

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago the Republican Party released its most extreme proposal. Republicans voted to dissolve the most successful child nutrition programs in our schools today—the school lunch program. With a 5-year, \$5 billion program cut, the GOP will raise the nutritional deficit of thousands of school age kids.

Republicans need to understand that in their callous and inhuman proposal, they will be hurting the most vulnerable of Americans—our Nation's children. Members of the GOP argue that their program will cut bureaucrats and will not endanger our children. Well I have news for them, cutting school lunches does endanger our children. How can we prepare our youth for the jobs of the 21st century when we deny them the basic requirements for a healthy body and sound mind.

Members on the other side of the aisle need to stop playing schoolyard bully. Their actions are an insult to millions of Americans and their children. I urge this body to defeat any action against the health and well-being of our Nation's kids.

#### REFORM FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, in trying to help the least advantaged among us, our Federal Government has instead created a culture of poverty that is destroying the next generation. It created a safety net that works as a hammock instead of a trampoline. It created reliance when we wanted self-help. And it started a cycle of dependency when we wanted charity. The clients of the welfare system have instead become its victims.

Now Congress has the opportunity to change the system. We have the obligation to reform the system. And we have the moral imperative to transform this system of dependency. While others have come to defend the welfare state, they have instead declared war on our children of the next generation because they don't recognize this era has raised the white flag over the current culture of poverty. Mr. Speaker our welfare system is normally bankrupt and only through a mixture of compassion and tough love will we be able to keep our country from declaring moral chapter 11 and defaulting on the next generation—our children.

#### TOP 10 REASONS FOR SUPPORT OF 1-800-BUY-AMERICAN

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the top 10 reasons to cosponsor my 1-800-Buy-American bill.

No. 10, the bill pays for itself. No. 9, it passed the House last year overwhelmingly. No. 8, no government bureaucrats. No. 7, no more Ross Perot specials and graphs. No. 6, the Chinese are coming. No. 5, it beats all those 1-900 phone sex calls for your family. No. 4, the American workers demand it. No. 3, Japan hates it. No. 2, it should be a part of the Contract With America. And No. 1, David Letterman is absolutely fed up with those Chinese toasters.

1-800-Buy-American, H.R. 447, passed the House, the Senate did not show the wisdom. Cosponsor H.R. 447.

#### LIABILITY LAWSUIT SYSTEM

(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, America's liability lawsuit system has imposed huge costs on the economy and our society. Even Little League baseball has not been exempt. Its liabilities insurance rates have climbed 1,000 percent in 5 years. So Americans are going to have to pay more for their children to play baseball.

I feel safe in saying that if our current liability system had existed 100 years ago, we would not be flying airplanes. And being from the air capital of the world, Wichita, KS, that is a startling thought. Americans are brave and adventurous people. We like to take risks. We have historically been willing to pay the price for progress. But all we are paying today is the cost of frivolous and predatory lawsuits brought by lawyers who in many cases are only out to protect their fees.

Mr. Speaker, \$300 billion a year. That is what our system costs Americans each year in higher prices and lost wages and in lost jobs. While we need to ensure that people with legitimate grievances have access to the justice system, we also need to make common-sense reforms.

#### SCHOOL LUNCH

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, the war on kids just got extremer and meaner yesterday. We all know about the war on the lunch program and paper plates are coming in in the mail every day to my office saying please save it, please save it. But yesterday we saw one more step that I really could not believe.

We saw them take out of the Child Support Enforcement Act a provision saying a deadbeat parent could have their driver's license taken away. Now, I think that is amazing.

As they are taking away a child's lunch, they are not at all hesitant to leave a deadbeat parent with their driver's license. Heaven forbid.

What is a child supposed to do? The child, I guess, is supposed to pick better parents before birth. I do not think that is a good answer.

#### WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the defenders of the old order have been telling us for weeks how much they want to help the children. But their idea of helping children is expanding a welfare system that has proven to be a failure—especially for children.

Consider this recent poll result. When asked, "do you think children are generally better off today or worse off than when you were a child," 60 percent of all Americans—and 77 percent of black Americans—said children today, were worse off.

All you have to do is look around to see that the people are right. And the welfare system is a large part of the reason why.

So why do the Democrats fight so hard to save a failed system?

I think it has a lot to do with the poverty industry that has grown up around the Democratic Party.

The Democrat Party may need poverty, but America does not.

It is time to act, Mr. Speaker. It is time to change a failed system that has done irreparable harm to America's children.

□ 1115

#### CHILDREN AT RISK WITH CUTBACKS ON SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

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

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, let me see if I can get this right. The Republican approach is to lower taxes for the rich by taking the school lunch away from the children. The contract with America is undoing the legend of Robin Hood.

Republicans who were elected last November never told the voters that they intended to bring pain to the children of our country. The mean-spirited Republicans continue to set their sights on attacking those members of our society who are least able to fight back.

This time they have gone too far and the American people are aware of the all-out assault on children in this country. The Republicans can try to mislead the people about the Social Security cuts but they are not going to be able to hide their attacks on the school lunch program and the children in our country.

Day after day, Republicans come up with a new way to hurt helpless little