

just support the budget that they think makes a lot of sense.

Probably we will be debating the budgets next week. Probably we will have a vote. We think it is important for Americans to tune in to this debate. Because if you are an American person and you are busy, you are trying to raise kids, you are trying to work on time, and you are trying to earn a living, you don't have time to be plugged in to politics like some of us who do this our whole lives. You are busy. But you are smart and you know what is going on.

I am going to ask Americans to actually slow down and say: Hey, look, what is going on in this budget? What does the Republican budget look like? They want to cut taxes. They don't want overseas corporations to return those profits and pay taxes on that. The Progressive Caucus wants to let the little kids go to school, let the teenagers and the young adults go to school. They want to train our workforce, and they want to invest in our Nation's infrastructure.

I guarantee this is what the people in this country want to see.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for upholding the Progressive Caucus message, and I wish you very great success in the people's budget.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for this opportunity to share the good news about the Progressive budget and to inform those who are here as well as those who are at home what this budget represents.

One last issue that I think I would like to address that we may not have clearly or substantively articulated has to do with environmental issues. This budget acknowledges the devastating impact that we have had on the environment, and it takes concrete steps to reverse it, forcing polluters to pay for the carbon that is causing so much of our climate change, eliminating fossil fuel subsidies for Big Oil that, frankly, don't need government support, and ensuring EPA has the resources it needs to help reduce our carbon footprint.

We have spent this last 45, 50 minutes—I am thankful for this opportunity—sharing the good news about the people's budget, the Progressive budget, and I hope that anyone who has a need for additional information will seek this information out online.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

STRENGTHENING HIGHER EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KNIGHT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today, too many Americans struggle to realize the

dream of higher education. Our current system is unaffordable, inflexible, and outdated, and it has resulted in too many students unable to complete college, saddled with loan debt, and ill-equipped to compete in our modern economy.

In recent years, burdensome Federal regulations, a lack of transparency, and a dizzying maze of student aid programs have only contributed to the problem. Students and families deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, when my husband and I were in high school and contemplating the possibility of college, we were penniless people. In his case, his parents had no formal education—they couldn't read and write—and my family had very limited education, but we understood then that the way out of poverty was to go to college, work hard, and get a good job. Folks like us who had no resources could do that. It is very difficult for people in this day and time to do what he and I did. He graduated from college with a very small debt. I graduated from college with absolutely no debt because of working my way through. It did take me 7 years to do it, but I was able to do it.

Mr. Speaker, we want to be able to provide an environment in this country where people with very limited resources can do what my husband and I and millions of other young people did in the past, which is get a higher education without going deeply into debt to do so.

The upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act provides Congress an opportunity to help every individual—regardless of age, location, or background—access and complete higher education if they choose.

To inform the reauthorization process, the Education and the Workforce Committee has held 15 hearings over the last several years. After receiving feedback from students, institutions, innovators, administrators, and researchers, the committee established a set of key principles that will guide our reform of the postsecondary education law.

First, we must empower students and families to make informed decisions when it comes to selecting the institution that meets their unique needs. Today's higher education resources are incomplete and inaccurate and often complicate the financial aid process, misguiding students about their academic and financial options. Developing a more streamlined and transparent system, as well as enhancing financial literacy services, will help students better understand the higher education landscape and make choices based on easy-to-understand, relevant information.

Second, we must simplify and improve student aid. Currently, the Federal Government operates more than 10 aid programs, each with its own set of rules and requirements. Many students, particularly first-generation and

low-income students, are overwhelmed by the complexity of the current system, which can ultimately deter them from accessing the aid that will help make college a reality.

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Consolidating this patchwork of aid programs will simplify the application and eligibility process and help more students understand, manage, and repay their debt.

Third, we must promote innovation, access, and completion. In recent years, as the postsecondary student population has changed, many institutions have developed new approaches to delivering higher education, including competency-based curriculums and online classes.

The Federal Government should make every effort to support these innovations, as they have enabled more Americans to earn a degree or certificate faster with less cost and without additional disruption to their daily lives.

Finally, we must ensure strong accountability by limiting the Federal role. The current administration has subjected institutions to onerous regulations and requirements, which have created a costly and time-consuming process, hampered innovation, and jeopardized academic freedom.

Eliminating ineffective Federal burdens will provide States and institutions the flexibility they need to deliver effectively a high-quality education to their students.

We are confident that these pillars will translate into meaningful Federal reforms that reflect the evolving needs of students and the workforce.

Yesterday, the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training held its first hearing of the 114th Congress, where we heard policy recommendations on how we can strengthen America's higher education system to serve students, families, workers, and taxpayers better.

Former Indiana Governor and Purdue University President Mitch Daniels testified:

It is my great hope that this Congress will have the courage to see the challenges and treat reauthorization of the Higher Education Act as an opportunity for reform.

He continued:

The country needs a reauthorization that will reduce the costs of higher education's regulatory burdens, simplify and improve student aid, and create an environment more conducive to innovation in higher education.

Dr. Christine Keller, vice president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, stressed the need for "access to clear, meaningful data . . . to answer questions and provide essential information for higher education stakeholders—for students and families to make more informed decisions about where to attend college, for policymakers to determine allocations of public resources and evaluate institutional effectiveness, and for college leaders to facilitate innovation and successful student outcomes."

After outlining several opportunities for simplifying Federal aid, Mr. Michael Bennett, associate vice president for financial aid services at St. Petersburg College, recommended “a new repayment model that will simplify and streamline the repayment process by collapsing the various existing plans into two basic plans . . . simplifying repayment for students would certainly decrease default rates and the taxpayers’ burden of having to shoulder the costs of defaulted loans.”

In the coming months, there will be many conversations and what can be done to maintain the strength of our robust higher education system. We have a responsibility to act now to preserve our unique role in the world as a summit of opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I submit for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the attached copy of the rules of the Committee on Education and the Workforce for the U.S. House of Representatives for the 114th Congress:

RULE 1. REGULAR, ADDITIONAL, AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

(a) Regular meetings of the Committee shall be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m., while the House is in session. The Committee shall meet for the consideration of a bill or resolution pending before the Committee or the transaction of other committee business on regular meeting days fixed by the Committee if notice is given in accordance with paragraph (g)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(b) The Chair may call and convene, as he or she considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business.

(c) If at least three members of the Committee desire that a special meeting of the Committee be called by the Chair, those members may file in the offices of the Committee their written request to the Chair for that special meeting. Immediately upon the filing of the request, the staff director of the Committee shall notify the Chair of the filing of the request. If, within three calendar days after the filing of the request, the Chair does not call the requested special meeting to be held within seven calendar days after the filing of the request, a majority of the members of the Committee may file in the offices of the Committee their written notice that a special meeting of the Committee will be held, specifying the date and hour thereof, and the measure or matter to be considered at that special meeting. Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the staff director of the Committee shall notify all members of the Committee that such meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour and the measure or matter to be considered. Such notice shall also be made publicly available in electronic form and shall satisfy the notice requirements in clause (g)(3)(A)(ii) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The Committee shall meet on that date and hour and only the measure or

matter specified in that notice may be considered at that special meeting.

(d) Legislative meetings of the Committee and its subcommittees shall be open to the public, including radio, television, and still photography coverage, unless such meetings are closed pursuant to the requirements of the Rules of the House of Representatives. No business meeting of the Committee, other than regularly scheduled meetings, may be held without each member being given reasonable notice.

(e) The Chair of the Committee or of a subcommittee, as appropriate, shall preside at meetings or hearings. In the absence of the Chair of the Committee or of a subcommittee, members shall preside as provided in clause 2(d) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. No person other than a Member of Congress or Congressional staff may walk in, stand in, or be seated at the rostrum area during a meeting or hearing of the Committee or subcommittee unless authorized by the Chair.

RULE 2. STANDING SUBCOMMITTEES AND JURISDICTION

(a) There shall be four standing subcommittees. In addition to conducting oversight in the area of their respective jurisdictions as required in clause 2 of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, each subcommittee shall have the following jurisdiction:

Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.—Education from early learning through the high school level, including but not limited to elementary and secondary education, special education, homeless education, and migrant education; overseas dependent schools; career and technical education; school safety and alcohol and drug abuse prevention; school lunch and child nutrition programs; educational research and improvement including the Institute of Education Sciences; environmental education; pre-service and in-service teacher professional development including Title II of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* and Title II of the *Higher Education Act*; early care and education programs including the *Head Start Act* and the *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act*; adolescent development and training programs, including but not limited to those providing for the care and treatment of certain at-risk youth, including the *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act* and the *Runaway and Homeless Youth Act*; and all matters dealing with child abuse and domestic violence, including the *Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act* and child adoption.

Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.—Education and training beyond the high school level, including but not limited to higher education generally, postsecondary student assistance and employment services, and the *Higher Education Act*; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; all domestic volunteer programs; all programs related to the arts and humanities, museum and library services, and arts and artifacts indemnity; postsecondary career and technical education, apprenticeship programs, and job training, including the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*; vocational rehabilitation, and training programs from immigration funding; science and technology programs; adult basic education (family literacy); all welfare reform programs, including work incentive programs and welfare-to-work requirements; poverty programs, including the *Community Services Block Grant Act* and the *Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)*; the *Native American Programs Act*; the *Institute of Peace*; and all matters dealing with programs and services for the elderly including

nutrition programs and the *Older Americans Act*.

Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.—Wages and hours of workers, including but not limited to the *Davis-Bacon Act*, the *Walsh-Healey Act*, the *Service Contract Act*, and the *Fair Labor Standards Act*; workers’ compensation including the *Federal Employees’ Compensation Act*, the *Longshore and Harbor Workers’ Compensation Act*, and the *Black Lung Benefits Act*; the *Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act*; the *Family and Medical Leave Act*; the *Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act*; the *Employee Polygraph Protection Act of 1988*; trade and immigration issues as they affect employers and workers; workers’ safety and health, including but not limited to occupational safety and health, mine safety and health, and migrant and agricultural worker safety and health; and all matters related to equal employment opportunity and civil rights in employment.

Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.—All matters dealing with relationships between employers and employees, including but not limited to the *National Labor Relations Act*, the *Labor-Management Relations Act*, and the *Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act*; the Bureau of Labor Statistics; and employment-related health and retirement security, including pension, health, and other employee benefits and the *Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA)*.

(b) The majority party members of the Committee may provide for such temporary, ad hoc subcommittees as determined to be appropriate.

RULE 3. EX OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP

The Chair of the Committee and the ranking minority party member (“Ranking Member”) shall be ex officio members, but not voting members, of each subcommittee to which such Chair or Ranking Member has not been assigned.

RULE 4. SUBCOMMITTEE SCHEDULING

(a) Subcommittee chair shall set meeting or hearing dates after consultation with the Chair and other subcommittee chair with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings, wherever possible. No such meetings or hearings, however, shall be held outside of Washington, D.C., or during a recess or adjournment of the House of Representatives without the prior authorization of the Committee Chair. Where practicable, 14 days’ notice will be given of such meeting or hearing.

(b) Available dates for subcommittee meetings during the session shall be assigned by the Chair to the subcommittees as nearly as practicable in rotation and in accordance with their workloads. As far as practicable, the Chair shall not schedule simultaneous subcommittee markups, a subcommittee markup during a full Committee markup, or any hearing during a markup.

RULE 5. SUBCOMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the Committee shall be the rules of its subcommittees.

RULE 6. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT OF MEMBERS

To facilitate the oversight and other legislative and investigative activities of the Committee, the Chair of the Committee may, at the request of a subcommittee chair, make a temporary assignment of any member of the Committee to such subcommittee for the purpose of constituting a quorum and of enabling such member to participate in any public hearing, investigation, or study by such subcommittee to be held outside of Washington, D.C. Any member of the Committee may attend public hearings of any subcommittee and any member of the Committee may question witnesses only when