

BREAST CANCER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me and over 200 other Members in cosponsoring H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. With just one more day until Mother's Day, it is important for us in Congress to honor the women in our lives and work to bring an end to diseases such as breast cancer. Each year, tens of thousands of women die from this disease and more than 3 million women are currently living with breast cancer. Important advances have been made, but we still do not know what causes this disease, or how to prevent it.

This bill will establish a research program at the National Institutes of Health to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment—authorizing \$40 million a year for five years for NIH studies.

Hopefully, this research will help mitigate the devastating effects this disease inflicts on mothers, sisters, wives, daughters and families across the Nation. The National Breast Cancer Coalition has worked tirelessly to advance the fight against breast cancer, as we celebrate Mother's Day this year, I urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON S.
CON. RES. 21, CONCURRENT RES-
OLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of S. Con. Res. 21, a budget resolution designed and drafted by Democrats to end over a decade of Republican fiscal irresponsibility.

One of the best results of the Democrats gaining the majority in the Congress is the fact that we can realign the priorities of the Federal government. Instead of Republican tax cuts for the richest 1 percent, we can put those same resources into health care for our children and veterans. Instead of driving our Nation deeper and deeper into debt, we can put us back on track towards a balanced budget.

Twelve years of Republican budgets have left our fiscal house in shambles. We are nearly \$9 trillion in debt, and if Republicans had their way, we would never end the deficit. However, the Democratic budget resolution is a good first step towards ending the sea of red ink on our budget. Within the next 5 years, we will have balanced the budget, while at the same time providing necessary services to those who need them most.

This budget resolution incorporates the pay-as-you-go rule that the Democrats passed as one of our first acts in the majority. The rule

is simple. Any additional funds we spend, or any taxes that we cut, have to be paid for with cuts in other areas.

The budget resolution finally fulfills some of the promises we made to our military veterans. This legislation includes a \$6.6 billion increase in veterans spending, which is the largest increase in history. The Congress has failed to meet our obligations for over a decade in providing necessary services to our veterans, and this budget aims to correct some of this neglect.

In addition, this budget also provides \$50 billion over 5 years towards children's health care. The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) has been extremely successful in improving access to healthcare for children whose parents earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to purchase private health insurance. Two-thirds of all uninsured children in this nation are actually eligible but not enrolled in SCHIP. With this budget, we can significantly improve health care coverage to millions more children across the country.

This budget resolution will also help protect our Nation from its enemies. The 9/11 recommendations, most of which have been ignored by the Republican Congress, can be implemented under this budget framework. We have also included additional funding for homeland security in order to better ensure the safety of our citizens.

It is no great secret that the Administration has severely underfunded schools across the nation with the No Child Left Behind Act. This is another program we intend to fix with our budget resolution. In this budget, we have included \$9.5 billion over what the President requested for fiscal year 2008. This necessary funding will help stop the decline in our Nation's education system.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have nearly enough time to speak about all the benefits of this budget resolution. Programs such as Head Start, LIHEAP, Social Security and Medicare all benefit. Residents of New Orleans and Mississippi benefit from the money to rebuild after Katrina. Higher education students will benefit from increased Pell Grants and we avoid cutting other student aid programs such as Perkins loans and special opportunity block grants, which was proposed in the President's failed budget plan.

I am strongly supportive of this Democratic budget resolution. This bill will go a long way towards putting our fiscal house in order, without relying on the massive middle class tax increase that the President's budget relies upon. I would urge all of my colleagues to support this budget resolution.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Chairman, as we debate the FY 2008 Defense Authorization bill, I am pleased to note the effort by my colleagues in working to ensure that our national defense funding and policy are focused on programs that will make our country safer and provide our troops in harm's way with the resources they need today.

I support making sure that Congress wisely, as well as robustly, provide for our national defense, including ensuring dollars are spent on systems that will actually protect our Nation and our allies. One of those systems drawing new attention during this debate is missile defense. Our country has already spent over \$100 billion over the last several decades to develop various missile defense systems. These Cold War efforts for which annual funding has increased from \$3 billion in the late 1990s to nearly \$10 billion have yet to bear fruit, even as our country faces the grave threat posed by terrorists smuggling nuclear weapons into our country across our borders or through our ports.

Supporters will point to successful tests recently of portions of this system. However, we all know the challenges of replicating limited success from carefully and highly scripted tests in real world conditions. Given that participants knew roughly when the test target would launch, what they would look like, how they would fly and what they would do, it may be even more concerning that these systems missed as often as they did.

I am troubled when I hear experts such as the Government Accountability Office report that while costs have grown, less work is being completed than planned. GAO found that "too few tests have been completed to have confidence in the models and simulations used to predict performance." One year after establishing 2006 goals for the program, the Missile Defense agency informed Congress that it planned to field fewer assets, reduce performance goals, and increase the program's cost goal.

Our citizens and our allies and their citizens are not made safer by rushing to deploy technology that "may" protect them when called upon.

The solution to a flat tire is not to blow more air into it. We cannot afford to expend valuable national defense dollars to develop technologies that we know today will not work at a time when these funds can be spent to improve our homeland security, provide needed equipment for our troops in the field, or increase foreign aid to our allies.

I am sure there is no need to remind my colleagues that the \$8.1 billion provided in the bill for the missile system is more than is currently authorized for port security grants or included in the recent House-passed COPS reauthorization bill to put more police officers on our streets.

Some have attempted to muddle this issue by inserting the nation of Israel into the missile defense issue. Our Nation recognizes the importance of our ally Israel and provides over \$2 billion in foreign military aid to help that nation meet its unique security challenges. However, simply putting more unproven, insufficiently tested, and unreliable missile defense systems into the field does not make our country or our allies safer.

I certainly believe the purpose of this \$645 billion Defense authorization bill is to help make our country safer including assisting our