

know: Does the Ryan budget put Americans back to work or back on unemployment? The moms and dads I represent want to know: Does the Ryan budget invest in our children or does it ignore our outdated public schools? The small business owners I represent want to know: Does the Republican budget fix our rigged Tax Code or does it protect special interest loopholes? The retirees I represent want to know: Does this budget protect Medicare or does it abandon seniors in the face of skyrocketing health care costs?

The answer is: no. No, the Ryan budget will not put people back to work. No, it doesn't invest in our schools. No, it does not end special interest giveaways. No, it does not protect Medicare.

The Ryan Republican budget does not stand by our communities, and it doesn't invest in our future. That's why I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the Republican budget.

□ 1230

A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, we teach the importance of a balanced budget to our schoolchildren, such as those we had today, but apparently this basic financial principle is not good enough for our President, who says he won't even chase a balanced budget for the sake of balance.

Mr. Speaker, to help the President find a better reason, I would suggest we examine the economic damage caused by runaway public debt. In 2011, Greece, Italy, and Portugal each amassed public debt greater than 90 percent of their economic output. For Greece, the debt was a stunning 165 percent of their gross domestic product. All three countries are now undergoing wrenching austerity and suffering through prolonged recessions and unemployment.

What would this scenario look like for hardworking American families? The burden of unsustainable public debt and increased taxes would lead to higher interest rates on mortgages, car loans, and other credit. Ignoring this problem would bring on higher inflation, reducing the purchasing power of American families and inflicting the most pain on the poor and middle class.

Mr. Speaker, we must support our families. We must support a balanced budget.

RYAN BUDGET ATTACK ON NEVADA SOLAR PROJECT

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Republican budget

that's being debated this week and, in particular, to the unfair and inaccurate attack on a clean energy company that's located in my home State of Nevada. The Republican proposal refers to the Solar Reserve project as "an ill-fated venture."

Had he done his homework, Budget Committee Chairman RYAN would have discovered that this cutting-edge solar project is not ill-fated but, instead, has a long-term contract with our State's largest utility. It has created 450 good-paying jobs for Nevadans and is running on schedule and under budget.

The assertions being made in the Republican budget undermine the success of renewable energy programs, the jobs they create, and the investment they represent in our Nation's future energy needs.

In Las Vegas and across the country, Americans have made it clear that our budget should be a path forward for a strong middle class and a serious investment in the next generation of Americans.

Let's reject these mathematical gimmicks and unsubstantiated attacks and get to work on a real budget.

TRUST ACT

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share something that has been at my heart and will, in the coming days, be at the heart of my first bill introduced in the House. When Members of Congress break the law, they break trust: they break trust with their colleagues, hurting our ability to work together; they break trust with the American people who sent them here; and they break trust with the Constitution they swore to uphold.

I will be introducing the Trust Act. This bill is simple. It does not distinguish between types of offenses or the possible reasons behind them. It makes clear that a Member of Congress convicted of any felony will forfeit the taxpayer-funded portion of their pension.

If our servicemen and -women who lay their life on the line for our Nation lose their pension with a dishonorable discharge, should not Members of Congress be held to the same standard?

These days with public opinion of Congress at record lows and public debt at record highs, the Trust Act is a place to start in restoring the faith of the American people to their government. I am pleased to present this opportunity to my colleagues to restore trust to taxpayers, and I ask them to join me in this effort.

WASTE IN IRAQ

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice

of the nearly 5,000 coalition troops, including 28 of my brothers and sisters from Hawaii, soldiers like First Lieutenant Nainoa Hoe of Kailua or Sergeant Deyson Cariaga from Honolulu, whom I had the honor of serving with, who paid the ultimate price during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Today marks the 10th anniversary of the American invasion of Iraq. And while this war has largely faded from the headlines, we must take every opportunity to learn from our experiences. There are many lessons we should learn, one of the most egregious being the serious waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars, waste that was apparent to those of us on the ground as well as to outside experts. An alarming report this month by the special inspector general for Iraqi reconstruction also determined at least \$8 billion of our reconstruction funds have been wasted.

In Congress today, we have an opportunity to learn from that lesson. We have to pursue commonsense ways to balance our budget without hurting our middle class families, endangering our national security, or shortchanging our veterans. We must focus on our mission to serve the people who sent us here and honor our servicemembers and their families who have made immeasurable sacrifices in the service of our country.

BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I remember when \$1.4 trillion was a lot of money. 1.4 trillion dollars is the amount of money the Federal budget increases under the House Republican budget proposal—an average of \$140 billion a year, 40 percent over the decade. But listening to my House Democratic colleagues, you would believe our budget cuts spending to the bone. You would believe that our Federal Government can't survive on a penny less than a \$2.1 trillion increase.

Admittedly, that \$700 billion is a lot of money. It's 50 percent more than requested under the House Republican budget proposal. But it is important to remember that every penny of that \$700 billion is borrowed from the future of the young people growing up in this great country today.

Mr. Speaker, families all across America balance their budget. The Federal Government should balance its budget, too.

FEDERAL BUDGET

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

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, around the country this time of year, it is known as March Madness as the NCAA