

America their misguided priorities. In order to once again provide the wealthiest few in our Nation with tax breaks adding up to \$70 billion, House Republicans will cut \$54 billion from needed programs, including \$12 billion to Medicaid.

America can do better than slashing health care for low-income children, seniors, and people with disabilities to pay for additional tax breaks for millionaires.

America can do better than slashing a program that provides insurance to a number of every seven Americans, at a time when the number of the uninsured has risen by 6 million under this President.

America can do better than increasing costs for essential health care services for the poorest Americans, including for the first time ever even the poorest children, which will reduce their access to needed health care.

America can do better than a budget package where \$3 out every \$4 in Medicaid cuts are borne directly by individuals who are poor or disabled.

When are the House Republicans going to realize a stronger America is one where we all work together?

Together, America can do better.

#### IRAQI SPECIAL TRIBUNAL HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, the path to a free and democratic Iraq has been dangerous and protracted. Yet, after years of oppression, the Iraqis are closer than ever to having a nation ruled by their people instead of a tyrant.

For the safety of our Nation, I believe we must continue to support the sovereign actions of this developing nation.

Current news headlines are showcasing the trial of Saddam Hussein and what danger accompanies that activity. His trial is important, but a strong, independent Iraqi judicial system is of greater importance.

As Members of Congress, we have an obligation to uphold and support this principle, especially in a land that has been so tormented. The Iraqi Special Tribunal has been impaneled to bring swift and impartial justice to both the victims and the nation of Iraq. I urge Members to support H.R. 534, recognizing the importance and credibility of an independent Iraqi judiciary.

#### NATIONAL DEBT SURPASSES \$8 TRILLION

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, just 2 weeks ago, the national debt passed the \$8 trillion mark.

This unfortunate milestone was the direct result of policies put in place by

the leadership of this Congress and the Bush White House. Now our friends on the other side of the aisle want the Members of the Blue Dog Coalition to endorse their latest push to run the debt even higher.

This budget package should be called the "Deficit Expansion Act." It would continue drowning America in red ink in order to finance new tax cuts for the wealthy and privileged. It is time for a real strategy for fiscal responsibility, not more of the same.

The Blue Dog Coalition has put forward a comprehensive, 12-step plan that would dig America out of this fiscal mess. Our proposal includes commonsense reforms such as reinstating PAYGO rules and discretionary spending caps.

I strongly urge my colleagues in Congress to take immediate action on the debt by embracing real bipartisan reform.

#### A SALUTE TO VETERANS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, this Friday, Americans will observe Veterans Day, a special day of national observance that we have set aside to remember our veterans and their sacrifices.

The 50 million Americans who have served our country since the American Revolution have done more than just protect our national security. They fought for our freedom, and in so doing, our veterans have provided a shining example for the millions of Americans who followed in their footsteps.

In my own family, my father served in the Navy during World War II in the Pacific theater. He was in the Iwo Jima campaign and was awarded the Bronze Star.

Nearly 2 million veterans live in my home State of Florida. Thousands of my fellow Floridians have served or are on active duty in Afghanistan and Iraq. Some of these soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice and many have suffered grievous wounds. I salute these brave men and women.

Madam Speaker, may God bless our veterans, their families, and this great Nation.

#### REPUBLICAN CUTS TO FOOD STAMP AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, this week, Republicans will bring a budget reconciliation bill up that cuts critical Federal programs that directly affect the lives of everyday Americans, all so they can turn around and cut taxes that primarily benefit America's millionaires.

Among the proposals they will bring and will try to force through are dra-

matic cuts in food assistance programs to our most vulnerable. According to the CBO, the Republican food stamp cuts would knock nearly 300,000 Americans off nutritional assistance programs. Included in that number are 40,000 children who would no longer receive either free or reduced-price school lunches.

No other group has benefited more from 5 years of Republican domination in Washington than those who are the wealthiest in our Nation, and now Republicans want to take school lunches away from 40,000 children so they can provide America's millionaires another tax break.

These children desperately need the nutrition provided in school lunches. It is cruel, and this bill must be defeated.

#### HONORING OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I also rise today to pay tribute to America's veterans, whose brave efforts have safeguarded those values we hold dear: freedom, liberty, democracy, and the American way of life.

This week, as we celebrate Veterans Day, I hope all Americans will take the time to thank a veteran for his or her service to our country.

From our Nation's founding days, we have appreciated and recognized the sacrifices and valor of our veterans. General George Washington noted in 1776 that American soldiers "have done all I have asked you to do, and more than can be reasonably expected." Our veterans today rise to this same challenge.

America's veterans fought to preserve our great Nation, to liberate the oppressed, and to hold fast to the idea that freedom and liberty are universal rights worth fighting and, yes, sometimes dying for.

I want to thank all of our veterans for their selfless service. From Omaha Beach and the Pacific seas, to the jungles of Vietnam and the sands of the Middle East, we live every day with the gift of liberty because you secured our freedom and the freedom of generations to come.

#### BLUE DOGS STAND FIRM AGAINST REPUBLICAN BUDGET CUTS

(Ms. HERSETH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HERSETH. Madam Speaker, I too stand united today with my fellow Blue Dog Democrats in opposition to the majority's budget reconciliation decisions. Blue Dogs have consistently stood for fiscal responsibility, balanced budgets, and an honest, open, and accountable budget process.

So why would Blue Dogs support a proposal that is part of a budget reconciliation package that will increase the deficit, not lower it? Why would we

be in support of a budget reconciliation package that is part of a broken budget process in need of serious reform? And why would we support a budget reconciliation process that is part of an overtly partisan failed strategy, a strategy that will fail the House majority leadership and would fail the American people if Blue Dogs did not stand firmly against it.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand firmly against it as well and vote "no" on the budget reconciliation bill.

#### DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT A GOOD FIRST STEP FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, earlier today, my good friend RAHM EMANUEL, a Democrat from Illinois, said, "Tomorrow the House will vote on America's future, with an \$8 trillion national debt and with a Congress that spent \$60 billion in 6 days without a thought as to how we were going to pay for it." I could not agree more.

The gentleman from Illinois went on to say, "Where else could we cut food stamps and Medicaid?" and he answered, "With a Republican Congress" and a lament.

And I would ask, where else but in Washington, DC could a deficit reduction act that actually increases entitlements by 6.3 percent, instead of the planned 6.4 percent, be called a cut? The budget cuts we will pass tomorrow, let me say again, will still increase spending in Medicaid student loans and aid to dependent families. As a conservative, as some of my Blue Dog colleagues have said, I do not think this deficit reduction act goes nearly far enough to do right by those children and grandchildren that we raise. But it is a good first step. It is a modest start in the direction of putting our fiscal house in order. I urge my Republican and Democrat colleagues of goodwill to support it.

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#### BUDGET RECONCILIATION

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the Federal budget is about priorities. And with this budget, Republicans have their priorities all wrong. As an example, The Washington Post reports that young people from rural America are shouldering a disproportionate burden of the war in Iraq. Why? Rural Americans are increasingly willing to risk dying in this Iraqi quagmire to improve their chances of paying for college and getting a decent paying job.

More than 44 percent of military recruits now come from rural areas. Only

14 percent come from American cities. Also, many military recruits are financially strapped. Nearly 50 percent of them come from lower-middle-class to poor households. In 2004, nearly two-thirds of Army recruits came from counties in which median household income is below the U.S. median.

Why do I tell you this? Because the response of this Republican-led Congress is to impose \$14.5 billion in deeper budget cuts in student aid. How does that add up?

#### REPUBLICAN PRIORITIES DEMAND SACRIFICE OF THE MANY, PROVIDE ENRICHMENT OF THE FEW

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, the Republican budget bill is not a document of our Nation's priorities. The Republicans are not listening to the needs of average Americans who want a fair budget and lower deficits.

Here are 10 quick reasons why this mean-spirited bill should be defeated this week. First, it takes from the poor and middle class to make the rich richer. Second, it includes the largest cuts in student loans in history. Third, it provides a \$24 billion windfall to delinquent dads. Fourth, it destroys the pristine Arctic refuge and endangers our coastline.

Fifth, it worsens America's health status by cutting Medicaid by \$12 billion. Sixth, it cuts safety-net funding for our most vulnerable children. Seventh, it takes school lunches away from 40,000 kids who desperately need the nutritional content that those lunches provide. Eighth, it fails to adequately fund vital support services for workers. Ninth, it adds insult to injury for farmers in the form of commodity cuts. And tenth, despite all these cuts, it still swells the deficit. And I stress, it still swells the deficit.

#### FISCAL FANTASY

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I was listening to some of this hysteria and rhetoric from the Democrat Party, and I wonder sometimes if they actually believe what their speech writers apparently give them. Obviously, they do not read it before they start giving the speech because they know food stamps are going up \$250 million. It is not a cut. Medicaid is going up \$66 billion. That is not a cut. Medicaid goes up 7 percent instead of 7.3 percent. That is what you need to be saying; we think it should be going up more than you guys, but admit, as we all know, Medicaid is going up 7 percent, \$66 billion.

Yet in Washington, D.C., just like Disney World, there is a lot of fantasy around us. And the fantasy is that if

you do not get the increase that you want, you can go out and have the New York Times and Washington Post say, yes, he is right, that is a cut because they are not going up 7.3 percent, they are going up 7 percent. We have a plan to reform government and create savings. Yesterday, the Democrat Party announced they would have no agenda for 2005. Well, surprise, surprise. It is only November. But when is the Democrat Party going to announce its alternative? I will ask that question. I hope somebody will answer.

#### A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, a rose by any other name smells just as sweet. And dung by any other name stinks just as much. A stinking bill that cuts spending for Medicaid, food stamps, student loans, foster care, child support, school lunches, and senior care by \$54 billion and then cuts revenue taxes for folks earning \$300,000 or more by \$70 billion still leaves a stinking deficit of \$16 billion. Add \$7.1 billion for the cost of the President's flu initiative and \$200 billion for gulf coast reconstruction and that grows to \$223 billion.

This Republican reconciliation package is misnamed. It is actually a sham. Republicans have rejected the Blue Dog 12-point plan to cut deficit spending and now want to fool the American people. Madam Speaker, you can dress up a pig and call it a lady, but it is still a stinking pig. You can dress up a sham and call it deficit reduction; but it still says oink, oink, still stinks and is still a lie.

#### REPUBLICAN CUTS TO FOOD STAMPS

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Republican cuts to food stamps under this reconciliation budget, an incredible total loss of \$844 million, \$844 million that comes directly from people in this country who are struggling to feed themselves and their families; \$844 million from people who can least afford such a drastic cut. And once again, immigrant families are being treated particularly inhumanely by this Republican plan.

And let me be clear. We are talking about denying assistance to legal permanent residents, immigrants who play by the rules, support our communities, and serve in our military; immigrants who sacrifice so much to come here; immigrants who are frequently among the most vocal supporters of America and the American Dream. Under the Republican plan, 70,000 legal immigrant households will be denied food stamps for an extra 5 years.