When we do, the losers who pay will not be American families, they will be the lobbyists left alone when the lights go out at their party.

THE COMMON SENSE LEGAL REFORM ACT WILL RESTORE THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF LAW

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

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to spend just a couple minutes this morning talking about my second year in law school, not the first year; the first year we studied the traditional principles of law and I understood those. In the second year we started to get into the more recent developments that we have seen in our legal system, and those, frankly, I did not often understand.

These are principles, for example, that allow someone who is only responsible for 10 percent of the damages caused to someone to be liable for 100 percent of all the payments that have to be made. It allows someone who is drunk to recover full damages, even though it was his drunkenness or the fact that he was on drugs that caused his own damages.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, that is something I did not understand, and 15 years of practicing law confirmed to me that our legal system is dramatically out of whack. That is why I am so happy to be here today as we debate the Common Sense Legal Reform Act.

This act will do many things, but most important, Mr. Speaker, it will restore the principles that our law used to be based on back to the law today, principles of personal responsibility, principles of right and wrong. I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

A PLEA FOR RESTORED FUNDING FOR LIHEAP

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

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, it is not easy to be poor in this country; it is not easy to be old; and it is not easy to get through a harsh New England or Midwestern winter if you are either.

For that reason, we enacted the low-income energy assistance program, or LIHEAP. In fiscal year 1993, more than 5 million households benefited from funding under LIHEAP. More than 70 percent of these recipients have annual incomes of less than $8,000.

In my own State of Connecticut, not only are our winters harsh and our economy in deep difficulty—our fuel costs are disproportionately high. The average price of natural gas in Connecticut is 291 percent higher than it is in Alaska. Without LIHEAP, many families may be faced with the starkest of choices: Heat versus gas for the car, or clothes for the children, or a roof over your head.

It is not easy to be poor, or old, or sick. And it's not easy to be overlooked. Let us not ignore these people least able to speak for themselves. Let us restore funding for LIHEAP.

GOP KEEPING ITS PROMISE TO CHILDREN

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

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are keeping their promises—and that includes the promise to help millions of children currently forced to live on welfare because one of their parents has abandoned them. This Nation's No. 1 natural resource is its children, and they deserve the protection that Republicans offer them in our welfare reform plan.

For decades our Nation has seen a huge welfare bureaucracy continue to grow while Congress stood idly by failing to hold parents accountable for the precious children they have brought into the world and then carelessly chose to abandon. We cannot allow this tragic status quo to continue.

Under the Republican welfare reform bill States will finally get the assistance they need to track down deadbeat parents—especially the 30 percent who move out of the State often to avoid paying child support. Our proposal will help to find these individuals and require them to pay the $34 billion they owe in child support to the children they have deserted—children who might have been kept off welfare if the parent had kept his commitment.

Mr. Speaker, it is a tough approach but a fair one. And, above all else, it is the approach that can save children from falling into the welfare trap of a lifetime of dependence on the Government.

We can end the status quo. Let us help States find those deadbeat parents, and let's keep our promise to the children.

COMMENDING BISHOP ROY LAWRENCE HAILEY WINBUSH

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

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, when men look through the halls of time, it is leaders in our community who literally stand out, those who shake the very ground on which we walk.

It brings me great pleasure to take this moment to recognize a leader not only in my State, but a leader in this entire Nation, Bishop Roy Lawrence Hailey Winbush, who was recently elected the chairman of the Congress of the National Black Churches, an organization that has an active participation of over 65,000 churches nationwide.

Bishop Winbush took this esteemed position it will be 40 years ago. He served as a community leader, and made an incredible mark on this country as a leader who recognizes and represented the cities of Alexandria, Lake Charles, Lafayette, Monroe, and Shreveport.

Bishop Winbush also is a general board member of the Church of God in Christ, an organization that represents over 5 and a half million members nationwide. Bishop Winbush is also a public servant. When faced with the problem of crime, community, and family, President Clinton requested his presence, along with others, to address the problem within the African-American community.

I am happy to say this gentleman lives in my community, and I commend him today.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS INCREASED, NOT CUT

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, that the other side continues to accuse us of cutting funding for child nutrition programs is ludicrous. I voted in committee to increase the funding child nutrition programs are receiving, yet people are calling my office worried that we are gutting these programs. We are increasing the funding and eliminating the wasteful Federal bureaucracy to send more money to the States. The charge that we are cutting funding is patently false. Mr. Speaker, I would simply ask that Americans look at the facts. It is a fact that we are putting more money in to child nutrition. It is a fact that our bill dismantles part of the Federal bureaucracy. And it is a fact that many Democrats receive significant campaign contributions from Federal bureaucrats every year. All I ask is that Americans consider the facts.

IN OPPOSITION TO CHILD NUTRITION AND SUMMER JOB CUTS

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I hold in my hands the Constitution of the United States of America, which has in some parts of it the opportunity for all of us to pursue happiness and to establish equality. I simply ask, who is working for the children?

It is interesting to hear expressions about how much these block grants and these votes will provide more dollars for school breakfasts and lunches. In fact, they really do not. What they actually do is cut the dollars, because they do not take into consideration the increased need of our children and our mothers, who are in fact fighting every day to survive.