CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

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Mr. Speaker, budget choices are about values. Do we not value investment in our Nation’s future by providing our children unless we give them the best education they can have in this world? Or do we take this opportunity to fritter away the future by acting like drunk sailors with the Republicans’ massive irresponsible tax slashing.

I support responsible tax relief for middle-class families, but we must not raid the Treasury and jeopardize our ability to make investments in our children and in our future.

SUPPORT THE BIPARTISAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, no American should be forced to choose between the food they need to live and the medicine they need to stay healthy. Yet that is what many of our senior citizens face each day.

Republicans are doing something about this. Working with our Democrat friends, we are proposing a bipartisan prescription drug plan that offers seniors the coverage they need.

Our bipartisan plan strengthens Medicare and provides prescription drug coverage for all seniors and disabled Americans, including those in rural areas like Pauls Valley, Altus, Walters, Waurika and Purcell, Oklahoma.

Our plan is voluntary. It is also affordable and available to all, no matter where you live, no matter what your income.

I urge my colleagues to work with us to make this prescription drug plan a reality so our seniors never again have to choose between buying food and buying medicine.

CHALLENGE TO SECRETARY SHALALA

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to respectfully challenge Secretary Donna Shalala.

Madam Secretary, there is something sad out there that I would like you to see. At the National Nutrition Summit, you said: “Except for a few isolated pockets, we have succeeded at ending hunger in America.” That is not true.

According to dozens of American organizations, fighting on poverty’s front lines, according to respected international organizations, like the WHO and UNICEF, according to what I have seen too many times, and I am shocked that a Cabinet secretary would be so clearly out of touch with reality.

Secretary Shalala, I challenge you to meet me in any American community.