

I missed rollcall vote No. 86 regarding the “Woodall of Georgia Substitute Amendment No. 4” (H. Con. Res. 25). Had I been present, I would have voted “no”.

FIREARMS RISK PROTECTION ACT
OF 2013

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce an important piece of legislation: the Firearms Risk Protection Act (FRPA). This bill will require gun owners to purchase liability coverage and to show proof of that coverage when they purchase a firearm. This is an idea whose time has come. In fact, lawmakers in several states including Massachusetts and Illinois have introduced similar legislative proposals.

In the wake of horrific tragedies like those at Newtown, Aurora, and Tucson, we as a society and we as lawmakers must provide answers. We must respect Americans’ rights to own guns but limit gun violence and gun death. We must continue to enable guns to be used in a lawful and safe manner by responsible citizens and we must keep guns out of the hands of others. We must make sure the atrocities we have witnessed never happen again.

This federal requirement would serve as a market-based solution to holding gun owners liable for the weapons they own. As with car insurance premiums, higher risk gun owners will face higher premiums. Actuarial determinations will be made by insurance companies, as those experts are in the best position to make those determinations based on sound data analysis.

Under the Firearms Risk Protection Act (FRPA), state regulated insurance companies would be able to extend coverage to their customers—this is not a federal insurance program. Additionally, this bill poses no specific requirements on insurance companies themselves, but instead, imposes a fine of \$10,000 if during the sale of a weapon the seller does not confirm coverage or the buyer has not purchased it.

As lawmakers, we must stand ready to work on solutions to curtail our nation’s gun violence and requiring liability coverage for gun owners should be part of the solution. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this important piece of legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, April 10 marks a significant date for the relationship between the United States and the Republic of China, our dear friends in Southeast Asia. This is the 34th anniversary of the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act that codified the bond that we share with Taiwan.

Even though we have been friends and allies for much longer, it was the Taiwan Relations Act that officially outlined the importance that both nations place in each other. We are strong partners in trade, peace and democracy.

When it comes to trade, Taiwan imported \$25.9 billion from the United States in 2011. This is an incredible 40% increase over 2009. It shows the focus Taiwan is placing on buying American goods which translates to jobs here in the United States.

In New York alone, exports to Taiwan were over \$1 billion. We also appreciate the many Taiwanese companies, such as Young Stuff Apparel Group and China Airlines that have invested in New York.

We look forward to our continued friendship and partnership with Taiwan for many years to come.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, as a proud member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, CPC, I rise in strong support of the CPC’s alternative to H. Con. Res. 25. This alternative budget, more appropriately known as the “Budget for All” Substitute invests in America, reforms corporate and individual taxes in a balanced manner, and adopts sensible, modern defense spending. Simply put: the CPC is an egalitarian and effective budget for all of America.

The CPC’s “Budget for All” wisely invests the hard earned peace dividend resulting from the successful end to the war in Iraq and the winding down of the war in Afghanistan to promote economic growth and a healthier and cleaner environment.

In addition, this budget puts Americans back to work, charts a path to responsible deficit reduction, enhances our economic competitiveness, rebuilds the middle class and invests in our future. The CPC budget makes no cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security benefits, and asks those who have benefited most from our economy to pay a sensible share. It is only fair.

The CPC budget addresses America’s persistently high unemployment levels with more than \$2.9 trillion in additional job-creating investments, which frankly will help depressed economies in inner-city communities across America, including those in my hometown of Houston, Texas. This plan utilizes every tool at the government’s disposal to get our economy moving again, including:

Direct hire programs that create a School Improvement Corps, a Park Improvement Corps, and a Student Jobs Corps, among others.

Targeted tax incentives that spur clean energy, manufacturing, and cutting-edge technological investments in the private sector.

Widespread domestic investments including an infrastructure bank, a \$556 billion surface transportation bill, and approximately \$2.1 trillion in widespread domestic investment.

The Budget for All achieves \$6.8 trillion in deficit reduction, hits the same debt to GDP ratio as the Republican budget with lower deficits in the last five years; and does so in a responsible way that does not eviscerate vital services Americans want preserved.

These benchmarks are achieved by focusing on the true drivers of our deficit: unsustainable tax policies, the wars overseas, and policies that helped cause the recent recession—rather than irresponsibly putting the middle class’s social safety net on the chopping block.

The budget also taxes fairly, because it:

Ends tax cuts for the top 2% of Americans on schedule at year’s end.

Extends tax relief for middle class households and the vast majority of Americans.

Creates new tax brackets for millionaires and billionaires.

Eliminates the tax code’s preferential treatment of capital gains and dividends.

Abolishes corporate welfare for oil, gas, and coal companies.

Eliminates loopholes that allow businesses to dodge their true tax liability.

Calls for the adoption of the “Buffett Rule”.

Creates a publicly funded federal election system that gets corporate money out of politics for good.

The CPC budget demonstrates that we have been listening to the American people because we responsibly and sensibly end our military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan, leaving America more secure at home and abroad; and modernizes our military to address 21st century threats and stop contributing to our deficit problems. This is the peace dividend. With this dividend, the CPC budget:

Provides a Making Work Pay tax credit for families struggling with high gas and food cost’s 2013–2015.

Extends Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Child and Dependent Care Credit.

Invests in programs to stave off further foreclosures to keep families in their homes.

Invests in our children’s education by increasing Education, Training, and Social Services.

Mr. Chair, the federal budget is a moral document, with meaning, fiber, and a unique texture. Sometimes we lose sight of this fact given the preoccupation by many with, I could wax on and on today on the Floor about the “baselines,” “benchmarks,” and “extrapolations and projections of future budget conditions,” based on the assumptions that may or may not turn out to be accurate.

But real people living, struggling with real problems in the real world are not interested in such esoteric discussion. They want us to focus on their lives and their problems. They want to know that we understand the necessity of making taxes fairer, simpler, and economically reasonable.

Most economists agree, Mr. Speaker, that entitlement policy must be evaluated and progressively modified to achieve sustainability. Unlike discretionary spending, mandatory spending grew rapidly from 5% of GDP in 1962 to a range of 9% to 10.5% of GDP from

1975 to 2007, peaking in recession years because of automatic stabilizers.

Let me be clear: I am unalterably opposed to any entitlement reform that deprives seniors, like the ones that reside in the 18th Congressional District of Texas, of benefits they have labored long and hard to earn. To do otherwise would break a promise to prior generations who faithfully paid into the current system. These are not entitlements; they are earned benefits. And they must not be taken away.

And speaking of Texas; recently my hometown of Houston was forced to lay off nearly one thousand municipal employees. When these employees are put on the unemployment line, libraries close, schools cut back on essential after-school programs, community centers lose personnel, police hours are trimmed, and the truly destitute become an afterthought.

Those tough budget decisions had a human cost and I hear from my constituents every day about them. Frankly, I do not want tax cuts for the wealthy at the expense of jobs for working and middle class families in Texas.

The CPC fiscal year 2014 budget alternative stands in clear contrast to the budget that our Republican colleagues have put forward. This budget will reduce the deficit in a balanced and credible way, making difficult choices while providing investments that help create jobs now and build an even stronger economy for the future.

But unlike the Republican budget—which ends the Medicare guarantee while providing enormous tax breaks to millionaires—we ask the very wealthy and special interests to share responsibility for reducing the deficit. We must embark on a truly shared sacrifice.

I ask my colleagues to support the CPC Budget for All Substitute.

HONORING TROY ISKE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Troy Iske. Troy is

a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 138, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Troy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Troy has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Troy has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Troy led a team in refurbishing and painting benches and cleaning the shooting ranges at the Pigeon Hill Conservation Area in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Troy Iske for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.