

southern tip of the Philippines, Manny Pacquiao.

The bond between the Philippines and the United States is deep and strong. During World War II, when the Pacific nation was a commonwealth of this country, brave and patriotic Filipino troops served under the American flag. With the leadership of Senator DAN INOUE, who acted so heroically in the Second World War, we fought in the legislative branches of our government to give those troops, those Filipino troops, the well-deserved and long-overdue pensions they earned during a time of war.

Now Congressman Pacquiao is a Member of Congress from the Philippines. He is also a boxer who holds many other titles than that of Congressman. He holds the title of Super Welterweight Champion. He is the only person in the history of boxing to hold eight world titles. He is the first person in history to win 10 world titles in 8 different weight divisions. He started out being a champion at 106 pounds.

He has fought them all. He has fought people who outweighed him 35, 40 pounds. He has been declared the fighter of the decade and three times the fighter of the year. He is rated the No. 1 pound-for-pound best boxer in the world. From Flyweight to Light Middleweight Champion, Welterweight Champion, Lightweight Champion—no other boxer in history has achieved what he has achieved.

He is an ambitious young man with a closet full of championship belts and the start of a promising political career already under his belt. I am most gratified, as I mentioned, that he is a friend of Nevada's, where his sport is a major player in our economic arena. He is someone I really admire.

Manny Pacquiao and I come from opposite sides of the globe, but in our hearts we come from the same place. Manny grew up with nothing. He was just a kid when he had to leave his home and live in the streets. He started fighting in the streets and went into the ring where he certainly has been one of the all-time greats.

He fought for money when he was a mere boy. He has done so well in life. He has fought to get an education he was not able to get as a young boy. He is married to a wonderful woman named Jinkee. They have four children. He is a devout Roman Catholic. When he stepped into the ring for the first time, it changed his life.

He is a fighter. I have talked about that. There is near unanimous agreement he is the best pound-for-pound fighter on the planet today and perhaps ever, and that takes into consideration some great fighters—Sugar Ray Leonard, Sugar Ray Robinson.

He is a man who is so fun to watch. In his last fight—I watched that fight—he was outweighed by some 30 pounds. He won the fight. He won every round of that fight, and the man he fought had been a champion. But he knows it is not enough just to fight for your-

self—and he does that very well—or to be a world champion many times over. You have to be a champion for others. That is what he believes.

He is very tough—we know that—not because he can take punches as forcefully as he gives one but because he fights for those who cannot fight for themselves.

The large and vibrant Filipino community in Nevada looks up to Manny, as do Filipinos and fight fans all over the world. He sets a welcome example of an athlete who does good for many. He is someone who is not in public service for fame or glory or money but because he knows his people need his advice and need his voice.

He is a friend, I repeat, of Nevada's, a friend of America, and—I am happy to say—a friend of mine.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

Mr. REID. Madam President, when President Obama released his budget yesterday, he made one thing very clear: getting our economy back above water will require shared sacrifice.

Few documents are more intricate and complex than our national budget. But beyond the numbers, what I found deep in this budget is an affirmation of our principles. Among those values is a commitment to recognize and adapt to reality—investing in what works and changing what does not.

I appreciate the President's call for shared sacrifice and living within our means and, more than that, his willingness to do more than just talk but actually lead toward fiscal responsibility. He did not just talk about tough choices, he made them. I do not agree with all of his choices. I disagree with some of his cuts. But I cannot deny that by making the difficult decisions he showed leadership.

I also found in the President's budget the recognition that we are not in a competition to determine who can cut the most; rather, we need to cooperate to discover where we can cut the smartest.

This budget proposes a long-term plan to responsibly cut the deficit in half in President Obama's first term. It does not do that by blindly chopping zeros off bottom lines or eliminating programs wholesale. It invests in that which will grow our economy—such as education, such as innovation, and such as infrastructure.

It does not buy into the partisan talking point that there is no difference between spending and investing, because there is. In other words, it recognizes we can lower the deficit not just by subtraction but also by addition. When we invest in education, we create a smarter and stronger workforce. When we invest in innovation, we create jobs before the rest of the world beats us to those jobs. When we invest in our infrastructure—from the interstates to the Internet—we lay the foundation for prosperity.

I am disappointed the congressional Republicans seem to have learned

nothing from recent history. They are again trying to slash the programs that keep us safe and eliminate the programs that keep us competitive. They are still fighting for billions in special breaks for oil and gas companies, the insurance industry, and billionaires.

In the last few days, the former president of Chevron oil said: We don't need those subsidies. But yet Republicans are fighting for subsidies for oil companies when the oil company executives say they do not need them.

We have already tried it their way. They are fighting and substantiating billions in special breaks for oil and gas companies, the insurance industry, and billionaires. We tried it. It does not work. That is why we are in the mess we are in. But the Republican reaction to the President's budget has been an attempt to go back in time.

If they want to time travel in search of fiscal responsibility, they should not stop at President Bush's failed administration; they should keep going to his predecessor's, when we balanced the budget with President Clinton.

We live in the present and we budget for the future. We have spending challenges before us. We cannot afford to forget those challenges will not be solved by extreme rhetoric or unrealistic idealism. They will be solved only when reasonable partners are willing to come to negotiate with responsible proposals that find a critically important balance: one that brings down our deficit while keeping our economy moving in the right direction.

When we find that middle ground, we will leave the next generation with an economy they can count on, with the confidence we seek in our future, and with the knowledge that when difficult decisions need to be made, Americans do not shirk that responsibility; when presented with a tough choice, we make it.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Illinois.

#### EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the President presented to Congress a budget. It is the annual process or ritual where the President makes the first move, presenting a budget, and then Congress responds. The House and

the Senate come up with a budget resolution within the confines of the President's spending and decide how to spend money. We are now at that phase. But I want to say a word about what the President suggested and what we are hearing from across the Rotunda from the House Republicans.

The President understands we have two challenges as a nation. The first is to create more jobs because we have too many people out of work. Secondly, we need to reduce our deficit. It seems they are cross-purposes, but they do not have to be.

The President is trying to chart a course that moves us forward in a responsible way, cutting spending where it will not hurt economic recovery and growth and investing with the Federal funds we will spend in programs that count. He has talked about an agenda for more education, more innovation, more infrastructure, and economic growth. That is the appropriate balance.

However, when we look at what the Republicans have done in the House of Representatives, we see they have ignored that balance. They believe just cutting spending by itself, without concern about the impact, is best for America's future, but it defies our common human experience. If we said to our family just starting out: There are going to be tough economic times ahead; there are some things we will have to do without, but is there one thing we want to make certain we invest in, most families would say: Well, we want to get the kids educated. We want to make sure our children go to school because that is their only chance. If they don't get a good education, their lives are not going to be as full. They will not make as great a contribution. The same thing is true at the national level. What the President has suggested is, we need sound investment in education.

Unfortunately, the House Republicans, in their approach, cut some of the most basic programs when it comes to education. The President understands—and I think all of us appreciate—the United States has slipped from first to No. 6 in the world in the percentage of high school graduates going to college. How can we be more competitive in this century? How can we expect to attract good businesses and the right kind of inventors and innovators who will spark growth in our economy if we don't have more of our students attending and graduating from college?

We have also slipped from 1st to 12th in the percentage of people holding college degrees. America better wake up and look around the world. I recently spoke at a commencement for a law school in Chicago, and I was surprised when it came to the master's degrees in law. Those are advanced degrees. Anyone with that degree has been in school at least 20 years of their life. When I looked at the graduates with master's degrees from a law school in

the city of Chicago, more than half of them were women from China. I thought to myself: I never would have dreamed this. During my time—and this goes back quite a few years—there weren't that many women in law school. Now they make up the majority of law students. But who would have guessed that Chinese women would have the majority of graduate degrees from a law school in Chicago? Wake up, America. That is what is happening.

China, India, and other countries are focused on promoting education for those with the skills to lead their countries in the future. Can we do anything less? Our Nation's strength lies in its ability to outcompete and outinnovate every other country in the world. We can't do it if we are not preparing the next generation of scientists, entrepreneurs, and innovators.

Let's take a look at what the House Republicans did. They are promising we can cut off investments in education, even as quickly as the remainder of this fiscal year, and still prosper. I question that. They released their continuing resolution for the fiscal year on Friday night. Their proposal cuts \$4.9 billion in education programs from prekindergarten through college, the money that helps schools teach and helps students get to college. Here is what they cut: \$1.1 billion from Head Start, a program that helps low-income, disadvantaged kids enter kindergarten ready to learn. The Presiding Officer has seen these Head Start programs, and I have too. We think to ourselves: Where would these kids be without it? Many of them come from single-parent families, and many of their parents are struggling, making basic minimum wage and hardly any more, and this is where they send their kids during the day so the kids, at an early age—3, 4, and 5 years old—are exposed to socialization, getting to know other children, having mentors and teachers in the room, and learning the basics. Then, when the day comes when they are ready to go to kindergarten, they are truly prepared and ready to go. The House Republicans' cut in Head Start would drop 127,000 low-income preschoolers from the program—over 5,000 in Illinois. That means cutting the rolls by 20 percent and laying off 55,000 teachers and staff. So is that where we start to build for the future, by taking these children out of the Head Start classrooms and laying off 55,000 teachers? What does that say about the future of those children? Will it be as good or worse? I think we know the answer to that.

Under the House Republicans' proposal, \$700 million would be cut from schools serving more than 1 million disadvantaged students. We understand, because we are testing, that kids who go to school and who happen to be from lower income families, disadvantaged families, many times don't do as well. We know it. We see it in the test scores. We try to put money into the districts, for what purpose? To reduce

the size of the class, provide extra help, including mentoring and teaching after school, and give these students who would otherwise fall behind and might drop out a chance to succeed. Well, the Republicans say: There is an area to cut. They take \$700 million out and end up firing 10,000 teachers in these programs—over 280 of those from schools in my State.

Innovative programs that are working today to move our States toward reform in education would be seriously cut. Race to the Top gave to our Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, incentives of millions of dollars to offer to States if they will do things that are bold, innovative, and successful in improving education. It is interesting that the first two States to be awarded, if I am not mistaken, were Delaware and Tennessee. It is pretty clear the Department of Education wasn't looking for any political agenda here; they were looking for States truly committed to reform. I am sorry Illinois didn't make the cut. One would have thought the President's State might have had an advantage. We didn't make it. In fairness, there are things we could have done that would have improved our chances. But other States changed the laws, moved forward, to try to make sure there is accountability in education as well as good results.

What did the House Republicans think about that? Well, they think we should cut that, dramatically cut that program.

They would cut Pell grants by \$845 per student. What does that mean? I know the Senator now presiding over the Senate, similar to myself, has met many of the students receiving Pell grants. A lot of these kids come from families where no one has ever gone on to college. Many of them come from low-income families who can't give them any financial support, and many of them struggle to try to stay in school and still take a job and earn enough money to get by. The Pell grant helps them. The Pell grant says: If you are from a low-income family, we are going to give you a helping hand. To say we are going to cut that grant means many of these students will not be able to continue in school. They will quit. Some may return at a later time; many will not. We will have wasted an opportunity for young, ambitious students who use the Pell grants and student loans to have an education that can lead somewhere.

I might say, in fairness, that I know a little bit about this subject because I went to college and law school borrowing money from the Federal Government. Had I not been able to do that, I am not sure I would be standing here today. It gave me my chance. I still had to go to classes and take the tests and earn the grades and eventually pass the bar exam, but the fact is that money made all the difference in the world to me. There was no way my widowed mother was ever going to pay

for my education in those days. She couldn't do it.

That was my story. Now repeat that story millions of times across America and ask ourselves: What are the House Republicans thinking? They are going to cut Pell grants for these students who are struggling to go through college? Why would we do that when 80 percent of our Nation's fastest growing jobs require higher education? In Illinois, an estimated 61,000 students are going to see their Pell grants significantly reduced or eliminated.

The House Republicans also want to eliminate \$1.5 billion in grants to States for job training. When we think about the number of unemployed in America today and how few of them will be able to return to the same job they left, we understand they need new skills, new training. They have to move into new areas of opportunity. Job training offers that. The Republicans eliminate it.

Now take a look at what the President does. The President makes a dramatic cut in spending, freezing our spending, reducing our spending by over \$400 billion over the next 5 years, and bringing domestic discretionary spending in America as a percentage of our gross domestic product down to a level lower than it was in the 1950s under President Eisenhower. So he calls for sacrifice, as we should. But the President understands the importance of education. His budget includes \$8.1 billion for Head Start to serve nearly 1 million children and families. It includes \$1.3 billion to support almost 2 million children and families through the childcare development block grant program.

The President's budget also includes \$26.8 billion, an increase of about 7 percent, for elementary and secondary education, focused on raising standards, encouraging innovation, and rewarding success.

Last week, the heads of many school districts in Illinois came to see me. They are struggling. We can understand why. With real estate prices going down and values going down, property tax receipts are not what they used to be. Our State is in bankruptcy. It doesn't have the money to send back to school districts. A small amount—about 5 percent that comes from the Federal Government—is important to them. If Republicans have their way, that amount will be reduced. The President tries to maintain that contribution from the Federal level to help local school districts.

There is something else the President does which I think is essential to better education. He invests \$185 million for a new Presidential teaching fellows program which would provide scholarships to talented and aspiring teachers who commit to teaching for 3 years in a high-needs school. It also invests \$80 million to improve teacher training in the STEM subjects—science, technology, engineering, and math.

I think most would agree the success of an education depends, first, in my

case and many others, on strong family support and encouragement but also on the quality of the teacher in the classroom. We want to make sure we have the best teachers so we have the best students, the best graduates who are then in the best position to compete in the years ahead.

The President's budget maintains a maximum Pell grant award of \$5,550 per year, ensuring nearly 8 million students across the country can continue to pursue a college degree.

There is also money in the President's budget for worker training, which we desperately need.

There is also an investment of \$1.4 billion in competitive programs to bring about reform in education, including the Early Learning Challenge Fund, spurring States to improve quality; the new Race to the Top, bringing resources to school districts willing to make reforms; and a new First in the World competition, which encourages colleges and universities to demonstrate success in graduating more high-needs students and preparing them for employment.

There are skeptics who believe that no matter what the government does, it is not going to create jobs or create opportunity in America. I think we can go too far in selling the government's role, and we shouldn't. But we can understand in education that the government's role does make a difference.

I try to calculate in my mind. It has been barely 50 or 54 years since we made a decision in Congress that we were going to invest in student loans to help young people go to college—the same program that helped me go to college. It happened after Sputnik was launched and we were concerned about the Russian effort to put satellites in outer space, followed by missiles, followed by a Cold War face-off that we might experience. So we said we need more engineers and scientists and more college grads. We made the investment and it worked. We not only made it to the Moon, but we moved the American economy forward to lead the world in the last half of the 20th century. It was no accident. Part of it was the investment of our government in education for our citizens. The President believes we have to keep that commitment. I agree with him.

I think the House Republicans have gone too far in their cuts. I think they start with the skepticism that government cannot do anything right. Many of them were the beneficiaries of college student loans through the government, and they have forgotten. They shouldn't. Families across America count on it, and we should too. We have to make sure we have a strong budget that cuts deficits—and I agree we must—but maintains essential economic investment. Congress needs to enact a plan that will lead to fiscal sustainability over the long term if we want to ensure a strong economic future. The President has provided an excellent starting point in that conversation.

Madam President, before I yield the floor, I ask unanimous consent that the time consumed in any quorum call during the period of morning business be charged equally to both sides.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY TO T. ROGERS WADE

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I rise to speak for a few minutes about a gentleman whose 70th birthday will be celebrated next Monday night in Atlanta, GA. He is a gentleman who has deep ties to the Senate. His name is T. Rogers Wade.

He came to the Senate in 1973 as an administrative assistant and later chief of staff to Georgia Senator Herman Talmadge. During those years, Senator Talmadge was chairman of the powerful Agriculture Committee which, in my State of Georgia, is instrumental. Rogers Wade is one of those unique people whom all of us, such as the Presiding Officer and myself, are lucky enough to have in our offices, somebody who supports us, keeps us moving in the right direction, helps us back home with our people—in other words, kind of drives our ship of State. My chief of staff does. Rogers Wade did it for Herman Talmadge.

He took those talents and brought them back to Georgia after 1980 to do a number of memorable and tremendous things. For example, when he first came back he founded a firm called Edington Wade & Associates, a public affairs firm that represented many Fortune 500 companies throughout the State of Georgia and their locations.

Following that, he did many other things in Georgia. He founded Leadership Georgia, a program today celebrating over 40 years in our State, generating new leaders for our State. It is a great program. He came to the Fanning Institute of Leadership at the University of Georgia and serves on its board. He serves on the board of the Richard Russell Foundation. Most importantly, he is a can-do guy who became president of something known as the Georgia Public Policy Foundation, an organization that is nonpartisan and dedicates itself to opine on legislation going through the Georgia Legislature or initiatives coming before the people on the ballot to give them an unvarnished, nonpolitical, straight-talk expression of what that law or what that issue would be. It has become one of the most respected foundations in our State and, in fact, around