

THE CHOICE: LIMITED GOVERNMENT V. UNLIMITED GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Founders purposely defined the role of government in the U.S. Constitution to protect "We the people" from the chains of government.

Today, the United States Supreme Court began 3 days of oral arguments on the nationalized health care law. The issue: whether or not the Federal Government has the constitutional authority to force citizens to buy government-approved insurance.

But much more than that is at stake.

Mr. Speaker, if this law stands, it is the end of limited government as we know it and the beginning of unlimited government forced upon the people.

Citizens are frightened.

Our ancestors were forced to pay a tax on tea, so they threw the British tea in the sea. This nationalized health care law should be thrown into the sea of government oppression.

If the Supreme Court upholds this law, we will be on a path of return to the philosophy of the British Crown, where Americans were mere subjects of omnipotent, unlimited government. Then the constitutional days of limited government will drown in the abyss of the sea.

And that's just the way it is.

TRAYVON MARTIN

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to continue my calls for justice in the murder of Trayvon Martin.

It has been 30 days since his death, exactly 1 month since the Sanford police actually talked to the killer as he hunted and pursued young Trayvon with a loaded gun in his pocket. From every indication and every piece of evidence we have, George Zimmerman was the aggressor in this case.

This is a classic case of racial profiling. He pursued Trayvon as he walked down the sidewalk. The police dispatcher said, Stand down. Leave the boy alone. And Trayvon ended up dead, a small 17-year-old from Miami whom we all love.

This is not a victim we will forget. We will fight. We know who his killer is. We will not be quiet. I demand justice for Trayvon. I demand justice for Trayvon's family, and I demand justice for all of America's murdered children.

HIGH GAS PRICES

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, everywhere I go, Americans are feeling the pinch of high gas prices. In response, the President has begun to claim he supports the Republicans' all-of-the-above energy policy. Although the words sound inclusive, a glance at the record suggests that President Obama really means none of the below.

The policy is none of the below on Federal lands. On average, the Bush and Clinton administrations leased more than 3 million acres for oil and gas development per year. The Obama administration has leased less than 2 million acres per year. On Federal lands, oil and gas production was down in the last year. There are now fewer offshore production facilities in Federal waters than have been for more than 50 years.

Do the President's policies matter for gas prices? The Washington Post argues that global oil prices are being driven up by a decline in global supply relative to the demand of about a million barrels of oil a day. That's a lot of oil. But let's keep that in perspective. It's less oil than the Keystone XL pipeline President Obama blocked could carry each day to U.S. refineries.

PROVIDENCE ACADEMY WINS AA HOOPS TITLE

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, the phrase "it has never been done before" has often been used as a deterrent for many of the world's firsts. But thanks to teamwork, discipline, and avid determination, the Providence Academy Lions girls' basketball team won the very first State championship in their school's history. So I want to congratulate Providence and recognize their hard-fought road to victory.

In an incredible game, the Lions erased a second half, seven-point deficit to take the win in the Minnesota AA girls' basketball State championship game, proving that it's not over until the final whistle blows.

When asked about the game, it was team member Mary Ann Healy who remarked: "We all went out there as hard as we could."

Mr. Speaker, these young student athletes truly extol the hard work and poise of champions. On behalf of all Minnesotans, I would like to congratulate the team, congratulate Coach Finley, the parents of these athletes, and the entire school as you celebrate your win.

TRAYVON MARTIN

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I yield to my colleague from Florida.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this is Trayvon Martin.

Trayvon Martin's murderer is still at large. It's been 1 month, 30 days with no arrest. I want America to see this sweet, young boy, who was hunted down like a dog, shot in the street, and his killer is still at large.

Not one person has been arrested in Trayvon's murder. I want to make sure that America knows that in Sanford, Florida, there was a young boy murdered. He's buried in Miami, Florida, and not one person has been arrested even though we all know who the murderer is.

This was a standard case of racial profiling. No more, no more. We will stand for justice for Trayvon Martin.

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CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS ALTERNATIVE 2013 BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

General Leave

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to add any extraneous material on the subject matter of the Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, soon we will be called upon to vote on a budget for 2013. Budgets are supposed to be a statement of our values and our vision, and this is the case with the Congressional Black Caucus budget. The values that we support in our budget are American values. As it says in the title, it restores America's promise and invests in our future.

And at this time, I would like to yield to the person who leads us in developing the Congressional Black Caucus budget and who has done so for several years, one of the senior members on the Budget Committee, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT of Virginia.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we have difficult choices to make when it comes to addressing our budget deficit, but the Republican budget makes the wrong choices by deeply cutting vital programs like Medicare, Medicaid, education, job training, and transportation to pay for massive tax cuts that primarily benefit the wealthiest Americans.

Our Nation's communities of color have been hardest hit by the effects of the Great Recession, and the Republican budget does little to address the priorities of these communities. Even

as our Nation's economy has created nearly 3.9 million private sector jobs since February 2010, communities of color still are experiencing disproportionately higher rates of unemployment, home foreclosure, educational disadvantages, and economic hardship. As a result, vulnerable communities are increasingly relying on public programs to meet their basic needs.

With the passage of the fiscal year 2011 continuing resolution, then the Budget Control Act of 2011 and the fiscal year 2012 Consolidated Appropriations Act, these same vital programs have been slashed and targeted with even deeper cuts in the House Republican budget even as tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans are extended without problems.

The Congressional Black Caucus has a long history of submitting fiscally sound and morally responsible alternatives to budgets proposed by both Democrat and Republican Presidents. The CBC alternative budget for fiscal year 2013 continues that long tradition, putting forth a plan that reduces the deficit over the next decade. It alleviates some of the harm inflicted by the Budget Control Act, and increases economic opportunities and job creation by ensuring sustained investments in education, job training, transportation, infrastructure, and advanced research and development. The Congressional Black Caucus budget proposes significant increases in these functions of the budget for fiscal year 2013 to further accelerate our economic recovery and ensure a recovery is felt in every corner of our Nation. At the same time, the CBC budget protects and enhances the social safety net that saved millions of families from poverty during the Great Recession.

Unlike the proposed Republican budget, the CBC budget does not significantly reduce Medicaid or cut food assistance or force seniors to contribute more of their hard-earned money towards their health care expenses by dismantling Medicare and other vital support services. The CBC budget achieves all of this by making tough but responsible decisions to pay for tax cut extensions by making our tax system fairer, closing corporate loopholes and preferences that have contributed to the loss of American jobs.

Deficit reduction and the path of fiscal responsibility must not be on the backs of our Nation's most vulnerable citizens. We cannot win the future by leaving our most vulnerable behind. Our success as a Nation is interwoven in the success of every community, and this goal is reflected in the Congressional Black Caucus alternative budget for fiscal year 2013.

Now let me go through some of the details of the budget, because many of the budgets that have been presented in the past have missing numbers or unspecified cuts or things that you know aren't going to happen. These are our recommendations for a budget and where we are on the bottom line.

The CBC budget assumes as its baseline all of the President's spending and revenue assumptions. The CBC budget then not only extends certain tax cuts but also pays for all of the tax cuts for hardworking, middle-class Americans, and then it enacts tax reform measures to pay for the extension, raising nearly \$4 trillion in new revenue over the next decade.

We do that by:

Reining in Wall Street speculation with a financial speculation tax that will raise approximately \$840.9 billion over 10 years;

Ensuring Wall Street bankers pay the same tax rates as working Americans by taxing carried interest, dividends, and capital gains as ordinary income, which will raise almost \$1 trillion over 10 years;

Enacting the Buffett Rule and adding a millionaire surcharge similar to the legislation that was in the House version of the Affordable Care Act. That will raise approximately \$600 billion over 10 years;

Closing certain tax loopholes and preferences. There are so many of them that, by closing those loopholes and deductions, we can raise \$1.3 trillion over 10 years; and

Ending the mortgage interest deduction for vacation homes and yachts, which will add a few billion dollars over 10 years.

The bill also protects Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, food assistance, welfare under TANF, unemployment insurance, and other vital safety net programs that are hit hard by the Republican budget.

We restore important funding for programs that were cut under the Budget Control Act, cancel the sequester for security and nonsecurity programs, match the Democratic alternative budget on defense, and invest another \$153 billion over the next decade in vital programs that will accelerate our economy and support hardworking American families.

We do that by increasing the maximum Pell Grant by \$1,000, to a total of \$6,500. We invest an additional \$25 billion above the President's budget in education and job training in 2013 alone. We also continue unemployment benefits and provide benefits for those who, through no fault of their own, have been unemployed for more than 99 weeks. We invest an additional \$50 billion in job creating transportation and infrastructure programs in 2013, alone, and \$155 billion above the President's budget over the next decade. We match the independent budget for Veterans Affairs, as recommended by a coalition of veterans' groups. We invest \$12 billion more in advanced research and development programs like NASA, the Department of Energy, and the National Science Foundation, which will create jobs now and in the future. We have additional funding for housing, foreclosure assistance, and other important programs and community development. We provide an additional

\$10 billion in vital health care programs, such as community health centers. And we create a public health insurance option under the Affordable Care Act, giving American people a real choice when the exchanges come into effect by allowing them to pick, as one of their choices, a public option. Adopting a public option has been scored as a \$100 billion savings over 10 years because those programs will cost less.

When the dust settles, the CBC budget will reduce the deficit by an additional \$769 billion as compared to the Republican budget over the next decade. Let me say that again. We will reduce the deficit by an additional \$769 billion compared to the Republican budget over the next decade. It is more fiscally responsible. It addresses the needs of our public, and, therefore, I would hope that we would adopt the Congressional Black Caucus budget and not the Republican budget that will be presented on the floor.

And I yield back to the gentle lady from the Virgin Islands.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congressman SCOTT. Thank you for your leadership over all of these years in developing such a responsible budget. The CBC is proud to offer that as an alternative again this year.

Now I would like to yield to Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE of Ohio, who is a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee. She is a strong advocate for education and closing the achievement gap and for many of the safety net programs that we protect in this budget.

Ms. FUDGE. I would like to thank my colleague, Representative CHRISTENSEN, for her work and continuing to anchor this CBC hour. I think it is very, very important. She is very special because she is determined to make sure that the United States knows that we, the CBC, are fighting for them every day. And I thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the devastating impacts that the Republican budget would have on the middle class and American workers, as well as students, seniors, and the poor.

A budget, Mr. Speaker, is a reflection of priorities. It exemplifies objectives and goals. The Republicans' priorities are clear: cut taxes for the most wealthy Americans while achieving deficit reduction through drastic spending cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, and other important programs. The Republican budget would abandon the economic recovery we are in and implement policies that ship American jobs overseas.

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It would assume deep cuts in transportation spending next year, ignore job creation, and reject sensible proposals for economic growth and future competitiveness.

The Congressional Black Caucus will present a budget this week—thank you to my colleague, Mr. SCOTT—that

would protect seniors who rely on Medicare, the disabled who need Medicaid, and the unemployed who would go hungry without SNAP. It would support our economy through investment in transportation and infrastructure and would encourage American innovation. The Republican budget would reject investments in innovation by cutting funding for research and development. It would ignore the benefits of these investments on future generations.

Should the Republican budget go into effect, we would miss a great opportunity to support American innovation and to develop emerging technologies that create the jobs of the future. In addition, the Republican budget would fail our students by proposing drastic cuts that would devastate education funding and increase costs for college students. It would allow higher interest rates on student loans starting this year and eliminate the income-based repayment plans that help graduates manage their loans.

In contrast to the Republican budget, the CBC budget would increase the maximum Pell Grant by nearly \$1,000 and invest an additional \$25 billion above the President's budget in education and job training in fiscal year 2013, alleviating State and local education budget cuts and protecting jobs for teachers.

Even the middle class is not spared from the Republican cuts. The Republican budget would outsource jobs through tax policies. It would actually encourage multinational companies to ship thousands of jobs overseas while costing the American economy billions of dollars.

By contrast, the CBC budget would ensure that Wall Street bankers pay the same tax rates as working Americans by taxing carried interest, dividends, and capital gains as ordinary income. The CBC budget would close corporate tax loopholes, adding approximately \$1.3 trillion in revenue over 10 years.

Just like last year, the Republican budget would end the Medicare guarantee and shift costs to seniors. Rather than having the guaranteed coverage of benefits, seniors would receive a voucher. Yet the voucher will not grow as quickly as health care costs—simply shift costs on to seniors. As the AARP pointed out:

The premium support method described in the Republican proposal would likely “price out” traditional Medicare as a viable option, thus rendering the choice of traditional Medicare as a false promise.

The CBC budget would support our seniors, working Americans, and the middle class. And the CBC budget will reduce the deficit by an additional \$3.4 trillion as compared to the President's budget over the next decade.

The Republican budget would repeat last year's attempts to drastically reduce SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, for struggling families. It would slash SNAP funding by roughly

\$130 billion over 10 years and completely eliminate categorical eligibility. SNAP is currently serving 47 million people, nearly three-quarters of whom are families with children. Throwing people off the rolls would make it practically impossible for people to afford a nutritionally sound diet.

For 2 years in a row, we've seen Republican priorities in the Republican vision for the Nation. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget is the wrong plan for American workers; it is the wrong plan for families trying to put food on the table; it is the wrong plan for unemployed Americans; the wrong plan for students; and the wrong plan for seniors.

I urge my colleagues to support the budget presented by the Congressional Black Caucus and to vote “no” on the proposed Republican budget.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congresswoman FUDGE, and thank you for your strong defense of programs for children, for our seniors, and for families across this country.

I would now like to yield such time as he might consume to Congressman DANNY DAVIS, a strong fighter for health equity, for justice in our criminal justice system. He is a valued member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. First of all, I want to thank the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands for her leadership in convening and anchoring these sessions that we hold each week. I also want to commend and pay tribute to Representative BOBBY SCOTT for the tremendous leadership and work that he provides each year in helping the Congressional Black Caucus analyze, synthesize, and look seriously at how we move forward as we prepare a budget.

As has already been indicated, budgets are indications of priorities—what is it that you're really hoping to do; what do you really hope to accomplish. And so this budget I view as a tremendously positive alternative to any of our budgets that I have seen at this time. So I rise in strong support of the Congressional Black Caucus' FY 2013 alternative budget.

February's job report reveals 3 months of strong jobs growth in America. And while there is a sigh of relief for millions of consumers and the unemployed moving from the sidelines in search of work with hopes that their prospects will improve, there is little change for the 5.4 million long-term unemployed, 8.1 million involuntary part-time workers, and marginally attached individuals no longer in the labor force who wanted and were available for work and who looked for a job at some point during the last 12 months.

And so it becomes obvious that any budget should have at its core job-creation opportunities so that people can experience this opportunity, or this commodity, that we call work.

Appearances of an economy poised for growth does little for underserved minorities residing in disinvested com-

munities blighted with high rates of joblessness, poor-performing schools, poverty, and crime. Indeed, the promise of a new day and new hopes are few and far between for poor and low-income workers, generally, and returning citizens with barriers to employment in particular.

Indeed, over the past decade, the poor in America have gotten poorer. And, of course, the wealthy have gotten wealthier. Those called “middle class” have been squeezed to the point where they're teetering and certainly could go in either direction, that is, up with the right kinds of opportunities and down with the wrong kinds of opportunities.

I don't believe that we can afford in good conscience to continue to turn a blind eye to census figures and monthly data reports of the economic injustices and suffering being imposed upon a growing number of people. Moreover, we cannot continue to hold a great Nation hostage for the sake of a few while millions suffer. If we're truly going to address the crisis in America and put all Americans back to work and reduce poverty, we must create a mixture of universal and targeted programs capable of weathering political obstacles.

The Congressional Black Caucus alternative budget is a means to this end. Indeed, the CBC budget safeguards investment in public education, Pell Grants, and transportation vital to equipping minority youth and adults with skill sets so that they can obtain and maintain access to gainful sustainable employment in our ever-changing global economy; and also by renovating and building new schools and investing an additional \$50 billion in transportation and infrastructure in 2013 and \$155 billion above the President's budget over the next decade, repairing and building bridges across lakes, rivers, and streams, but also bridges to opportunity.

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The Congressional Black Caucus budget protects the health care safety net programs that have been developed. It also protects Second Chance funding while restoring funding to Department of Justice programs for citizens who are returning home from jail and prison with serious barriers to employment.

We hold these truths to be self-evident that if America is to become the America that it has never been but the America that all of us hope for and know that it can be, then we would take the principles encased in the Congressional Black Caucus budget and comply those to whatever budgets are ultimately passed.

So, again, I want to commend Mr. SCOTT, and I want to thank Delegate CHRISTENSEN.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congressman DAVIS.

I'd like to just say a few words about the Congressional Black Caucus budget. I'm in strong support of this budget.

As I said, it's a responsible budget that is a statement of our values and priorities; and as the title says, it restores America's promise to invest in our future.

Our budget, as Congressman SCOTT said, builds upon the President's budget, and it would ensure that our children, our veterans, and seniors are protected and adequately taken care of. We invest in education and health care as well as in research and innovation. Our budget provides revenue by enacting tax measures that are fair, that close loopholes, and that protect tax cuts for hardworking, middle class families while protecting vital safety nets that help the poor, and it provides them with stepping stones out of poverty.

Those safety nets that we protect are, for example, Social Security; Medicare; Medicaid—a critical program; the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, TANF; and many, many others. It does all of that while reducing the deficit by an additional \$3.4 trillion compared to the President's budget.

Our budget stands as a direct contrast to the Republican Ryan budget. The Ryan budget begins at the outset by breaking the hard-fought agreement on caps set in the Budget Control Act in 2011. If they can't keep their word on something that they forced an agreement on, then what will they keep their word on? So the Republican budget begins across-the-board cuts at 5.4 percent in 2013. They do not cut any defense spending, as agreed to in the Budget Control Act; but in 2014, they would reduce those caps 19 percent below the agreed-to cap in non-defense spending over 10 years. And I guess they know that the Supreme Court arguments made by those 26 States that began today against the Affordable Care Act are not going to win the day, that the Court will uphold the constitutionality of the law, and so the Republican budget would repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Just take a look at what Republicans take out of health care. They would cut funding for the Indian Health Service by 19 percent beginning in 2014. That would greatly diminish access to health care for the American Indians who already suffer disproportionately from many diseases and, as a result, who have a very low life expectancy compared to the white population.

In the Republican budget, there are cuts to funding for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services which would make it very difficult for that agency to meet its responsibilities in overseeing these critical programs. There are also cuts to the Food and Drug Administration, which would reverse what Democrats were able to do to strengthen protections in food and medicines, and cutting back on those programs would put the American public at an increased risk.

While in this difficult economic climate the President's budget managed

to fund NIH at its current level, the Republican Ryan budget would jeopardize new research by cutting that budget; and that research that would lead to innovations in medicine and improve lives would be jeopardized. In addition, they cut WIC and turn SNAP into a block grant, which weakens their ability to help those who increasingly find themselves food insecure as the gap between the rich and poor has widened and incomes have plummeted. And it cuts the Republicans' favorite target, the EPA, which would reduce our investments in public health and harm our ability to protect our public from air and water pollution and land contamination.

On the other hand, our budget, the CBC budget, which is always a very responsible budget—responsible to the American people and fiscally responsible while providing more deficit reduction than the Republican Ryan budget—still makes important investments that are critical to a strong future, including in health care.

First of all, our budget upholds the Affordable Care Act and fully funds it, but it takes it one step further by creating a public health insurance option that by itself saves almost \$103 billion in health care costs over the next decade. It adds \$10 billion to health care funding in the 2013 budget, and that \$10 billion more robustly funds the following important programs, such as the AIDS drug assistance programs, which have been underfunded for years, causing States to drop persons from their rosters with HIV and AIDS or reducing the coverage, reducing the benefits, and causing increasingly long waiting lists. It also increases funding for Ryan White, the Minority AIDS Initiative, and prevention activities for HIV, for STDs, for TB, and hepatitis.

Our budget funds the Office of Minority Health, which was expanded and strengthened under the Affordable Care Act to improve health equity. We expand and pay for oral health programs, for health care facilities improvements and construction. We increase funding for the maternal and child health in the Preventive Health Block Grant. We fund the Physician-Scientist Training program, which brings underrepresented minorities into health care careers both in the practice of medicine, as providers, and in research. We provide additional funding for substance abuse and mental health services administration.

And we finally provide adequate funding for the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities at NIH. We also restore funding for the REACH program, a very important program that assists racial and ethnic minority communities to develop programs and unique approaches to health care just uniquely for those communities.

We fund many, many other health-related programs and services. And still, with all of that, we reduce that deficit by \$3.4 trillion over the next 10 years.

Those health provisions, as well as those in education, in research and innovation, and in the protection of the safety net programs and tax fairness, those in the CBC budget make it one that is clearly a statement of our values and priorities, a statement of America's values, values that everyone in this body should support.

At this time, I would like to yield again to our leader on the budget in the CBC, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I thank the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands for her very strong statement.

Mr. Speaker, we have tough choices to make; and when we start the discussion with how much people will get in tax cuts, you know the rest of the discussion will not be serious. We have decided if you're going to have tax cuts, if you're going to extend them, they have to be paid for. That is the historic contrast between the CBC budget and the Republican budget.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when people say we have to cut Medicare, they should look at the Republican budget because the only reason you have to cut Medicare is to fund the tax cuts. If you do not extend the tax cuts, you don't have to cut Medicare. When the same budget includes massive tax cuts and cuts in Medicare, people ought to notice that if you don't have the tax cuts, you don't have to cut Medicare.

Now, the Republican budget has virtually dismantled Medicare. It provides a voucher, but I think they like to call it—what?—a premium support something or other. Basically, you dismantle your right to Medicare, and you get some money to go see if you can buy some insurance in the private market. It turns out that the amount of money you're given—I'll call it a voucher—will be about \$6,000 short of what you need to get the equivalent of Medicare coverage. That's where the savings is. You don't reduce the cost of health care; you just shift it over to the seniors.

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Now, one of the ways they try to convince people to go along with it is they tell people who are paying attention, those over 55, they say, well, it's not going to apply to you. We will continue to plan for about 10 years, and then we'll inflict this scheme on everybody else.

Some people over 55 say, well, that's good, I don't have to worry about it. Well, actually, people over 55 do have to worry about it because the people making the promise that you will be able to have a Cadillac Medicare program when people coming behind have a little motor scooter for their health care, and you think people are going to pay taxes, when they're going to get a motor scooter, for your Cadillac plan—I think the idea that they're going to continue paying those taxes are remote.

You have to notice that 10 years from now, when the decision gets made to

start to inflict this scheme on the younger people, the people who will be keeping the promise for those over 55 aren't the ones that made the promise. They will be new representatives who don't have any commitment to keeping that promise. In fact, election after election, some of the younger people may ask, well, are you going to continue taxing me to support a Medicare program when all I'm going to get is a voucher? I want to know which one of the candidates will either cancel the Medicare for everybody and have everybody get this little voucher thing, or continue the Medicare program for everybody. I want to know if anybody up there is going to tax me for a Medicare program that I'm not going to get. And after five election cycles, the people that survive that will be the ones dealing with the promise that others made.

I doubt if any of them will be able to sustain that kind of pressure. When the time comes, either everybody will get this little voucher thing or everybody will get a Medicare card. The idea that some will get a nice, big Medicare package and everybody else coming behind get a little piece of voucher and think that's going to be sustained for any length of time, I think they've got another thought coming.

So people ought to recognize that even those over 55 have to protect Medicare. And the reason it's being cut is so that millionaires can get their tax cuts. You let those millionaires' tax cuts expire, you don't have to cut Medicare.

Now, as the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands said, we have a responsible budget. We name the cuts that are made. We name the taxes that will be affected. And you can see exactly what we're doing. Unfortunately, in the Republican budget, you get these unspecified cuts, 19 percent on average. Well, you know it's not going to be on average. It's not going to be across the board because some programs won't be cut. You're not going to cut the FBI by 19 percent. You're not going to cut Federal prisons by 19 percent. So all those that you don't cut you end up having to double up to meet your number, you've got to double up on the next one.

So we have no idea what's going to happen, other than all of these kind of unspecified cuts. And hopefully everybody's thinking, well, that's not going to be my program, that's not the one I depend on, when in fact it might not only be 19 percent, it might be 20, 30, 40 percent cuts in those programs.

The fact is that the Congressional Black Caucus budget is a responsible budget, and it comes in almost \$800 billion better on the bottom line than the Republican budget that will be the alternative. We have shown that you can be responsible, you can be compassionate, and you can be fiscally responsible. That's the Congressional Black Caucus budget.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you for summarizing that for us and for point-

ing out the very important point that, in order to keep those tax cuts for the millionaires, those programs that so many people in this country, the poor and the middle class, depend on will be cut. That's a tradeoff that this country should not be taking and we do not support.

So we are very pleased to present our budget. As I said, and as Congressman SCOTT said, this is a very responsible budget that not only invests in the future and keeps America's promise to its people, but it saves money, \$3.4 trillion over 10 years to reduce the deficit.

With that, we ask for the support of our colleagues, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) alternative budget.

The CBC Budget proposes an additional \$10 billion in funding for general Science, Space and Technology activities. Specifically, this funding will apply towards agencies I oversee as Ranking Member of the Committee, such as NASA; the National Science Foundation and NIST; and to many programs we specifically authorized in the America COMPETES Act and the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act, including Noyce Scholarships; the ADVANCE program for women faculty; Graduate Research Fellowships; and many other important research and STEM education related programs.

The CBC Budget also invests an additional \$2 billion towards Energy providing additional funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency at the Department of Energy which also falls under my Committee's jurisdiction.

We all know that our nation's future strength is directly dependent upon our commitment to a robust science agenda. As Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we urge support for programs that broaden participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, also called STEM.

As we call for increased funding for programs which broaden participation for STEM, we are concerned that the Administration's FY2013 budget holds funding for these critical programs flat even as other STEM programs grow and new ones are created. We remain concerned that we still have not actually moved the needle much in terms of participation in STEM by underrepresented groups nationwide.

Given the low participation by these groups in most STEM disciplines, the changing demographics of this country are going to catch up with us very soon with respect to having a STEM-skilled workforce for 21st Century jobs. In some industries we are already seeing a troubling skills gap that will only become worse if we don't broaden participation in STEM by minorities, and women for that matter.

As the first African American and first female Ranking Member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, broadening participation in STEM remains a top priority of mine. Broadening participation is not a minority issue or a gender issue, it is a national competitiveness issue we all must work to address for our country's benefit.

The under-representation of women and minority groups in STEM fields is a severe impediment to the formation of an adequate

American STEM workforce. The increased education and participation of this segment of the workforce is essential to supplying the American economy with the STEM expertise the country needs to innovate and remain competitive.

In 2008, the US Census Bureau recorded African-Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans as making up 28.2 percent of the US population, and yet, these groups only represent a mere 10 percent of the science and technology workforce. By the year 2050, minorities are predicted to represent 55 percent of the college population.

As a Caucus we support funding increases in programs which broaden participation in the sciences. Low-income and minority communities bear a disproportionate share of the national shortfall of highly qualified STEM teachers. Schools in these areas often lack adequate facilities such as science laboratories and other college preparatory tools that cultivate a hands-on, interactive learning environment.

Of great importance to us are funding and programmatic focus on high-need areas, low-income populations, and underrepresented groups wherever possible. We are pleased and supportive of the many provisions within the America COMPETES Act Reauthorization of 2010 which will result in improving the effectiveness and impact of activities to broaden participation across the entire \$6 billion in research grants at the National Science Foundation. However, in order to expand participation of minorities in the sciences we still have some work to do.

We need to strengthen the capacity of community colleges in which many of our students are enrolled. We need to award more grants directly to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) involved in research collaborations, enabling these institutions to build their research capacity in ways that serve their own faculty and students best. We should provide more scholarships and other avenues to decrease the financial burden many African American students disproportionately face. Finally, we need to support programs which will lead to more African American teachers and mentors.

Mr. Speaker, as you know my commitment to priorities of the Congressional Black Caucus remains strong and as Ranking Member of the Committee on Science, Space and Technology I look forward to continuing to work with the Administration to identify solutions to new, or persistent issues that threaten to set our nation back even as we continue to look forward to our future.

FRESHMAN CLASS ON OBAMACARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight and am joined down here by many of my colleagues as freshman Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to have an open and honest conversation with you, Mr. Speaker, and with all of America to talk about an issue that I believe is timely, with the court case that is now pending