

State and local leaders to shift funds between different programs, and to strengthen accountability systems to ensure that taxpayers' money helps increase the achievement of all students.

After signing the No Child Left Behind reforms into law, President Bush approved the funding for Fiscal Year 2002 and dramatically increased the federal government's investment in education.

While the funding level in Fiscal Year 2001 was \$17.4 billion (see chart):

Funding for No Child Left Behind programs in Fiscal Year 2002 was \$22 billion.

In Fiscal Year 2003, funding rose to \$23.6 billion.

In Fiscal Year 2004, funding increased to \$24.3 billion.

For Fiscal Year 2005, President Bush has proposed another increase to \$24.8 billion.

If President Bush's Fiscal Year 2005 budget is enacted, spending on No Child Left Behind programs will have increased 42.5 percent (\$17.4 billion to \$24.8 billion) since he took the oath of office. And even more importantly, those increased funds come with a renewed accountability for results.

These are reasons that we should stand behind the law: it provides flexibility, funding, and school and child improvement. Another reason is a personal story.

Cathy Heizman, the Director of the Child Advocacy Center in Cincinnati explains the importance of schools being held accountable for the educational results of students with disabilities:

All the time (my adult daughter) Cara received special education services, no one was held accountable for her learning. She was in general education classes, but the teachers weren't expected to teach her anything. The special education staff, who were supposed to provide support services, often just chose not to do what was on her IEP. As long as Cara didn't cause trouble and she made it to class on time, they were happy.

My daughter has a good life. She has a job, a steady volunteer opportunity, friends and family who care about her. But, I can't help but wonder what other chances she might have had if someone had actually tried to teach her academics while she was in school.

Now, [because of No Child Left Behind] we are all accountable for every child's educational progress. The percentage of students on IEPs who pass proficiency tests, will be listed separately on district and building report cards. The entire community will understand if the schools have actually taught our kids what they need to know, what all the other kids know. We'll finally have something to hold on to. We will be able to hold someone responsible.

This is a time for all of us to work closely together to make certain that we grab this opportunity to raise the expectations for every child. This could be the last best chance we get. If nothing changes, if our children don't learn, if the schools don't perform, then it will all have been for nothing. It is our obligation to make this moment in time mean something.

Don't we all want what's best for our children? Don't we want to see our children excel with every opportunity given them?

It's our obligation to allow children a high quality education. And it's our responsibility to make sure that the No Child Left Behind law—which passed this chamber with a bipartisan vote of 381 to 41—is implemented fairly and appropriately not simply "fixed" because some organizations find it flawed. As a Congress,

we're conducting that implementation oversight. I am pleased to see our Education and Workforce Committee hold oversight hearings on No Child Left Behind law and hope that it will continue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue to support a good solid implementation of No Child Left Behind.

#### THE NATION'S DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, if you were to look back 400 or 500 years, to the nations that our forefathers left, many of them in Europe, a common practice then was that children would inherit the debts of their parents. If they did not have the money to repay those debts, then they became indentured servants for some lord or king.

Amongst the many decisions our founding fathers made when they wrote America's constitution was they had to wrestle with whether or not one generation should be able to burden the next generation with its debts. They decided they would not; that the debt dies with the estate, and that once an estate's taxes are paid, the children are not responsible for the debts of their parents.

I say this because we have seen a dramatic change in our Nation in the past 25 years, in particular, in the past 3 years. I have a 25-year-old daughter. On the day she was born, our Nation was less than \$1 trillion in debt. We had gone all the way from the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam, escaped the Great Depression, built the intercoastal waterways, and the Golden Gate Bridge and borrowed less than \$1 trillion.

It first started with the Reagan administration, a Democratic House and a Republican Senate. In the span of 8 years, they doubled that debt to \$2 trillion. Ah, but they were just pikers when it came to the Bush administration. In less than 3 years, since May 9, 2001, when George Bush passed his tax cut saying he could cut taxes, increase spending, balance the budget, and pay off those debts that we had, our Nation's debt has grown by \$1,448,675,099,676.

If I were to have one page out here on the House floor, which I have since been prohibited from doing by Speaker HASTERT, each holding up one sign for one digit, it would take 13 young Americans to show just the increase in our Nation's debt.

But it is worse than that. Because if we listen to my Republican colleagues, they say, but we have tax cuts, and we have done a lot of good with that. I would remind my colleagues that through December of this year, they have returned to the American public

\$431 billion in tax cuts since May 9, 2001. But in order to do that, they borrowed \$1.358 trillion.

Now, 7th grade math tells me that for every \$1 they have returned to the citizens, they borrowed \$3. It is an intergenerational transfer of debt. For the sake of their political coffers going up and their contributions going up, they have now stuck my kids, everyone's kids and every unborn child in America with an additional \$1.448 trillion worth of debt.

But it is worse than that. They did not just steal it from future generations, they stole it from today's generation.

Speaker HASTERT, why don't you tell us how much we owe to the Social Security Trust Fund today? Oh, I am sorry, you are out raising money.

Well, the Social Security Trust Fund owes \$1.555 trillion. And when my colleagues tell you about the lock box, ask them the name of the bank and the account number. Because there is not one penny in the Social Security Trust Fund.

How about the Medicare Trust Fund? Mr. Speaker, how much is owed to the Medicare Trust Fund? I am sorry, he is out talking about what a great job he has done as Speaker.

We owe \$284 billion to the Medicare Trust Fund. That is money taken out of people's taxes that were promised to be set aside for no other purpose than to pay Medicare bills. There is not a penny in that account. Again, if any of my colleagues tell you that there is, ask them for the name of the bank and the account number.

How about the military retirement fund? Those brave people serving us right now in dangerous places like Iraq and Afghanistan, in Colombia and Korea.

Mr. Speaker, how much money do we owe the military retirees trust fund? Gee, could not make it.

It is \$185 billion that you have taken from their trust fund and used to spend on your programs.

And lastly, those people who serve us, all the way from the FBI agents to the CIA, border patrol agents, homeland security agents, all those folks who work for our Nation and have a retirement system they have paid into that has been matched by the taxpayers. How much is owed to it, Mr. Speaker? \$621 billion.

Mr. Speaker, you have been Speaker now since January 1, 1999, and you have not allowed a vote on a balanced budget amendment. What is it that you are hiding from me? What is it that you are hiding from them?

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONNER). The Chair would remind Members that their remarks are to be addressed to the Chair.