them for the last 2 months, that comes to about $1,000, we have 200,000 active duty GIs who in the Republican tax bill are not provided the full $1,000 tax credit. Somehow we have put in this administration and in this Congress more priority on the 200,000 no-show Iraqis who are getting $20 a day than our active men and women who are getting shot at and could lose their lives. They deserve a tax cut.

I noted the other day in our commitment to Iraq for reconstruction, we committed to 20,000 units of housing reconstruction; and yet here in America under the President's budget, there are only 5,000 units of public housing. We committed to 13 million Iraqis getting universal health care, half the population, yet not a dime for America for the uninsured who work full time. We committed to rebuilding 12,500 schools in Iraq, yet in many of our schools across this country, there are no dollars for investment in remodernization.

What make Iraqis and the investments in Iraq more important than investments here? I support rebuilding Iraq, given the war; but we should not deconstruct here in America. We have set a set of priorities and principles in place that has put America behind where we put our priorities overseas. This administration needs to remember that here at home working families deserve a tax cut, the 12 million children of working parents, 6.5 million working families who will not get the $1,000 tax cut because this Congress, under the stewardship and leadership of this administration, is too busy.

Yet the Premier of Pakistan came in and walked out with an equal amount of dollars, $3.5 billion. In Iraq, folks will be getting $20 a day who do not show up for work, yet our GIs on active duty will not get the full $1,000 tax cut they are promised. Where are the values? Where are the principles that say you should do that? I think I know a number of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have good values. We have talked about our families, our hopes and faith. If their mothers knew what they were doing here, giving 200,000 Iraqis $20 a day, denying a tax cut to our GIs, I think they would have another view because those are not the values their mothers raised them with.

In closing, we make choices. President Kennedy once said to govern is to choose. I am saddened that, as we get ready to start sending out checks to the top 1 percent in the sense of wealth, that the 12 million children of working families will have been forgotten and will go without that tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, we will go home with unfinished business as it relates to our values and our principles. We should remember the folks who get up every morning, go to work, try to make that paycheck stretch all the way to the 31st of the month. We should remember what they are trying to do with their children, to know the difference between right from wrong; and what do we say to them, we are going to keep that speed bump in your way so your day is harder. But somehow, we are putting a better sense of values on the Premier of Pakistan who walked out in one day with $3.5 billion, equal to the amount it would cost to rectify the error in the conference when the Republican leadership of the Senate and the Republican leadership of the House and the Vice President of the United States sat in the room and cut those kids out of the tax cut.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BETTER PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN NEEDED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues tonight. Many of the women of the United States Congress have made a commitment to their constituents to represent them in a very fair manner, but they also recognize the importance of not leaving the sensitivity and the understanding of the needs of the women of America at the door as they take their oath to be Members of Congress.

So today I rise to join my colleagues to emphasize the importance of the Medicare prescription drug debate on the women of America. This is one of the most important debates; and unfortunately, as we rallied today with many of the senior citizens from all over the country, many of them were women. We were not able to say to them that this House had come to a reasonable conclusion and a reasonable proposal that responds to their needs.

The Republican prescription drug plan ignores the needs of our sisters, mothers and grandmothers; and we oppose the passage of such legislation. It ignores the reality that women often outlive their male counterparts, making Medicare beneficiaries disproportionately female. It ignores the points that if these females outlive their spouses, in many instances their income is lower. Many might say does that not give them a double benefit? No it does not. In many instances they may be living on Social Security. That is not enough. They may also be living on a small pension; sometimes one is diminished because of the other. Social Security is lowered because you may have a small pension. Many of them are elderly, and many of them are sick. Some of them face catastrophic illnesses.

In the course of trying to live their life, provide housing, food, they have to make choices. I have seen constituents, particularly in the elderly population, who have had to choose prescription drugs over food and nutrition, who have had to choose prescription drugs over a place to live or the right kind of place to live.

It is very important tomorrow when we debate this issue, if we do, that we concentrate on this enormous deficit as relates to the Republican plan, the doughnut, the hole, if you will, that our dear friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), has so eloquently articulated, the very large gap between the monies you receive and the amount of monies you will ultimately get at a point when you max out, if you will. $2,000 maybe, and then for a long period of time our senior citizens, those who will be under Medicare, will get no money whatsoever until they reach a certain amount.

Mr. Speaker, this is intolerable. It makes it very difficult for someone on a fixed budget. This makes any decision regarding the future of Medicare critically important to millions of women, and that is because they live in many instances a longer period of time. And many women spend time out of the workforce caring for their children and sometimes for their own parents. Let me add another component. Many women sometimes go into a second generation of raising their grandchildren, and so they have the expenses of their grandchildren; but yet they have the needs of their own health needs. While in the workforce, they often earn less than their male counterparts, and for these reasons women earn less then men over their lifetime and their Social Security monthly benefits are smaller.

As a result, an older woman is more likely to face serious financial pressures, and she needs Medicare to be meaningful. She needs us to close the doughnut. We need a guaranteed prescription drug benefit that provides an even, unending source of guaranteed prescription drug benefit to provide the support that these women need. This is not done by the Republican plan. In fact, what the Republican plan does is it unravels the safety net that has been provided for older women.