

banned the importation of high-capacity ammunition clips, and ensured that all handguns come with child safety locks. But instead, there is no progress to report, only partisanship.

We have been waiting for months for the Republican leadership to act on this issue. Thirteen children are killed every day by guns. Yet, on this side of the aisle, we are stymied and stonewalled at every turn.

The Republican leadership is woefully out of step with American parents. Youth violence is a complex problem. It requires several answers. Parental involvement, safe schools, better discipline, and violence in the media are all involved, but gun safety is part of this puzzle. Now is the wrong time to do the bidding of the National Rifle Association.

I urge the Speaker, take up sensible measures passed by the Senate. Appoint conferees immediately. Acting now is the right thing to do. We have already waited too long, and too many youngsters have died.

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DEMOCRATS HAVE NO INTENTION OF WORKING WITH REPUBLICANS THIS YEAR ON ANYTHING

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, this week The Washington Post reported a startling admission. One of the leaders of the liberal wing of the Democratic party stated point blank that Democrats have no intention of working with Republicans this year on anything. In fact, they would rather play politics with seniors, with children, with working families than pass legislation to help America stay strong and prosperous.

Listen to this quote given by the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts, a hero to liberals everywhere. "It is not our responsibility to legislate anymore. It doesn't make sense for us to compromise."

I certainly do appreciate the gentleman's candor, but let us think about this idea that it does not make sense for us to compromise. What he means is that it does not make political sense for Democrats to compromise. They want to block Republican bills, then turn around and blame extremist Republicans for failing to pass important legislation.

Is this what Democrats stand for? What happened to their call for civility and bipartisan cooperation? Why do they now want to be obstructionists?

REPUBLICANS BLOCK DEMOCRATIC EFFORTS IN SENATE TO IMPROVE AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE INSURANCE

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the morning papers are recounting what took place in the Senate yesterday when the Republicans blocked the efforts to try to provide better health care to people who have health insurance.

When the Democrats offered amendments to make it easier for women to choose their primary care physician, to choose an obstetrician/gynecologist, the Republicans blocked that effort. When the Democrats tried to offer an effort to make it easier for people who are denied services to have grievances against the HMO and the managed care corporations, the Republicans blocked that effort. When the Democrats tried to make it easier for people to go to the nearest emergency room in an emergency and know that they would be reimbursed for going to that emergency room, the Republicans killed that effort.

However, the Republicans did decide that they would let women who had had a mastectomy stay in the hospital a couple days longer. Apparently, the Republicans will not let us go to the doctor to detect a cancer, but if we have the cancer they will let us stay in the hospital 2 days extra.

REPUBLICAN TAX CUT PLAN IS BALANCED AND SENSIBLE

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, even though there is a budget surplus here in Washington, the liberals are attacking the Republican tax cut proposal, calling it "risky." They think it is risky because they do not trust the taxpayers to spend it right.

Well, I have a different view. I do not trust the liberals to leave the taxpayers' money here in Washington. In fact, I think that it is truly risky to leave Americans' hard-earned taxes lying around here in Washington for people who have made their careers expanding government. It should come as no surprise that the money somehow gets spent. It always does, it always has, and it always will.

Politicians will spend the taxpayers' money, then they will tickle their ears with wonderful reasons why they just had to spend it. Face it, the only way to stop politicians from expanding government and reducing hard-working Americans' freedoms is to give the money back to the people who earned it.

I like the Republican plan: Lock up two-thirds of the money that is taken from the FICA payroll deductions for retirement security and give the other third back to the hard-working Americans who earned it. It is a balanced and sensible plan. I ask all my colleagues to support it.

HATE-CRAZED GUNMAN

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I represent the district in which six Jews were shot and Rick Byrdsong was killed. I received this E-mail yesterday:

Please allow me to express my horror at the tragedy that has befallen my family. On my way home from synagogue, I was shot by a hate-crazed gunman. I spent 4 days in the hospital. My wife, who was due to give birth any day, witnessed me prostrate on the steps of a house bleeding from wounds to my abdomen, arm and shoulder.

I am grateful I am alive. I did not think I would get to see my wife and 22-month-old daughter again. I do not know how to convey to you the horror of being shot from close range because I belong to the 'wrong' religion. This used to happen all too frequently to my European ancestors. There, too, people shrugged and moved on to their daily routines until it was too late.

This event has harmed my family in so many ways it will take years to heal the wounds.

That is from Hillel Goldstein. His mother, Batya Abraham-Goldstein, said, "This was not just hate. This is what happens when hate is given a gun."

LIBERALS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCURATELY DESCRIBE REPUBLICAN TAX CUT PROPOSAL

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, why is it so difficult for liberals to accurately describe our tax cut proposals? In fact, to date I have yet to hear a single Democrat describe our budget surplus proposal by what is actually in our proposal.

As this chart illustrates, Republicans have indicated their priorities by putting \$2 for retirement security to every \$1 for tax relief from projected surpluses over the next 10 years. Let me repeat that. From the budget surpluses, we allocate \$2 for retirement security for every \$1 for tax relief.

That means that Social Security and Medicare will be preserved. It also means that our preference is for tax relief over new Washington spending.

Make no mistake about it, whenever the Democrats talk about their opposition to tax cuts and their preference for debt reduction, we can be sure that this will mean new Washington spending. If the 40 years of Democrat control in the House are any indication, that money will be spent.

A balanced reproach is \$2 for \$1: \$2 for retirement security, \$1 for tax relief.

HONORING MEMBERS OF SAFE COLORADO

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, over the next 2 days we Members of Congress will have the opportunity to hear from a bright and dedicated group of high school students from the State of Colorado. These students are Members of an organization called SAFE Colorado, or Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic. This group formed in the aftermath of the Columbine High School tragedy, and they are here in Washington, D.C., to encourage Congress to pass laws to keep guns out of the hands of juveniles and criminals.

While these SAFE students are here, I urge that all Members listen to what they have to say. I have visited numerous high schools in my district, and what I have learned is that these young women and men know their schools better than anyone else in their communities and certainly better than any of us here in the Congress. We can all learn from their experience and advice.

Additionally, these young men and women do not care about politics or posturing. Instead, they care about whether they are going to be safe in their schools. As a father of two children in the public schools, I understand their concerns. The tragedy at Columbine High School has deepened my commitment to measures to make our communities safer and our schools safer.

Gun laws are not the only answer, but I think they are a crucial part of the equation. I hope the House will have the wisdom to listen to these students and pass sensible gun safety measures that our colleagues in the Senate have already endorsed.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to these brave and conscientious young people from Colorado. I wish them a safe trip, and I wish them success in convincing the Congress to act to curtail gun violence in America today. The vast majority of Coloradans and Americans support sensible gun safety laws and so should we.

FINANCIAL FREEDOM ACT OF 1999

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wholeheartedly endorse the Financial Freedom Act of 1999, legislation sponsored by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) to provide broad-based tax relief to help individuals and families make ends meet. This is common sense legislation that will not only bring tax relief to all Americans but also prevent special interests in Washington from spending the budget surplus on a myriad of unnecessary new government programs.

I particularly support the inclusion of death tax relief. The death tax has robbed millions of Americans, especially our Nation's farmers, of their hard-earned money and their ability to

leave a legacy to their children and grandchildren. The death tax unfairly punishes those who have worked hard their entire lives to achieve the American Dream and provide a safe and secure environment for their families.

Death tax relief also will allow family businesses and farms to remain in the family, ensuring that both the business and the jobs it provides continue to live on for the next generation.

The bill of the gentleman from Texas also incrementally decreases the tax burden, eliminating it over the next 10 years. This balanced and fair approach will provide immediate relief in the short term, while not making unreasonable demands on our budget surplus.

Americans currently pay the highest taxes since World War II, and for the first time in a generation, we have the financial strength to safely return a portion of our surplus to hard-working Americans. This is solid legislation, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

HOUSE MUST PASS A MEANINGFUL MANAGED CARE REFORM BILL

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during the July 4th celebrations, I had the opportunity to experience the quality health care that is offered in my own hometown of Houston, and it made me come back realizing how important a real, meaningful managed care reform bill is and what is going on in the United States Senate.

The American people have been clear to us that they want meaningful managed care reform. It is estimated that 122 million Americans do not have simple patient protections. This is not about politics, Democrat versus Republican, it is about what patients need and the providing of quality health care.

We need to eliminate gag laws. Patients need to talk to their doctor about their injuries. We need to have access to specialists and particularly make those doctors the one to define a medical necessity. We need to have an external-internal appeals process. We need to cover emergency room care instead of making someone have to decide they have to go past the closest emergency room to one on their list. They ought to get the health care they need immediately.

We should also have accountability. If the doctor making the decision is accountable and he is under law, so should the person making that decision in place of that doctor. This is not about employees suing employers. It is not about higher costs for health care. In fact, our own Congressional Budget Office and our own experience in the State of Texas shows there was little

or no cost at all in providing these protections.

Let us not lose this opportunity to help our constituents.

STATISTICS DO MATTER

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, the pollsters and political pundits tell us not to use statistics in our speeches. They tell us people's eyes glaze over at hearing the numbers. No matter. Honest statistics do matter.

When this administration came to power in 1993, the Federal Government took in 17.8 percent of our gross domestic product in taxes. Today, that share is 20.7 percent. Let us hear those numbers again, because they are important in discussing whether or not tax cuts are a good idea. They are also numbers that we will never, ever hear the other side refer to. Ever.

In 1993, when this administration came to power, the Federal taxes were 17.8 of the economy. Today, the tax burden is 20.7 percent of the economy. In other words, the Federal tax burden is at a record peacetime level.

Taxes are higher than they need to be so that Washington can spend more and more money creating new programs and expanding old ones and giving us less power and control over our lives. One-fifth of the economy in Federal taxes is just too much.

AMERICANS DO NOT WANT A FEEL-GOOD-VOTE-FOR-ME-IN-2000 TAX CUT

(Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, seems like everyone is talking about tax cuts. As a Member with a tax cut proposal before Congress, H.R. 2085, I am glad that the majority party is suddenly and somewhat frantically interested in moving forward with a tax cut proposal.

But I ask my friends in Congress to take this step forward carefully. Americans deserve a tax cut, but first they want to make sure that Social Security is solvent; and, second, they want to make sure that Medicare is there for them in the future. They do not want a tax cut that raises the national debt. And the last thing hard-working Americans do not want is a feel-good-vote-for-me-in-2000 tax cut that cannot survive a downturn in the economy.

Fiscal responsibility always seems to suffer in election years, and the 2000 election has Washington pandering. Let us stop and think about the long term before we move forward. H.R. 2085 walls off Social Security and Medicare funds, helps pay down the national debt and still gives Americans a meaningful tax cut.