effective therapy for patients with severe epilepsy, but it has not been approved by the State of Texas for patients under 12 years old.

The bottom line is that costs associated with this life-changing procedure often are not covered.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the fast action and cooperation among a University of Texas medical branch physician: the manufacturer, Cyberonics; and Medicaid officials to see what can be done to provide service for all children under 12 years old.

Mr. Speaker, we as Members of Congress must do all we can to make sure that medical policy keeps pace with medical technology.

REPUBLICAN TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Congress has reduced the debt by $1 trillion this last year, by $102 billion as the sum that we will reduce the debt by this year. Over the next 10 years under the budget plan that we have put forward, we will reduce it by another $2 trillion.

Now the question is whether we will use this $1 out of every 4 of the surplus, of the budget surplus, to give some tax relief, because as my colleagues know, what the Republicans want to do is to eliminate the marriage penalty and give a 10 percent reduction on tax rates as well as phase down the death tax and reduce the capital gains tax. The question is whether we will use this $1 out of every 4 in the extra surplus to give this tax relief or whether the President and the administration is going to get its way and spend the additional dollars. They are not going to use it to pay down the debt; they want more social spending.

Mr. Speaker, to that end, let me just remind my colleagues we have a trigger that if the surplus starts to decline, we do not phase in our tax reductions. So I wanted to make that point clear.

RESPONSIBLE TAX CUTS

Mr. TURNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, the Republican tax cutting message is: “You can’t trust the Congress,” which the last time I checked, they were in the majority and controlled. Today they propose an irresponsible tax cut scheme that dedicat all of the on-budget surplus to a massive tax cut rather than doing the responsible thing and reducing the national debt, saving Social Security and Medicare.

Where have all the fiscal conservatives gone in the Republican party? I am shocked to hear some members of the Republican delegation here today say that they reduce the national debt more than Democrats. We just voted last week on a bill on the floor of this House where the Democrats said we are going to devote half of the on-budget surplus to debt reduction, 25 percent to reasonable tax cuts aimed at middle-income Americans and the other 25 percent for further tax reduction and to save Medicare and Social Security.

That is the responsible thing to do.

The Republican tax proposal simply gives only modest tax breaks to middle-income taxpayers. We propose a responsible tax cut that will benefit all Americans.

SUPPORT THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG FAIRNESS FOR SENIORS ACT

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

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before the American people today to talk about the high costs of prescription drugs. I have had the opportunity to visit with many of my constituents to address this burdensome problem. Studies prove that senior citizens in Mississippi pay outrageous amounts of money for much needed prescription drugs. For an example, a Mrs. Bruce lives in Federation Towers in Clinton, Mississippi. She enjoyed all the freedom that should come along with being a senior citizen until the cost of her prescription medicine forced her to move out of her house, into her home with her daughter. She pays $200 a month for prescription medicine on a fixed income.

Mrs. Bruce told me that without her daughter she could not stay healthy. She wonders what happens to the other seniors in this country who do not have the family support that she does.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot think of any other issue that deserves being addressed more than the cost of medicine for our seniors. That is why I cosponsored the Prescription Drug Fairness Act for seniors. It is time to do right by our seniors and make them favorite customers, just like the large HMOs in the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, folks like Mrs. Bruce need us.