

The CBO is clear in its warning about this program: Some seniors will forgo insurance all together, while others will find barriers to services that might save or improve their lives—both by plans not covering particular services or through such high costs that seniors forgo the care they need.

The bottom line—seniors will pay more for health insurance—much more—than they do today.

Some will get substandard coverage because they can't afford anything better.

Some won't be able to afford a policy at all, so they will forgo coverage and care.

The Republican budget has the wrong priorities.

It focuses on our families and communities for cuts, while doing nothing to root out waste in our tax system—like the tens of billions in subsidies for oil, gas and coal companies, or those that go to giant ethanol corporations.

And it continues the tax cuts for the wealthiest among us as well and even calls for more.

These priorities are all wrong . . . they are dangerous . . . and we must stand up against them.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the Republican Budget that will end Medicare as we know it.

Let's make responsible choices so that we can lower the deficit without doing so on the backs of our seniors.

TAKING A BUTTER KNIFE TO SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RIBBLE) for 3 minutes.

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, we are now drawing close to a government shutdown.

I have been sitting over here, listening to my colleagues from both sides speak this morning. I want everyone to know; I want the American people to know, and I want the folks in northeast Wisconsin to know that this is not about riders or extreme partisan ideology. It is about spending.

I will tell you that I am surprised at some of the language. A moment ago, one of my colleagues said we wanted to take a chain saw to spending. A few days ago, the President said we wanted to use an ax to cut spending. I will tell you that it's more like a butter knife. We spent in March of this year alone \$189 billion in deficit. Our CR would have cut \$8 billion. So instead of \$189 billion, we would have spent \$181 billion in deficit. That is not a chain saw. That is not an ax. Some Americans have been calling me from home, saying it's not even serious.

It is time that this Congress takes our fiscal situation seriously for the protection of our country, for the protection of our programs, for the protection of our seniors. It is time for this Congress to act and to act now. Yesterday, we offered up a plan to fund our troops at the request of Secretary Gates, and we've been turned down once again.

I call on my colleagues not to wait another day, another hour, another minute. Let's fund this government,

and let's move on to the big task at hand—the next budget—so that we can do what the last Congress failed to do, which is to provide certainty to the American people and certainty to job creators so they will know what is coming ahead tomorrow.

A KABUKI DANCE OVER CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 4 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, the Kabuki dance is almost over, and like many of you, I'm wondering if we have lost our senses. By all reports by Leader REID and Speaker BOEHNER, they are very close. It's not about money. Do you know what it's about? It's about contraceptive pills. I can't believe that we are sitting here today, about to shut down the government, over contraceptive pills—because that's what it's all about.

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It's all about defunding one organization, Planned Parenthood, that provides explicitly and only services around contraceptive pills, breast cancer screenings, STD screenings, and cervical cancer screenings. Not one dime goes for abortion services. In fact, the services provided under family planning have to be excluded completely. Different locations, different service providers, different staff. And on top of it, it's all audited. So not one dime for abortions. This is only for family planning services.

So in the end we're going to go to the American people and say, yes, we shut down the government, we told all our men and women serving in faraway places, trying to keep the world free, and keep it free for us, and keep terrorists at bay, we are going to tell them, no, you are not going to get paid for a while because we didn't want to fund contraceptive pills for women who are poor in this country.

The women who access Planned Parenthood, and one in five women accesses Planned Parenthood at some time in her life, the average income is \$33,000 a year. These are women who can't access health care for reproductive services because they're working in jobs where they don't have health insurance. And we're saying shut down the government. Shut down the government. Don't pay our men and women serving overseas. Close down the national parks. Make sure none of our exports get to their destinations. Don't let any more small business loans be offered. Just shut it down, because we don't want to make contraceptive pills available to women in this country. It's absolutely shameful.

This is a message to Speaker BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, this is your opportunity for a profile in courage. This is your opportunity to say to your caucus and to the American people, I am not going to allow this country to be shut down over contraceptive pills.

CUT FEDERAL SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) for 3 minutes.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I have listened to a textbook case, I believe, of self-induced amnesia this morning from my liberal colleagues. But the American people spoke in November, and I heard the mandate: Cut Federal spending so that more resources can be left in the hands of American families and small businesses so that they can save and invest in order to grow jobs.

I responded to their mandate by voting for billions in cuts. Unfortunately, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle refused to receive the message, but the message is still true.

Let's put the budget issue into a little perspective. It actually is quite simple. They didn't pass the budget when they had control, and now we have to clean up the mess. My liberal Democrat friends want to shut down government in order to maintain their overspending status quo, even at the expense of not sending paychecks to our courageous troops and their families at home.

On the other hand, I and my Republican colleagues want to keep the government open, pay our troops, and respond to the people's demands for cuts in spending and a return to the blessings of freedom.

Our Republican leadership has worked and negotiated with the other side in order to keep the government open, while cutting deficit spending, but it has been to no avail. The Democrats won't give up less than one-half of 1 percent spending in order to keep the government running on a trimmed-down budget and pay our troops. The argument has come down to the size and scope of the spending. And President Obama, Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID, and the Senate Democrats, like a stubborn mule, refuse to move in the direction of their masters, the Constitution and the American people who are telling us to cut spending.

It's time for them to start listening to the American people. It can't be just about the next election; it must be about the next generation.

PAY THE MILITARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we are here because the last Congress did not do its job and for the first time since 1974 didn't have a budget. So we're having to do last year's work in addition to this year's work. And in the meantime, we look around at who is actually being hurt. And there were many of us that were inquiring over the last month, all right, if there is a shutdown, is the military going to be paid?

Well, we find out the military is essential, the military will be working in