

I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
MARCH 18, 2013

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

COMPETITIVE BIDDING

(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, a durable medical equipment supplier recently sued the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services over Medicare's competitive bidding program. In February, the judge dismissed the case, stating the supplier had no jurisdiction because Congress prohibited judicial review of the program in 2003.

The court was, however, "deeply concerned about the unjust consequences of its order"; so concerned, the court was compelled to issue a memorandum prior to its full opinion:

Every citizen is entitled to equal justice under law, which is not measured by incidence of death or hospital admissions, but rather by the right to receive medically necessary treatment and to live each day with dignity. To the extent that a civilized society is measured by the manner in which it protects its most vulnerable members, it has failed today.

Congress has a responsibility to beneficiaries to ensure CMS is transparent and the competitive bidding program is truly competitive and does not prevent access to these critical services.

I will not be complacent, Mr. Speaker, and this body should not be content with a culture of insecurity for providers and the vulnerable populations that they serve.

The American people deserve better.

□ 1300

TRIBUTE TO DR. DINA STALLINGS

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to Dr. Dina Stallings, a professor of forensics at Riverside Community College, beloved by her students and whose passing my community mourns deeply. This Sunday, my community will join together to celebrate her life, which was devoted to teaching the art of persuasive speaking.

Dr. Stallings achieved national recognition during her 26-year career at

RCC directing the Forensics and Debate Program. She was the first woman to be named a full professor at RCC. In the 1960s and 1970s, she coached teams that won national competitions.

After retiring, Dr. Stallings continued a deep involvement with Friends of Forensics, a group she founded to promote speaking activities for students from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Mr. Speaker, we count ourselves fortunate to have had Dr. Stallings as a leader in our community. Her commitment to faith, family, and forensics has left a profound impact on the Inland Empire and our Nation. As Dr. Stallings said herself, you measure yourself by the service you give to others.

Let us measure up to her legacy in both our service to America and our democratic discourse.

LET'S PASS A RESPONSIBLE
BUDGET

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, it's the job of this Congress to pass a responsible budget that protects our seniors and offers a future for our generations to come, the same future that you and I enjoy today.

Like Goldilocks, the American people have three choices:

We have the Senate Democratic plan, which raises taxes, increases spending, and never balances. That's too much government.

Then we have the President's plan, which—wait. No. We don't have the President's plan yet, although it was due last month. He keeps talking about a balanced approach, but he leaves out one key component in his budget. It doesn't actually balance. That's not governing at all.

Finally, we have the House Republican plan, which takes a balanced approach to deficit reduction and job growth. A balanced budget isn't some fairytale. It's not just another Washington talking point. It offers real results for the American people. It will grow our economy, it will create 5 million new jobs, and it would increase the median income for Americans to over \$80,000.

Republicans are offering a middle way to move forward, and I think the American people will find that this proposal is just right.

CLEAN ENERGY AND EXTREME
WEATHER

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

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, we've come a long way with clean energy over the last 4 years. We've doubled the production of clean renewable energy like wind and solar. And the new tailpipe standards for automobiles will

double the fuel efficiency of our passenger vehicles.

Still, there's much that needs to be done. Study after study has shown that the effects of climate change are occurring sooner and with greater effect than expected. Superstorm Sandy, the devastating drought that hurt farmers in the Midwest, last summer's heat waves, and forest fires—scientists tell us that these are signs of climate change, and it is going to get worse if we don't act to address it.

Over the last 2 years, the United States has experienced 25 weather disasters that have caused more than \$180 billion in damage.

It's time to get serious about clean energy. The consequences are too grave to do otherwise.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, this week Senate Democrats introduced a budget that will never balance—ever. But it does raise taxes by \$1 trillion, so that will be helpful to working families.

The good news is next week we will have an opportunity to consider the House budget proposal which properly addresses the spending problem and makes commonsense reforms in order to pay down our debt.

Keeping with the committee's theme of balancing the budget within 10 years, I've introduced my own balanced budget amendment, House Joint Resolution 36, which also balances within 10 years.

We don't want to balance the budget on the backs of taxpayers. That's why we require a three-fifths majority to raise revenue and the debt limit. It also requires agencies and departments to justify their funding.

We are living in modern times, so it is allowed to be waived during times of war, during military conflict, or during natural disasters. Forty-nine States, including Pennsylvania where I live, do this. Single moms, families, cops on the beat, working folks do it, and Washington should do it too.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak against the Ryan budget.

Mr. Speaker, here we go again, another House Republican budget filled with the same gimmicks and fuzzy math that the American people soundly rejected last fall during the Presidential election. It's another budget that slashes critical economic investments, undermines job growth, and attempts to reduce the deficit on the backs of our seniors, disabled, women, and low-income families.

We cannot pass this budget, just like we could not pass it last year. It increases tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans at the expense of the middle class. On average, \$2,000 more in taxes will be charged to the middle class. This budget also does nothing to replace the arbitrary and irrational cuts of the sequester. As a result, 750,000 jobs will be lost this year alone.

The Republican budget would end Medicare as we know it and force Alabama seniors to pay more for health care. It will reopen the doughnut hole, and 48,264 Alabama seniors will have to pay more for prescription drugs. This budget also cuts \$6.2 billion in health care.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve more. We can't allow our Republican leadership to continue to try to give tax breaks to the wealthy at the expense of the middle class.

**CROSS-BORDER TRADE
ENHANCEMENT ACT**

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act, a bipartisan bill introduced this week that will create jobs and facilitate trade at no cost to the Federal Government.

Trade between the U.S. and Mexico has grown by 600 percent since 1990 and continues to increase each year; 100,000 jobs in El Paso, Texas, and 6 million nationwide depend on this trade. Unfortunately, capacity at our ports of entry has not kept pace. Despite increased staffing and use of technology, waits at our ports are unpredictable and unacceptably long.

This bill will help us solve this problem. By authorizing public-private partnerships, this legislation would provide Customs and Border Patrol effective new tools to improve infrastructure, expand capacity, and increase staffing at our ports of entry without new costs for U.S. taxpayers.

At a time of heightened partisanship, this legislation is proof that when Democrats and Republicans work together, we can advance commonsense ideas that can create jobs.

□ 1310

THERE THEY GO AGAIN

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

Mr. COHEN. The Ryan budget. In the words of the great Republican President, whom the Republicans like to remember: There they go again.

It's the same budget. It's catering to the wealthy, and it's cutting the middle class. It's reducing the top tax rate to 25 percent, which will give the wealthiest \$200,000 a piece in tax

breaks, and it continues the sequestration—a stupid, meat-ax approach to our budget that cuts \$1.6 billion from the National Institutes of Health.

Does anybody out there, Mr. Speaker, have cancer? heart disease? Is anybody thinking about some relative who might have Alzheimer's? AIDS? post-polio? diabetes?

Cures and treatments come from the National Institutes of Health, and you're not going to get them if they cut \$1.6 billion to \$1.8 billion out of it. The cures and treatment will benefit the next generation more than this generation, and that's what we should be doing is investing there. This foolish, meat-ax approach is to be continued with the Ryan budget, and it will cost us lives and stop us from being a leader in research and innovation. We need to have a smart budget and invest in the National Institutes of Health and preserve our human infrastructure.

THE RYAN BUDGET

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to comment about the budget introduced this week by the Republican Budget chairman, PAUL RYAN.

The first thing we notice about this budget is that it is nothing more than a tiresome rehash of the right-wing wish list. I call it a "tiresome rehash" because we already know that Representative RYAN doesn't like ensuring that all Americans have access to affordable health care. We remember he doesn't like allowing coverage for pre-existing conditions. We understand that he doesn't like closing the Medicare part D loophole, doughnut hole, for seniors. We are acquainted with his dislike for granting preventative health care services to women. We already know that he wants to turn Medicare into a lousy voucher system that costs seniors thousands of dollars extra every year for their health care whether they have it or not, and we already know that the American public rejects these positions as it did in the last election.

Mr. Speaker, I ask: Can we not, at long last, move on?

RULE VIII NOTIFICATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following notifications under rule VIII:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 13, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, purporting to require certain responses to a questionnaire in connection with a civil case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined under Rule VIII that the subpoena seeks information that is not "material and relevant" and that it is not "consistent with the privileges and rights of the House." Accordingly, I intend to move to quash the subpoena.

God and Texas,
TED POE,
Member of Congress.

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Sincerely,
BOB GOODLATTE,
Member of Congress.

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Sincerely,
RAÚL R. LABRADOR,
Member of Congress.

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Sincerely,
LAMAR SMITH,
Member of Congress.