

trade agreements with other nations, and protecting American businesses from litigation abuse and overregulation. To make sure the entrepreneurial spirit remains strong, the Budget includes important initiatives to help American businesses and families cope with the rising cost of health care. This Budget funds important reforms in our schools, and promotes homeownership in our communities. In addition, the 2006 Budget supports the development of technology and innovation throughout our economy.

The 2006 Budget also affirms the values of our caring society. It promotes programs that are effectively providing assistance to the most vulnerable among us. We are launching innovative programs such as Cover the Kids, which will expand health insurance coverage for needy children. We are funding global initiatives with unprecedented resources to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic, respond to natural disasters, and provide humanitarian relief to those in need. The 2006 Budget continues to support domestic programs and policies that fight drug addiction and homelessness and promote strong families and lives of independence. And in all our efforts, we will continue to build working relationships with community organizations, including faith-based organizations, which are doing so much to bring hope to Americans.

In every program, and in every agency, we are measuring success not by good intentions, or by dollars spent, but rather by results achieved. This Budget takes a hard look at programs that have not succeeded or shown progress despite multiple opportunities to do so. My Administration is pressing for reforms so that every program will achieve its intended results. And where circumstances warrant, the 2006 Budget recommends significant spending reductions or outright elimination of programs that are falling short.

This Budget builds on the spending restraint we have achieved, and will improve the process by which the Congress and the Administration work together to produce a budget that remains within sensible spending limits. In every year of my Administration, we have brought down the growth in non-security related discretionary spending. This year, I propose to go further and reduce this category of spending by about one percent, and to hold the growth in overall discretionary spending including defense and homeland security spending, to less than the rate of inflation. I look forward to working closely with the Congress to achieve these reductions and reforms. By doing so, we will remain on track to meet our goal to cut the deficit in half by 2009.

Our greatest fiscal challenges are created by the long-term unfunded promises of our entitlement programs. I will be working with the Congress to develop a Social Security reform plan

that strengthens Social Security for future generations, protects the benefits of today's retirees and near-retirees, and provides ownership, choice, and the opportunity for today's young workers to build a nest egg for their retirement.

In the past four years, America has faced many challenges, both overseas and at home. We have overcome these challenges not simply with our financial resources, but with the qualities that have always made America great: creativity, resolve, and a caring spirit. America has vast resources, but no resource is as abundant as the strength of the American people. It is this strength that will help us to continue to prosper and meet any challenge that lies before us.

GEORGE W. BUSH,
February 7, 2005.

□ 1415

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 46) supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 46

Whereas mentors serve as role models, advocates, friends, and advisors to youth in need;

Whereas mentoring is a proven, effective strategy that matches a caring, responsible adult with a child to provide guidance and build confidence, stability, and direction for that child;

Whereas research has shown that mentoring has a definitive impact on young people by increasing attendance at school, improving rates of high-school graduation and college attendance, and decreasing involvement with drugs, alcohol, and violent behaviors;

Whereas there are over 17.6 million children in this country who need or want a mentor, yet just 2.5 million young people are in mentoring relationships, leaving a "mentoring gap" of 15.1 million young people;

Whereas the establishment of a National Mentoring Month would emphasize the importance of mentoring and recognize with praise and gratitude the many Americans already involved in mentoring;

Whereas a month-long celebration of mentoring would encourage more organizations—such as schools, businesses, faith communities—and individuals to get involved in mentoring; and

Whereas the celebration of said month would, above all, encourage more individuals to volunteer as mentors, helping close our Nation's mentoring gap: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month;

(2) praises the millions of caring adults who have already committed their time and energy to mentor a child; and

(3) supports efforts to recruit more mentors in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 46.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the recent elections that we had here in the United States indicate that many people were concerned about "values" in this kind of a loose term, and it seems like much of this concern is directed at a perceived erosion of our culture. A good amount of the data that we have uncovered would indicate that this concern certainly has merit.

For example, nearly one half of our young people are growing up without both biological parents today. So roughly one-half of our young people have experienced some significant trauma in their lives because losing a biological parent is difficult for anyone.

More than 20 million children are fatherless in our country, and usually when they have no father, whether they are a young man or woman, they try to fill this void with activities which oftentimes are harmful, maybe gangs, drugs, promiscuity, whatever.

A significant number of our children are involved in alcohol and drug abuse. Roughly 3 million young people in their teenage years currently are addicted to alcohol. That is 3 million. And hundreds of thousands, of course, are addicted to other substance abuse.

Promiscuity, teen pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases have become a major problem. The out-of-wedlock birthrate has increased from 5 percent in 1960 to 33 percent today. I observed a great deal of this growing dysfunction during my 36 years as a coach where I worked with young people, and I guess it is my premise that this unraveling of the culture may pose a greater long-term threat to our Nation than terrorism.