Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, this spring as we complete another tax season, families and small businesses have reason to celebrate. Thanks to our $350 billion tax relief bill which the President 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 Washington's, that they 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. Our jobless rate is now just 4.6 percent. Why? Because government does not create an economy, businesses do, one job at a time.

Mr. Speaker, fortunately we have a President right now who will sign medical liability if we will get that bill passed. I am not supposed to mention the name of his opponent, but I do not believe his opponent will do that because he has either been absent or voted "no" while I have come up in the Senate.

BUDGET RESOLUTION

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

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say I am looking forward to voting on the budget later today. This budget is a good document because it does what we know works to get the deficit under control. First, it restrain spending, extremely important. Second, 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 prescription drug benefit this Congress passed late last year. After spending 5 months on it, a lot of rhetoric, a real political football, we finally on a bipartisan basis provided prescription drug benefits in a meaningful way. What numbers will we be relying on in the budget? We will rely on the Congressional 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 Congressional 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 benefit 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 effective way to address that issue is to return more ownership and control of health care coverage. That is exactly what the health savings accounts created under the bipartisan Medicare bill do. HSAs are portable accounts that allow individuals to save and withdraw dollars for health care needs and medical expenses not covered by their insurance. Individuals own the accounts and the savings can be carried over year after year and from job to job, and people can build wealth into their retirement.

By offering individuals ownership and control of their health care coverage, we return control to the patients; and that is exactly where it should be. Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleagues who have voted to support the bipartisan Medicare bill which will help reduce medical expenses and improve the health care system in America.

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 of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as we consider the budget today, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will talk about their budget for America, which includes repealing tax cuts we fought hard for. But their quixotic repeal is nothing more than job-killing tax increases on American workers. Period. Their alleged "plan" would blow America's economic engine. It would be like hitching a heavy trailer 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-destroying tax increases are like a trailer full of bricks that will stop this economy dead in its tracks.

Mr. Speaker, let us 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 opportunity today, Mr. Speaker. Let us take advantage of it.

PROVING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 393, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 574 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 574

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XX, direct the Clerk to present the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for