the brunt of the cuts and continue to suffer while Big Business and the wealthy continue to amass more wealth at their expense. That is an affront to the principles of fairness and equity that this country was founded on.

And so we want a realistic budget, not one that the Republicans are preparing that will cause us to lose more jobs, send more people into dire poverty, that will deny education and health care to those who need it most, that will continue the loss of homes, that will weaken programs like Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security which so many depend on, and one that will decrease the deficit and continue to drive this country into decline, continuing what the Republican policies over the last decade have done.

That is not what we want. That is not what the country needs. That is not the kind of budget that will win the future.

And so we in this Congressional Black Caucus are willing to roll up our sleeves, put on our thinking caps and work with our President and our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to pass a different, a better budget, one that will create jobs, that will give people the tools to lift them and their families out of poverty and keep them in their homes, one that will create an educational system that will put all of our children first, and a health care system that ensures quality health care to all Americans, a budget that will provide the retirement security our seniors deserve and keep our country competitive and strong and number one in the world, a budget that will win the future. We know it can be done because we have shown how it can be done every year with the CBC budget.

Working together, I know we can create a budget worthy of this country,

one that lives up to our ideals, one based not on political ideology, but one that responds to the needs of our country and the needs of the people who are waiting and depending on us.

CBC BUDGETARY PRIORITIES

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to debate the budget, and as we have already begun to debate, it is a budget that in many instances and in many ways spells gloom and doom for people who have been expecting and looking for some opportunity to move our government and our country forward.

In order to really understand how we got to where we are, I think it is important for us to remember that President Clinton left President Bush with a 10-year projected surplus of \$5.6 trillion in 2001.

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Whereas President Bush on January 20, 2009, left President Obama with a \$1.2 trillion deficit. And let's keep in mind that this was the deficit on day one of the Obama administration, weeks before the President enacted a single piece of legislation and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The failed economic policies of the Bush administration led to this enormous deficit: the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts totaled \$1.3 trillion over 10 years, in which most of the tax relief went to the top 1 percent of income earners; a Medicare prescription drug benefit with a 10 year cost of nearly another \$1 trillion that was not offset; two overseas war that are near a cost of \$1 trillion; a \$700 billion bailout of Wall Street banks.

And all of these unpaid-for policies were compounded by the worst economic recession in 70 years that began in 2007, which led to huge shortfalls in Federal tax revenue and increased reliance on unemployment insurance and other Federal social safety net programs.

In order to get these huge deficits under control, we have some tough decisions to make. We have some very serious and some difficult decisions as we attempt to balance the budget and as we attempt to continue to promote and project economic recovery.

I have always been told that you can measure the greatness of a society by how well it looks after its young, how well it looks after its old, and how well it looks after those who cannot look after themselves effectively. So as we begin to talk about cuts, where I come from, I have been told that if all that you do is cut, cut, cut, all that you are going to get is blood, blood, blood; and, of course, the blood of the people will be on the hands of those who have the knives.

So as we cut, let's look seriously at the Community Services Administra-

tion, the one little program, one little agency, one little area that still provides resources to fund programs like those established during the OEO War on Poverty days, when we took a good look at poverty and what was causing it.

As we begin to cut, let's understand that health is essential for wealth, so let's make sure that we don't tamper with what I consider to be one of the most effective ways of providing primary health care to large numbers of poor people in this country, the community health centers, that provide primary care to more than 20 million low-income Americans without regard in many instances to their ability to pay.

And let's understand that our prison system has become the largest in the world. More than 2 million people are incarcerated, so let's not cut or decimate the little justice programs that we are funding to help these individuals try and successfully reintegrate back into society.

So, I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I urge that when we cut, let's make good cuts, and not those that cut the poor.

How much longer can we afford to extend the Bush-era tax cuts? The President and Congress extended all of them through 2012 at a two year cost of \$800 billion. A ten year extension of all these tax cuts will cost \$3.8 trillion—\$3 trillion of which are the popular middle-class tax cuts.

Earlier this week, the Congressional Budget Office released its latest projections of the Social Security Trust Fund. It was previously projected to go into a cash deficit in 2017, but now CBO has projected that the trust fund is now running a deficit. The trust is expected to be exhausted in 2037.

We can no longer operate under the assumption of the last decade, that we can increase spending and reduce taxes without having to pay for it.

The last Congress took important steps to restore some important tools that were used to produce the first budget surplus in more than a generation in the late 1990s, such as Statutory Pay-As-You-Go—meaning if Congress wants to increase mandatory spending, we have to offset it by reducing spending elsewhere in the budget or increase taxes to cover the increase.

Unfortunately, the new Republican Majority has changed House rules gutting PAY-GO's effectiveness in the Congressional budget process. The so-called CUT-GO rule prohibits offsetting any new mandatory spending with a revenue increase. This makes it nearly impossible to offset any new spending or tax cuts with revenue increases and will require only spending cuts.

In another unprecedented change, the House last week voted to give the House Budget Committee Chairman the sole responsibility for setting discretionary spending levels for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2011. The House of Representatives as a whole will be deprived of the right to vote up or down the Budget Chairman's levels.

We have to remember that what we do with Federal budget touches everyone. Our fiscal problems are very complex and they need to be addressed, but there is no simple, one-size-fits-all solution.