

this amendment to be ratified by the states. We have to set our goal NOW to balance the budget again. Unless we commit to it, we'll never get the budget balanced again. First we must set the goal, then we work toward it.

Our children and our grandchildren will pay a heavy price if we do not return to a balanced budget. They not only would face the high taxes of big government, but they would bear the extra expense of paying off the bills that we are running-up today.

This Balanced Budget Amendment is identical to the language passed by a vote of 300–132 in 1995, as part of the original "Contract With America," and then failed by one single vote in the U.S. Senate in 1997. Neither the House nor the Senate have voted on it since then. Obviously, we now have many new faces in Congress; we now have 212 House Members who have never been held accountable, because they have never had to vote on a Balanced Budget Amendment. We believe the time has come for every Member of Congress to address this issue head-on.

The amendment includes an exemption for times when Congress declares a national emergency. But during peacetime, it would require a supermajority of Congress for the federal government to operate at a deficit.

No ordinary law can restrain Congress, because Congress has the power to remove that safeguard whenever it wishes by a simple majority vote. The only real protection against deficit spending is constitutional protection. In light of the current national emergency, we need this amendment more than ever to ensure that deficit spending will end.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL "TO PROVIDE FOR AND APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN LAND CLAIMS OF THE BAY MILLS INDIAN COMMUNITY"

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, for more than 100 years, the Bay Mills Indian Community has sought justice for the illegal sale of over 110 acres of Chippewa County lands which, prior to the sale, had been homeland to a large group of the Tribe's ancestors. Today I am introducing legislation that finally brings relief to this group of Michigan's Native people.

The legislation I propose today also brings too-long awaited relief to the non-Indian citizens of Michigan who live within the Tribe's Chippewa county claim area. Because the Indian claim has remained unresolved for many years, innocent homeowners have watched their property values plummet to 90 percent below what that property would otherwise be worth on the open market. This legislation accomplishes these ends by ratifying the Land Settlement Agreement signed by the Bay Mills Indian Community and the State of Michigan on August 23, 2002.

This Land Settlement Agreement is the product of a long and careful negotiation process between the Tribe and the State. It calls for the extinguishment of all of the Tribe's title and right to the Chippewa County disputed lands and in return provides for the Tribe to

receive replacement land in Port Huron that will be put into trust (and therefore protected by federal law from illegal sale) by the Secretary of the Interior. Further, the settlement is structured in such a way as to ensure that neither the taxpayers of Michigan nor the taxpayers of the United States will ever be saddled with the cost of paying a monetary damage award, which otherwise could be quite substantial, to the Tribe.

Finally, and of particular importance to my constituents in the 10th District, the settlement agreement will enable the City of Port Huron and the Tribe to engage in desperately needed and mutually beneficial economic development, of a casino. The people of Port Huron approved a June 2001 casino advisory referendum. This legislation is critical in allowing the residents of the Port Huron community to actively participate in its economic recovery through the establishment of a casino approved by the people. The Port Huron community has been brutalized by the loss of thousands of manufacturing jobs, a double-digit unemployment rate that doubles our state and federal average and a Canadian casino located just 500 yards from our border. That casino attracts more than 1 million American visitors per year, which is devastating to our tourism and entertainment business. A casino on the American side of the border would create 3,000 American jobs while providing competition to our Canadian neighbors at the only border crossing with Ontario where we have not responded by having a casino of our own.

Resolution of this land claim is long overdue. In sponsoring this legislation, I am proud to be part of a solution crafted to benefit the Tribe, residents of the claim area, and the taxpayers of Michigan.

I join with the members of the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Charlotte Beach landowners, my constituents in Port Huron, and my distinguished colleague Congressman DON YOUNG in support of this proposed settlement. This legislation provides a fair solution that is long overdue for many Native Americans.

COMMENDING FACULTY AND STAFF OF EDWARD J. BRISCOE AND VAN ZANT—GUINN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the faculty and staff of Edward J. Briscoe and Van Zant-Guinn Elementary Schools. The principals of these two schools, Dr. Jennifer Brooks and Mrs. Constance Goines, respectively, are to be commended for the work they have done to improve the educational opportunities for young people in their communities. Both schools received the Title I, Part A Distinguished Performance Award. The Title I Award is given to a select number of schools around the country that exhibit outstanding performance in the areas of academic performance and achievement.

At Briscoe Elementary, Dr. Brooks has been honored on numerous occasions for the work she has done to help broaden the horizons for the children that attend her school. Her dedication to improving the basic skills of school

age children helped secure a 5-Star Rating from Texas Monthly Magazine—the highest rating the statewide magazine gives to public schools. Most recently Briscoe received a TEA (Texas Education Agency) Exemplary Rating. The school also takes part in the prestigious Bass Performance Hall Program and encourages conversational Spanish with specially designed curriculum.

A few miles away to the north, children, parents, and the faculty of Van-Zant Guinn Elementary were also joyous in hearing the news that they too would be receiving a Title I Award. Their principal for the last nine years, Constance Goines, also deserves praise for the steps she has taken to make her school a success in the field of education. Van Zant-Guinn was also recognized by the TEA in 2002 as Exemplary and was given the agency's "2002 Gold Performance Award" for the progress that students made in Math and Reading. Mrs. Goines and her staff were also instrumental in initiating a program on campus called Homework Helper. Homework Helper provides kids who lack the ideal environment at home a more suitable place after school to do their homework.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the Title I, Part A Distinguished Performance Award will continue to help improve the lives of school children, not only in Fort Worth, but throughout the country. Once again, I congratulate Dr. Jennifer Brooks and Constance Goines for all they do in regards to the schools they represent, our country and their receiving this award.

INTRODUCING MELANIE BLOCKER-STOKES POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION RESEARCH AND CARE ACT

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Melanie Blocker-Stokes and all women who have suffered in silence from postpartum depression and psychosis. I am pleased that 47 of my colleagues have joined me in introducing the Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act.

Chicago native, Melanie Blocker-Stokes was a successful pharmaceutical sales manager and loving wife of Dr. Sam Stokes. However, for Melanie, no title was more important than that of mother. Melanie believed motherhood was her life mission and fiercely wanted a daughter of her own. This dream came true on February 23, 2001 with the birth of her daughter, Sommer Skyy. Unfortunately, with the birth of her daughter, Melanie entered into a battle for her life with a devastating mood disorder known as postpartum psychosis. Despite a valiant fight against postpartum psychosis, which included being hospitalized a total of three times, Melanie jumped to her death from a 12-story window ledge on June 11, 2001.

Melanie was not alone in her pain and depression. Each year over 400,000 women suffer from postpartum mood changes. Nearly 80 percent of new mothers experience a common form of depression after delivery, known as "baby blues." The temporary symptoms of "baby blues" include mood swings, feelings of