future generations. We know there is a health care crisis in this country.

The good news has been seniors have not been part of it. The Republicans are going to put seniors in that crisis.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION INCORPORATING THE BUDGET RESOLUTION INTO LAW

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I wonder how many Americans feel that there is fraud and abuse, wasteful spending, that there is fat in this Federal Government, that the overspending of the Federal Government is leading us into a debt situation that is going to be intolerable for our kids and our grandkids.

Over the last couple of months, as Republicans have tried to cut spending, in every occasion the other side of the aisle says, ''Well, you are cruel and mean-spirited.'' I am afraid that we are not going to reach a balanced budget; I think we need more legislative determination to assure that we do that.

I have introduced a bill called H.R. 2295 that incorporates the budget resolution that we passed, in the House and the Senate, into law. It changes the 1974 Budget Act to incorporate into law those spending caps that will last until 2002. That legislation is going to help give politicians the intestinal fortitude to do what we should do, and that is balance the budget.

THE REPUBLICAN STUDENT LOAN PLAN

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I could not believe what I heard from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle the other day. They were saying that the Republicans are wrecking education and destroying millions of Americans' future. This is an issue very near and dear to my heart. Both my wife and daughter are public school teachers, my children grew up in public schools, and I know how important education is to future generations.

The problem is that President Clinton does not want to balance the budget. If he did, he would stop coming to Congress with his plans that only increase Government taking and Government spending. President Clinton believes in big government. In fact, he thinks the solution to our student loan problems is to convert the Department of Education into one of America's largest banks and the IRS into a loan collection agency. One thing I have come to learn in my short time in Washington is that the Federal Government has failed miserably as a lender of money.

The Republicans balanced budget proposal does not cut a single student loan. In fact, more loans will be available next year than ever in the history of the program. This can be accomplished, not in the public, but the private sector.

What is the Democrat alternative? Well, as usual, big Government.

TAX CUT FINANCED BY MEDICARE CUT

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, during the closing weeks of this legislative debate, the people of the United States should focus on two numbers, 270 and 235. Keep those numbers in mind during the course of this debate about balancing the budget and the future of Medicare.

You see, the Republicans have proposed $270 billion in cuts in Medicare over the next 7 years, cuts which will raise the cost of Medicare for seniors, limit the medical procedures that are covered, reduce the opportunity for a senior citizen to choose his or her own doctor, reduce provider payments to hospitals and doctors, $270 billion in cuts. They tell us we need it to balance the budget.

Do not forget the other number, 245, $245 billion tax cut which the Republicans are proposing while we are trying to balance the budget. Is it not amazing how close those two numbers are, 270 and 245? If the Republicans would give up on the $245 billion tax cut, we would not have to cut Medicare.

THE REAL QUESTIONS ABOUT MEDICARE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, my colleague on the other side of the aisle asked if we who have spoken about this very important issue of Medicare would simply join him in trying to fix it.

Let me share just a portion of the letters that I have gotten from senior citizens who say, ''Yes, fix it, but save Medicare,'' and the real questions begin to come out, and those questions are, in fact, what the real issues are about Medicare's survival.

No, it is not bankrupt. Yes, we need to fix fraud and abuse. The real question is the $245 billion cut in Medicare that is being proposed to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.

What are the other questions? No. 1, the increased premium costs that will go to your seniors and those working-class Americans who have to take care of their parents. The other question? The lack of choice by seniors and whether or not HMO's will be willing to take the least healthy of our seniors, those who are the most sick, and whether or not in rural and urban centers in America, those seniors will fall either upon you the taxpayer or fall upon hard times because of an inability to get proper health care. Those are the real questions I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Let us fix it for the seniors. Save Medicare the right way.

SENIORS CANNOT AFFORD INCREASED MEDICARE COSTS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I listened this morning to what the Speaker said about the Medicare issue. I was very upset because of this suggestion that somehow this is all politics, and I assure you it is not about politics.

If you talk to seniors in my district, they are very concerned because they do not have the extra money to spend for an increased premium in Medicare part B. They are concerned because they have had the same doctor or they have been able to go to a hospital that is close by for a number of years, and now all of a sudden they are hearing that they may have to go into an HMO or a managed care system where they will not have the choice of the doctor that they have had for years or the hospital that is close by. They cannot afford it. They have a budget, some of them, where $10 or $15 a month makes all the difference in the world because that is all they have to spend after they have figures out their budget for a month, and whether we talk about a $7 increase or a $30 increase or a $50 increase in Medicare part B, they cannot afford that difference, because they simply do not have the money on the fixed income they are living on.

I also have to tell you about the hospitals and providers.

PERMISSION FOR CERTAIN COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Science, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.