Congress and the President promised just two years ago. For example, the Republican budget denies Title I services to 2.4 million students who qualify under the Act.

But the irresponsibility does not end with No Child Left Behind. For the third straight year the Republican Party has frozen the funding level for Pell Grants. Both the Republicans and the President freeze the maximum Pell Grant award at the 2003 level of $4,050, with an average grant of $2,399. Such small Pell Grants make college unaffordable for millions of students, the nation’s Board reports that in the Republican budget cuts $1.6 billion from the total needed to maintain services at the 2004 level. I’ve heard from veterans groups throughout my district in Houston and I’m sure each Member of this body has heard from groups in their districts. The veterans are one group that come from all parts of this nation. These brave veterans have told me their stories of how they are suffering now with the current state of veterans affairs. I am going to have trouble telling them that not only will things continue to stay bad but things will only continue to get worse. That is not what we are returing soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan should have to look forward to, a future where their needs are not only not provided for, but are in fact ignored.

The CBC budget provides an extra $8.7 billion in total veterans spending. An increase that is sure to fix many of the aforementioned problems. Of that extra funding $3.6 billion will be dedicated to fund the Montgomery GI Bill. This program is, and has been, one of the most important veterans programs around, and it is one we cannot allow to be under-funded. Finally, the CBC budget will give $2.5 billion and $25 billion over ten years to help eliminate the tax on disabled veterans known as concurrent receipts. While the Administration’s tax cuts are doled out to the wealthiest Americans, the CBC program will aid those who really need our help, our veterans.

VETERANS

Our brave American veterans are another group who were outraged by the President’s budget today. As you move down the list, the budget will leave them suffering. The entire Department of Veterans Affairs is $227 million less than what the Department of Veterans Affairs needs to keep services like General Leave and the Montgomery GI Bill to the maximum under the Republican Budget. But the irresponsibility does not end with No Child Left Behind. For the third straight year the Republican Party has frozen the funding level for Pell Grants.

In addition to this the CBC budget provides even more benefits to our education system. It adds $18.7 billion to the next decade’s educational spending which will greatly reduce the stress placed on our educational system today. But education is not limited to elementary and secondary schools and colleges and universities. Education is a lifelong endeavor. And with that in mind the CBC budget proposes an additional $2 billion for Job Training, Vocational Education, and Adult Education. Such funding will provide countless Americans the ability to improve their lives, their families, their communities, and their nation. The Republican budget underfunds our education and our future.

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Atlanta Braves’ Home Office said “tax legislation will probably have a net negative effect on saving, investment, and capital accumulation over the next 10 years.”

While the Republican Party continues its offensive against our national deficit to grow increasing larger. The deficits are so large and their policies are so irresponsible that they won’t even make deficit projections past 2009. It’s clear that the Republican Party is hiding from the American people. This President and this majority in Congress have bet to advocate a fiscal policy that helps average Americans. Special interests have become king in this budget at the price of sound fiscal policies.

The CBC budget will go a long way to solving this problem. Our generous support for the Department of Veterans Affairs at $2.4 billion will help keep the Department fully funded. Our generous support for the Department of Education at $2.6 billion will help keep schools fully funded.

ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES FROM A PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE

The Speaker, in the House, I cannot nor can any Member use the name of that Member of the other body. According to the rules of this Chamber, I cannot use the name of that Member of the other body and designate them in the same fashion that the Members we have heard here tonight have the latitude to speak about our President, our Commander in Chief and the leader of the free world.

And so that is a restriction that I have. And when I refer the apparent Democrat nominee for President is a Member of the other body. According to the rules of this House, I cannot nor can any Member use the name of that Member of the other body and designate them in the same fashion that the Members we have heard here tonight have the latitude to speak about our President, our Commander in Chief and the leader of the free world.

And so that is a restriction that I have. And when I refer the apparent Democrat nominee for President, you will know who I am speaking of. However, what we can say is that the Congressional Black Caucus, Budget offers additional $2.4 billion in Homeland Security funding. It provides an extra $900 million for First Responders including the COPS Program and Citizen Corps and provides an additional $250 million for Port Security grants and an additional $250 million for Rail Security. We must keep American citizens out of harm’s way and the CBC budget provides us with the resources to do that.

The truth about the budget is that a sound fiscal policy that funds programs is possible. The CBC Alternative Budget is an example of how we can get out of the quagmire that the Republican agenda has put this Nation in.