Finally, we are going to cut the deficit in half in 4 years by holding the line on nondefense and nonhomeland security, and by eliminating waste, fraud and abuse. We must be better managers of the taxpayers' money, and this budget will be a positive step in the right direction.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION DECISION UNDERMINES SETTLEMENT

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, the European Commission's antitrust investigation of Microsoft offered an opportunity to complement the recent U.S. settlement reached with the software corporation. Unfortunately, the Commission's ruling undermines the U.S. settlement and signals potential danger for the technology sector and for consumers at home and abroad.

The Commission's ruling will impose drastic anticompetitive penalties on Microsoft, including a requirement that Microsoft sell a degraded version of its Windows software without a media player. Microsoft is already subject to a tough regulatory framework that promotes competition and innovation, and European consumers and companies continue to enjoy the benefits of this framework.

The Commission's ruling, however, will now subject Microsoft to a new and contradictory set of regulations. The negative impact of this ruling will extend far beyond the U.S. information technology industry as a whole. Competition authorities in other countries may now decide to follow the Commission's lead and reject longstanding principles of international comity, beginning a chain of second-guesses and doubts surrounding the U.S. in matters involving U.S. companies.

For all these reasons, I strongly urge our administration to use every available resource to ensure that the European Commission reconsider its current strategy and redouble its efforts to resolve this dispute in a manner that complements rather than undermines the U.S. settlement and which offers improved computer software, not dismembered operating systems with less efficient platforms for consumers and businesses worldwide.

UNFUNDED LIABILITIES

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

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, today is going to be a good debate on the budget. We are going to hear suggestions, maybe from both sides of the aisle, certainly from the Democrats, that we do not spend enough in this budget.

The reason I am supporting this budget is because it is probably the most frugal budget spending increase we have had since 1996. There is a weakness in this budget that some day we are going to have to face up to, and that is unfunded liabilities. The day before yesterday, the Medicare and Social Security trustees estimated that the unfunded liabilities for those programs are $71 trillion. That means to be solvent, we are going to have to use 28 percent of the general fund revenue to make up the difference between our promises and the tax funds coming in for Social Security and Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, we have got to deal with the entitlement programs if we are not going to leave our kids and our grandkids with a huge debt.

BIPARTISAN EFFORTS NEEDED TO REDUCE FEDERAL DEFICIT

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, we need to be in a bipartisan fight against the Federal deficit. One of the tools we have in fighting the Federal deficit is called the pay-as-you-go rule, and it is a tool that works very, very well because when the pay-as-you-go rule is in effect, any Member of Congress, Democrat or Republican, if they are going to propose a new spending or a new tax cut, they are required to show how they are going to pay for it. This is common sense.

Unfortunately, my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle refuse to apply this common-sense rule that was effective during the 1990s in reducing the Federal deficit.

Now, there is one thing we ought to be able to agree on, when you are in a fight, it does not make sense to tie one hand behind yourself. And the Republicans are doing exactly that. They are not paying for their legislation, H.R. 5, which would limit medical liability. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, that good legislation has languished for over a year. And the pay-as-you-go rule is going to be the pay-as-you-go rule. I am disappointed that my Republican colleagues are taking a dive against the Federal deficit.

MEDICAL LIABILITY CAPS NEEDED

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, a year ago this House passed some meaningful legislation, H.R. 5, which would limit medical liability. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, that good legislation has languished on the other side of the Capitol. The reason this is important is because if uninsured patients are able to sue and get compensation anywhere in the country, including Texas, that is a good thing.

The reason I am supporting this budget is because it is probably the most frugal budget spending increase we have had since 1996. There is a weakness in this budget that some day we are going to have to face up to, and that is unfunded liabilities. The day before yesterday, the Medicare and Social Security trustees estimated that the unfunded liabilities for those programs are $71 trillion. That means to be solvent, we are going to have to use 28 percent of the general fund revenue to make up the difference between our promises and the tax funds coming in for Social Security and Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, we have got to deal with the entitlement programs if we are not going to leave our kids and our grandkids with a huge debt.

SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC SUBSTITUTE ON BUDGET RESOLUTION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Ms. Speaker, today this Congress will debate a budget resolution which I believe captures the hopes and aspirations and dreams of America. However, on the other side of the aisle would seek to put a spear in the hearts of those who seek an opportunity.

The AMVETS, the Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans, and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States said the passage of the Republican budget resolution as presented would be a disservice to these men and women who have served this country and are currently serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world in our fight against terrorism.

I support the Democratic substitute which realizes that we must have full funding of Leave No Child Behind. Anyone who listened to the testimony in the 9/11 hearing knows that the war against terrorism has not yet even been started sufficiently.

Mr. Speaker, I want hopes and dreams and aspirations of Americans to be vested in a budget resolution that respects them and not disrespects them.

AMERICAN JUDGES SHOULD ENFORCE AMERICAN LAWS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 3 minutes and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court's recent use of foreign law as a precedent in several cases is disturbing. This judicial activism threatens our Nation's sovereignty. For example, in a capital punishment case, a justice cited the Supreme Court of Zimbabwe as precedent.

Zimbabwe is led by a brutal dictator, Robert Mugabe. According to a State Department official, "He has succeeded in reducing a once-promising nation with a bright future to a state of ruin, desolation, and isolation."

I hope the Supreme Court in the future will not seek guidance from the Supreme Court of Zimbabwe anytime again. Our judges should enforce American laws and the United States Constitution, not the laws and legal precedents of other countries.

Mr. Speaker, also, the Subcommittee on Constitutional Law is holding a hearing on this very subject right now.
but the reality is there are places in
the country that are still adversely af-
acted.

I went through Nome, Alaska, last
summer coming back from ANWR. One
of the OB doctors there said, boy, I
hope you get away there because we need
an anesthesiologist here and we cannot
afford the liability premiums. I asked,
How do you do obstetrics without
an anesthesiologist? He said, if some-
one needs a C-section, we put them on
a plane to Anchorage. Anchorage is
an hour and a half away, and I am given to
understand there is bad weather from
time to time in Nome, Alaska. I fail to
see how we are furthering the cause of
patients' safety by allowing this situa-
tion to continue.

Mr. Speaker, fortunately we have a
President right now who will sign med-
cal liability if we will get that bill
passed. I am not supposed to mention
the name of my opponent, but I do not
believe his opponent will do that be-
cause he has either been absent or
voted "no" when that bill came up in the
Senate.

HOW PHYSICIANS WILL BENEFIT
FROM NEW PRESCRIPTION DRUG
LEGISLATION

(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, I rise
today to talk about the Medicare pre-
scription drug bill and one of the other
great benefits that has come to our Na-
tion, and that has been in the physi-
cian payment arena.

First, this law will block the impend-
ing physician payment cuts that were
scheduled for 2004 and 2005, as well as
give physicians increases of 1.5 percent
for the next 2 years. In Illinois where
we are losing physicians because of med-
cal malpractice issues, having a provi-
sion that keeps doctors in Illinois is
very, very critical. As a result of
overturning the cuts and increasing the
payments, Illinois stands to keep
400 million for Illinois physicians and
the patients they serve. The geographic
payment adjustor has been set at 1.0 in
2004 through 2006, which affects how
physicians are paid in different regions
of the country. The agreement also
provides for physician scarcity bonus
payments from 2005 to 2007. These
grants go to those who practice in
areas where there is a shortage of phy-
sicians.

Mr. Speaker, there is a shortage of
physicians in Illinois because of med-
cal malpractice, and physicians are
leaving the State. At least in the Medi-
care prescription drug bill, there is
help for keeping some of those.

TAX RELIEF FOR FAMILIES AND
SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, this spring
as we complete another tax sea-
son, families and small businesses have
reason to celebrate. Thanks to our $350
billion tax relief bill which the Presi-
dent signed into law last year, working
taxpayers are getting back more of
their hard-earned money. Families now
have more money to put food on the
table, pay their mortgages, and pick up
school supplies for their kids. These
families know the truth about taxes,
that it is their money, not Wash-
ington's, that gives them the freedom
to keep their money has helped put the
economy back on track. This relief has
given families and working taxpayers a
smaller tax bite, an increase in the
child credit to $1,000, and yet another
reduction in the marriage penalty.

No wonder families this year have reason
to celebrate.

I am happy to report for the first
time in a long while unemployment is
down in my home State of Montana.
Montana's jobless rate is now just 4.6
percent. Why? Because government
does not create an economy, businesses
do, one job at a time.

BUDGET RESOLUTION

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

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise
today to say I am looking forward to
talking about the principles of the bud-
get today. This budget is a good docu-
ment because it does what we know works to get the
deficit under control. First, it restrains
spending, extremely important. Sec-
ond, it allows the economy to continue
to grow, as my friend from Montana
just talked about, by not raising taxes
on the American people. Significantly,
the budget also provides for the pre-
scription drug benefit this Congress
passed late last year. After spending 5
years talking about it, a lot of rhet-
oric, a real political football, we finally
on a bipartisan basis provided prescrip-
tion drug benefits in a meaningful way.

What numbers will we be relying on
in the budget? We will rely on the Con-
gressional Budget Office, as under the
rules of the House we are required to
do. There has been a lot of discussion
about what numbers we should use. Of
course we are going to use the Con-
gressional Budget Office as we must. There
are other estimates out there. Some
may be right, some may be wrong; but
this Congress is doing the right thing
by providing a prescription drug ben-
efit and providing under the rules of the
House for the right estimate of those
costs.

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

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

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, one of the
most important issues that we face
as a Nation today domestically is the
rising cost of health care. The most ef-
fective way to address that issue is to
return more ownership and control of
health care coverage. That is exactly
what the health savings accounts cre-
ated under the bipartisan Medicare bill
do. HSAs are portable accounts that
allow individuals to save and withdraw
their health care needs and medical expenses not cov-
ered by their insurance. Individuals
own the accounts and the savings can
be carried over year after year and from
time to time in the Senate.

By offering individuals ownership
and control of their health care cov-

BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2005

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

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, as we con-
sider the budget today, my col-
leagues on the other side of the aisle
will talk about their budget for Amer-
ica, which includes repealing tax cuts
that brought stability and reduce-
their quote-unquote repeal is nothing more
than job-killing tax increases on Ameri-
can workers. Period. Their alleged “plan”
would blow America's economic en-
GINE. It would be like hitching a heavy
trailor to the back of a motor scooter.
I cannot think of a better way to turn it
into a dead weight, a useless vehicle
that would take us nowhere. Job-de-
stroying tax increases are like a trailer
full of bricks that will stop this econ-
omy dead in its tracks.

Mr. Speaker, let me pass a budget
that strengthens our national defense,
a budget that grows our economy, a
budget that creates jobs, a budget that
will get rid of Washington waste and
excessive spending. We have that op-
portunity today. Mr. Speaker. Let us
take advantage of it.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSID-
ERATION OF HOUSE CONCUR-
RENT RESOLUTION 393, CONCUR-
RENT RESOLUTION ON THE
BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr.
Speaker, by direction of the Com-
mittee on Rules, I call up House Reso-
lution 574 and ask for its immediate
consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as fol-
lores:

H. RES. 574

Resolved, That at any time after the adop-
tion of this resolution the Speaker may, 
pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, pre-
pare the House resolved into the Commit-
tee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for