

government has refused to accept expanded Medicaid. So today, Mr. Speaker, I make a public plea on behalf of the millions of Texans who get up and work every day and do not have health insurance, and to have a State government that is ignoring their plea, and that is to have expanded Medicaid to provide health insurance for working Texans and poor Texans, those that work, as well, below the minimum wage.

It seems selfish that the concerns of those who lead State government are all political and not in any way concerned about the mothers, fathers, and children who all of the medical professionals from county governments to private practice have said that the expanded Medicaid coverage, if taken by the State of Texas, like Florida and like Ohio, will save lives.

Do it now.

CBC HOUR: THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAINES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HORSFORD. Good evening, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to join with my colleague, Mr. JEFFRIES, the gentleman from New York, to coanchor this hour along with the Congressional Black Caucus and my colleagues from the CBC to talk about something very important right now to the American people, and that is the budget and how we will balance the budget on as far as how we move forward for the American people.

Less than 1 month after the sequester, Republicans have presented a carbon copy budget of their austerity plans of the past. The American people spoke loud and clear last November. They believe in investing in our recovery, turning our economy around, and getting people back to work. They reject balancing the budget on the backs of our children, seniors, and the middle class. Yet the Ryan budget starts with the premise that the sequester is good policy, that the ultrawealthy deserve another tax break, and that we don't really need to invest in our children or their future.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, the Congressional Black Caucus and I will lay out why the Ryan budget is a failed proposal for the American people and why we need to support an alternative offered by the Congressional Black Caucus and those who have worked hard to craft it.

I would like to recognize our chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentlelady from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE).

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to thank my colleagues, Congressmen JEFFRIES and HORSFORD, for again leading the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour on an issue of great importance—the Federal budget.

Mr. Speaker, every year since 1981, the Congressional Black Caucus has produced an alternative budget to both Republican and Democratic budgets. The CBC budget has consistently provided a fair and balanced approach to managing the Federal Government's finances. The CBC alternative budget for fiscal year 2014 is a pro-growth, pro-people, and pro-America budget. It acknowledges that only by investing in Americans, in the American people, can you build a bridge to a better America.

This message could not be more important as our Nation still struggles to recover from the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. Compounding this problem is growing income inequality. America needs congressional leadership to pull us out of our economic malaise, address our fiscal issues, and ensure that our recovery is felt in every community. Unfortunately, this is where the House Republican budget fails.

Chairman RYAN's budget attempts to lead America towards financial success by placing America's most vulnerable on the path to financial ruin. The Republican budget seeks to cut education funding, including money for Pell Grants. It slashes economic assistance to programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which could mean 8 to 9 million eligible households without benefits. It dismantles the Affordable Care Act. This means reducing access to affordable health care for the 27 million uninsured Americans who are projected to gain coverage under the law. This is neither the vision that the American people want, nor is it what the American people need.

Now, let's contrast the CBC budget and how it creates opportunity instead of snatching it away.

The CBC budget includes \$230 billion in the maintenance and repair for public transit, highways, airports, ports, railroads, bridges, and other infrastructure investments; \$13 billion for workforce development programs, such as the Workforce Investment Act Adult Program, the Dislocated Worker Program, Job Corps and other employment and training services.

It includes \$50 billion to provide relief to States to preserve teacher and first responder jobs, and \$50 billion for neighborhood stabilization programs that provide affordable housing development, infrastructure improvements and other community development needs.

The CBC budget accomplishes all this while raising \$1 trillion in new revenue to avoid sequestration. The economic recession has damaged our communities. Trillions of dollars in wealth were lost. Poverty rates for African Americans and Latinos soared to 26 and 23 percent, respectively. America doesn't need an austerity budget. It doesn't need a budget that looks at the struggling American people and says "you're on your own." Americans need and deserve more.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the CBC fiscal year 2014 budget.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Will the gentlelady yield for a question?

Ms. FUDGE. Yes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. First of all, I want to thank the chairperson for conducting this discussion pertaining to the CBC's budget because I think it is the most compassionate budget that will be presented to the House.

My question for you, Madam Chair, is that I just returned from Florida. Florida ranks first in the last 8 months with the number of people losing their homes because of foreclosure, Miami being first, Orlando being second, Jacksonville being eighth. People approach me about jobs. They're not talking to me about the deficit. They want to know what we are doing as far as putting the American people to work.

Can you expound upon that for me, please?

Ms. FUDGE. Absolutely. I thank the gentlelady.

What we have done in this budget, not only did we put in \$13 billion for workforce training, for Job Corps, for dislocated workers, retraining, segment training, but, in total, we have almost \$500 billion worth of job creation built into our budget, more than any budget—more than any budget—whether it be the Democratic Caucus, the White House budget, or the Republican budget. We have doubled down on jobs in the CBC budget.

Mr. HORSFORD. Continuing on, as the chairwoman of the CBC just talked about, the Congressional Black Caucus budget is an alternative budget for fiscal year 2014. It puts forth a plan that both reduces the deficit by \$2.8 trillion over the next decade and creates millions of jobs through significant investments towards job creation that will accelerate our economic recovery and ensure that it's felt in every community across America.

The CBC budget also cancels the economically disastrous sequester that is currently costing between 750,000 to 1 million jobs. So the CBC budget creates jobs, while the sequester and the Republican budget, which adopts the sequester and makes it permanent, cut jobs, and the CBC budget pays for it.

To elaborate further is the vice chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Let me thank you, Mr. HORSFORD, for your leadership and thank you for convening this opportunity tonight for us to come to the floor and talk about a subject that is so personal and so important to every American.

□ 1930

I also thank the chairwoman of the CBC, Ms. FUDGE, for her extraordinary and intelligent leadership. You have done so much for so many for so long, and we thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, just last week, House Budget Committee Chairman PAUL

RYAN—and I think most Americans recognize that name by now—Chairman PAUL RYAN rolled out his 2014 budget that he and his Republican colleagues have called the Path to Prosperity. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's more like the path to American ruin.

He says that he's going to balance the budget in 10 years; but he's going to balance that budget, if at all, on the backs of middle class Americans and poor people.

They use good sounding terms like "strengthening the safety net." What that really means is cutting programs that help the poor and disfranchised in our country, programs that good Americans depend on every day to survive.

The Ryan budget talks about restoring fairness by ending barriers for job creation. What he doesn't talk about is that his budget proposal slashes funding for workforce development and job training and child care. How, Mr. Speaker, is a single mother of two small children expected to get and keep a job that pays more than the minimum wage—which, by the way, PAUL RYAN and his colleagues voted against raising—when she has no access to affordable child care or training?

Chairman RYAN and the Republicans don't care about that single mother or her children. They care about serving the interest of big business at the expense of ordinary Americans. So the Congressional Black Caucus has offered a budget alternative that I'm very proud of. It is sensible and balanced.

We propose reforming the Tax Code. We propose ending special tax breaks and closing tax loopholes like the mortgage deduction for vacation homes and yachts, eliminating the deduction for derivative traders and eliminating incentives for sending American jobs overseas. We propose taxing capital gains and dividends as ordinary income, raising about \$900 billion over 10 years. These changes, Mr. Speaker, would generate much needed revenue.

The country has begun to recover. We see it every day in the news, and we're moving in the right direction. We're beginning to recover from near financial ruin, but our recovery is fragile and desperately needs a shot in the arm to accelerate our economic recovery. Instead, the Republican-controlled House thought it best to poison the economy and throw away the antidote.

According to leading economists, once sequestration is fully implemented, Americans are going to lose 2.14 million jobs. Those are 2 million jobs that exist now, but won't exist later because of politics.

The CBC and the majority of Americans believe that sequestration is damaging our fragile economy and that it must be reversed immediately. Our budget does just that.

Our Nation's unemployment rate is 7.7 percent and has been on a gradual decline, but there are still far too many people out of work. To reinvo-

rate a willing and able workforce, the CBC proposes investing over \$500 billion in a comprehensive jobs program, including \$100 billion for a national direct job creation program, \$50 billion for much needed school modernization, and \$50 billion to support and maintain jobs in education and law enforcement. We would also dedicate \$230 billion to repairing and replacing our crumbling infrastructure, including highways and bridges.

In order for people to get jobs they so badly need, they need to possess the necessary skills. The CBC budget will work to support and enhance job-training programs through an injection of \$13 billion and also help to put young people to work through a \$7 billion summer jobs program.

When hardworking Americans work their entire lives, they have been paying into a system that promised them income security. We must guarantee it. The Ryan budget seeks to eviscerate the Medicare program as we know it and turn it into a voucher system. That is wrong. They seek to block-grant the Medicaid program and give the discretion to the States. That is wrong, and it will devastate low-income families, and more than 35 percent will be cut from the Medicaid program over the next 10 years. Mr. RYAN proposes to make the change apply to individuals 55 years of age and younger. That's very interesting.

What is particularly egregious, in closing, is that the Ryan budget cuts almost 18 percent from the SNAP program, amounting to \$135 billion. Over 90 percent of SNAP money, as we all know, goes to paying for food assistance.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus and the Democratic minority here in the House are serving notice here today that we will not tolerate the unbalanced approach of the Republican majority. You must work with us to create a stream of new revenue by closing loopholes that benefit the rich, and we must have a balanced approach to balancing the Federal budget.

Thank you for the time, Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you for your leadership.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Mr. Vice Chairman.

As you indicate, 70 percent of the American people agree with the CBC plan to have a balanced approach, one that helps to preserve and protect the very programs that you just mentioned and that gets our economy on the focus of what we should be dealing with, which is the jobs deficit in this country, not the so-called "budget deficit."

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. There is no question the American people, Mr. HORSFORD, want a strong economy, they want jobs created, and they're expecting us in this House to do it on a bipartisan basis.

We have failed to do it, and we must do it.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you.

Over the weekend, Speaker BOEHNER said:

We do not have an immediate debt crisis. We have one looming. It's not an immediate problem.

Well, what we do have right now is an immediate jobs deficit, and we should be focused on getting the American people back to work. That's what the Congressional Black Caucus alternative budget does.

And to talk about the focus on jobs and investing in our future, the woman who fights for the people of Florida, the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. BROWN).

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Thank you so much, and thank you for your leadership.

I really do believe when you're born you get a birth certificate, and when you die you're going to get a death certificate; and that little dash in between is what you've done to make this a better place. And I really want to thank the Congressional Black Caucus for your leadership, for what you have done being the conscience of this House of Representatives, a House that has lost its conscience.

Now, I come from Florida, and our State now ranks number one in foreclosure. Why is that? There's a direct correlation between if you don't have a job, you cannot pay your mortgage. And so the Congressional Black Caucus budget invests in jobs.

I am so sick and tired of this House position—what I called when I was coming up—"reverse Robin Hood," robbing from the poor and working people to give tax breaks to the rich.

The Congressional Black Caucus budget on the other hand invests in education, saving the jobs of teachers and first responders. What else good does it do? It makes investment toward rebuilding our neighborhoods; and we all know that for every billion dollars that we spend in infrastructure, it generates 44,000 permanent jobs.

Now, I want to say something about the fact that you can tell something about an organization or a group or your church or your club as to how you spend the money. That's how you can tell. And you can tell whether you care about the children, the disabled, and the elderly.

Coming from Florida, the home of Claude Pepper, I want to be very clear that I will not vote to cut Social Security, Medicaid, or Medicare.

You know what? We did have an election, and I want you to know the people of Florida weighed in. You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time. And the people of Florida have spoken. They want us to work together, and they want jobs now. They understand that 20 years from now we need to correct Social Security and other things; but today when I go home, the only question they ask me—whether I'm in the dollar store or the nail store or in church—is they want jobs and they want us to work together to bring those jobs to the community.

□ 1940

I really do believe, to whom God has given much, much is expected, and we really need to expect more out of this House of Representatives, the people's House.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Congresswoman.

As you indicated, in addition to the CBC alternative budget, which focuses on the jobs—maintaining the jobs we have and creating new jobs—the CBC budget also preserves and protects Social Security and Medicare. It rejects the idea of voucherizing care for those who have paid into these programs their entire lives. Instead, it strengthens these programs to guarantee a safe and secure retirement for our parents and our grandparents as well as for the generation to come, which is something that you and other members of the Congressional Black Caucus have fought for for many years in this body.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I just want to add one other thing. I will never forget that Newt Gingrich said that he wanted Medicaid and Medicare to wither on the vine. That is the philosophy of these people who control this House—wither on the vine.

Mr. HORSFORD. These are vital safety programs that save millions of families, many of whom we serve on the Congressional Black Caucus. These programs save them from poverty, like SNAP and TANF—they are enhanced, so that those who are struggling to get by are given not a handout but a hand up in meeting their needs, so that they and their families can survive for themselves, and we will continue to fight to preserve and protect these programs.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Absolutely, sir, because absolutely, in coming from Florida, failure is not an option.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to turn to the physician who is in the House. We have one of the experts in health care, someone who knows how important the Affordable Care Act is and the preservation of the Affordable Care Act.

I find it interesting that the House Republican budget calls for the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, but still they take the money and use it to balance their budget. So how can they balance their budget and repeal the Affordable Care Act at the same time?

I yield to the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands, Representative CHRISTENSEN.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you.

Repealing the Affordable Care Act is going to cost this country exponentially in the years to come, so they are doing the exact opposite of balancing the budget in the long run, but I have to ask the question:

Just how much more austerity can the American people take and still survive?

The recession, which is struggling to recover, has been bad enough, but with past cuts, the sequester, the CR, and now the Republican 2014 budget, they

are threatening to make a bad situation even worse. I want to focus on just the hits that health care has taken.

From ROSA DELAURO's report, we learned that since 2002, labor, health, and education programs have endured cuts of 7 percent, resulting in a nearly \$12 billion reduction in funding in 2012. Going forward, the discretionary budget caps set in the Budget Control Act of 2011 are estimated to cut over \$9 billion, or 5.4 percent, in 2021. Altogether, this will result in a 12 percent per capita cut, or a nearly \$22 billion cut to labor, health, and education programs in 2021, when compared to the 2002 levels. These cuts will weaken these critical programs that protect the public health and safety, promote and develop our workforce, and educate the next generation of Americans.

If we just look at programs under the Department of Health and Human Services, here is a partial list compared to 2002 levels:

In 2012, the Health Resources and Services Administration has seen a \$2 billion reduction, which includes a \$194 million reduction to the program which provides critical funding to support training new health professionals;

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has had a \$122 million reduction;

The National Institutes of Health has had a \$1.2 billion reduction from 2002 levels;

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has seen an \$813.3 million reduction.

All of these reductions—all of these cuts—were in place even before the sequester, and are adjusted for inflation. Then to add insult to injury, at the first of this month, sequestration triggered an estimated 5.3 percent cut, resulting in another cut of approximately \$7.5 billion from labor, health, and education programs. These cuts and those across all of the other government agencies, in programs that provide jobs and needed services, were the reason we said that the sequester ought to have been stopped, and why we still insist it needs to be repealed.

Then there is the continuing resolution for the balance of 2013. Will it end the sequester even for this year? No, it won't.

In health, the House bill would cut \$75 million to State Health Access Grants and \$276 million to flu funding, among other important programs.

Further, their CR underfunds priorities that are critical to crack down on fraud in health care and Social Security, and to help working families. It does not include a requested \$949 million to implement the health insurance exchanges.

Their CR does not include a requested \$567 million increase for Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control and for Social Security disability reviews and SSI eligibility determinations.

If these cuts and omissions were not bad enough, the Republican continuing resolution that was passed in the

House does not include \$35 million in emergency ADAP funding or \$10 million for part C medical clinics that President Obama announced would happen on World AIDS Day in 2011. While all cuts to health programs are problematic, these cuts are especially devastating because ADAP and the part C medical clinics are there for financially and medically needy populations that need their services.

So are those all of the cuts Republicans are proposing? No, they are not.

They are proposing to pass a budget for fiscal year 2014, and the Republican budget would take the cuts in health programs that are already hurting many of our fellow Americans even further.

It would cut \$810 billion from the Medicaid program over the next 10 years and would make it a block grant, which, as we heard in testimony at today's hearing in the Health Subcommittee, would jeopardize health care for children, the disabled, the elderly, and the poor—the most vulnerable in our country. It would raise the Medicare eligibility age and turn it into a voucher for future beneficiaries, shifting costs of as much as \$6,000 per year to those beneficiaries, and it would repeal all of the funding, as Mr. HORSFORD said, needed to implement health care reform, essentially repealing the Affordable Care Act and repealing insurance for over 27 million Americans.

That is a heartless budget. Its values do not represent the values on which this country was founded and certainly not those of a nation under God.

The Democratic alternative is a far better budget for our country. It ends the sequester, it funds the Affordable Care Act, it raises revenue, and it makes sensible cuts that spare safety net programs that are more needed than ever. It also includes a doc fix, which stops the deep cuts to physicians' payments under Medicare, which would have reduced access to care for the beneficiaries.

The Democratic budget is a good budget, but the Congressional Black Caucus' pro-growth, pro-people, pro-America budget goes even further and builds on the Democratic budget, which has also adopted some of our key provisions:

The CBC budget doubles the revenue as well as increases the investment, as you've heard, in health, in education, in job creation, in housing, and in infrastructure programs. It does all of this and still significantly reduces the deficit. It protects Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid and all of the safety net programs. It, too, begins with ending the sequester and fully funding the Affordable Care Act.

I am really proud of the Congressional Black Caucus budget this year, as I am every year, and I commend Congressman BOBBY SCOTT and his team for another job well done.

This body and the other must reject the Ryan Republican budget. Everyone

can and should support and vote for the Congressional Black Caucus budget, but I'll tell you that it would be far better to pass any one of the Democratic alternatives, as they are all better for our country today and better for our future.

Mr. HORSFORD. Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN, let me thank you again for your hard work in fighting for quality health care for all Americans.

My grandmother suffered a stroke when I was only 9 weeks old, and she went into a coma. When she came out of that coma, she was paralyzed on the left side of her body. For the next 27 years, she lived in a nursing home, and it was that nursing home that allowed her to have the quality of life that she did have until she passed away in 2000.

□ 1950

Now as a young boy, I visited my grandmother virtually every week in that nursing home. I didn't know whether it was Medicaid or her disability that was providing for her care, but that's the reason she was able to live as long as she did. I know now that there are parents and grandparents depending on those programs more now than ever before, and that's why the CBC budget works to preserve and protect these programs. It's the people's budget, as you refer to it, and our values are the values that protect those who are not able to always protect themselves, versus an austerity budget that looks out more for special interests and corporate interests than it does the people's interests. And so I want to thank you again because it is my grandmother's legacy, and so many other parents and grandparents who are in her situation, that remind me every day what it is we are supposed to be doing here in the people's House. So thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to now turn to Representative BARBARA LEE from California, someone who I know this week, particularly as we talk about ending the war in Iraq, she is someone who stood early on saying we didn't need to go into war, and the deficit spending that occurred in the previous administration is the reason that we have the deficits that we do. And now they want to balance the budget on the backs of the middle class and the poor and not take responsibility for the decisions that were made in the previous administration, so thank you for standing up and standing tall.

I yield to the gentlelady from California.

Ms. LEE of California. Let me thank the gentleman from Nevada first of all for his tremendous leadership on behalf of the people of Nevada, and also thank you for those kind words and thank you for really helping to put together not only this Special Order tonight on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, but for your leadership on so many fronts. Thank you.

Let me first say, I serve as a member of the Budget Committee, and I have

seen close-hand the Republican vision for our country's future; and believe you me, it is not a vision of shared prosperity or economic growth. Having a sound and balanced alternative, like the Congressional Black Caucus budget, exposes the Republican budget for the disaster that it really is.

The Republican budget shortchanges 99 percent of the American people so it can give even more tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires, and to protect tax loopholes for special interests and Big Oil. At a time when we need job creation the most, the Republican budget would kill more than 2 million American jobs in 2014 alone. That's unconscionable. Cutting infrastructure development would also kill jobs that are important to our communities, communities of color. Jobs in the construction sector and in the public transit sector, these sectors employ many people that other sectors do not employ.

The Republican budget would take away food from hungry children and families, kick thousands of children off of Head Start, and close the door to college for thousands of graduates next year. Two-thirds of all of the Republican budget cuts target programs for people who are poor or low income, and communities of color would be the hardest hit.

Communities of color still bear the brunt of the last economic recession. Unemployment remains high. As of January, 9.7 percent of Latinos and 13.8 percent of African Americans were unemployed, compared to the national average of 9 percent. And income inequality continues to grow.

Federal unemployment benefits already under sequestration would face greater cuts under this Ryan budget as he proposes an additional \$900 billion in cuts to nondiscretionary spending.

The Republican budget's vision for America is very clear. Their budget would shred the social safety net. It would shatter our economic recovery and would push millions of struggling families over the edge.

In stark contrast, the Congressional Black Caucus budget shows that we can choose a different way forward. It is a document that shows our Nation's priorities and values, for, after all, a budget is a moral document. The CBC budget protects and enhances Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, TANF, SNAP, all of our vital safety net programs that save millions of people from poverty.

We believe strongly that any savings derived from changes to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid should be used to extend their solvency, not to pay for tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires, and we do not support a cut in benefits.

For four decades, many of these programs have received support as the first line of defense against hunger and alleviating poverty, helping to ensure vulnerable families in our Nation that they have a stable life. While pro-

tecting important antipoverty programs, the CBC budget would also make sound invests in critical areas like infrastructure, education, innovation, and poverty reduction to strengthen the economy for all.

I'm very proud of the fact that the CBC budget includes supporting language for developing a national strategy to eliminate poverty with the goal of cutting poverty in half in 10 years. Fifty million people in the wealthiest and most powerful country in the world are living in poverty; 16 million are children.

We've also included in our budget a formula that Leader Clyburn continues to champion. That's our 10-20-30 formula, which targets resources: 10 percent of Federal funds into certain accounts where there has been a poverty rate of 20 percent for the last 30 years. That is extremely important as we begin to cut poverty in half in 10 years.

The Republican budget, of course, is a pathway to poverty, with cuts to social safety net programs, jobs, as well as programs that serve as a bridge over troubled water for millions of low-income and vulnerable families. The fact of the matter is, when the economy grows through sound policies and investments that lift up struggling families, everyone benefits.

Also, let me just mention the section with regard to national defense. Congressman HORSFORD, thank you very much for reminding us about these two wars, quite frankly, that have been off budget and that are responsible for the deficits and for the lack of jobs and the unemployment rates that we see throughout our country. Our Congressional Black Caucus budget brings our defense spending in line with our legitimate security needs, and we also have a budget that measures our growth in terms of our economic footing as it relates to investing in our national economic security here at home. Whatever savings can be achieved, we put into mental health, veterans' health, and also support and research treatment for traumatic brain injury.

Also, let me just remind you that the Pentagon is the only Federal agency that's not subject to an audit. The Pentagon has lost tens of billions of dollars to waste, fraud, and abuse. There have been reports of suitcases full of dollars, U.S. taxpayer dollars, being stolen or lost as it relates to Iraq and Afghanistan. We've got to be able to audit the Pentagon, and so our budget uses the \$300 billion of the savings from cuts also to the ballistic missile defense program for implementing the remaining GAO recommendations. I think we have now 1,682 of them, which would save about \$89 billion. And so our budgeting insists that we begin to audit the Pentagon. That is a very important function that the Congressional Black Caucus understands very clearly.

Finally, let me just say, we restore harmful cuts to the military Tuition Assistance program. I can't believe that the Republicans would cancel

military tuition assistance for veterans who have fought so hard in these wars. Don't they deserve better? The Congressional Black Caucus believes they deserve better, and so we restore those harmful cuts.

The Congressional Black Caucus knows we can do better. We know that a shared prosperity is the most important key to sound growth and sound fiscal policy. First, let me just urge everyone to reject the ruinous Republican budget and to support the CBC alternative budget.

I have to thank Congressman BOBBY SCOTT and the Budget Task Force and all the staff for their tremendous work and their support in putting forth and writing a budget, really, that speaks to the aspirations and to reigniting the American Dream for all Americans.

I thank you again, Representative HORSFORD, for your leadership.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, may I confirm how much time we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The gentleman has 21 minutes remaining.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At this time I'd like to yield to the gentledady from California, Representative BASS, who, as a former legislator like myself, has dealt with these types of brutal across-the-board cuts as proposed and having to work across party lines in a bipartisan way to find commonsense solutions. I think that it is common sense that we need a little more of here in Washington, D.C.

I am pleased to yield to the gentledady from California.

Ms. BASS. Thank you, Representative HORSFORD.

I do have to say, coming from the State house, it was a little discouraging to come here and find not a lot of common sense. So thank you for your leadership. And thank you very much, Representative JEFFRIES and especially Representative SCOTT, for your leadership and hours and hours of work that you've put into the Congressional Black Caucus budget.

□ 2000

Today, the Republican Party released a sprawling report detailing their failures to connect with the anxieties of middle class Americans, citing this as a major reason why they lost last year's Presidential election.

As a result, they are now promising a kinder, gentler Republican Party; but, sadly, the rhetoric just doesn't match the reality of the Paul Ryan budget, which is nothing more than a rehash of a failed agenda that the American people have already rejected.

The Republican budget continues to push harsh and unnecessary budget cuts that eliminate the safety net for millions of middle class Americans. The American people don't want a budget that breaks our promises to seniors by turning Medicare into a voucher program or cuts investments

that support job creation just for the sake of more budget-busting tax cuts for the wealthiest taxpayers and corporations.

Yet my friends on the other side of the aisle continue pushing this failed approach all in the name of deficit reduction—except this weekend their own leadership admitted we don't have an immediate debt crisis in the country. Even the architect of the budget, Congressman PAUL RYAN, said this weekend, "We do not have a debt crisis right now." Speaker BOEHNER said, "We do not have an immediate debt crisis" and "It's not an immediate problem."

So why should we enact this failed budget when Democrats have offered a better and more balanced approach to protect the middle class and pay down the deficit? Why then should we pass a budget that gets 66 percent of its cuts from programs for people of low-or moderate incomes? Why should we pass a budget that cuts funding for programs like Pell Grants to help students go to college or cuts the SNAP program that helps to feed 48 million people just to give a \$200,000 tax cut to millionaires? The budget put forward by the Congressional Black Caucus saves Pell Grants and continues the SNAP program to prevent Americans from going hungry while at the same time reducing the deficit by \$2.8 trillion over 10 years.

The American people know we can't cut our way to prosperity, nor can we succeed by pursuing the same failed policies that wrecked our economy in the first place and undermine our economic recovery.

The Congressional Black Caucus budget offers a clear alternative that addresses the concerns of middle class Americans. Our budget is focused on core priorities for the middle class: creating jobs, growing the economy, strengthening the middle class, and reducing the deficit.

Our proposal puts people to work this year with specific and targeted investments, while investing also in education, energy, research, and infrastructure, and keeping our commitment to America's seniors.

Our plan is fair, balanced, reasonable, and responsible. It is pro-growth, pro-people, pro-America; and it is the approach favored by the majority in this country.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Congresswoman BASS.

Mr. Speaker, to focus on jobs and investing in our future, the fact that this is pro-growth, pro-people, and that 70 percent of the American people support this type of an approach is why the CBC is offering this as an alternative to the House Republican majority. And to speak further on the pro-growth needs of this budget, my colleague in the new freshman class, it has been a delight to get to know her, the gentledady from Ohio, Representative BEATTY.

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you so much, Congressman HORSFORD.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss House Budget Committee Chairman RYAN's fiscal year 2014 budget and Democratic alternatives that work.

I first want to thank my colleagues, Mr. HORSFORD and Mr. JEFFRIES, both members of my class, for leading the Congressional Black Caucus' discussion on this critical matter. I would also like to thank Congressman BOBBY SCOTT for his tireless efforts on the Congressional Black Caucus budget.

Released last week, Congressman RYAN's proposal, entitled "A Path to Prosperity," includes more of the same proposals that the American public rejected at the ballot last November. Same proposal, different cover.

I cannot possibly imagine how this regressive tax structure that it contains is a way to lead to shared American prosperity. I also cannot imagine how this budget will balance in 10 years and not hurt Medicare beneficiaries over the age of 55.

As it has been in the past, Republican RYAN's budget offers a trickle-down agenda—the same agenda tried during George W. Bush's Presidency, which resulted in the withering of the middle class and the total collapse of the economy. This budget shares in the same failed policies of the past, and in a nutshell it is unrealistic, unreasonable, and unfair.

First, Mr. Speaker, while the Ryan budget is clear on its harmful proposed cuts for children's education and health care services for seniors, the budget blueprint is particularly light on details and heavy on tax breaks to wealthy Americans who do not need the help.

Second, but of no less importance, the Ryan proposal fails to repeal and replace the sequester, therefore doing nothing to prevent the loss of over 700,000 jobs the sequester will cause.

By not stopping the sequester and through other budgetary tricks, the Ryan budget will cause even deeper cuts to all of our Nation's essential services, ranging from the deep cuts for services for women to Head Start and health care research to homeland security.

This lack of foresight will also result in some \$800 billion of Federal funds being removed from Pell Grants and school lunches and begin the process of changing Medicare to a voucher system.

There is a better way. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus have worked diligently to put forth an alternative blueprint, one designed to be pro-growth and put jobs in the economy first, rather than adhere blindly to ideological spending cuts.

The Congressional Black Caucus alternative would replace the sequester's cuts with intelligent, balanced, deficit-reduction measures.

Additionally, cutting educational spending in the name of future generations smacks of insincerity when we recognize that America's position as global leader in technology and innovation depends on our ability to invest in

the necessary infrastructure and training for such breakthroughs. That's why the Congressional Black Caucus budget would support billions of dollars of infrastructure and job-training investments for the future of our Nation and its citizens.

Americans are tired of watching their government lurch from one crisis to the next. The Congressional Black Caucus alternatives offer serious, credible paths away from gridlock and toward a long-term solution which creates jobs, expands the middle class, honors our commitment to seniors by preserving Medicare and protecting Medicaid, and addresses our budget deficits and debt responsibly.

These goals are achievable. But be clear, the Ryan budget will not get us there. It is not the path to the Nation's collective prosperity. It does not move us forward. The Democrats and members of the Congressional Black Caucus propose that we move America forward.

I thank you for the opportunity to address these important issues.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Congresswoman BEATTY. We appreciate your leadership and your hard work.

Mr. Speaker, can I just confirm our remaining time, please.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

For the remaining time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn to two of our members on the Budget Committee, people who have heard firsthand the devastating cuts from the House Republican proposal and who have worked so hard to lay out the alternative proposal for the Congressional Black Caucus.

First, Representative BOBBY SCOTT from Virginia, thank you for your hard work and that of your staff. And after him, Representative JEFFRIES from New York.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Thank you. And I thank the gentleman for yielding. I was on the Budget Committee—I'm not this year—but I have done a lot of work on the Budget Committee.

Mr. HORSFORD. I think you should be back.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Thank you. And I want to thank you for your leadership. I want to thank the gentleman from Nevada for his leadership on this matter, and the chair of the Black Caucus, MARCIA FUDGE.

□ 2010

Mr. Speaker, the Simpson-Bowles Commission several years ago set a \$4 trillion, 10-year deficit reduction goal as the amount of deficit reduction we needed to get our budget under control. The CBC does not endorse the specific recommendations of that goal, but our budget does accept the overall spending limitations of the deficit reduction goals.

Based on most analyses, we have already passed, and the President has

signed into law, approximately \$2.4 trillion in deficit reduction through 2022, not including the sequester. So to reach the goal, we need an additional \$1.6 trillion in deficit reduction. So working off the CBO's baseline, we first instruct the Ways and Means Committee to enhance revenues by \$2.7 trillion over the next 10 years. That is not an extraordinary figure. Just a few weeks ago, we passed a \$3.9 trillion extension in tax cuts. So going back over that and coming up with \$2.7 trillion is certainly within the realm of possibility.

Now, we don't just make the number up. We show \$4.2 trillion in possible options in coming up with the \$2.7 trillion. That would include limiting the deductibility of corporate interest payments, ending a lot of numerous special interest tax breaks that corporations enjoy; money can be raised by capital gains and dividends being taxed as ordinary income without a special benefit; a surcharge of 5.4 percent on that portion of your income over a million dollars—a speculator's tax—reducing the extension of tax cuts down to the first \$250,000 rather than \$450,000 of income; and several other specific recommendations to choose from to show that the \$2.7 trillion is a reasonable figure.

Now, I know those are unpopular; but they're not nearly as unpopular as the sequester and cuts in health care, particularly Medicare and Medicaid. The revenue enhancements called for will be used to first cancel the sequester. Everybody's talking about how bad it is. Our budget cancels the sequester altogether. Then we pay for a \$500 billion jobs plan that will put at least 45 million Americans back at work. And then we provide an additional \$280 billion in long-term investments in our economy through education, job training, health care, and advanced science and research.

Even with these investments, our budget is projected to reduce the deficit by approximately \$2.8 trillion over the decade, compared to the CBO's baseline, which, incidentally, does not include the savings that we will achieve through the winding down of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. That will put us on a sustainable goal. It more than meets the Simpson-Bowles goal. So we feel that is a responsible goal. This number is actually pessimistic because with the jobs bill, we think we're going to do a lot better because of the stimulative effect it has on the economy.

Now, this is in stark contrast to the committee report, which has vague numbers—numbers that don't add up or don't give you a clue as to how they're going to get the money. The budget has a reduction in tax rates, does not say how you're going to make that revenue-neutral or by where you're going to find the \$4 trillion to \$5 trillion in taxes that would be needed to make it revenue-neutral. They block-grant Medicaid. By the time you get to the

end of 10 years, it's about one-third of what it needs to be to maintain present benefits. Two-thirds of Medicaid are the elderly and disabled. So if you're cutting them, what exactly are your plans for them?

If you look at their budget, they claim \$4.5 trillion in deficit reduction. A trillion is repealing ObamaCare, but keeping all of the taxes and pay-fors that paid for ObamaCare, and \$1.5 billion is cutting Medicaid and Medicare. So that's almost a trillion in unspecified mandatory spending. Most mandatory spending is Social Security. They don't specify where that's coming from. Three-fourths of the rest is interest on what is not going to happen.

On the other hand, the CBC budget specifically outlines where we're going to get the money. Then, it creates 5 million jobs, invests in education, transportation, health care, and research. And in the end, it has more than the Simpson-Bowles goal of deficit reduction. It is a plan that's specific. It can be done. And if we adopt the Congressional Black Caucus budget, we will more than achieve the Simpson-Bowles goals of deficit reduction and create 5 million jobs.

I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Congressman SCOTT. Again, thank you for your very hard work and that of your staff in bringing this forward.

To close this out, to lay out the two options and approaches that are before us, we have what I would like to coin as the Compassionate People's Budget, offered by the Congressional Black Caucus, and we have the Austerity Budget. Now, the Compassionate Budget is focused on the people and the Austerity Budget continues to protect special interest and corporate interest. And to talk more about that, the gentleman from New York, Representative JEFFRIES.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank my good friend, the distinguished gentleman from the Silver State, for his leadership in co-anchoring the CBC Special Order and for giving me the opportunity to lay out as best I can the contrasting visions as represented by the CBC budget—and we're thankful for the leadership of Representative BOBBY SCOTT in that regard—and the GOP budget.

We're at a crossroads in America, a fork in the road, and we can go in one of two different directions. And one direction is a compassionate path, as set forth by the Congressional Black Caucus. The other direction is a more regressive, mean-spirited path, as set forth by the GOP budget.

The CBC budget is designed to create progress for the greatest number of people possible here in America. The GOP budget endorses the view of prosperity for the few. The CBC budget takes a balanced approach to dealing with the economic situation that we find ourselves in here in America. The GOP budget balances the budget on the

backs of the most vulnerable in our society. The CBC budget will create jobs for Americans. The GOP budget will cost us hundreds of thousands of jobs. These are two very different visions for where we need to go here in America.

A balanced approach has four different elements. First, invest in the American economy. Second, raise revenue by closing corporate loopholes that are unfair, unjust, and in many instances, unconscionable—tax breaks for corporate jets, tax subsidies for big oil companies that are making record profits, tax incentives for American companies to ship our jobs overseas. The CBC budget will close these wasteful corporate loopholes.

Third, we look for savings by cutting waste, fraud, and abuse; and we take this approach because of the sensitive nature of our fragile economic recovery. You can't just cut the budget with a meat cleaver without hurting the American people. And, lastly, the CBC balanced approach stands up for important programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid that have nothing to do with the economic mess that we find ourselves in right now.

We don't have a short-term deficit crisis in America. That's what the independent objective economists have concluded. The Speaker of the House of Representatives has acknowledged we don't have a short-term deficit crisis. The chairman of the Budget Committee just yesterday acknowledged that we don't have a short-term deficit crisis.

We've gained 6 million jobs over the last 4-plus years, but we still have a long way to go. We've got a jobs crisis.

□ 2020

Now, corporate profits are way up, the stock market is way up, the productivity of the American worker is way up, but the reality is consumer demand remains stagnant. That's why we have to invest in the American economy, invest in transportation and infrastructure, research and development, invest in technology and innovation, education and job training, as the CBC budget compassionately does.

Now, the other budget balances itself on the backs of the poor, children, senior citizens, working families, and the middle class. Now, they'll say we're trying to put forth misinformation to scare the American people. That's a cute observation, but it has no factual basis.

The GOP budget cuts Medicaid by \$810 billion. That's not a scare tactic; that's reality.

The GOP budget voucherizes Medicare so that in the future the health care costs wouldn't be covered by this voucher program in the manner that it is right now. That's not a scare tactic; that's reality.

The GOP budget cuts spending on higher education by \$168 billion. That's not a scare tactic; that's reality.

That's why we are putting forth a compassionate budget to put the American people back to work.

Mr. HORSFORD. The CBC budget re-focuses the priorities where it should be, on the middle class. The CBC budget will save up to 2 million public and private sector jobs just from the cancellation of the sequester alone.

Bottom line, Mr. Speaker: job creation is our number one priority with this budget. We put Americans back to work, we protect the vital social programs they rely on, and we call on everyone to contribute to growing our economy and strengthening our recovery. This is a balanced approach that the American people are calling for.

We're urging our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work with us to craft a commonsense budget proposal that creates jobs, that moves our country forward, and that protects the middle class and the poor.

I yield back the balance of my time.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2106

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) at 9 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 25, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 115, PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE 113TH CONGRESS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-21) on the resolution (H. Res. 122) providing for consideration of 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; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 115) providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CICILLINE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical surgery.

Mr. NADLER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and March 19 on account of attending a funeral.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 19, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

731. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the Department is taking essential steps to award a multiyear contract for 32 E-2D Advanced Hawkeye aircraft; to the Committee on Armed Services.

732. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's semiannual Monetary Policy Report pursuant to Pub. L. 106-569; to the Committee on Financial Services.

733. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Assistance to States for the Education of Children With Disabilities [Docket ID: ED-2011-OSERS-0012] (RIN: 1820-AB64) received February 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

734. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's FY 2012 annual performance report to Congress required by the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

735. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Health Insurance Market Rules; Rate Review [CMS-9972-F] (RIN: 0938-AR40) received March 7, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

736. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2014 [CMS-9964-F] (RIN:0938 AR51) received March 1, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

737. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, Agency for International Development, transmitting a formal response to GAO report GAO-13-34; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

738. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting an intention to transfer jurisdictional control of certain classes of items currently on the United States Munitions List to the Commerce Control List, pursuant to Section 38(f)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.