

Miller, Gary	Roe (TN)	Smith (TX)
Minnick	Rogers (AL)	Souder
Moran (KS)	Rogers (KY)	Stearns
Murphy, Tim	Rogers (MI)	Sullivan
Myrick	Rohrabacher	Taylor
Neugebauer	Rooney	Terry
Nunes	Ros-Lehtinen	Thompson (PA)
Nye	Roskam	Thornberry
Olson	Royce	Tiahrt
Paul	Ryan (WI)	Tiberi
Paulsen	Scalise	Turner
Pence	Schmidt	Upton
Petri	Schock	Walden
Pitts	Sensenbrenner	Wamp
Platts	Sessions	Westmoreland
Poe (TX)	Shadegg	Whitfield
Posey	Shimkus	Wilson (SC)
Price (GA)	Shuler	Wittman
Putnam	Shuster	Wolf
Radanovich	Simpson	Young (AK)
Rehberg	Smith (NE)	Young (FL)
Reichert	Smith (NJ)	

NOT VOTING—13

Brown, Corrine	Jackson (IL)	Stark
Burgess	Johnson, Sam	Watt
Clay	Massa	Wu
Edwards (TX)	McKeon	
Granger	Melancon	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1828

So the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BRIAN K. SCHRAMM POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1595.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1595.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 420, noes 0, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 215]

AYES—420

Abercrombie	Barrow	Blunt
Ackerman	Bartlett	Bocchieri
Aderholt	Barton (TX)	Boehner
Adler (NJ)	Bean	Bonner
Akin	Becerra	Bono Mack
Alexander	Berkley	Boozman
Altmire	Berman	Boren
Andrews	Berry	Boswell
Arcuri	Biggert	Boucher
Austria	Bilbray	Boustany
Baca	Bilirakis	Boyd
Bachmann	Bishop (GA)	Brady (PA)
Bachus	Bishop (NY)	Brady (TX)
Baird	Bishop (UT)	Braley (IA)
Baldwin	Blackburn	Bright
Barrett (SC)	Blumenauer	Broun (GA)

Brown (SC)	Grayson	McCarthy (CA)	Sarbanes	Smith (TX)	Turner
Brown-Waite,	Green, Al	McCarthy (NY)	Scalise	Smith (WA)	Upton
Ginny	Green, Gene	McCaul	Schakowsky	Snyder	Van Hollen
Buchanan	Griffith	McClintock	Schauer	Souder	Velázquez
Burton (IN)	Grijalva	McCollum	Schiff	Space	Visclosky
Butterfield	Guthrie	McCotter	Schmidt	Speier	Walden
Buyer	Gutiérrez	McDermott	Schock	Spratt	Walz
Calvert	Hall (NY)	McGovern	Schrader	Stearns	Wamp
Camp	Hall (TX)	McHenry	Schwartz	Stupak	Wasserman
Campbell	Halvorson	McHugh	Scott (GA)	Sullivan	Schultz
Cantor	Hare	McIntyre	Scott (VA)	Sutton	Waters
Cao	Harman	McMahon	Sensenbrenner	Tanner	Watson
Capito	Harper	McMorris	Serrano	Tauscher	Watt
Capps	Hastings (FL)	Rodgers	Sessions	Taylor	Waxman
Capuano	Hastings (WA)	McNerney	Sestak	Teague	Weiner
Cardoza	Heller	Meek (FL)	Shadegg	Terry	Welch
Carnahan	Heller	Meeks (NY)	Shea-Porter	Thompson (CA)	Westmoreland
Carney	Hensarling	Melancon	Sherman	Thompson (MS)	Wexler
Carson (IN)	Herger	Mica	Shimkus	Thompson (PA)	Whitfield
Carter	Hereth Sandlin	Michaud	Shuler	Thornberry	Wilson (OH)
Cassidy	Higgins	Miller (FL)	Shuster	Tiahrt	Wilson (SC)
Castle	Hill	Miller (MI)	Simpson	Tiberi	Wittman
Castor (FL)	Himes	Miller (NC)	Sires	Tierney	Wolf
Chaffetz	Hinchee	Miller, Gary	Skelton	Titus	Woolsey
Chandler	Hinojosa	Miller, George	Slaughter	Tonko	Yarmuth
Childers	Hirono	Minnick	Smith (NE)	Towns	Young (AK)
Clarke	Hodes	Mitchell	Smith (NJ)	Tsongas	Young (FL)
Cleaver	Hoekstra	Mollohan			
Clyburn	Holden	Moore (KS)			
Coble	Holt	Moore (WI)			
Coffman (CO)	Honda	Moran (KS)			
Cohen	Hoyer	Moran (VA)			
Cole	Hunter	Murphy (CT)			
Conaway	Inglis	Murphy, Patrick			
Connolly (VA)	Inslee	Murphy, Tim			
Conyers	Israel	Murtha			
Cooper	Issa	Myrick			
Costa	Jackson-Lee	Nadler (NY)			
Costello	(TX)	Napolitano			
Courtney	Jenkins	Neal (MA)			
Crenshaw	Johnson (GA)	Neugebauer			
Crowley	Johnson (IL)	Nunes			
Cuellar	Johnson, E. B.	Nye			
Culberson	Jones	Oberstar			
Cummings	Jordan (OH)	Obey			
Dahlkemper	Kagen	Olson			
Davis (AL)	Kanjorski	Oliver			
Davis (CA)	Kaptur	Ortiz			
Davis (IL)	Kennedy	Pallone			
Davis (KY)	Kildee	Pascarell			
Davis (TN)	Kilpatrick (MI)	Pastor (AZ)			
Deal (GA)	Kilroy	Paul			
DeFazio	Kind	Paulsen			
DeGette	King (IA)	Payne			
Delahunt	King (NY)	Pence			
DeLauro	Kingston	Perlmutter			
Dent	Kirk	Perriello			
Diaz-Balart, L.	Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Peters			
Diaz-Balart, M.	Kissell	Peterson			
Dicks	Klein (FL)	Petri			
Dingell	Kline (MN)	Pingree (ME)			
Doggett	Kosmas	Pitts			
Donnelly (IN)	Kratovil	Platts			
Doyle	Kucinich	Poe (TX)			
Dreier	Lamborn	Polis (CO)			
Driehaus	Lance	Pomeroy			
Duncan	Langevin	Posey			
Edwards (MD)	Larsen (WA)	Price (GA)			
Ehlers	Larson (CT)	Price (NC)			
Ellison	Latham	Putnam			
Ellsworth	LaTourette	Quigley			
Emerson	Latta	Radanovich			
Engel	Lee (CA)	Rahall			
Eshoo	Lee (NY)	Rangel			
Etheridge	Levin	Rehberg			
Fallin	Lewis (CA)	Reichert			
Farr	Lewis (GA)	Reyes			
Fattah	Linder	Richardson			
Filner	Lipinski	Rodriguez			
Flake	LoBiondo	Roe (TN)			
Fleming	Loeb sack	Rogers (AL)			
Forbes	Lofgren, Zoe	Rogers (KY)			
Fortenberry	Lowe	Rogers (MI)			
Foster	Lucas	Rohrabacher			
Fox	Luetkemeyer	Rooney			
Frank (MA)	Luján	Ros-Lehtinen			
Franks (AZ)	Lummis	Roskam			
Frelinghuysen	Lungren, Daniel	Ross			
Fudge	E.	Rothman (NJ)			
Gallely	Lynch	Roybal-Allard			
Garrett (NJ)	Mack	Royce			
Gerlach	Maffei	Ruppersberger			
Giffords	Maloney	Rush			
Gingrey (GA)	Manzullo	Ryan (OH)			
Gohmert	Markey (CO)	Ryan (WI)			
Gonzalez	Markey (MA)	Salazar			
Goodlatte	Marshall	Sánchez, Linda			
Gordon (TN)	Matheson	T.			
Graves	Matsui	Sanchez, Loretta			

Smith (TX)	Turner
Smith (WA)	Upton
Snyder	Van Hollen
Souder	Velázquez
Space	Visclosky
Speier	Walden
Spratt	Walz
Stearns	Wamp
Stupak	Wasserman
Sullivan	Schultz
Sutton	Waters
Tanner	Watson
Tauscher	Watt
Taylor	Waxman
Teague	Weiner
Terry	Welch
Thompson (CA)	Westmoreland
Thompson (MS)	Wexler
Thompson (PA)	Whitfield
Thornberry	Wilson (OH)
Tiahrt	Wilson (SC)
Tiberi	Wittman
Tierney	Wolf
Titus	Woolsey
Tonko	Yarmuth
Towns	Young (AK)
Tsongas	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—12

Brown, Corrine	Granger	Massa
Burgess	Jackson (IL)	McKeon
Clay	Johnson, Sam	Stark
Edwards (TX)	Marchant	Wu

□ 1835

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, on yesterday, Monday, April 27, 2009, I was unavoidably detained by airline flight problems and missed the following votes:

Rollcall vote 207, H. Res. 329, recognizing the anniversary of the tragic accident of the steamboat ship SS Sultana, I would have voted “aye”;

Rollcall vote 208, H.R. 1746, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2009, I would have voted “aye”;

Rollcall vote 209, H. Res. 335, supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week, I would have voted “aye.”

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. CON. RES. 13, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 371, I call up the conference report to accompany the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 371, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of April 27, 2009, at page H4774.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

In resolving the conference this year, we have had a hard hand to play. In the backwash of the Bush administration, we have had to struggle with an economy that is reeling, if not receding. The deficit is deep and the end is nowhere in sight.

President Obama has responded to these challenges head-on, and we have followed his lead with a conference agreement that reflects most of his policies and most of his proposals.

The President has recognized that we have not one but two deficits. The first is an economy running at about 7 percent below its full employment level, or \$1 trillion below its potential. To move our economy closer to its capacity, the President signed into law a package of stimulus measures totaling \$787 billion in tax cuts and spending increases.

Here is what the Congressional Budget Office says in its analysis of the President's budget: "The adoption of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and very aggressive actions by the Fed and the Treasury will help end the recession this fall."

Let's hope CBO is right, because it's all but impossible to balance the budget when the economy is in recession. Nevertheless, this year's deficit constitutes 12.3 percent of our gross domestic product. At least two-thirds of that stems from the tax and spending policies undertaken by the Bush administration. Much of the enormous swell in this year's deficit is due to some extraordinary expenditures, such as the Troubled Asset Relief Program, and the consolidation of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae in the Federal budget, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The good news is these expenditures are nonrecurring so long as the economy recovers.

The President sent us a budget that will cut the deficit by two-thirds by 2013, from \$1.752 trillion this year to \$523 billion in 2014. \$523 billion is roughly 3 percent of GDP in 2014, and in that sense, it is sustainable, because that's roughly the growth rate in 2014.

The budget embodied in our resolution uses CBO projections, which are less optimistic. Yet it reduces the deficit to \$523 billion in 2014, which is 3 percent of GDP, a bit less than the rate of growth in the economy for that year.

Our budget can rightly be called a deficit reduction budget, because it lowers the deficit by \$1.2 trillion over 5 years. On the other hand, our budget is not so committed to deficit reduction that it overrides or overlooks other needs. In fact, it takes on topics that previous budgets have found too tough

to face, such as health care for millions of Americans who do not have insurance. On top of that it slows down defense spending with an increase of 4 percent and makes a moderate adjustment to non-defense discretionary spending, taking it a bit above this year.

In spite of deficits, the President's budget and our conference report launch some bold initiatives to make our economy more productive and our people more productive. First, in higher education, with an increase in Pell Grants to \$5,550; next in health care for the millions, 46 million by one estimate, who are uninsured; and, finally, in alternative energies to lessen our dependence on foreign oil and the depletion of our environment.

As the Budget Committee, we do not make tax policies or write tax bills, but we do set revenue levels with certain assumptions in mind. We have provided revenues sufficient to renew the middle-income tax cuts adopted in 2001 and 2003. These include the 10 percent bracket, the child tax credit and the marital penalty relief bill. We have also assumed revenue levels that allow for the AMT to be patched for 3 years to keep it from burdening middle-income taxpayers for whom it was never intended. We have also assumed in our revenue estimates that the estate tax will be extended at the 2009 levels, leaving exemptions of \$3.5 million per decedent in place, in force, in law.

Our Republican colleagues nevertheless complained about our tax policies. Let me read from CBO's nonpartisan analysis of the President's budget, which is very much like our budget: "Proposed changes in tax policy would reduce revenues by an estimated \$1.7 trillion over the next 10 years." That's the CBO talking.

The President's major initiatives—health care, energy, education, environment—are all implemented by way of reserve funds, and, let me stress, these reserve funds are all deficit-neutral. They are yet to be funded, and they only become operative to the extent that they are actually funded.

The resolution before us sounds all of these themes, and with a few exceptions, supports the principles underlying the President's budget.

Our resolution is laid out in the form of a 5-year budget using CBO's stricter scoring and CBO's projections of the economy.

□ 1845

OMB has run out its budget over 10 years, but a 5-year budget is not at all unusual.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SPRATT. I yield myself 1 additional minute.

It's the customary time frame for budgeting, and we think that the 5-year budget is particularly appropriate in a year when no one can adequately foresee the future or can even foresee a few years over the horizon.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this is a big moment. This is a moment where Congress is now about to decide the passage of the final conference report of this year's budget. It's the budget of our new President with this new Democratic majority. It's a budget that encapsulates their values, the issues that the majority party ran on, the issues that the majority party did say in their campaigns that they were going to pass.

I did 25 listening sessions in the First Congressional District over the Easter recess, and a lot of constituents were concerned and complained about all of this new government and about all of this spending as if it's something they didn't see coming, to which I answered to most of my constituents: You know what? The President did run on these ideas. The Democrats who took the majority did run on these ideas. These are the things they said that they would do, and now this budget shows that they're doing it.

So honesty and candor are being had with this budget. The description of what it does, however, I would say, is not being candidly handled. It is not being done honestly. If you take a look at an honest accounting of this budget that is now before the floor, there is an additional \$1.172 trillion in deficit spending that's occurring here that had been masked away from it.

You've seen the kinds of quotes from some who would describe the enormous vision of this budget as one that will bring a new day in America, where we will look more like a European kind of an economy, like more of a European type of social welfare state. I know a lot of people don't like that description, and in some ways, that description that this converts the American Government into a European welfare state government is not a fair description.

The reason that that's not a fair description is it's not fair to Europe. Under the Maastricht treaty, under which the Europeans allow entrance, this budget would be in violation of it. If you take an honest accounting of this budget, then the deficit never falls below 5 percent of the GDP. We couldn't be allowed into the European Union if this budget passes, which we know the majority has the votes, and it will pass.

This budget doubles the national debt held by the public in about 5½ years, and it triples it in about 10½ years. This budget recreates a whole new system, a whole new precedence. This new precedence changes the whole notion of budgets, the whole concept of what we refer to as the 1974 Budget Act. That budget act was an idea that we've got to get spending under control, that we've got to get our fiscal house in order, that we've got to get the deficit down.

We've got to work on our borrowing. We need to bring fiscal discipline and some limits and some control to the process of taxing and spending in Congress. This doesn't do that. This takes a whole new precedence, and it uses the budget. It perverts the tools within the budget, not to lower the level of spending, not to lower the level of taxing, not to work on reducing the national debt. It uses the budget to increase these things—to engage in an absolute gusher of new spending, of more taxing and of more borrowing.

In fact, the order occurs like this: a huge gusher of new spending, chased by ever-higher taxes which never actually catch up with that spending, which results in a record level of new borrowing. More debt will accumulate under this coming Presidency than under all prior Presidencies combined. That's the budget that we have here before us today.

The chairman talked about the Congressional Budget Office saying taxes are being cut in this budget. That's really an interesting statement. You have to go through so much mental gymnastics to actually rationalize that statement. What this budget does, to be fair, is it takes some current tax rates and keeps them current—the Child Tax Credit, the Marriage Penalty Relief, some of the lower income tax brackets. So it doesn't cut those taxes. It just keeps them where they are.

Under this budget, the alternative minimum tax kicks in in full force in 3 years, hitting at that time about 30 million families with an average of \$2,000 of more taxes.

It raises the tax rates on income that most small businesses pay, so they'll pay a tax rate higher than that of the largest corporations. It raises the tax rates on the very investments, capital gains and dividends that make up our pension funds, our 401(k) plans, our college savings plans that are now down by 40 percent. So it has not only the largest tax increase in American history and not only the largest spending increase in American history but the largest debt increase ever. That's not budgeting. That's irresponsibility.

So we, obviously, have a difference of opinion with this budget. While we criticize this, we brought to the floor our own budget to say how we would do things differently, and we've got to get our taxes low to grow this economy. We've got to control spending so that we can have government live within its means so that we can get our debt paid off.

At the end of the day, the question is whether or not we're going to do good in this generation by the next generation, whether or not we're going to take on the fiscal challenges that are confronting this country and this generation today so that future generations of Americans can continue to enjoy the high standards of living that we have enjoyed, whether Americans can still test the boundaries of prosperity and society or whether we're

going to go down that sliding scale, that slippery slope of giving the next generation an inferior standard of living.

It is a quantifiable, irrefutable fact that this budget puts us on that glide path to giving the next generation an inferior standard of living, an ocean of debt, a sea of higher taxes and spending as far as the eye can see. This budget should not pass. Unfortunately, this budget will pass.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the distinguished chairman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the 2010 budget resolution conference report, and I commend the chairman for his diligent work, as well as the other conferees, to produce a budget to grow our economy and to restore discipline, finally, to America's accounts.

The key to our Nation's future is a strong, robust economy, and this budget leads us in that direction. It also meets our commitments to our veterans by including a substantial increase from the 2009 veterans' services.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution. Again, I thank the very able Budget chairman, Congressman SPRATT of South Carolina, for his incredible work.

I rise today in support of the 2010 Budget Resolution Conference Report. I wish to applaud Chairman SPRATT and the other conferees for their diligent work on behalf of our nation.

The key to our nation's future is a strong, robust economy built on the foundation of resilient citizens working hard to produce goods and services. The Budget Resolution supports revitalization of our economy through investing in education and energy independence, both of which keep us competitive globally while protecting our national interests.

In addition, this Budget Resolution aims to cut the deficit by nearly two-thirds while maintaining our commitment to our nation's veterans by including an 11.7 percent increase from 2009 for veteran's services. This is critical as we address our aging veterans and those who struggle with PTSD and other war-related injuries.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker and Members of the House, I rise in strong support today of this conference report for the fiscal year 2010 budget resolution.

I want to commend Chairman SPRATT and the members of the committee for bringing us a budget which will put America on a path toward fis-

cal health and a competitive future by investing in our key priorities of education, health care and energy.

This budget resolution will put us on a track to a stronger, fairer 21st century economy that can benefit all Americans. It will help us rebuild our middle class and turn our looming crises—energy, health care and education—into opportunities for prosperity, and it will create a new era of accountability, honesty and transparency for taxpayers.

This budget will allow us to make dramatic changes in two areas that could not be more critical to working families and our economy's recovery, and that is expanding access to affordable health care and coverage and leveraging a more competitive workforce by making college more affordable. For too long, our broken health care system has threatened both our fiscal and our medical health. Millions of Americans currently lack health care coverage, a figure that is growing daily as more workers lose their jobs and, therefore, their health care benefits. Millions of Americans who do not have coverage too often have to choose between quality and affordability, any health care at all or bankruptcy.

This conference report will also give us the opportunity to give much needed relief to families who are finding it harder and harder to pay for college while losing jobs and income. Some families have done everything right—saving, working hard, giving their children a good education—only to find out that their plans have changed by the economic downturn.

In this legislation, because of the reconciliation instructions, we will be able to take and recycle the money that now goes to banks for fees and commissions to the student loan program, and we will be able to use that to improve and to increase the Pell Grant scholarship program so that we'll be able to make sure that that keeps track with the cost of education. For those young people who are in the most financial need and who are fully qualified to go to college, we will be sure that they will be able to do that. That's all because of this budget resolution put together by this committee, and we should support this conference report.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. At this time, Madam Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT).

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, tonight I rise in opposition to this budget, a budget that will hurt the American people. People who live in the real world, people who work for a living understand that you can't spend money that you don't have. These people don't need to hear from us about sacrifice. They sacrifice every day—the mother and father who sacrifice by cutting back at home to make sure their daughter has the school supplies that she needs, the business

owner who sacrifices to make sure that she can meet this month's payroll. They're making tough decisions and are living off bare bones budgets, but they look up here to Washington, and they see we're spending more money than we ever have.

So it's no wonder that they're angry. It's no wonder that they're fed up with wasteful spending. They should be mad. They know it and so do we.

This budget taxes too much, borrows too much and spends too much. This budget is just another example of how Democrats fail to understand the commonsense values that Americans use every day. The worst thing you can do in a recession is raise taxes. John F. Kennedy knew it and Ronald Reagan knew it. Apparently, the current President doesn't get it because raising taxes is exactly what President Obama's budget does to the tune of well over \$1.5 trillion, much of which will be placed squarely on the shoulders of my State's number 1 job creator—the small businessperson.

The truth is that, despite all the claims to the contrary, this budget won't create new jobs back home. It won't grow our economy. It will pass on debt to children because of bad decisions and bad debt. People back home deserve better, Madam Speaker. My children, as do yours, deserve better, Madam Speaker. I urge my colleagues to vote against this Democrat budget.

Mr. SPRATT. Before yielding to Mr. BECERRA of California, I would like simply to make two or three clarifications.

You've heard it repeatedly said in this debate that this is a big spending bill, and it is, but it brings spending down from \$3.9 trillion outlays this year to \$3.6 trillion outlays next year—a reduction in spending of \$300 billion. As for revenues, we don't raise revenues. We cut revenues by \$764 billion over 5 years and by \$1.7 trillion over 10 years. Those are the facts. That's the truth.

I now recognize for 2 minutes the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the chairman for yielding, and I congratulate him on his work, once again, in putting forth a budget that America can be proud of.

Madam Speaker, when President Barack Obama took office, he inherited a plane that was in a fast nosedive into the ground. He said we're going to pick up America and do the best we can. Many Americans have recognized that, but some haven't. I would like to give you the words of a couple of Americans who have recognized that. President Obama, in working with this Congress, is trying to make a difference.

In the words of Commander Raymond Dempsey of the Disabled American Veterans, "This is all good news for our Nation's veterans. The budget agreement signals that veterans are, indeed, a national priority" or in the words of Mr. Robert Wallace, the executive director of the Veterans of For-

eign Wars of the United States, who says, "On behalf of the 2.2 million men and women of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its auxiliaries, I would like to offer the VFW's strongest possible support for the conference agreement for the FY 2010 budget. The VFW salutes your strong leadership in quickly coming to this agreement, especially one that makes so many meaningful and valuable improvements to the Department of Veterans Affairs. We strongly encourage all in Congress to follow your lead and adopt this conference report."

Is it a perfect budget? No, it's not. It's difficult to be perfect when you inherit a \$1.3 trillion deficit and when the plane is going down into the ditch, but the President, in working with this Congress, is trying to make a difference. There are some people, including our veterans, who recognize that.

For that reason, Madam Speaker, I hope that every single Member of this Congress recognizes that people who have given in many different ways recognize it's time to put our money where our mouth is and to vote for this budget.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS) from the Budget Committee.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Madam Speaker, ever since I came here I've been hearing the majority party say that they inherited this deficit, and so they have no recourse except to double it in 5 years and then to triple it in 10. That is not a grown-up response to inheriting a deficit. The grown-up response is to be responsible with discretionary spending and taxes.

□ 1900

With regard to taxes, Madam Speaker, if the government increased the top tax rate from the current rate of 35 percent to 100 percent, it would only collect an extra \$400 billion this year. In other words, confiscating all of the income that is currently taxed at 35 percent, the highest tax rate, would not raise enough revenue to cover any of the annual deficits projected in the next 10 years.

There is no way the tax hikes on the rich alone can pay for the proposed spending in the current budget. The tax hikes are going to fall on working-class Americans and on poor Americans. This is no way to run a household, and Madam Speaker, it is no way to run this House.

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the question before the Congress and before the country is how do we get the economy to recover, how do we put people back to work and see their retirement savings grow again, their home equity rise again.

One of the ways that needs to be done is to stop our addiction to imported foreign oil, and this budget takes an important step forward.

It's important to understand what the budget does and does not do.

What the budget does not do is make a judgment on the so-called cap-and-trade proposals. At another time, on another piece of legislation, the House will debate and decide what to do about that. What the budget does, however, is to increase by about 10 percent our investment in ridding ourselves of that addiction to imported oil.

What we say is building on the work in the economic recovery law, let's put Americans back to work building a smart grid that can take wind energy and other energy and spread it throughout our system. Let's put Americans to work building a hydrogen plant, solar farms, other forms of clean renewable energy and create green collar jobs. Let's retrofit existing buildings so they have a smaller carbon footprint and costs the owners and operators less to do.

This budget represents the most significant investment in green technology and green jobs in the history of the country, and it does so because we recognize that an important part of the answer to the question of how to restore prosperity and create jobs for our constituents is to invest in clean energy and green collar jobs. So whether it is tax credits, loans, or other investments, this budget takes us a very long way towards that very laudable goal.

A "yes" vote for this budget is a "yes" vote for a new strategy that will liberate us from the addiction of imported oil and grow jobs in our families and our communities.

I would urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this budget conference report.

Tomorrow, the President will have completed 100 days in office. The American people look back on these 100 days and what do they see from this Congress but a blizzard of spending. We've seen an over \$1 trillion stimulus package, an omnibus appropriations bill that we called for a freeze on that, instead, will spend over \$400 billion in spending. The stimulus package, we called for something that spent half as much money and would have created twice as many jobs according to the economic projections that were relied upon.

Now, the capstone of this first 100 days is an unbelievable budget conference report that projects to spend more than \$3.5 trillion this coming year and which forecasts budget deficits as far as the eye can see.

Much has been made about the fact that this year, the budget deficit will be approximately \$1.7 trillion, but that includes the \$1 trillion in spending. It includes the omnibus appropriations

bill that we talked about here. And yet at the end of this time, the majority feels that it is worth boasting that we will have cut that deficit by two-thirds, to more than \$500 billion. In the entire history of this country, our budget deficit has exceeded \$500 billion only once or twice to this point. Yet this budget plan projects \$500 billion budget deficits for as far as the eye can see and raises our national debt over the next decade to more than \$23 trillion.

We talk about these numbers like they are abstract concepts. A million dollars is a stack of thousand dollar bills 4 inches high. A trillion dollars is a stack of thousand dollar bills 63 miles high. For just this next year, we project a deficit of more than \$1.2 trillion, 75 miles high up into outer space. And that's where this budget belongs.

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ).

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your great work on this budget.

The budget is more than numbers on a page. It is a statement of priorities and values and goals of our President, the Congress, and our Nation. The budget embraces the President's goals of rebuilding the economy and creating new jobs, restoring fiscal integrity and making investments for our future prosperity and security.

Simply put, we will not be economically competitive unless we meet these economic and fiscal challenges and make these essential investments. This budget meets these goals. It sets us on a path towards health care reform with a goal of containing costs, improving quality, and expanding access to coverage.

We hear about the 47 million Americans without insurance. But they are also more than numbers. When I was back in the district a couple weeks ago, I was visiting a local college, Penn State Abington. It's a commuter campus of Penn State in my district. I met with a panel of young people, all articulate, all bright, all working hard at school.

One young woman, 21 years old, said she was a daughter of a single mother who makes about \$20,000 a year. She's not an only child. She had been covered by CHIP, the Children's Health Insurance Program, until she was too old. She is now a full-time student. She works almost full time to make ends meet. She tried to get health insurance, and she simply couldn't afford it. She recently got sick and went to the hospital and now has a bill for \$7,000, a bill she worries about every day, a debt she doesn't know how she will ever repay, and, of course, she worries about getting sick again in the future.

This budget enables Congress to develop a uniquely American solution to both coverage and costs so that that young woman and the millions like her without health coverage will be able to get it, a plan that will include and be

built on innovation, technology, incentives for an effective delivery system, renewed commitment to prevention and consumer protections in a private and public marketplace.

We cannot sustain the status quo, nor should we. It's about time for us to pass this budget resolution and get to the task ahead.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I would yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from the Budget Committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN).

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, let's cut right to the chase. This budget is an attack on freedom. It's an assault on fundamental liberties. I mean, you just go down the line. Tax increases, record tax increases in this bill which deny opportunities to Americans to use their money to spend on their goals, their dreams, their kids, their grandkids—the largest tax increase in history.

Spending. Unprecedented levels of spending. We've heard all the stats, but this budget piles up more spending over the next decade than the previous 43 Presidents combined. We've heard it "from George to George," from Washington to Bush, we don't pile up as much deficit as we do over the next decade with this budget—denying future Americans the opportunities they need to achieve their goals and their dreams, to reach what we would all call the American Dream.

Third, further nationalizes health care. Think about this. The ability to make health care decisions should be between you and your family and your physician, you and your family and your personal doctor, not some board in Washington, not some bureaucrats in D.C. who think they know all the answers. Again, denial of freedom and liberty for Americans across the board.

Then finally, let me finish with this. Cap-and-trade, the largest energy tax in history. It will require every single American, all 304 million Americans, to pay more because now energy is going to cost more, which means everything we produce will cost more. Every single American will pay more, hurting us at a time when we're trying to get out of a recession.

Any four of these are bad anytime. But to do all four when we're trying to recover from a recession just makes no sense. This cap-and-trade, the Heritage Foundation did a study released 1 month ago. Districts that are heavy in manufacturing—like the one I have the privilege of representing—are so hard hit because you have got to have energy to produce the goods and services that our economy requires. If you want to be the leading economy in the world, you have to have energy. This thing is going to lead to an energy tax that will be unprecedented.

Again, up and down the line we deny liberty, we deny opportunity to Americans with this budget. That's why I would urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Five-and-a-half. Five-and-a-half.

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I yield 90 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, the House deserves an accurate record before it renders judgment on this budget. It's important that we know that accurate record.

We've heard that the budget imposes "the largest energy tax in history." That is not so. The budget does not refer to cap-and-trade. It doesn't impose energy taxes on families the way that it was described. It simply isn't the case.

We've heard that the budget "nationalizes health care." The fact of the matter is that the budget sets up a process where this House will consider and debate legislation that will help to reduce costs for covered Americans and extend insurance to Americans who do not have coverage. There is nothing about nationalization of health care.

We've heard consistently that this has a significant tax increase on small businesses. The fact of the matter is that any tax change that is contemplated in the health care plan will be limited to a repeal of the tax breaks the prior administration gave the wealthiest Americans. The record shows that 98 percent of small business filers will not be included in any such consideration.

Finally, we hear that the budget doubles the deficit, one of the Members on the other side said. Not so. This budget reduces the deficit by two-thirds, but more importantly and profoundly, it puts us back on a path to the economic growth and prosperity which preceded the prior administration.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I have got a letter here I would like to read to my colleagues that lets you know exactly what we're doing to the American people.

This is a letter from some people in Carmel, Indiana. They start off:

"Dear Congressman BURTON:

"As an 82-year-old retired secondary teacher and athletics coach, I am writing you this letter to let you know that I have never received a personal response from a legislative representative of local, State, or Nation." And he just got a letter from me.

Then he says, "In my original letter I was not able to express totally the depth of my hurt from the current economic environment sweeping our beloved country. Beyond the economic pressures of the day, we are faced with the collapse of capitalism and the inroads of socialism into our government. My wife and I, celebrating our

60th wedding anniversary in 2009, have lived through the thirties depression and skimped and clawed our way from earning \$2,900 annually to a magnificent dollar amount of \$45,000 annually at retirement in 1990.

"It all started in the late fall of 2007. We had invested and saved a considerable amount of money for a satisfactory retirement. Since that date, our conservative living, and a very modest budget, has seen the national economy lose more than \$250,000 of our retirement savings. Frankly, at this point in time, we're scared to death.

"You may, and we wish that you would, send copies of this letter to President Obama, Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader REID. They have no idea what they are doing to we constituents.

"I am sorry to cry on your shoulders, but my wife and I in concurrence do thank you for your wonderful letter of response. You touched our hearts deeply."

□ 1915

"They have no idea what they are doing to America and your constituents."

This is a big problem. This is the largest budget in history, the largest tax increase in history. You really need to know what you are doing to the American people, and here is a perfect example. And the people's names are Mr. and Mrs. Shipley.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the chairman very much.

To my good friend from Indiana, we do respect the individuality of Americans. We are the pull ourselves up by the bootstraps, and we are the fighting and the tough; and we get going when it gets tough.

This budget is an American budget. It respects the uniqueness of America. And we don't take away from people who have theirs, but what we do recognize is that we will not be the greatest country that we want to be if we don't bring everyone up at the same time. And so this legislation reflects that.

And in particular, I think it is important to note that we do address rising costs in health care. It is going up. We are going to address the question of physician/patient relationship. We are going to set us on a path to increased coverage and to provide a pay-for.

We recognize that this is an element of the American psyche; I have been working hard, I want to see others working hard. But Madam Speaker, it is important that this budget reflect the fact that people are hurting, people are in need.

We need an economic recovery to get this economy right-side up and allow it to turn and then allow us to invent and build. That is why I am supporting this budget, because even in Texas, the oil capital of the Nation in Houston, Texas, we are looking toward increas-

ing energy programs, providing for alternative energies. This legislation accommodates promoting energy independence, also a seamless energy policy.

I believe this is the right direction to go. This is a budget that respects America and Americans, and it believes in getting us on the right track.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the vice ranking member of the Budget Committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING).

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I have listened very carefully to this debate, as short as it is, Madam Speaker. I have listened to my friend, the distinguished vice chairman, the gentlelady from Pennsylvania, say that these budgets are about values more than numbers. I couldn't agree with her more. It is clear that the Democratic budget values spending. It is clear that the Democratic budget values taxing. It is clear that the Democratic budget values debt, debt as far as the eye can see, Madam Speaker.

Now, almost without exception, Democrat after Democrat Member have come to issue a history lesson to Members of this body. Well, I have a history lesson of my own. When Republicans were in control of Congress and budget deficits were \$300 billion and falling, the gentleman from Maryland, who is now our majority leader, said, "They have instigated a dangerous spiral of deficits and debt that constitute nothing less than fiscal child abuse." The gentlelady from California, who is now our Speaker—again, when the Republicans controlled the body, we had deficits \$300 billion and falling—said, "This is immoral, irresponsible and just totally immoral to ask for my children and grandchildren to pay for it." And now, Madam Speaker, on their watch, the deficit has gone from roughly \$160 billion to \$1.8 trillion, and there is silence, stone cold silence. Where are the accusations now of fiscal child abuse?

This is a budget that will place more debt on our children than has ever been placed before. This is a budget that in 10 years will triple the national debt, create more debt in the next 10 years than in the previous 220 years of our history. Yet, where are my Democratic colleagues to talk about the fiscal child abuse?

Spending. Increasing spending almost 9 percent. Almost every family budget that pays for the Federal budget is having to cut back, but not the government, no, no, no, no, no, not the government budget.

You know, Madam Speaker, there was a time in our Nation's history where people believed that you work hard today so your children could have a better tomorrow. And this Democratic budget takes that ethic, turns it on its head and says, we will let government live easier today so our children have to work harder tomorrow.

That is not the America I grew up in. It is not the America I want to leave to

my 7-year-old daughter and my 5-year-old son. There is a better way.

Madam Speaker, you cannot borrow and spend your way into prosperity. This is a budget that is not solving the Nation's economic crisis; it is exploiting the Nation's economic crisis. It must be rejected.

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlelady from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ).

Ms. SCHWARTZ. I just want to make it very clear—not only on behalf of myself, but all of my colleagues. We have spoken quite a bit about, yes, the values and the investments we are making in this budget, but we have also spoken about our deep concern and our responsibility going forward on the debt.

Let's be clear; this administration and this Congress inherited a \$1.3 trillion deficit for this year. And yes, there were some additions made because of the terrible economy we are in, the need to respond to this economic situation and to create those new jobs. And this budget makes a commitment to reduce the annual deficit by two-thirds in 5 years, an ambitious goal, and one we are determined to meet.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin has 1½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from South Carolina has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I will consume my 1½ minutes.

Madam Speaker, let me just address what has been said here. This President inherited a terrible fiscal crisis. Well, you know what this President inherited? It inherited a Democratic majority that ran Congress for the last 2 years that gave us all of this spending and these higher deficits.

But here is the question; yes, there is a bad fiscal situation on our hands in this country. Yes, the President inherited a difficult situation. The question is, is he making it better or is he making it worse? All of these complaints about the higher deficit that has been inherited, about this spending that has occurred over the last 8 years, and what is the response? More of it. More spending, more deficits, more debt.

One of the reasons why the majority decided not to follow the President's lead with a 10-year budget and go with a 5-year budget is because the day after the 5-year budget, the deficit goes right back on up. One of the reasons why they put all these gimmicks in this bill was to try and make that deficit look as if it were smaller than it actually is. You take the gimmicks away, it is another \$1.127 trillion in deficit spending. The deficit never gets to 3 percent of GDP, which all economists from the right and left think is unsustainable. This budget puts us on an unsustainable course.

Madam Speaker, we are going to be back here again talking about what to do to fix the budget because this budget will need fixing, and that's going to happen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The gentleman from Texas said this was not the America he grew up in, but he grew up in Mr. Bush's America. During the 8 years of the Bush administration, the President came into office, we had a debt in this country of a little over \$5 trillion. When he left office, the debt was a little over \$12 trillion, and a deficit of \$1.845 trillion. So a lot of last year's deficit becomes this year's debt. A lot of that debt was attributable to what happened in the last administration, too.

He said it continually, we increase spending. Once again, in terms of outlays, this bill will decrease spending by \$300 billion, from \$3.9 trillion—which is way too much—to \$3.6 trillion. That is a \$300 billion reduction.

As for taxes, raising taxes, this bill cuts taxes by \$764 billion over 5 years and by \$1.7 trillion over 10 years. Those are the facts. It can't be refuted. And that is why I think you can fairly and rightly say this is a deficit reduction bill which nevertheless accommodates values that we consider good for the country.

We will pick up tomorrow, I suppose, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2 of House Resolution 371, further consideration on the conference report is postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SPRATT. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert material relevant to consideration of S. Con. Res. 13.

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

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES GROUP OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAYSON). Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, in addition to Mr. TANNER of Tennessee, Chairman, appointed on February 13, 2009:

Mrs. TAUSCHER, California, Vice Chairman

Mr. ROSS, Arkansas
Mr. CHANDLER, Kentucky
Mr. LARSON, Connecticut
Mr. MEEK, Florida
Mr. SCOTT, Georgia
Ms. BEAN, Illinois

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Mexico-United States Inter-parliamentary Group:

Mr. PASTOR, Arizona, Chairman
Ms. GIFFORDS, Arizona, Vice Chairman
Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ, California
Mr. FILNER, California
Mr. REYES, Texas
Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Texas
Mr. GENE GREEN, Texas

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy:

Mr. HINCHEY, New York
Mr. HALL, New York

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CONGRESSIONAL HUNGER FELLOWS PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4404(c)(2) of the Congressional Hunger Fellows Act of 2002 (2 U.S.C. 1161), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member to the Board of Trustees of the Congressional Hunger Fellows Program for a term of 4 years:

Mr. JAMES P. MCGOVERN, Worcester, Massachusetts

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4303, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University:

Ms. WOOLSEY, California

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2004(b), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation:

Mr. SKELTON, Missouri

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 431 note, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission:

Mr. MOORE, Kansas
Mr. BOSWELL, Iowa

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2501, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission:

Mr. LARSON, Connecticut

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO JAPAN-UNITED STATES FRIENDSHIP COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2903, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Japan-United States Friendship Commission:

Mr. MCDERMOTT, Washington

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a) of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act (36 U.S.C. 101 note), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission:

Mr. JACKSON, Illinois

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JASON'S LAW

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, tragically on March 5 of 2009, one of Schoharie County's citizens from my congressional district, Jason Rivenburg, pulled his truck into an abandoned gas station frequently used by truckers in South Carolina as a rest stop, and was then and there violently and senselessly shot and murdered, robbed for a meager \$7. At the time of his death, Jason was a mere 12 miles from his destination but was unable to make his delivery because he was too early.

Jason Rivenburg was 35 years old, leaving behind his wife, Hope, and son,