

child nutrition program last week was held out there as an example of what we don't need—but we do. Also we are scratching to support health care, education, even support for veterans, but we still continue to waste \$10 billion a month in Afghanistan. In the time I take to give this speech, roughly \$1 million will fly out of the Treasury to pay for this war.

Mr. Speaker, I implore the President to listen to the American people. Tonight is a moment where he can make history. End the war. Bring our troops home.

URGING THE SENATE TO PASS THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 DHS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Democrat leadership in the Senate to immediately take up the fiscal year 2012 Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill which was passed by this House on June 2. With the 10th anniversary of the tragic attacks of September 11 rapidly approaching, the proliferation of violence along the southern border and natural disasters, it is irresponsible for Senate Democrats to hold up this bill any longer.

The House-passed bill included \$1 billion in supplemental funding for FEMA disaster relief programs that is available immediately upon passage. These funds are desperately needed to respond to natural disasters that have swept the country, including the wildfires which have devastated my home State of Texas.

The House-passed bill uses taxpayer dollars wisely, cutting \$1.1 billion from fiscal year 2011 levels while at the same time ensuring all frontline defenders, including the Border Patrol, Coast Guard and Secret Service, are fully funded. In delaying action on this bill, the Democratic leadership in the Senate is putting the security of American citizens at risk and disaster relief on hold. Any further delay is unacceptable.

I urge my Senate colleagues to make the passage of the FY 2012 DHS appropriations bill a top priority.

THE FAILED DRUG WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, 40 years ago this month, President Nixon launched the war on drugs. Four decades later, I've asked through New Media for Americans to share with me their thoughts on what I believe to be a major public policy failure. Just listen to this story of Neil from Baltimore that Law Enforcement Against Prohibition shared with me.

Late in the evening on October 30, 2000, Neil was awoken by the ringing of

a telephone. As the commander of training for the Baltimore Police Department, late night calls were not unusual, but this call was different. He was told that one of his officers had been shot and taken to the hospital.

The officer was a corporal and a 15-year veteran and undercover narcotics agent for the Maryland State Police. He was assigned to a drug enforcement task force and on that night was making his final drug buy in Washington, D.C., from a mid-level drug dealer when the dealer decided he wanted both the drugs and the money for himself. He returned to the car the officer was driving, paused for a moment, and shot the police officer at point-blank range in the side of the head.

Arriving at the hospital among the scores of family and friends, Neil was guided into the room where the officer laid with his head bandaged and bloodied. Neil had to face the officer's wife and children and explain why their caretaker was no longer with him.

Neil finished his story by writing, "When the people are gone and quiet comes, so does the question: Why? Initially thinking of the covert operation, you rehash the event. How could this happen? What went wrong? What was the protocol? But then I realized that the questions I was asking dealt only with the symptoms of a much larger problem, the war on drugs—the broken policy of drug prohibition."

Every comprehensive objective government study over the last four decades has recommended that adults should not be criminalized for using marijuana, and medical science tells us that by any reasonable health standard marijuana is comparable to alcohol. It is less addictive, less toxic, and, unlike alcohol, marijuana does not make users aggressive and violent.

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We also know that criminalization comes at a very high cost. Each year, more arrests are made for marijuana possession than for all violent crimes combined. Marijuana arrests in the U.S. average 850,000 a year. That's one every 37 seconds; and 89 percent of those are just for possession, not sale or manufacture. Marijuana prohibition is even having a negative impact on our national parks and forests. We have Mexican drug cartels growing millions of plants on Federal land.

We've been down this prohibition path with alcohol, and it failed. It increased crime and violence. Crime bosses got rich, murder rates skyrocketed, the prisons filled, and deaths from tainted booze soared. We're seeing the same results today from marijuana prohibition. Prohibition does not stop people from using marijuana. In fact, marijuana is the largest cash crop in the country. It just gives criminals and violent gangs an exclusive franchise on marijuana sales. It drains resources from law enforcement that would be better spent fighting violent crime. It makes it harder to keep marijuana away from children.

So what have we learned in four decades of the failed drug war? It's this: The biggest part of the harm involving marijuana is caused by the criminalization of marijuana. And it's time to bring it to an end.

Let me end with a story of Brian from DuPage, whose son was caught up in the senseless criminalization of marijuana. When Brian's son was in eighth grade, an incident at school led to the discovery of a small amount of marijuana. Charges were brought. He was sentenced to community service. But the real tragedy followed. As a result of the incident, Brian's son was expelled and barred from reentering any school in the district. He was forced into a school for delinquents where he was grouped with kids who had committed violent crimes. He was basically treated like a criminal. Needless to say, his education suffered immensely.

Here's what Brian, the father, had to say about his son's experience: "Did doing this teach my son a lesson? It did not help him. It harmed him. It disrupted his academic achievement. The school district's solution to finding a small bag of marijuana was to expel four students. No education. No counseling. No help. Just kick them out and wash their hands of the whole thing."

Using marijuana is harmful. Smoking is harmful. Drinking is harmful. In fact, I applaud the FDA's new highlighting of the dangers of smoking and encourage similar efforts to discourage marijuana, which are impossible under the current criminalization regime. The war on drugs hurts America, wastes billions of dollars of taxpayer money, fosters drug-related violence, and does nothing to help Americans who are confronting serious addiction or serious health issues.

After 40 years, it's time Congress put an end to the drug war's 40-year failure.

PRINCIPLES FOR ANY BUDGET AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HONDA. I rise today to urge the President and this Congress to listen to the American people when negotiating a budget agreement. As much as the politicians argue, they don't seem to hear the good sense of the American people. The many closed-door meetings in Washington to decide America's future are filled instead with esoteric and magical formulas purporting to close the deficit. One group wants budget caps. Another wants trigger clauses. A third wants simplistic rules.

None of these will work. These are gimmicks, not governing. Governing is about making choices, setting priorities, and following through. Governing is also about ensuring that the interests and values of the American people are at the negotiating table. If not, any new deal will benefit only the rich and powerful or simply postpone any real