

prevention grants. We put an end to playing games with promises of 100,000 new police. Let us be clear—the 1994 crime bill never fully funded 100,000 new police. In six years, the money runs out and our communities are stuck with the bill. This year we reformed that law, so local municipalities have the flexibility to spend that money however it suits their crime-fighting needs—new police, crime prevention programs, new equipment, community policing, even a patrol car if that is the best way to fight crime. Those communities that have received initial grants will be funded under the current program.

Our new crime bill goes even further. We provide incentive for States to ensure that violent criminals are incarcerated and we're requiring criminals convicted in Federal court to make restitution to their victims.

This new Republican Congress promised a back-to-basics approach in Washington, and we have been keeping that promise. We cut our budget, and slashed committee staff on our first day. We passed a bill requiring Congress to live under the same laws that every small business lives under.

The House passed a balanced budget amendment to force Congress to live within its means. This is more than an accounting device to make some bureaucrats in Washington feel good. It is about our children and grandchildren and their futures, and about putting an end to the immoral practice of piling the national debt on our future generations. I hope the Senate follows the House's lead and passes the balanced budget amendment.

For more than a decade, Republican Presidents have asked Democrat Congresses to grant them a line-item veto to control wasteful spending and outrageous pork projects. The Democrat-controlled Congresses never gave Presidents Reagan or Bush this tool. Just a few weeks ago, the Republican-controlled Congress extended this power to a Democrat President.

We also passed the unfunded mandates proposal. That will prohibit the Federal Government from passing on the costs for each program to local and State Governments without Washington, DC, participating in the program at all.

Last week, also restored some common sense to our national security and international relations policies. We passed a bill restricting the use of U.S. soldiers in U.N. missions. And we're requiring that U.S. soldiers be deployed to support missions only in our national interests. We have so few defense resources, we must ensure that we use them wisely. Our most precious national security resource—our men and women in uniform—must have the tools and training to be ready for any conflict.

What has been most impressive about all these successes has been our ability to attract significant bipartisan support. These have not been razor-thin partisan fights that we have seen in

past Congresses. The reason? We have passed these policies as supported by the American people and by a bipartisan Congress. We are not just passing bills, we are trying to get communities and families the tools to make their lives a little safer and the children a little less saddled with national debt. We are making government smaller, less costly and less intrusive.

In the first 50 days of this Congress we have met that challenge, and we are looking forward to the future to finishing this, to get the contract finished in the next 50 days.

MORE ON THE DEDUCTION FOR HEALTH CARE COSTS OF THE SELF-EMPLOYED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MOLINARI). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. EWING] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EWING. Madam Speaker, I come here tonight to talk for a few minutes about the action that this body took tonight in passing the deduction for health care costs, insurance costs for the self-employed. It was something that many Members on our side of the aisle wanted to discuss, and there was not literally time for all of us who wanted to debate this important issue to talk and to express to our constituents our support for this important measure.

First of all, this was a tax fairness issue. Most people who work for major corporations get their health care insurance paid for, and that corporation deducts that from the bottom line. It comes out of the profits before they pay taxes. But the self-employed did not get that benefit. We have had it in the past, but it expired at the beginning of 1994. And here we are, in 1995, renewing a tax benefit for the small people in this country, for the self-employed in this country. And we are not doing it until February 1995.

Certainly, what we did here tonight was right. By the very vote, the overwhelming vote that it got from this body, it was correct. And I hope that the other body will soon follow suit and pass that tax deduction for health care costs and make it permanent. But we are not very taxpayer-friendly when we wait until February to pass a tax benefit for the little people in America for the year before.

I come from a rural part of Illinois, and many of my constituents have to file their tax returns by March. Farmers file their tax returns by March. Unfortunately, many of them have had their appointments, have come in and done their tax work and now today we are going to find they have a new tax deduction which they can take. That is what I mean when I say what we did here was not very taxpayer-friendly.

But I am pleased that this deduction, which will cost the Treasury, is being paid for by reduction in other Government expenses.

What we do to help small business helps support the very backbone of this country. Small business creates more jobs than all the big industries in America, and what we did today to make health care more affordable is the type of health care reform we need in this country, paid for by the private sector, health care reform that is not Government controlled.

Madam Speaker, I cannot tell my colleagues how pleased I am that this passed with such an overwhelming bipartisan vote on both sides of the aisle.

THE SELF-EMPLOYED DEDUCTION FOR HEALTH CARE COSTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Madam Speaker, to my colleagues, I would like to say, let me acknowledge this evening my recognition and appreciation for the Houston Livestock and Rodeo Show, an entity in the city of Houston and the county of Harris in the State of Texas that has worked so hard to provide opportunities for inner-city youth and youth throughout our community by providing not only entertainment with real cowboys but also scholarships for greater opportunity. And they seek to provide those scholarships to a wide diversity of individuals in our city and in our county and in our State.

But as well tonight I want to speak just a moment about the vote that I took this evening. Tonight I voted for working Americans from all backgrounds. Specifically I voted to extend permanently the current 25-percent health insurance deduction for the self-employed. However, in addition, I voted for more hard-working Americans, employees whose employers do not subsidize their health care, having a deduction beginning now in 1996. This deduction would be phased in. In 1996, the deduction would be 15 percent of the employee's health insurance premiums and by 2000, the deduction would increase to 25 percent of the premium just like the deduction for self-employed individuals. The McDermott-Gibbons substitute was clearly the better deal for the needs of working Americans, the self-employed, and for employees with no health insurance. We fixed what was broken, a good deal. However, what the McDermott-Gibbons legislation did not do was give a raw deal to a valuable goal to allow minorities to access fairly ownership of radio and television broadcast stations and to increase minority ownership of cable television systems as well.

Certainly, the Republicans know what controlling the media is all about, while they will blast the talk shows with the misrepresentation that