

clearly shows, voted for all the spending that they complain about: two wars that took \$1 trillion out of the American economy, unfunded tax cuts that created the worst economy in 60 years, and an unpaid drug prescription program that will cost \$730 billion over the next 10 years.

Moreover, the House Republican budget for 2013 spends \$900 billion more than it takes in in revenues. That Republican budget imbalance will require raising the debt ceiling early this year. Raising the debt ceiling does not authorize you to spend more money. It authorizes you to pay back the money that you've already spent. Republicans in this House voted for it, and they have a moral obligation to repay that money.

Mr. Speaker, the American economy needs to grow much more than the projected 2 percent for 2013. Two percent growth is not enough to sustain the current level of employment. The American economy needs robust growth at 3 to 4 percent, growth that can only come from investments in education, road and bridge building, research. We need to do nation-building not in Afghanistan, not in Iraq, but nation-building at home, here in America.

LET'S FIND A BETTER WAY FORWARD

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

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, what do we know with certainty about the bill which passed the Senate? We know it has bipartisan support, and that's encouraging. I'm a Republican who has been making the case that revenues must rise. This bill does that; and if it becomes law, it provides some certainty to our Tax Code, which would surely help our economy.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, we also know with certainty that it fails to address the mortal threat facing our country—uncontrolled spending. It fails to reflect the balanced approach that was advocated by our President. So we find ourselves again with a bill that reflects not financial wisdom but the seductive spirit that pervades this town. The time to confront our spending addiction is not now. It's later, they say—we'll do the right thing then.

In lacking knowledge, political courage—or both—leaders in Washington continue to overpromise. They're like salespeople who tell their customers they can have a \$30,000 car but only pay \$18,000 for it. Who doesn't like that deal? The truth—and what we know with certainty—is that the full cost, indeed, will be paid by their children, the next generation of Americans.

There is a better way forward, Mr. Speaker, for Americans. Let's find it.

E PLURIBUS UNUM

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

Mr. COHEN. We've heard from a colleague of mine on the Democratic side who sounds like he's not going to vote for this bill, and we've heard it from a couple of folks on the other side. Well, I'm going to vote for it, not because I think it's all the best sugar and spice and everything nice, but because, for one thing, I believe our President and our Vice President know what they can get in a negotiated deal with the Republican side in the Senate and what might pass this House as well, and they know what our country needs.

My district can't afford to wait a few days and have the stock market go down 300 points tomorrow if we don't get together and do something, and the people in my district need unemployment compensation and need to know in the future that they're going to have the low-income earned tax credit and college credit.

It's important that we keep this country moving in the right direction and away from another recession. "E Pluribus Unum" is not just on our bills, but it's what we are as legislators. We are one of 435 and one of 535, including the Senate. We need to come together and work together for the betterment of the country.

This isn't the perfect deal, but it's the deal we got, and it's the deal I'm going to support. I hope that my colleagues will resolve to give the President and the Vice President the benefit of the doubt as the year goes on and as I do today.

FUTURE GENERATIONS DESERVE BETTER

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Last night was the first time in my life that I've sat at my desk as we went into a new year, but it gave me a chance to contemplate what we're about.

We're going into a new year as the first generation who did not ask the question: What can we do? What can we sacrifice to make future generations have a better life than we have? Instead, we asked: How much can we eke up taxes a little bit so that we can keep spending 58 cents to get a dollar's worth of wasteful, bloated government so that our children and grandchildren can pay 42 cents of every dollar that we waste on ourselves?

Is that any way to start the new year?

We're taking up a bill that will not do anything to cut spending. I am embarrassed for this generation. The future generations deserve better.

A HOUSE DIVIDED WILL NOT STAND

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

Mr. FATTAH. It's a new year. For my youngest children, both will grow 1 year older this year. My daughter Chandler will turn 10, and my teenager, Cameron, will turn 15. Today, we know the birthday of the Emancipation Proclamation as we celebrate it here in Washington. Our country, hopefully, gains maturity as we go forward.

We were reminded a long time ago that a House divided would not stand. We have to come together, and we should put away some of the nonsense of attacking the President for spending when our Founders when writing the Constitution gave the Congress control over the spending. In article I, section 9, clause 7, we control the spending. So if we want to back away from spending, we need to look in the mirror. In terms of this agreement, rather than curse the darkness, we should look at those who have lit the candle. When we can have a bipartisan vote of 89 Senators start this year off and move our country forward, we should rally behind them.

I ask my colleagues to vote in favor of the agreement in order to move away from the cliff and continue to move our country towards greatness.

A SMALL FINGER IN A DIKE WITH HUNDREDS OF HOLES

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

Mr. ISSA. I wish I could say that this was a proud moment, a moment in which we started the year off right, in which the 1st of January was the first of a great many good things. It isn't. We're kicking the can down the road. Worse than that, when faced with a mountain of debt that we were heading for, like an airplane, did we climb over it? No. What we're going to do in the present plan is put another nearly trillion dollars' worth of debt on the American people.

Time is running out to change the direction because that trillion dollars isn't just a problem for the next generation. It's a problem for corporate America, and it's a problem for every American. The trillion dollars we spend and waste this year is \$1 trillion that we will have to bear for the rest of our lives.

Mr. Speaker, I may vote for what comes on the floor. I certainly will vote for a bill, which I'm going to manage in a few minutes, to hold down the growth of spending in the government; but I'll tell you, I won't do it thinking we've accomplished anything here today other than the smallest finger in a dike that, in fact, has hundreds of holes in it.

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FIGHTING FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I join with my earlier colleague in acknowledging the 150th year of the Emancipation Proclamation. What a moving moment last evening at the National Archives when I read the words: Hence forth these slaves are free.

I rise with a more optimistic view and a view that says we have the opportunity to do what is right by the American people. But we must also recognize that we have to tell the truth. At the end of the Clinton administration, this Nation had \$5 trillion in surplus. But with wasteful tax cuts and spending by our Republican friends, we find ourselves in this deficit.

I don't know what my decision will be as we move forward on this issue of the fiscal cliff, but I will say this: we will not tolerate the American people being held hostage over the debt ceiling and these unhelpful cuts that will cut into those who are the most vulnerable. That will not be the pathway that we will take because every economist will tell you that if you invest in your people and build infrastructure, you will grow this country and you'll turn this economy and you'll be able to get people jobs. That's the message that will come forth from this day, January 1, when we are here in this Congress.

I want the American people to be optimistic because there are Members of Congress that will fight for your growth, your opportunity, your freedom. That is what America is all about.

BAD DEAL FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, the deal that Republican Senate leader MITCH MCCONNELL was able to get his colleagues to pass last night is a bad deal for America and a worse deal for our children's future. It's the largest increase in public debt that this body will have ever passed—more than \$5 trillion from today's current law.

Our deficit this year alone is likely to be about \$1.3 trillion. This would reduce it down to \$1.24 trillion with \$60 billion of new revenues that it gains. Most importantly, it sets up three more fiscal cliffs over the next 3 months when appropriations spending expires on March 27, when the debt ceiling has to be increased at the end of February, and when the sequester has to be dealt with at the very same time.

So all we've done is to stumble forward into an even less predictable situation with far fewer resources to invest in our Nation and our children's future.

PATRIOTIC GLUE

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I don't particularly like the bill that is going to come to the floor, but I am going to vote for it. And the reason is, stumbling through one of those Dollar General stores looking for some last minute gifts, I stumbled across a section that had Gorilla Glue and Magic Stick'em Glue, and I thought, Boy, if I can get some of this stuff, first I would glue the top of the kitchen trash can so my wife's puppy won't continue to go in it. And then I thought, well, I'll use some of this glue to impress people that I can actually fix things. Then I thought, maybe I can do it when I'm performing marriages: instead of saying "until death do us part," say "until the glue wears out."

Then I thought, wouldn't it be great if we could glue ourselves to each other across the aisle. I mean, after all, it is only if we are sticking together that we're going to be able to address the problems that face this country.

The truth of the matter is we already have some glue. One Nation under God—patriotic glue. We're supposed to work together, to stick together. Without us coming to the point where we really understand "E pluribus unum"—out of many, one—this body, for the lack of glue, will not do the business of this country.

GETTING THE JOB DONE

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, last night the Senate did what great deliberative bodies are supposed to do—they worked together. They compromised. They accommodated other point of views, and they got the job done.

Yes, it was a little bit late. It wasn't exactly timed as we would have liked, but now it's our turn. The Senate passed it in a bipartisan, overwhelming way. My colleagues, let's join together today. Let's show the American people that this Congress is not broken. That we are not so dysfunctional that we can't, at minimum, work together, come to agreement, compromise. Let's get this done. This is too important for the American people to let this go one more day. Please join me in supporting the fiscal cliff bill today.

NOT A PERFECT PACKAGE

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, we are about to have a hold-your-nose vote here in the House of Representatives. And many of us are going to wrestle with the problem of making perfect the enemy of the good.

We do have an opportunity to stabilize taxation for 99 percent of all Americans, to extend depreciation and investment expansion for small businesses, to make sure that families in America, through the child tax credit, the earned income tax credit, and student loans, are stabilized for their planning in calendar year 2013. The R&D tax credit is extended. So there's a lot in this package that's good.

And there's a lot that's not addressed at all in this package. We have a debt ceiling crisis pending. We have a sequestration crisis spending. It must be addressed, or it's going to have a huge drag on the United States economy, and in the case of the debt, once again, revisit the issue of default for the first time in American history.

So it's not a perfect package, but it is something that gets us by while we tackle the larger issues in the next Congress. I pray God that next Congress is more willing to compromise than this.

MOVING FORWARD FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. MEEKS. Today we have an option. We are confronted with a bill that we can vote for or vote against. We can allow us to go over the ceiling, or we can try to come together and pass something that probably on both sides of the aisle no one agrees with 100 percent. It seems to me, while I have long advocated for a big deal so we don't have to continue fighting in regards to the debt ceiling or sequestration, that we've got to make sure, though, that we do something. And this bill that will come to the floor today I will vote for with many a thing in the bill that I don't like. But I'm sure from listening to some of my colleagues, there are many things in the bill that they don't like.

Generally, I find that when both sides don't like something, then maybe we are moving into the right direction and maybe we are moving forward in a positive way for the American people. So I come to the floor saying I'm not fully satisfied, but it's all right because I think we have to move forward and do the best that we can for the American people.

NORTH KOREAN CHILD WELFARE ACT OF 2012

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1464) to develop a strategy for assisting stateless children from North Korea, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendments thereto, and concur in the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendments.