

LAWMAKERS SHOULD CORRECT POVERTY AND LACK OF MEDICAL CARE BEFORE ENACTING RECKLESS TAX CUTS

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I love my friend's compassion. This is a Chamber that ought to have compassion. We ought to have compassion for 45 million Americans that do not have health care, for the hundreds of thousands of working families that cannot afford to send their kids to college, for senior citizens who do not have a drug benefit.

If we take the Democratic proposal here, I do not know how many family farms are worth more than \$4 million, but I would say that when we add the cut in the percentage and the \$4 million exemption, that is about as much compassion as we need until we have taken care of the poorest of the poor.

To listen to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, if you have two children, one lives in Beverly Hills and the other one lives on the edge of poverty. What we need to do today is rush and give some more help to the folks in Beverly Hills.

The difference between the two proposals is that the Democratic proposal helps small business, helps farmers, helps people with \$4 million worth of assets, but leaves a little in the Treasury to make sure that senior citizens have social security and Medicare, that maybe we can help more kids get a college education, and maybe some day people in this country can expect health care coverage.

AUSTRALIAN GUN BAN RESULTS: DEADLY

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, according to NewsMax.com, the results from the Australian gun ban are in and they are deadly.

Just over a year ago, Australia followed in the footsteps of mother country Great Britain and made a law that totally banned handguns. The gun ban and the confiscation program cost the Australian government more than \$500 million. Sometimes using deadly force, authorities collected 640,381 personal firearms.

Now, the results are in. Since the gun ban, Australia-wide, homicides are up 3.2 percent, assaults are up 8.6 percent, armed robberies are up 44 percent. In the state of Victoria, homicides with firearms are up 300 percent.

Figures over the previous 25 years had shown a steady decrease in armed robberies with firearms, but since the gun ban this has changed for the worse.

There has been a dramatic increase in break-ins and assaults on the elderly.

Australian politicians are on the spot and at a loss to explain this, and so are the liberals here in America. They want to avoid the facts that following a gun ban, crimes go up. If we would enforce the laws that we have on the books, it would make America a safer place.

SUPPORTING THE ELIMINATION OF THE DEATH TAX

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

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of eliminating the death tax. The death tax is one of the most extreme examples of unfair, inefficient taxation in the United States today. It forces children to sell family businesses and farms to pay the taxes, and at the same time costs the government almost as much to collect as it brings in, in revenue.

In fact, the annual death tax revenues are less than 2 percent of the total Federal receipts, but the economic costs are far higher. This tax thwarts savings and investment, decreases wages and job creation, and dissolves thousands of family-run businesses each year.

The death tax is blatant double taxation aimed directly at small business owners, farmers, and ranchers. These people pay taxes throughout their lives. Then when they die, they are taxed an additional tax on the value of their property.

We should be encouraging businesses like these, not creating obstructions for their existence. Uncle Sam should not come knocking at our door when our loved one dies. I ask my colleagues to join with me in burying the death tax once and for all.

AMERICA SHOULD INVEST MORE RESOURCES IN CURING PEDIATRIC CANCER

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

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the progress that has been made in childhood cancer is a modern medical miracle. Unlike most miracles, I think this one can be explained. It is widely recognized that the progress in cancer survival rates among children is the result of successful clinical trials, where work from our Nation's laboratories is translated into clinical application.

For children, the standard of care today is to be treated in a clinical trial, and more than 70 percent of children with cancer participate. That compares to only about 3 percent of adults and only 1.5 percent of Medicare patients.

In addition, children are normally treated in centers of excellence by a pediatric oncology specialist and a team of multidisciplinary health care providers, and the rapid dissemination of better treatments through a consortium of major teaching hospitals where new therapies can be tested has benefited the children in these trials.

In many ways, care for children with cancer is the model by which adult cancer can hopefully become better.

ENDING THE DEATH TAX

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the Internal Revenue Service burdens the American people with so many taxes it often seems we are taxed on virtually every move we make and every breath we draw.

So it is not surprising to learn that when we stop moving and drawing breath, the IRS taxes us for that, too. Every year, thousands of grieving families are hit unexpectedly with an unfair provision of law called the death tax. This provision of law is so burdensome it prevents more than three out of four small businesses from surviving to the next generation.

Death taxes reduce potential employment opportunities, encourage consumption instead of responsible saving and investing, and undermine the premise of the American dream, which assures that hard, honest work will be rewarded.

Let us show the American people that the American dream is still alive. Let us today vote to repeal the unfair death tax.

A FAILED REPUBLICAN EDUCATION BILL AND IRRESPONSIBLE TAX CUTS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House began debate on a Republican education bill that fails our Nation's schoolchildren.

Today, the Republican leadership is giving an irresponsible tax cut to the 2,400 wealthiest Americans. Some 2,400 people today will benefit from the cut and the repeal of the estate tax, and \$50 billion will be taken out of the revenue stream of this country over a 10-year period to benefit 2,400 people.

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My friends should do the mathematics. And because of this effort, what we will see is our youngsters shortchanged on their educational opportunities. Our first priority has to be to ensure that our Nation's children