this body apparently feel that spending $35 billion on a highly successful program that provides health care to uninsured children is excessive.

It's time for Republicans to stop blindly following the President and start helping American families.

THE TAXPAYER CHOICE ACT

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I want to bring before the body this morning an issue that needs more attention, not less, and that is the issue of the huge blob that ate the American Dream called the alternative minimum tax. One thing that we are seeing is that the alternative minimum tax, Madam Speaker, is set to rise at a level so unprecedented that the American economy has not experienced anything like this in the last 40 years.

Right now, the tax burden for the average American and to the economy is about 18.5 percent of GDP. If we don't scale back on the alternative minimum tax, we are looking at the tax burden of GDP being almost 24 percent by mid-century. We have never seen this level of taxation in our GDP. This means this money will come out of the pockets of the American taxpayer and will go into the coffers of the Federal Government.

This is a big concern, Madam Speaker, one that I am very concerned about, as I know most of the Members in this Chamber are as well.

In 1969, when the alternative minimum tax came in, it was 155 people. I will close with the fact that this year we are looking at 23 million Americans impacted.

PRESIDENT BUSH ASKS FOR ANOTHER $196 BILLION TO FUND THE WAR IN IRAQ IN 2008

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, yesterday President Bush asked Congress to rubber-stamp his plan to spend $196 billion next year on the war in Iraq. I have to tell the President: not a nickel more for this war.

Since the beginning of this year, congressional Democrats have been trying to change a war policy from one where our troops will stay there for more than a decade, to one where we have a responsible redeployment and bring the troops home next year. The President believes it's acceptable to spend billions of dollars in Iraq, while important domestic priorities here in our own country go unmet.

While the President was crafting his $196 billion war supplemental, the Democratic House approved appropriations bills that included targeted investments in our priorities here at home: education, health care for veterans, more police on the streets, caring for American families.

Madam Speaker, as Congress begins to examine the President's latest war-funding bill, we will once again demand that the President change course in Iraq and get a responsible plan to bring our troops home within the year.

SUPPORT FOR BELARUS

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the pro-democracy rally that took place in Belarus on October 7. During this event, thousands of protesters flooded the streets of the capital city in support of democracy and to demand free and fair elections. The protesters shouted ''Belarus and Europe,'' and they waved European Union flags to express outrage against Alexander Lukashenko. That is the person the State Department has labeled ''the last dictator of Europe.''

It is time for this dictator, who cheated his way into office by stealing the elections last year, to step aside, step down, and let the people decide who should lead their country through legitimate and clean elections. The world must not tolerate evil dictators, and this one must step aside to allow Belarus to join the modern world rather than suffer under the oppressive and selfish rule of one man.

I applaud, Madam Speaker, the courage of the protesters who took to the streets in Belarus, and I stand with them in their quest for freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

REAUTHORIZE SCHIP

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, President Bush and about 10 House Republicans are all that stand between 10 million children and the health care they need and deserve. I am deeply disappointed in the President's dumbfounding veto of the SCHIP bill. He reneged on his pledge he made when running for re-election in 2004.

The bill to reauthorize SCHIP continues coverage for 6 million kids currently covered and provides incentives for another 4 million kids who have been falling through the cracks of the health care system. The program continues to focus on low- and moderate-income families who earn too much for the Medicaid program, but can't afford private health care.

Madam Speaker, the big momentum behind this historic bill is growing exponentially and will not be stopped. To those blocking the SCHIP reauthorization from becoming law, I say either get on board, get out of the way, or get run over. The children's health care bill is on its way, either with or without you.

SCHIP supporters are even more determined than ever to get this done by the mid-November deadline. Let's all finish this job. For children's health care in America, it's fourth and goal on the 1-yard line. Working together, we can overpower anyone left blocking the way.

THE MEANING OF THE RESTORE ACT

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, as we listen to the comments of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, it is obvious that what they intend to do is to make this ''SCHIP Week'' and ''SCHIP Month.'' You kind of wonder why they are doing this.

Reflect back on last week when we had a most important vote scheduled for this floor that somehow was removed. It was called the FISA vote. It is the question of how we enable ourselves to protect us and our children and our grandchildren against the attacks of those who are terrorists around the world. We do it in many ways, but absolutely essential is intelligence.

Madam Speaker, the FISA bill, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, would have been destroyed by the bill placed on the floor last week by the majority, the so-called RESTORE Act. It actually gave greater protection to Osama bin Laden in a telephone conversation than an American citizen in the United States accused of a crime.

RESTORE: What does it mean? Repeal Effective Surveillance Techniques Opposing Real Enemies. Go out to NSA and see what they are doing. Understand what we need to do in this country and then bring a bill back to this floor that restores the ability of the United States to find out about our enemies before they attack.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH T. WHALUM, SR.

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, the City of Memphis, Tennessee, has lost one of its finest citizens, Kenneth Whalum, Sr.

Kenneth Whalum, Sr., passed away last night. He was a pastor, he was a two-time city councilman, he was a father, he was a family man, he was a leader in our community.

For 30 years, he was the pastor of the Olivet Baptist Church and very highly respected in the community and among the clergy. For 8 years, he was a city councilman, one time as a district councilman in a community known as Orange Mound. Then when he saw a higher calling and the need to address a higher subject, he ran against an incumbent city councilman, at the time