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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BENTIVOLIO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 13, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KERRY BENTIVOLIO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

SEQUESTER SHOULD APPLY TO PAY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, much has been said about sequestration, but few have mentioned what bothers me the most about it. The pay of Members of Congress is exempted from the sequester. When Members of Congress exempt themselves from the operation of the law, it is not only unfair, it actually violates a core principle of republican government.

There is no less an authority than James Madison who will back me up on this. In *The Federalist* No. 57, he wrote:

I will add, as a fifth circumstance in the situation of the House of Representatives, restraining them from oppressive measures, that they can make no law which will not have its full operation on themselves and their friends, as well as on the great mass of society. This has always been deemed one of the strongest bonds by which human policy can connect the rulers and the people together. It creates between them that communion of interests and sympathy of sentiments, of which few governments have furnished examples; but without which every government degenerates into tyranny. If it be asked, what is to restrain the House of Representatives from making legal discriminations in favor of themselves and a particular class of the society? I answer: the genius of the whole system; the nature of just and constitutional laws; and above all, the vigilant and manly spirit which actuates the people of America—a spirit which nourishes freedom, and in return is nourished by it.

In the spirit of James Madison, I will be filing legislation to make the sequester apply to the pay of Members of Congress at the first moment that is constitutionally permissible. Members of this body must live under the same rules as everybody else. Our Founding Fathers expected it; the American people demand it.

OUR COUNTRY NEEDS A BALANCED PATH FORWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the House Republican budget unveiled yesterday by Chairman PAUL RYAN is a repeat of the same Tea Party principles that have already been rejected by the American people.

House Republicans are once again determined to place the burden of deficit reduction on the backs of middle class families, while the wealthiest Americans get yet another tax break. After wasting valuable time last Congress voting more than 30 times to repeal

health care reform rather than focus on jobs and the economy, the Republican budget again calls for its repeal.

In addition, their budget ends Medicare as we know it, and surprise, surprise, turns it into a voucher program that reduces benefits and leaves seniors paying higher out-of-pocket costs.

While this budget blueprint is still lacking specific details, it is clear that in order to meet the spending targets it outlines, House Republicans would slash investments in key areas that are essential to economic growth and job creation. Education, job training, science, and research will all be on the chopping block in order to reduce the deficit, with little regard for the jobs that would be lost and the impact it would have on our Nation's competitiveness. The Republican budget factors in the sequestration's arbitrary cuts over the next decade, something else that is being rejected by the American people.

For New Mexico, this can mean more cuts to education targeted at low-income and special needs children; painful cuts to tribal communities that jeopardize our responsibilities to Indian country with our trust responsibilities; and cuts that impact funding for Los Alamos National Lab and the small businesses that contract with it, including cuts to important funding for environmental cleanup at LANL.

Regardless of the Republican rhetoric, the math just doesn't add up without steep cuts that will take their toll on New Mexico, threatening services that support the most vulnerable and investments that lay the foundation for a brighter future.

Our country needs a balanced path forward that focuses on growing the economy and providing opportunities for the middle class families. Sadly, the Republican budget fails to meet this goal.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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