

ensure that abortion providers are not subsidized with Federal tax dollars.

Now, let me say, to be very clear, Mr. Speaker, this legislation does not cut one penny from title X family planning funding. I applaud much of the important work that is done at title X clinics across this country: breast cancer screening, HIV protection, education, counseling, pregnancy diagnosis. This legislation simply prevents family planning funding from aiding organizations that profit from the abortion industry.

Federal funding should reflect the priorities and the values of a majority of the American people. Whatever people think about abortion across this country since *Roe v. Wade*, survey after survey has shown that an overwhelming majority of Americans oppose the use of taxpayer dollars to support, subsidize, or promote abortion at home or abroad. It is for that reason that I would assume that most Americans would be surprised, if not shocked, to learn that the largest abortion provider in America is also the largest recipient of Federal funding under title X. But that is most certainly the case.

According to their own annual report, Planned Parenthood received more than \$363 million in government funding in 2009 alone. During that time, they performed an unprecedented 324,008 abortions, a heartbreaking statistic. Planned Parenthood of America continues to receive a greater amount of Federal funding each year while simultaneously taking over an increasing share of the devastating abortion market in this country.

Now, look, Planned Parenthood and its defenders will claim that the money they have received from the government has not been used to fund abortions, but that is only technically true. Current law prohibits the use of title X family planning funds "in programs where abortion is a method of family planning." Therein lies the loophole.

While title X money cannot directly be used to fund abortions, common sense says there is no question that taxpayer dollars received by Planned Parenthood are used to cover allowed expenses, like overhead, operational costs, thus freeing up other money for the clinics that do provide abortion. And in many of our largest cities, title X clinics run by Planned Parenthood are literally just steps away from abortion clinics operated by Planned Parenthood, many times in the same building.

This legislation would close that loophole that has forced millions of pro-life Americans to subsidize the Nation's leading abortion provider sustaining and underwriting this nefarious trade.

I urge my colleagues to support the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act. I urge our new majority to bring this legislation forward with all deliberative speed.

Let me say again. The largest abortion provider in America should not

also be the largest recipient of Federal funding under title X.

For the sake of American taxpayers, for the sake of the important work being done at title X clinics across this country, and, most importantly, for the sake of the defenseless unborn and vulnerable young women who find themselves in a crisis pregnancy, we must enact the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act and end the day of taxpayer support for these organizations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING AND SPENDING IS OUT OF CONTROL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, campaign fundraising and spending is way out of control. We need a constitutional amendment to fix it. The American people have to help this Congress, because it will not do it by itself.

Many years ago, Will Rogers, whose statue sits just outside the doors to this Chamber, joked, "We have the best Congress money can buy." Unfortunately, that joke has not grown old.

After witnessing this past election cycle, the campaign money expended to elect this Congress, both Chambers, is way out of bounds. The Center for Responsive Politics estimates that a record-breaking \$4 billion was spent in the 2010 midterm elections.

Now, \$4 billion equals 4,000 millions. So 4,000 millions was spent to elect the current sitting Congress. The number of Members being elected didn't change. The amount of money being raised changed. It skyrocketed. The opportunity for people of ordinary means with great talent to gain election to office in our country is disappearing election after election. It's very hard for talented people of ordinary means to raise 4,000 millions.

To put that number in perspective, 4 billion, or 4,000 millions, divides up to about \$8.5 million spent on each of the 435 seats in this Chamber and those who are up for election in the other; \$8,500,000 having to be raised every 2 years. Yes, an average of \$8.5 million per Member was expended in each of the races. That is 50 times more than the amount of money the job pays. We would be better off to say to the American people, "We're going to get rid of all of this campaign donation stuff and just beg our salaries from the public." It would be a lot cheaper, and we wouldn't have to spend it on all those ridiculous ads. Imagine the outrageous amount of fundraising that sits on the

head of every single Member in this Chamber.

This past congressional election, in fact, was more expensive than even the last Presidential cycle in which \$2 billion was spent. And they said that that was the most expensive race in U.S. history, and Wall Street financiers were the major contributor in that Presidential race.

How is it that as our country is fighting to recover from near economic collapse and the average American is struggling to make ends meet, with national unemployment still at 9.4 percent, somehow billions and billions of dollars were able to be thrown by big interests to affect the election? It is because, unlike the average American, big financial players, big business, multinational corporations, all kinds of well-funded ideological groups have deep pockets, and they do try to buy access and influence what happens. And this situation makes it much more difficult for ordinary Americans to have their voices heard here.

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The American people know this. They are frustrated. These big interests should not outweigh the American people's voice nor vote. The American people should have the primary access and influence here, not deep-pocketed interests. Truly the American campaign finance system is out of control. We all know it, and we all know it needs to be fixed, and that ought to be a priority of this new Congress.

Real campaign finance reform thus far has been unattainable because neither party wants to stop the money chase because they both think that next time out they might be the ones to really grab all those gold rings. Too much of that money is playing insider politics, and that is why the American people feel that they are being forced to the sidelines rather than the front lines in our elections. They feel like they are pushing a big boulder up the hill, and every time they cast their vote, that somehow that boulder comes right back down on them.

Reform is being thwarted again and again by outside interest groups and deep-pocket interests. The Congress is unwilling and seemingly unable to act on its own, along with Supreme Court rulings like *Citizens United v. FEC* and *Buckley v. Valeo*.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced H.R. 8, a new constitutional amendment that I put in every session to bring this system under control. There could be no more important priority to our country than giving our politics back to the American people again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)