

a strategy that rightly relies upon the long-term interests in a stable aftermath. Therefore, ending this war is necessary but insufficient.

How we end it and by what means is even of greater importance for our troops' safety and our own security.

#### IT'S TIME WE END THIS WAR

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, a recent CRS report shows that the United States is now spending \$10 billion a month fighting the war in Iraq. That's over \$2.5 billion a week.

And what does the American taxpayer get for this \$10 billion a month? An Army being broken by repeated deployments; a National Guard that is unready or unable to respond to natural disasters or terrorist attacks at home because many of our men and women are in Iraq and most of our equipment is; an escalation in Iraq that has resulted in more death and little reduction in violence; an Iraqi government that is unable to govern, Iraqi security forces that refuse to fully stand up.

The war in Iraq has cost every man, woman and child in my district \$3,077. For over \$3,000 a person, the people in my district have gotten a war that was a strategic mistake and has made them less safe. It is time we end this war.

#### H.R. 2669, THE COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007. This intelligent bill increases Federal scholarship amounts and loan limits to provide students with additional assistance in paying for college, and to help them rely less on costlier private loans.

In fact, when I went to school, college, 25 years ago, college tuition at my university was \$8,000 a year, and my Pell Grant was \$2,700 a year. Today, that very school costs \$38,000 a year, and the Pell Grant is \$4,100 a year. We need to do something about this situation.

As part of this legislation, I am pleased to see that the Congress is moving to enact \$5,000 of Federal student loan forgiveness for students who are using the education they receive to serve their community and country in areas of national need.

Loan forgiveness provides a powerful message to a student: Your Government will help you if you choose to help your Nation.

The College Cost Reduction Act is an important step towards investing in American college students and our future workforce, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this today.

#### MORE BUREAUCRACY, LESS EDUCATION

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today the House will vote on the College Cost Reduction Act, which sounds good on the surface, but once you begin to peel back the layers of this onion, you find that it is just rotten to the core. It contains billions of dollars of new spending, and worse still, it will never even see the light of day. The President has vowed to veto the bill.

And it creates nine new entitlement government programs at a cost of \$197 billion over 5 years. That's nine new programs. And this is just the tip of the iceberg with the leadership spending this year. \$20 billion more than expected on the President's budget. They had \$6 billion more in new spending on January's omnibus, \$17 billion they added to troops spending. It goes on and on, and it is enough to make a taxpayer cry.

And if there's one thing that we all know, once you've got a government program, you've got a government program. Ronald Reagan said it best. There is nothing so close to eternal life on Earth as a Federal Government program.

The leadership knows this bill will not fly with the American people. I encourage my colleagues to vote "no."

#### ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, a week does not go by without at least one or two Republican Senators coming forward and saying what many of us have known for months, that the President's Iraq strategy has failed. First it was Senators LUGAR and VOINOVICH. Then last week Senator DOMENICI joined them in saying that a serious change in course is needed. And then on Monday Senator SNOWE told NBC News that the time has come for binding legislation to bring home most of our troops.

The Senate Republican comments are welcome, but actions speak louder than words. Senate Republicans can't just say that a change in direction is needed; they have to actually help us change the course of the war.

And where exactly are the House Republicans? Does their silence indicate that they will once again rubber-stamp the President's failed Iraq policy?

If they won't listen to us, they should at least listen to respected members of their own party who are saying that we simply cannot continue on this same failed course.

Mr. Speaker, this month Democrats will once again demand change in Iraq. And it's time that our Republican colleagues join us.

□ 1030

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2669, COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2007

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 531 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 531

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2669) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 601 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor; (2) the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part B of the report on the Committee on Rules, if offered by the gentleman from California, Mr. McKeon, or his designee, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI, shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration of H.R. 2669 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN). The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. SUTTON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 531 provides for consideration of H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, under a structured rule. The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking