

tax liability eliminated. I suggest to you that there are millions and millions of families out there right now who are desiring this tax relief to become a reality. In fact, I was on a radio talk show this morning, one call after another saying, please, do not let the liberals back you down on family tax relief. They need it. We need it. America needs it.

I yield to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH].

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, what is so distressing to me is the fact that the numbers are just being misstated politically. I saw Leon Panetta this weekend say that the majority of the tax cuts that go to the families were for wealthy Americans.

The fact of the matter is, CBO has scored it that 89 percent, 89 percent of these tax cuts go to families making \$75,000 or less. What frightens me about this is that this is the liberal view, I guess, and the President's view of what now constitutes a rich person in America, a family with three or four people now making \$75,000 or less is, according to Leon Panetta on This Week with David Brinkley, is now a rich person in America. That is a truly sad view of America.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I would like to point out that the \$500 tax credit applies to a single person whose income is less than \$75,000. Only then would her child be given a \$500 tax credit and a married couple of 110. It is income sensitive to those families at that number and below.

I want to reiterate the fact that we have tax cuts in our 7-year plan. We actually eliminate some programs. We slow the growth of other programs. We take entitlements and we definitely slow the growth of entitlements. But with Medicare, Medicare was to grow at 10 or 11 percent. We did what Hillary Rodham Clinton suggested, that we get the growth of Medicare down to 6 to 7 percent. In fact it is actually 7.2 percent. It is .2 percent higher than the First Lady suggested it should be.

So what we are trying to do is slow the growth of certain programs. But if our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the President do not agree to that, it is a concept of opportunity cost. If you do not slow the growth of one program, where are you going to slow the growth of another program ultimately to balance the budget in 7 years?

So I would just say it is just a misrepresentation of the fact if someone suggests that we are saying they have to agree to our budget. The President does not have to agree to our budget. He has to, for the first time, submit a balanced budget. If I had my wallet in my hand, I would take it out and I would offer it to my colleagues on the other side if they could show me a budget from the President of the United States that is balanced in 7 years using the Congressional Budget Office numbers. It simply has not been done.

In fact, when the President submitted his last budget we put it up for a

vote and only a very few Members on either side of the aisle supported it. What we are asking is a balanced budget in 7 years, scored by the Congressional Budget Office. It does not have to be our budget. It can be their tax cuts, with or without.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. If the gentleman will continue to yield, this is an important point. Even though we believe that that is important to us, we will put that on the table. We will put everything on the table. All we want is a balanced budget for future generations. If we have to take up certain tax cuts next year, fine. I just want to see the President of the United States say that my children and future generations are important enough that the Federal Government finally spends only as much money as they take in. Everything is on the table but negotiating our children's future. We must balance the budget.

MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. WYNN].

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, let us get straight on these tax figures. The gentleman talks about the people who make \$30,000. They only get 13 percent of the total tax break. We could balance this budget and have a deal. Cut out the tax breaks for the wealthy. Just give it to the folks that make \$30,000. They are only getting 13 percent. The rich, over \$100,000, are getting almost half, almost 50 percent of the tax breaks.

In addition, they repeal the family tax credit so they are actually increasing the taxes on the middle class and working poor. They also give another windfall to the rich because they eliminate the alternative minimum tax. What does that mean? That means \$17 billion to the richest corporations in America. That is the truth about the so-called tax breaks.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. HEFNER].

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the gentleman from Connecticut, he talks about demagoguery, there was a little bit of demagoguery that took place on this floor yesterday when they offered up the sham on the President's budget that had not been scored. It had not been brought here by the President. The President did not request it. It did not go to the Committee on Rules. It had not one day of hearing, not reported out of any committee. There were no comments on it. The gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. SHAYS, has been around here a long time. He knows that was a sham to embarrass the President of the United States, and we are better than that.

I could not let him get away with saying that all those Members voted against the President's budget, because it was a sham and it was a disgrace to the most deliberative body in this country.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the American people do not just want a balanced budget.

They want a balanced budget.

And the Republican budget—which the President is rightfully resisting—is an unbalanced budget.

The Republican budget is unfairly balanced on the backs of seniors on Medicare.

It is unfairly balanced on the backs of the poor, the disabled and middle class families whose parents benefit from Medicaid.

It is unfairly balanced on the backs of the children of our public schools and students with student loans.

The Republican budget is a load off the backs of corporate welfare recipients, defense contractors, polluters, and all the other Republican special interest groups.

No issue more clearly divides Democrats and Republicans than Medicare and Medicaid reform.

The proposal to block grant Medicaid takes away the guarantee that poor people will receive health care.

At this time in history—when the gap between rich and poor is wider than ever—that is inexcusable.

The block grant proposal is predicated on a blind-faith fantasy, that States will come up with a magic formula, to do much more in health care for the poor with much less money.

If there are any such miracle cures to health care in New York State, I've certainly never heard of them.

And neither has anyone else in the New York hospital system.

What's more, this block grant proposal has no flexibility.

It will be most effective in providing health care for the poor during good economic times, and least effective in recessions, when America needs Medicaid most.

That stands the very purpose of Medicaid on its head.

The Republican Medicare plan is just as reckless, and just as cruel.

Cutting \$270 billion out of a program that needs a \$90 billion cut to remain solvent—and is so important to so many seniors—is outrageous.

Just as this proposal will hurt Medicaid and Medicare clients/it will also devastate Medicaid and Medicare providers.

Estimates vary, but it is clear that if the Republican plans are enacted, New York State will lose between \$40 and \$50 billion dollars.

That would endanger the very survival of literally every public hospital in New York City.

Two provisions are of particular concern to the city and State of New York

under the Republican Medicare proposal.

They are programs which took decades to evolve and refine.

If they are gutted by these senseless cuts, these programs will be virtually impossible to reconstruct.

The proposal to cut formulas for Medicare graduate medical education and disproportionate share payments would devastate New York's hospitals.

Fifteen percent of all medical residents in the America are educated in New York metropolitan area hospitals.

New York City's hospitals also serve an unusually high proportion of special needs patients: the elderly, the disabled, the chronically ill, and the poor.

Overall Medicare payment rates determine indirect Medical education and disproportionate share payments.

If those payments are reduced because of smaller inflation adjustments, New York's hospitals would be hit with a double whammy.

Graduate Medical Education would be further devastated by new restrictions on training international residents, who comprise 45 percent of all residents.

What country a resident comes from is unimportant as long as he or she is saving American lives.

New York's world-renowned hospital system is struggling to stay afloat TODAY.

These cuts are far in excess of what that system can absorb without catastrophic consequences.

Medicaid cuts will especially hurt New York nursing homes and other long-term care providers, who rely on Medicaid for 90 percent of all payments.

That will trickle down to middle class families, who could be bankrupted by simply giving their parents quality care in their old age.

Mr. Speaker, it comes down to this.

New York State, with 7 percent of the population, would absorb 11 percent of the cuts in Medicare and Medicaid.

New York City, with 2.9 percent of the population, would absorb 6.5 percent of these cuts.

These numbers don't just represent dollars.

These numbers represent lives.

Thousands of lives lost, ruined or needlessly compromised.

There are numbers in this budget that we can cut which will NOT represent lives.

It's time to spare these critically important health care programs for our seniors, our poor, our disabled and our people.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 134, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS TO ENSURE PAYMENT OF VETERANS BENEFITS

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-428) on the resolution (H. Res. 317) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 134) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1655, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-429) on the resolution (H. Res. 318) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1655) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 134, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS TO ENSURE PAYMENT OF VETERANS BENEFITS

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 317 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 317

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 134) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes. The joint resolution shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit. The motion to recommit may include instructions only if offered by the Minority Leader or his designee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. FROST], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 317 allows for consideration of House Joint Resolution 134, which will make further continuing appropriation to ensure that our veterans continue to receive the payment of their benefits during the budget negotiations and the current partial Government shutdown. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The rule also provides for one motion to recommit which may include instructions if offered by the minority leader or his designee.

Earlier this week, the President vetoed the conference report for the VA-HUD appropriations for fiscal year 1996,

and as a result, put the Government in the position of renegeing on its promise to pay veterans benefits checks. We cannot allow our veterans to lose these benefits, and this Congress will take any action to protect our service men and women and their families.

This is a simple resolution which deals with one specific issue in our Federal budget that we in Congress believe is important enough to merit this action. This resolution provides a temporary solution by ensuring the payment of veterans benefits in the event of a lack of appropriations through fiscal year 1996.

Mr. Speaker, the 3.3 million veterans in the United States and their dependents not only look forward to and need these benefits—they deserve these benefits. If we do not act on this temporary funding measure tonight, our veterans and their dependents who are expecting benefit checks will see a delay in the receipt of these critical funds.

I have co-sponsored this resolution and I strongly support this action to provide our veterans with the benefits that they have earned and rightly deserve. Despite the importance of the budget negotiations to the future of our Nation, there is no arguing that the men and women who have served this Nation do not deserve the financial uncertainty that may occur. Both parties are responsible for putting this Nation into the fiscal mess that we now face, but this resolution shows that we will not punish those who have put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms that we enjoy today.

This resolution was unanimously approved by the Rules Committee and it is a fair resolution that will assure that our veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank my colleague from Georgia for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker this continuing resolution is a very small step in the right direction.

This resolution says to American veterans that they should not have to pay the price for this ridiculous game of political brinkmanship my Republican colleagues are playing. What I do not understand Mr. Speaker, is why my republican colleagues believe the entire country should pay this price.

Why don't my republican colleagues tell the 383,000 people who are shut out of National Park Service facilities every day that Congress cares about them too?

Why don't my republican colleagues tell the 80,000 people who are shut out of the Smithsonian and the National Zoo every day that Congress cares about them too?

Why don't my republican colleagues tell the 2,500 people whose FHA home purchase loans aren't being processed that we care about them too?