

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, my Republican colleagues have put forth spending proposals that they assert promise savings. But deep cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and the discretionary budget really just shift those costs onto seniors and children. I have heard from hundreds of constituents urging opposition because, to quote a constituent from my hometown of Lowell, the impact would be "devastating." This dangerous game has already cost private sector jobs in my district as contractors wait for Congress to pass a long-term budget.

Many in this body have proven willing to compromise to solve our debt crisis. We have already enacted \$10 billion in spending cuts as a show of good faith. But House Republicans continue to insist upon ideological policy changes that even some Senate Republicans say "go too far."

It is time for this body to listen to the American public and reject ideological policies that would destroy Medicare as we know it, eliminate women's health services like breast and cervical cancer screenings, and make it easier for polluters to contaminate our drinking water.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING CONNECTICUT'S HEROES

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember three brave men from my State who recently lost their lives in Afghanistan. PFC David Fahey of Norwalk was killed by an IED on February 28. Sergeant 1st Class Daehan Park of Watertown was killed by an IED on March 12. And Sergeant Frank Adamski of Moosup was killed in a firefight on March 29. March 29 was his 26th birthday.

These three men and 1,500 others have made the ultimate sacrifice in the battlefields of Afghanistan. And these three losses over 30 days is a big price to pay for a small State like Connecticut. These brave soldiers volunteered to put themselves in harm's way, and they die heroes. I join my friends and neighbors in Connecticut in mourning the loss of these three men. I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks, respect, and sympathies to their families during this difficult time.

PROTECTING COMPENSATION FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

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

Mr. YODER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express the great concern that many of us have over the potential im-

pact a government shutdown will have on our men and women serving overseas. Recent Department of Defense memos have stated that in the event of a shutdown, our troops will be required to continue to serve our country, but they and their families will receive no compensation.

Madam Speaker, the House has passed H.R. 1, which would protect these military families from being left in the cold and would keep the government operating while making reductions in spending. As we wait for action on that legislation from the Senate, our troops and their families hang in the balance.

We cannot allow this Washington process to threaten the operational readiness of our military and dishonor the service of our soldiers. Our men and women in uniform are bravely putting themselves in harm's way in service to our country. We cannot let them down. We owe this to our troops.

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, both sides here have agreed to serious budget cuts. The choice is between responsible cuts and extreme cuts that endanger our fragile recovery, cost jobs, and hurt seniors. And because Democrats are fighting to stop the Republican extreme cuts, Republicans are threatening to shut the government down.

Their proposal cuts investments in projects like high-speed rail by \$1.5 billion, which could have a serious impact on jobs in the St. Louis region I represent. And their proposal lacks the common sense and courage to end taxpayer giveaways to Big Oil, millionaires, and companies sending jobs overseas. But most shockingly, as the Wall Street Journal has noted, the proposed budget would drastically cut Medicare and Medicaid, throwing our seniors into crisis. The AARP has said the proposal would "deny vulnerable seniors access to long-term care and force deep cuts in quality and safety in nursing homes, leaving more seniors at risk."

The Republican extreme cuts are not the solution. I urge my Republican colleagues to get serious. It's time to roll our sleeves up and work together to solve the Nation's problems, not create more problems by shutting the government down.

NOTES FROM THE "WARSHINGTON" UNDERGROUND

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Here is a formula for the collapse of both our economy and our democracy: increase spending for the Pentagon by \$7 billion and ensure its budget for the rest of the fiscal year. Everything else gets cut \$13 billion and gets a budget for just 1 week.

Money for war in Iraq, war in Afghanistan, war over Pakistan, war in Libya—so many wars going on at the same time you could rename our town "Warshington." Money for bombs; no money for books. Money for missiles; no money for new moms. Money for jet fighters; no money for crime fighters. Money for an empire that is as broad as our fears; no money for an America that is as large as our hopes. Just money for unnecessary wars.

We don't want apocalypse now; we want peace now. We want jobs now. We want prosperity now. And we want the leadership to provide it now.

COMMEMORATING TWO POLISH ANNIVERSARIES

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

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, today I rise to stand with the Polish people as they commemorate two horrific events on this Saturday, April 10.

First, the 71st anniversary of the Katyn Forest massacre, and the second, the first anniversary of the tragic airplane crash that killed 96 people, including the Polish President and top Polish officials.

The Katyn Forest massacre occurred during World War II in April and in May of 1940 while Poland was fighting a war on two fronts. The Soviet secret police brutally killed over 20,000 Poles whose bodies were later recovered in a mass grave at Katyn. Tragically, last year, as a delegation of Polish officials were en route to Katyn to commemorate the massacre, their plane unexpectedly crashed in western Russia, killing all aboard.

It was with great sadness that I heard the news after having had the great honor of meeting the Polish President Kaczynski in the past. His devotion to the Polish nation and the people were immeasurable.

Madam Speaker, the Polish people over the past year and through the course of history have been unwavering in their resilience and patriotism in the face of adversity. Their courage is admirable and inspiring. On this day, we stand in solidarity as they commemorate two occasions of great loss.

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REPUBLICANS SHOULD BE ASHAMED

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

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, you can tell a lot about a person by how they treat our seniors and how they treat our children. According to the 2012 budget, House Republicans do not value our seniors nor our children. They want to privatize Medicare and undo Medicaid. They will burden already cash-strapped States, and place

it in the hands of Governors. Under their plan, Governors will decide whether or not you will receive health care. They are telling 50 million seniors to cough up the money or get off the health care rolls. They are telling the 1.5 million Medicare and Medicaid recipients in Louisiana that they are on their own.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, most beneficiaries would spend more for health care under the new proposal and could get reduced quality care under the GOP proposal that we are fighting here today.

Grandparents and their grandchildren will have less access to doctors when they are sick. Through this budget, we see the Republican future; and it ain't a pretty one. To use my grandmother's words, Madam Speaker: Republicans, you should be ashamed of yourselves for picking on our seniors and our children.

HONORING BOB YOUNG

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

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I speak today to honor one of Vermont's outstanding civic and corporate leaders. Bob Young is retiring as president of Central Vermont Public Service Company, one of Vermont's largest and most respected companies.

When Bob Young became president, that utility faced many challenges. He faced them directly: rising costs, transmission system upgrades, a customer base that wanted reliable power but green power. Bob Young succeeded in making CVPS an award-winning company. He focused on customer service and environmental concern and stewardship, proving that green power could be reliable and affordable. It was a team effort. His valued employees, his diligent board of directors and his shareholders, all were part of it. But the best part was wife, Vicky, who was not only at his side but oftentimes a step ahead.

You served Vermont well, and on behalf of a grateful Vermont, Bob and Vicky, thank you for your service.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, our soldiers on the front lines all over this world understand what a fight is about. If you have ever visited them in Iraq and Afghanistan, they have values. They know about their grandmothers and grandfathers, and they know about their families back home with their children. They know what they are fighting for. They will understand that we are here fighting for values.

This government shutdown is not the blame or the fault of the President of the United States or the Democrats in the House or in the Senate. There has been an offer of \$73 billion. It is a question of whether or not you want to solve this problem on the backs of grandmothers and granddads, on the backs of the families of the military persons who are on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Do you want to throw college students right out on their rear that are right in the middle of their school term by canceling their Pell Grants? Do you want to tell mothers taking their children to the clinic that there is no more Medicaid for them? Do you want to turn the lights out and close the door and say: America, we don't have any more values.

I do not want to shut this government down. You are not going to shut it down on my watch, if we can work together. I am going to stand and fight for values, and we're going to pull together. We will stand and we will survive. However, let them shut the government down, if the Republicans refuse to compromise. Shut it down. Shut it down. But the Democrats are going to stand for the values of protecting the most vulnerable in America, and we will win.

REPUBLICANS NOT SENDING THE RIGHT MESSAGE

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, there is no question the policy statement of any legislative body, including ours, is the budget. And what are we saying? I can tell you what the Republicans are saying. The Republicans are saying they haven't learned what caused the crash in 2008. They haven't learned because they still want to continue to give the tax breaks to the super wealthy, and they still refuse to address the costs of the wars and what the defense budget is all about.

Instead, the Republicans want to balance this budget on the backs of our kapuna, our elderly. And they want to take away from those who receive Medicaid, those who need the help of government.

You know, this is not how a great Nation should act. This is not what the United States of America stands for. All I can say is we should be ashamed because we are better and we are not sending the right message.

DEVASTATING ANTI-CHOICE BILL

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today because in a few short days this body will consider an extreme and devastating anti-choice bill. H.R. 3 at-

tempted to redefine rape, aims to ban private insurance coverage of reproductive health care, and imposes tax penalties on plans that include care.

These unprecedented provisions have been widely debated, and it is my hope that the American people will realize the severity of this bill and that their Representatives will stop it. But my fear is throughout this debate, a dangerous provision of H.R. 3 has been overlooked, making permanent the Medicaid abortion ban, or the Hyde amendment. It is dangerous because if the extreme provisions are stripped out as a "compromise," we are left with a ban that permanently bars poor women from accessing care, and we have still lost.

Let's call the abortion ban what it really is: a ban on constitutionally protected health care that poor women cannot afford on their own. I encourage my colleagues to stand with poor women struggling to make ends meet around the Nation, in staunch opposition to any Medicaid abortion ban and H.R. 3.

MISPLACED PRIORITIES IN CONTINUING RESOLUTION

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

Mr. MORAN. Madam Speaker, what we've elected to do is to balance priorities, and the most important are the priorities within the budget process.

The Republican budget proposal introduced today is a collection of misplaced priorities because it cuts hundreds of thousands of jobs, it weakens our economy, and it punishes poor people. That's not what we are about.

Today, the wealthiest Americans in this country have 40 percent of our Nation's wealth and are making more than a quarter of our national income. But this budget will cut their top tax rate by 15 percent. In other words, if you're making a million dollars, you're going to get a tax break of up to \$150,000. If you're making a billion dollars a year, which more than two dozen of the hedge fund managers in this country do make, you will get a \$150 million tax break per year. That's not what we should be about.

Let's look at the misplaced priorities in the continuing resolution in front of us. The amount saved by cutting education, health care, environmental regulation, child care, cancer, and Alzheimer's research and all of the other cuts in domestic, nondefense, discretionary spending, is equal to the cost of continuing the Bush tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans. Those are not the priorities of America; that shouldn't be the priority of this Congress. We can do better. We must do better.

NO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. JACKSON of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the