

budgeting with blindfolds on. It gives no thought, no reasons and no real discussion on how the cuts would be made and what the ramifications would be.

Democrats believe that jobs and the economy should be the top priorities and everything we do is measured against those goals. Republicans are failing the test.

REDUCING NON-SECURITY SPENDING TO FISCAL YEAR 2008 LEVELS OR LESS

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to the irresponsible budget resolution under consideration by the House.

My priorities in the new Congress remain supporting middle class families and helping to foster job creation. These goals should be how we in Congress measure every action we take. Unfortunately the budget resolution before us today fails to meet these goals and is little more than a not-so-shrewd act of political theater staged hours before the President delivers the State of the Union in this chamber.

The resolution, which authorizes the Budget Committee chairman to cut non-security federal spending to 2008 levels, is an insincere attempt at fiscal responsibility. Getting our nation's fiscal house in order is a task I and many of my colleagues take seriously. However, rather than setting a concrete plan for how Congress should spend taxpayer dollars, this resolution contains no hard numbers. Moreover, this resolution would take the unprecedented and undemocratic step of empowering one Member of Congress with the ability to identify which programs to cut and by how much.

One example of how this resolution will hurt middle-class Americans is by cutting the Pell Grant program. Pell Grants help working-class Americans afford a college education. Since 2008, Congress increased wisely the Pell Grant to \$5,550. Should this ill-conceived resolution pass, Pell Grants could be cut by nearly 25 percent.

For America's economy to remain competitive in the coming years, Congress must make wise investments of taxpayer dollars. Pell Grants are just one of many of these wise investments. Allowing one Member of Congress to cut capriciously from federal programs while claiming to be fiscally responsible is anything but.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this budget resolution.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 1

- 10 a.m.
Budget
To hold hearings to examine the U.S. economic outlook. SD-608
- Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2011. SD-366
- Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine Iraq, focusing on transitioning to a civilian mission. SD-419

- Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine foreclosure mediation programs, focusing on if bankruptcy courts can limit homeowner and investor losses. SD-226

- 2:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Contracting Oversight Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine improving Federal contract auditing. SD-342

FEBRUARY 2

- 10 a.m.
Budget
To hold hearings to examine tax reform, focusing on fiscal responsibility. SD-608
- Environment and Public Works
To hold an oversight hearing to examine public health and drinking water issues. SD-406
- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine catastrophic preparedness, focusing on FEMA. SD-342
- Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. SD-226
- 2 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine certain nominations. SD-226

FEBRUARY 3

- 9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the energy and oil market outlook for the 112th Congress. SD-366

FEBRUARY 16

- 9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the U.S. Department of Energy's budget for fiscal year 2012. SD-366