

Congressional Budget Office warned Congress and President Obama that America's current financial path is "unsustainable," meaning that America faces a debilitating insolvency and bankruptcy unless we get our financial house in order.

The CBO issued two other dire warnings:

First, America's debt service costs will increase by, roughly, \$600 billion in 10 years. For perspective, \$600 billion is more than what America spends on national defense, which begs the question: Where will the money for that additional \$600 billion debt payment come from?

Second, the CBO warns that, by 2025, America will face an unending string of annual trillion-dollar deficits, deficits that can only end in a debilitating American insolvency and bankruptcy.

Mr. Speaker, economic principles don't care if you are a family, a business, or a country. If you borrow more money than you can pay back, you go bankrupt.

There are good and bad ways to raise the debt ceiling. Today's debt bill is bad because it not only fails to restrain America's spending addiction, it makes things worse by increasing spending by \$80 billion.

I have been in Congress since 2011, when America's debt blew through the \$14 trillion mark. Now America's debt is \$18 trillion. This debt deal blows America's debt through the \$19 trillion mark, meaning America's bank account will soon be \$5 trillion weaker than it was in 2011.

Rather than fixing America's deficit problem while we still have the financial ability to do so, this debt deal kicks the can down the road to 2017, when America will be financially weaker and less able to rise to the financial challenge that threatens us.

Mr. Speaker, today's debt bill is akin to a sick patient going to the emergency room and getting pain-killing drugs that make the patient feel better, yet does nothing to cure the disease that kills him. In the real world, that is medical malpractice. Similarly, today's debt bill that makes America feel good, but does nothing to cure our debt disease, is governing malpractice.

President George Washington advised Congress: "No pecuniary consideration is more urgent than the regular redemption and discharge of the public debt. On none can delay be more injurious."

George Washington's advice in 1793 is prudent today. Congress and President Obama must balance the budget before America's debt burden spirals out of control, before it is too late to prevent the debilitating insolvency and bankruptcy that awaits us.

Mr. Speaker, I exhort Washington to rise to the challenge and be financially responsible when raising the debt ceiling. The first step is to defeat this debt bill that not only fails to fix a time-critical problem, but that actually makes America's spending addiction

\$80 billion worse. America's future as a great Nation and a world power depends on it.

I will vote against this debt deal. I urge my colleagues to be financially responsible—do the same—and insist that the debt ceiling be raised only if we simultaneously fix America's addiction to deficit spending. Today's debt ceiling bill fails that benchmark. It threatens America. It should be defeated.

#### THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we are in the process of wrapping up a budget agreement that is welcome since it protects against default on the national debt and prevents draconian cuts for disability payments and unfairness in Medicare premiums for our senior citizens; but it continues a downward spiral in government spending for essential items that would improve America's infrastructure, education, medical research, and much more. Yet, at the same time, we are continuing on autopilot with some of the largest expenditures for generations to come.

We had an announcement yesterday that we will be replacing the next generation of stealth bombers for our nuclear triad—up to 100 of them—at an estimated cost of over \$550 million each, and that is just the estimated shelf price, the opening bid, plus another \$20 billion in development costs.

Our history of developing weapons of this magnitude is that from the opening bid, the price is likely to spiral much higher in the future. The same contractor, Northrop Grumman, which won this bid, could only build 21 B-2s out of a planned 132 as the costs spiraled to over \$1 billion a plane.

This comes at a time when we are committed to spending over \$1 trillion in the coming decades in upgrading our nuclear fleet. Think about it: 12 new ballistic missile submarines, up to 100 new long-range, nuclear-capable bombers, 642 new land-based ballistic missiles, 1,000 new nuclear-capable, long-range standoff cruise missiles.

And why are we doing this in the first place?

Think for a moment. These weapons that we have already are far in excess of anything America will ever need—a destructive capacity to obliterate any nation multiple times over—yet, we are moving ahead without ever discussing this spending here on the House floor as to whether or not it is what we need.

Think about the security threats of today in terms of an inability to withstand the devastating impacts of climate change on our communities, the threats from ISIS, different challenges of encroachment from Russia and China—not nuclear attack, but moving

ahead in building artificial islands, invading neighboring countries. These are threats now—the Taliban, international terrorism—and we are committed to spending vast sums on weapons that we are never likely to use and are useless against the real threats we face.

We don't need 454 land-based nuclear missiles now. These end up threatening us. Look at the recently released information about the stand-down around Russian paranoia in 1983 regarding NATO exercises. We didn't realize how panicked they were or the steps that they took. That is the real threat from nuclear weapons, accident or miscalculation.

Consider the opportunity costs of vast sums of money that we are tying up that could be used for other purposes, including strengthening our military for today's threats or helping our veterans or our communities on what is bearing down upon them or equipping our citizens to function in this century.

We just had a fascinating lesson when the Export-Import Bank was freed from the iron grasp of the committee and was allowed to actually be debated on the floor of the House. It had been bottled up for years. It had never had that sort of attention. We had more time and energy spent on the Ex-Im Bank over the last 50 hours than, probably, the last 50 years—certainly, in the last 50 months.

What would happen if Congress actually addressed and debated the wisdom of our current nuclear policies and the vast sums of money that are being spent on autopilot that will be chewing a hole in the budget to the detriment of the Department of Defense and everything else?

There is a lesson to be learned, and I hope someday Congress will learn it, because there is a path for a stronger, safer America, for more meaningful, targeted military spending, and for a balanced, thoughtful budget prioritization. If Congress does its job in the open, collectively, the decision becomes easier and the results become better.

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#### CONGRATULATING STUDENTS AT NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the students from Pennsylvania participating in this week's National Future Farmers of America, or FFA, convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

"I believe in the future of agriculture." Those are the first words from the FFA creed. The Pennsylvania group is among 60,000 FFA members at this week's convention, participating in a variety of competitions and stressing the importance of agriculture to our Nation.

Among Pennsylvania's State officers attending the convention is Tony Rice. Tony is a student at the Pennsylvania State University's main campus in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, and Tony is one of 52 national officer candidates traveling to Louisville.

Each year, six student members are selected as national officers of the FFA. These young men and women travel as many as 100,000 miles per year, stressing the importance of agriculture, agriculture education, and the FFA. Candidates are judged upon their ability to be effective communicators and team players.

Over the past years, Tony Rice has met with more than 12,000 high school students to address the important role that agriculture plays in Pennsylvania's economy as Pennsylvania's number one industry.

Now, I not only commend Tony Rice for his dedication to the future of this industry but also his fellow FFA members and the educators who have helped these young people, who will be the agricultural leaders of tomorrow, succeed.

#### END CHILDHOOD HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest health challenges facing our country right now is hunger. We have a hunger problem in the United States of America.

For far too long, we have minimized the problem. Some have even ignored the problem. In short, our response has been inadequate. And we have failed to view hunger as a health issue, which it is. For our Nation's youngest and most vulnerable, our children, the negative effects of childhood hunger are pervasive and long-lasting.

So last week I was pleased to see the American Academy of Pediatrics release its newest policy statement which, for the first time, recommends that pediatricians screen all children for food insecurity. The new recommendations consist of two simple questions for pediatricians to ask parents of young children at their annual well visit to identify and address childhood hunger. It also recommends that pediatricians become more familiar with our robust system of antihunger programs at the Federal, State, and local levels. When pediatricians know more about these antihunger programs and the resources they provide, they will be better prepared to help families in need.

Pediatricians are among the most respected, if not the most respected, voices on children's issues; and I hope that, with the AAP's policy statement, more people will start paying attention to the devastating effects of childhood hunger on America's future.

It is shameful that childhood hunger even exists in this country, the richest

country in the world, that one in five children lives in a food insecure household, that 17.2 million households in this country struggle with food insecurity, that the only reliable healthy meals some kids receive are the ones they get through school breakfasts or lunches. Their mothers and fathers are forced to skip meals so that their kids can have more to eat because the family simply cannot afford to put enough food on the table.

The harmful effects of hunger on children are well documented: for example, children who live in households that are food insecure get sick more often, recover more slowly from illness, have poorer overall health, and are hospitalized more frequently.

Children and adolescents affected by food insecurity are more likely to be iron deficient, and preadolescent boys dealing with hunger issues have lower bone density. Early childhood malnutrition is also tied to conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease later in life.

Lack of adequate healthy food can impair a child's ability to concentrate and perform well in school and is linked to higher levels of behavioral and emotional problems from preschool through adolescence.

I have personally heard from pediatricians who see kids in the emergency room come in for a common cold that has become much worse because they don't have enough to eat, and their immune systems have been compromised. Stories like these are heartbreaking.

Mr. Speaker, we know that consistent access to adequate nutritious food is one of the best medicines for growing, thriving children. Children's Health Watch, a national network of pediatricians and child health professionals, found that, in comparison to children whose families were eligible but did not receive SNAP, young children whose families received SNAP were significantly less likely to be at risk of being underweight or experiencing developmental delays.

If Members of Congress are not swayed by the moral arguments for ending childhood hunger, they ought to be swayed by the economic ones. Ensuring that our kids have access to enough nutritious food saves money in the form of reduced healthcare costs and helps them become more productive contributors to our economy later in life.

Mr. Speaker, without our robust Federal antihunger programs, there would no doubt be more hungry children in this country.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, or WIC, provides nutritious food and support for children and mothers. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, is our Nation's premiere antihunger program and helps millions of low-income families afford to purchase food every month. About half of all SNAP recipients are children. And our school

breakfast and lunch programs, summer meals, and Child and Adult Food Care Programs all provide nutritious meals to children in community, child-friendly settings.

We can't forget about the incredible work our food banks, food pantries, and other charities do to provide healthy food for low-income children and their families. Despite the incredible work that they do, charities cannot do it alone. The demand is simply too great. Charities need a strong Federal partner to end hunger in this country.

Mr. Speaker, for a while now, I have been urging the White House to convene a White House conference on food, nutrition, and hunger. We ought to bring antihunger groups, pediatricians, business leaders, teachers, hospitals, farmers, nonprofits, faith leaders, and governmental officials together to come up with a plan to end hunger in this country once and for all. I can think of no more compelling reason to end hunger now than for the health and well-being of America's children.

In closing, I commend the American Academy of Pediatrics for working to solve hunger as a health issue and addressing how it affects our country's greatest resource: our children. We can and we should do more to end hunger now.

#### ISIS MUST GO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, it has now been 1,532 days since President Obama said Syria's Bashar Assad must go. Guess what? He is still there.

It has been 789 days since President Obama drew the red line in the sand, so to speak, and told Assad not to use chemical weapons on his own people. Well, he ignored that. And he used chemical weapons, and he continues to use chemical weapons and kill his own people.

What we are seeing in Syria—the rise of ISIS, the refugee crisis of tens of thousands of people, children having to migrate northward to get out of Syria, the civil war—are all the direct results of the President's unwillingness to stand by his word.

Now Russia is in Syria. They are telling the U.S. on our own soil that America is weak. Look at what they have done in Ukraine. We didn't do anything but give rhetoric and words. Nothing to push Putin back to where he should be.

America is losing her standing in the world, and we would rather appease our enemies than show our strength. This administration still has no strategy for handling ISIS, no tangible plan for defeating Assad, and seemingly no will to stand up to Russia's aggression.

Assad must go. ISIS must go. ISIS must be defeated. America must stand firm and show the world we are a force to be reckoned with, not to be trampled on.