

Of course, the centerpiece of this effort to eliminate the marriage tax penalty and to help family farmers and small businesspeople was the effort to eliminate the marriage tax penalty. I have often raised the question here in the well of this House, is it right, is it fair, that under our Tax Code, that average married working couples with two incomes pay higher taxes than an identical working couple with an identical income who lives together outside of marriage? That is just wrong that under our Tax Code that married couples pay more in taxes than couples who live together outside of marriage. That is wrong, and that is unfair.

I am proud that the centerpiece of the tax cut provision of the 90-10 plan eliminates the marriage tax penalty. In fact, as I point out here in this worksheet, for 28 million married working couples, they will see an extra \$240 in higher take-home pay as a result of our effort to save Social Security and eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

Back home in Joliet, \$240 is a car payment; it is a month or two child care at a local day care center, for parents who are working and struggling to make ends meet.

It is kind of interesting, though. The President just the other day, he talks about the Republican efforts to eliminate the marriage tax penalty, and he says, a tax cut, that is squandering the surplus. He wants to spend it, and he says he wants to save Social Security and spend the surplus tax revenue. Of course, Republicans want to save Social Security and eliminate the marriage tax penalty and help family farmers and small businesspeople and those who want to send their kids off to college.

I just thought I would make a little chart here, because I thought I would figure out what is the difference here? With politicians, one always has to kind of not necessarily listen to what they say, one needs to watch what they do. The President says we are squandering the surplus if we are going to use it to eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

What is interesting is in the 90-10 plan, our effort to save Social Security, eliminate the marriage tax penalty and help family farmers and small businesspeople, our net tax cut next year will be \$7 billion.

The President says that is \$7 billion that is squandered, but he turns right around and says we need to spend \$14 billion of that surplus on the State Department and military spending and computers for government bureaucrats, but that is okay.

We cannot have it both ways. Republicans want to save Social Security. We want to eliminate the marriage tax penalty. My hope is the Senate will join us and the President will join us in a bipartisan effort to save Social Security, eliminate the marriage tax penalty, to help family farmers and small businesspeople, truly help those who want to send their kids off to college.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning hour debates, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m.) the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

As the ancient scriptures proclaim: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." We know, O God, that we have our moods and our moments, our highs and lows. We have weariness and exaltation. We pray this day, O loving God, that at any time of great testing we will see more clearly the responsibilities of doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly with You. May our vision of Your good creation inspire us, whatever our task, to serve the people of the Nation with honor, with righteousness, with nobility, with respect, so that in all things, we will be Your people and do those good things that honor You and serve the common good. In Your name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BARRETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is Private Calendar day. The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

BELINDA MCGREGOR

The Clerk called the Senate bill (S. 1304) for the relief of Belinda McGregor.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the

Senate bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

MAI HOA "JASMIN" SALEHI

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 1794) for the relief of Mai Hoa "Jasmin" Salehi.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 1794

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR MAI HOA "JASMIN" SALEHI.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Mai Hoa "Jasmin" Salehi shall be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Mai Hoa "Jasmin" Salehi enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Mai Hoa "Jasmin" Salehi, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MERCEDES DEL CARMEN QUIROZ MARTINEZ CRUZ

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 1834) for the relief of Mercedes Del Carmen Quiroz Martinez Cruz.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 1834

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. IMMEDIATE RELATIVE STATUS FOR MERCEDES DEL CARMEN QUIROZ MARTINEZ CRUZ.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Mercedes Del Carmen Quiroz Martinez Cruz shall be classified as an