

on the path of economic growth and fiscal responsibility.

The Republicans will present our budget plan that does just that, a budget plan that curbs spending, keeps taxes low, and tackles our Nation's skyrocketing deficits and debt.

The Congress must reject the President's budget and begin working on behalf of the American people.

CESAR CHAVEZ TRIBUTE

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

Mr. BACA. I rise today to commemorate the 82nd birthday of a true American hero, the late Cesar Chavez.

For 10 years, I have fought for a national holiday to honor Cesar Chavez, a man who not only carried the torch for justice and freedom, but was the beacon of hope for thousands without a voice.

As a cofounder and president of United Farm Workers, Cesar used non-violent tactics to bring attention to the dangerous working conditions in the fields and the plight of exploited farm workers and their right to unionize.

The reach of his accomplishments stretches far beyond the Latino community. The battle for social justice is far from being over. But in the words of Cesar Chavez, "si se puede!"

During these hard economic times, let us not forget that history teaches us many things. True leaders are those who fight for those without a voice, and he was one that fought for many of those who didn't have voices.

As we approach his birthday, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 213, a resolution that educates our youth about Cesar Chavez and his accomplishments and I urge the creation of a national holiday for him.

WHAT DOES RENEWING AMERICA'S PROMISE MEAN?

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, for the past few months we've heard our liberal colleagues repeatedly talk about renewing America's promise. Is it America's promise to place an insurmountable debt burden on our future generations?

This Congress just passed the largest series of spending bills in American history, and now this administration has unveiled a \$3.6 trillion Federal spending plan. The U.S. is facing its largest deficit in history; yet we have placed a mortgage on America's future, and it's up to our children and grandchildren to make the monthly payments.

This budget doubles our debt in 5 years and triples it in 10 years.

My liberal colleagues have fostered in a new era where you can become the head of the IRS without paying your

taxes, where pork-laden appropriations bills are done behind closed doors, and massive spending bills are designed in secrecy.

Writing blank checks from an empty bank account appears to be our real promise to America. Promoting a new era of irresponsibility has become this Congress' real agenda.

I will not vote for this budget, as it spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much.

□ 1015

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, my constituents worry about the rising cost of health care. Today, I rise to let them know we are working to make health care more affordable and accessible.

We already strengthened and improved the State Children's State Insurance Program. Nearly 11 million children will benefit from actions by enrolling them in health insurance programs and expanding access to dental and mental health benefits.

This year, we voted to increase funding for health care information technology, saving billions of dollars and reducing private health insurance premiums for families. We also increased Medicaid funding, protecting coverage for millions of low-income and elderly Americans.

While more needs to be done, that is why I will vote for President Obama's budget. He sets aside more than \$630 million over the next 10 years to reform health care, reduce Medicare overpayments to private insurance, and reduce drug prices to rein in high costs that are a drag on our entire economy.

I urge everyone to support this budget.

OBAMA'S BUDGET BORROWING TOO MUCH

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. You know, like most moms in this country, I look at my two-year-old and I wonder: What kind of a world will he inherit; who will his friends be; what will his expectations be, what will his dreams be?

Like many middle-class families, I wonder: Will my child enjoy the same freedoms and opportunities that we enjoy today?

When I was born, my share of the national debt was \$1,800. Now for my child's generation, it is \$30,000 the moment that he's born. It's estimated that that's going to double in his first 5 years—to \$60,000.

Government programs can certainly help people, but government programs

are not the cornerstone to grow an economy. That happens in the private sector.

We need to be focusing now on what's going to help our small businesses, our mom-and-pop stores, the people on Main Street that are really struggling. That's where economic growth takes place.

So let's make sure that we are leaving our country with freedoms and opportunities for the next generation. And it starts with a budget that's responsible.

SHERIFF PRIBIL

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. My friend, Bill Pribil, presides as sheriff over Coconino County in Arizona. For 5 years, Bill has successfully navigated the challenges of overseeing law enforcement in a very vast and diverse area, all while keeping our community safe.

Since taking office, Sheriff Pribil has brought a new perspective to the job, having initiated a number of programs in the county to reduce crime. These programs include the Community Emergency Response Team, which provides the community with disaster preparedness and response training; the Exodus Program to reduce recidivism by helping prisoners overcome substance abuse; and the Leadership in Police Organization Program to improve training in his department, which has helped him successfully crack down on meth, drugs, and violent crime.

I congratulate Sheriff Pribil.

TIME TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. HUNTER. I joined the Marine Corps after 9/11, as did thousands of Americans, for one defining reason—so my children wouldn't have to. I went to Iraq twice and Afghanistan once, as thousands of Americans have, so my children and our children wouldn't have to.

It is in that vein that I rise today because it is up to this Congress to make responsible choices so our children are not beset by financial ruin. It is up to us to make good decisions right now in this defining moment in American history so our children can grow up without being punished so that this administration can make short-term gains without making any tough choices.

Tax cuts for the working class; more government responsibility; and less debt, less spending; were all campaign talking points for President Obama and congressional Democrats. That's all they were—talking points.

The buck stops with this budget that is before Congress now. And this budget can make us or break us. It is time we take responsibility for the direction of this country and stop spending.

Just stop spending. No more TARP, no more stimulus, no cap-and-trade tax on small business, no tax on charitable donations, no energy tax on working Americans. Surely, no more burying our children in debt while we spend, tax, and borrow our way into oblivion.

I ask the Democrats in this administration to put the checkbook down.

MYTH: MOST INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE DON'T HAVE IT BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT IT

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Another health care myth—and we've heard it all before: opponents of health care reform claim that, of the 45 million uninsured, many don't have health care insurance because they just don't want it. So no need to reform the health insurance system—everybody who wants it already has it.

So who are these people who just don't want health care insurance? Well, according to a 2008 Kaiser study, 68 percent of the Nation's uninsured were under 200 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines—or making under \$44,000 a year for a family of four. Of those, 37 percent were actually living in poverty—making under \$22,000 a year.

These are families that cannot afford health insurance. For a family living at the poverty line, health insurance could cost them up to half of their income.

Sure, there are some amongst the uninsured who simply choose to pay their own way. But there are many more who are employed, who are playing by the rules, who want health care insurance but just can't cut out those frivolous things like food and clothes to pay the premium.

RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness: that is what the American Dream is all about. It's been the American entrepreneur, it's the American family, it's the individual who starts and wants to build their own business that's going to drive this country and this economy forward. It's not Big Government that's going to get us out of this. It's going to be the American family and the American entrepreneur.

I look at the President's budget, what the Democrats are proposing and, quite frankly, it spends too much, it taxes too much, and it borrows too much. We will literally double the debt in this country that will be paid at some point by our kids and our grandkids.

We have an opportunity to reject the overspending; we have an opportunity

to reject the idea that we are going to continue to run this government on a credit card. That's why I urge my colleagues to look very strongly at this budget and just say "no."

We can no longer afford to continue to spend the way Washington, DC, spends. We need to operate this country in a fiscally disciplined manner. That's why I encourage my colleagues to look strongly at the Republican alternative, because in that budget you will see responsibility.

STRUGGLE AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, a couple of recent Washington Post headlines deserve mentioning on the House floor. The first was on March 16, where the Red Cross Confirmed that the United States Violated International Laws Against Torture.

Last Sunday's article points out that that torture policy applied to an individual by the name of Abu Zubaida sent our government officials on any number of false leads. It produced no reliable information. It turns out that that suspect, Abu Zubaida, wasn't even an official member of al Qaeda. He told our professional interrogators what he knew to be true, until—under pressure from the Cheney White House to torture him—he sent our government on any number of false leads. As usual, people being tortured tell you what they know that you want to hear in order to stop the torture.

The point for the Congress to act on is that if we are ever going to prevail in our struggle against violent extremism, we need to stand up for America's defining principles of equal justice under the law. We have to hold those people accountable who pressured and enabled American government officials to perform actions that were counterproductive to our national security, that were illegal, and were immoral, and thus were anti-American. Only through such judicial accountability can we regain the moral high ground and once again lead the world by practicing what our founders preached.

COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

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

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the rising number of uninsured in America. Right now, nearly 50 million Americans have no health insurance. That is nearly one in six. One in six.

These aren't just numbers on a page. This has real effects on the rest of us, because when millions of Americans who have no health insurance get sick enough, they end up in the emergency

room of the nearest hospital. But the care they get there costs six times as much as preventive care—and is far less effective.

Those of us who pay the full cost of our health care end up picking up the tab for the care we provide the uninsured in the emergency room. That's just one reason we as a Nation pay far more for health care than we get back in return. In fact, on average, every American spends about \$900 each year to pay the cost of treating the uninsured badly. That is pure waste.

There are some good signs coming out of the current health care debate. Congress and this President have already extended health coverage to an additional 4 million children this year by enacting a bipartisan expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

We waited too long to address this problem. We've paid a huge price by not confronting it sooner. I look forward to working with the President and my colleagues on commonsense solutions that will extend coverage to all Americans.

HOUSING CRISIS IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

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

Mr. CARDOZA. I rise today to remind my colleagues that the housing crisis continues to devastate across this country. My constituents in Merced, California, near my hometown of Atwater, are suffering from 19.9 percent unemployment, the highest rate of foreclosures in the Nation, and a 70 percent loss of their home equity over the last 3 years.

They have seen their community banks fail and their businesses on Main Street close their doors for good. Simply put, the Central Valley is experiencing an economic tsunami that will leave the Central Valley struggling for many years.

That is why I'm working on legislation to devise an Economic Disaster Area designation—so places like my district, whose communities have been disproportionately affected by the country's recession, can receive additional Federal funding they need to keep from falling off the maps.

I'm asking my colleagues to support me in my efforts to create this Economic Disaster Area designation and to help my constituents and the entire Central Valley recover from this economic downturn.

WE ARE GOING TO RECOVER

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, the economic recovery plan signed by President Obama is saving and creating jobs all across the country. It was just signed into law 6 weeks