

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, Congressman RYAN's current budget proposal is a harsh austerity program that seeks to reduce the deficit on the backs of our Nation's most vulnerable while only benefiting the special interests and the Nation's ultrawealthy.

Under this plan, more than 30 million Americans now covered by the Affordable Care Act, including more than 70,000 residents of my district, would be at risk of losing their coverage.

Medicare as we know would cease to exist for more than 5 million future seniors, and over 3.5 million seniors today would lose Medicare preventative care coverage.

This plan also jeopardizes our Nation's economic recovery. The Economic Policy Institute estimates the plan will cost more than 2 million jobs in the next year, reduce the GDP by 1.7 percent, and literally stall the economy through 2017. This is neither the balanced nor rational approach that we need.

I want to work with my colleagues here in the Congress to pass a budget that creates jobs, grows the economy, strengthens the middle class, and responsibly reduces the deficit.

Sadly, this is not that plan.

A CALL FOR JOHN MORTON TO RESIGN

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, we recently learned that Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE, released thousands of illegal immigrants out of our detention facilities across the country in anticipation of the sequester cuts. This was done not after the sequester became law or the cuts became reality, but in anticipation.

This is the latest in a string of lapses in judgment by ICE Director John Morton. Because of his repeated questionable actions, I've called on Mr. Morton to resign.

Rather than making commonsense cuts like reducing administrative staffing, cutting overhead, or taking other action, ICE chose to release thousands of known criminals directly onto our streets and into our communities. ICE's justification for this plan is that those individuals will remain in a monitoring program while deportation proceedings are ongoing. Really?

It baffles me that ICE officials continue to insist that someone who has already committed a crime by entering this country illegally would willingly participate in a monitored self-deportation program.

The sequester has started and across-the-board cuts will affect us all, but we cannot stand by while ICE makes irresponsible decisions. I call on John Morton to resign and make a full accounting of this debacle to the American people.

CONGRATULATING EMMANUEL AVILES

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of a very special guest of mine today, Emmanuel Aviles from Taunton, Massachusetts, who is visiting Washington with his family.

At just 10 years old, Emmanuel was selected as the grand-prize winner in Scholastic's national Picture a President art contest. His charcoal sketch of Abraham Lincoln earned him that distinguished honor, as well as a 50-book library for his classroom at Parker Middle School and a trip to Washington, D.C.

Emmanuel's teacher back home calls him, "a great role model," who is "eager to learn and help other kids." He practices art drawing every day and hopes to some day pursue a career in art.

Today, Emmanuel is joined in the Capitol by his father, Emmanuel, Sr., his mother, Karen, and his brother, Diego.

I would like to welcome them to Washington and congratulate Emmanuel on making his school, his city, and his State incredibly proud.

Congratulations, Emmanuel.

OPEN THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it was just over a week ago that we learned that the White House is being closed to public tours.

Now the President attempts to justify this decision saying it's a Secret Service decision. I find this disturbingly ironic, coming from a President whose own Web site says that it is his mission to "open up the House to as many people as possible," that he is accepting without objection the decision to prevent the American people from accessing the White House, their house, the people's house.

Even during some of the darkest days of America's history, our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, championed the policy of true open doors to the White House and governmental transparency. Contrast that with President Obama who is acquiescing to the exact opposite, closing the White House doors to the public.

If the President is unable to help the Secret Service manage an 8.2 percent budget cut and still keep the people's house open, then the American people are entitled to some answers from their Chief Executive.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget released earlier this week will move us in the wrong direction. It promises us growth through austerity, cutting \$943 billion in discretionary spending, but history has proven that it just won't work.

Time and again, we see when an economy is recovering from a recession and it embraces austerity, the economy tumbles. That's what happened in Europe over the past 2 years, that's what happened in Japan in the 1990s, and that's what happened in this country in 1937. We must learn from this lesson.

In fact, experts say that the Republican budget will result in 2 million fewer American jobs and will decrease economic growth by 1.7 percent.

Mr. Speaker, what we have to do is invest in our economy, nation-build here at home in America and in Americans. This is a vehicle for growth. We should not be cutting those kinds of investments.

Austerity is shortsighted, and we should reject it.

STANDING FIRM AGAINST THREATS TO SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, one of the best parts of my job is hearing from the people I serve in the great State of Montana. And while 1 million Montanans offer a lot of different ideas and a lot of different perspectives, there is one concern I hear about every day.

Thousands of Montanans have reached out to my office because they are concerned about recent threats to their Second Amendment rights. Let me be clear: I do not support any efforts that infringe upon Montanans' rights to keep and bear arms. I will continue to stand firm against any proposals that would threaten those rights.

That's why I'm joining Congressman STEVE STOCKMAN and many of my other colleagues in the House in signing a letter to Speaker BOEHNER that makes it clear that we—and the people we represent—are strongly opposed to any efforts that would violate the rights protected by the Second Amendment, and we will reflect that commitment in any vote on legislation that comes before us.

Whether it's so-called "universal background checks" or sweeping bans of firearms owned by thousands of law-abiding Montanans, I will stand firm against any proposal that would threaten Montanans' rights to keep and bear arms.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE LEONARD WILLIAMS

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Judge Leonard Williams, who died recently at age 78.

Judge Williams was one of Delaware's most prominent civil rights leaders and a successful lawyer and judge in Wilmington. Judge Williams spent his life breaking barriers and paving the way for others. Judge Williams was one of the first African American students to integrate the University of Delaware and was the first African American on its football team.

Judge Williams was the longtime law partner of Louis Redding, the Wilmington lawyer who argued Delaware's *Brown v. Board of Education* case before the Supreme Court.

He was a friend and mentor to countless members of our community. Judge Williams was part of the Greatest Generation of African Americans, those who fought the often lonely fight for civil rights and justice, enduring struggle and hardship to make our State and our country a better place for everyone. His presence in the State of Delaware, and particularly in my home city of Wilmington, will be sorely missed.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

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A BALANCED BUDGET MEANS JOBS

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

Mr. RADEL. Mr. Speaker, as a freshman, I am the first to make fun of myself and, quite frankly, of both parties. It seems that last session's budget negotiations consisted of Democrats making videos of Republicans throwing your grandmother off a cliff while wonky Republicans would be in the corner, talking about the debt-to-GDP ratio and other things that most hard-working Americans don't have time to think about or understand. But let me tell you what we can all understand: Republicans are doing what Senate Democrats have not done in years—we will pass another budget.

So why does this matter to you?

It matters because a balanced budget means jobs, opportunity and, ultimately, more money in your pocket. More money in Washington means less money for you—less money for your gas, your groceries, your rent, your mortgage, and maybe your next vacation to Florida. Now, being bipartisan, do you know who understood that more than anyone? President Bill Clinton. With a Republican House, the budget was balanced.

We conservatives are working hard to balance that budget today for your opportunity and your job. We are here working for you.

THE RYAN BUDGET

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget, sometimes called the "Ryan budget," also called the "path to prosperity," is really more of the same, more of the same that we've seen for the past 3 years. The only difference is it's worse. The budget is supposed to be the blueprint and is supposed to set forth the philosophy and the policy of the majority; but look at some of the problems. There are many of them, but let's concentrate on seniors. Let's see how it affects them.

The voucher is back. It means Medicare costs are going to rise. There is no closing of the doughnut hole anymore for your prescription drugs because ObamaCare is repealed, and we're going to lose \$810 billion in Medicaid, which is a cut of one-third, two-thirds of which go to the disabled and seniors. The irony is that the majority says it repeals ObamaCare; yet it keeps \$716 billion in Medicare savings and all revenues from ObamaCare for a total of \$1 trillion. So \$2 trillion of its balancing the so-called budget is on the backs of ObamaCare—the ObamaCare that it says it repeals.

This cannot be what this body wants to be identified with—a path to nowhere.

SUPPORTING THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. It's hard for President Obama to find a solution when he doesn't understand the problem.

This week, he told ABC News that he doesn't believe that our country faces a debt crisis. Yesterday, Senate Democrats outlined a budget that never balances but that sinks us further and further into debt year after year.

The American people understand that nearly \$17 trillion of debt is no way to run a country. Hoosiers know that every penny Washington borrows today will be taken from taxpayer pockets tomorrow. Folks back home know this, and so do House Republicans. That's why I am proud to support the budget my friend and colleague Chairman RYAN introduced this week.

Mr. Speaker, this budget actually balances in 10 years—something our Democrat colleagues' budget in the Senate never does. It never balances. Our budget encourages economic growth and promotes opportunity for all Americans. By simplifying the Tax Code, scaling back government overreach and strengthening the promises made to seniors, our budget puts this country on a responsible, balanced path.

I commend Chairman RYAN and the House Budget Committee for their work.

BUDGET PRIORITIES

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is time to debate the budget again, but despite the differences in this Chamber, we could come together and choose to invest in our middle class. We could compromise and responsibly reduce spending while protecting the most vulnerable. We could reach across the aisle and protect the jobs of our teachers and police officers while ending the ludicrous tax loopholes for oil companies.

Instead, we see another case of political gamesmanship. Instead of providing targeted tax cuts to working class families, the Republican budget increases tax breaks for the wealthiest in the country at the expense of middle-income taxpayers, who will pay an average of \$2,000 per family. Instead of solidifying the safety net for our seniors, the Republican budget guts it by turning Medicare into a voucher program. Instead of healing our still fragile housing market, the Republican budget refuses to protect the mortgage interest deduction that our middle class families depend upon.

What we should be doing is working together to put the American Dream back within the reach of our middle class.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SKILLS ACT

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I have made it a priority since day one to support pro-growth, pro-jobs legislation that encourages entrepreneurship and supports innovation—all in the name of strengthening our economy and making certain the United States remains globally competitive and is the place where the hardest working and best minds exist.

To remain competitive, we must continue to have the best trained workforce in the world. Quite often, programs in Washington, D.C., are cumbersome and difficult to use. We must all endeavor to make the Federal Government more efficient and effective.

That's why, today, I rise in approval of the SKILLS Act, and encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this commonsense legislation that will eliminate burdensome and frustrating roadblocks that prevent out-of-work Americans from accessing beneficial workforce development programs and job skills training efforts that will only help our national economy.

Mr. Speaker, everyone must have a chance to succeed in our current economy, a chance to realize the American Dream. Let's pass the SKILLS Act so we continue working together in a competitive and thriving economy.