

new investment for many capital intensive and rapidly growing manufacturing firms in the chemical, electronic equipment, energy, metal, paper, steel, and transportation industries. It is a parallel tax system that takes away a portion of a company's depreciation deductions if their income as computed under the alternative minimum formula is higher than their income calculated under the regular tax system.

While it was designed and intended to prevent otherwise profitable companies from escaping taxation altogether through the use of exclusions, deductions, and credits, it has instead resulted in large interest-free loans to the Government by companies that experienced real economic losses during the early 1990's. Congress never intended for companies to incur a permanent increase in tax liability due to this tax. Put simply, the alternative minimum tax is not working as it was intended.

While many members of the House Ways and Means Committee, on which I serve, are very concerned about this tax, by introducing this legislation I hope to ignite a broader interest in this exact type of much needed tax reform. I am pleased to offer this bill to the House.

LEAVE THE KIDS ALONE

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I ate breakfast and lunch with students at two schools in Atlanta, Payton Forest Elementary School and Thomasville Heights Elementary School. Many of these children were receiving these meals through the School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. For some of them it was the first decent meal they had had since Friday, the last time they were in school.

Mr. Speaker, it is cold and heartless, it is just plain mean, for the Republican majority to deprive these children of their school breakfast and lunches. This program is a success. It provides the food necessary for children to learn. Children cannot learn on an empty stomach, they cannot learn if they are hungry.

The cost of my breakfast and lunch yesterday was a combined \$2.70. Surely, this is not too great a cost to pay to feed our children, to give them the nutrition they need to learn and to grow.

In their rush to provide tax breaks to the wealthy, the Republican majority would steal lunch money from our kids. I, for one, do not want any part of that contract and I don't think the American people do either.

THE SIMPLE FACTS

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I certainly have a great deal of affection and admiration for the gentleman who preceded me here in the well. I was pleased to see that he was back at school as were many of my liberal Democrat colleagues yesterday. But the fact is that with all due respect, my friends should not spend time exclusively in the lunchroom, they should go back to math class, because here are the simple facts of this case.

We are actually increasing \$200 million in excess of what the President is calling for in school nutrition programs. We are calling for a 4.5-percent increase in these school nutrition programs. Yes, we are asking to fine tune the responsibility to give the responsibility to people on the front lines fighting the battle, but friends, it is an increase.

Only in Washington can an increase be called a cut and be called heartless and mean spirited when in fact we are public spirited trying to get control of this problem, trying to feed the truly needy and trying not to make this a crass political issue.

SUPPORT FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I have a prepared text for today to talk about child nutrition programs, but I have to react to what we have just been hearing. To say that they are not going to cut these child nutrition programs is the big lie, ladies and gentlemen, because if you make a block grant, you take last year's figure which may be higher than the year before's but say, "We are not going to raise it in the future, we are just going to let the States spend it," you are cutting it.

If you do not take into account economic downturns, if you do not take into account what happens in community after community across this country which may be different than what is happening here, and then have the audacity to blame the Democrat support on our connections with Federal bureaucrats, that is just too absurd for words.

Ladies and gentlemen, we need to continue to support our children.

FEAR TACTICS EMPLOYED IN SUPPORTING FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, pathetic is the only way to describe the message which has been emanating from the other side, trying to frighten the people of the United States of America

about our goals for dealing with the issue of child nutrition.

We do not have a cut. We have a 4.5-percent increase. That is very clear. But as my friend from the other side of the aisle just said, we somehow in transferring this to the States will in fact allow a tremendous cut to take place. Baloney. There is a provision in this legislation which states that 80 percent of those funds that are provided must go toward the nutrition program and the requirement also states that no more than a 2-percent overhead can be provided.

We are increasing the level of funding, we are trying to make it more responsible so that in fact we do not see what exists today, 20 percent of those young people benefiting from the program coming from homes with incomes in excess of \$50,000 a year.

We want the truly needy to benefit from this, we are increasing the level of funding for it, and they should quit the kind of fear tactics that they are imposing.

TORT REFORM

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. I will not even address the lies coming from the other side.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about tort reforms we are considering this week. They are important to every citizen in this country, so important that each of the 50 States is currently considering some type of overhaul of their own legal system.

In my home State of Texas, Governor Bush has declared a state of emergency to address these reforms and with good cause. Texas ranked fourth in the Nation in million-dollar verdicts between 1990 and 1993. Lawsuit abuse is out of control, so out of control it is crippling businesses, destroying jobs, and costing every household in Texas \$2,700 per year.

Last year alone in Texas prisons there were 1,000 suits filed by prisoners for crazy reasons. One for being licked. Yeah, I said licked by a horse while on a work detail.

The time has come for my colleagues to take a giant step for America and answer the plea seen on a billboard in a town in south Texas that reads, "Stop Lawsuit Abuse Now."

FIXING THE WELFARE MESS

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

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I first of all will join with my colleagues who have used adjectives such as pathetic and audacious to describe the fear tactics and the continuing politics of envy that we hear coming from the other side of the aisle. I will add another,