

not been born yet for this Nation, the best thing that you can do today is you can vote against the Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

Let me ask a simple question: Which is worse, eliminating some ineffective programs today while still funding important initiatives, or leaving our children a legacy in which the only thing the Government can afford to do is pay for entitlements and interest on the debt, if that?

This is a good bill. It deserves our support. It increases funding in important areas, like the National Institutes of Health. It eliminates funding in areas where it does not deserve to be funded. It consolidates a great deal of funding.

Please, support it.

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#### SALUTE TO THE NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION AND PRESIDENT-ELECT LAWRENCE BOZÉ OF THE NBA

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to salute Lawrence Bozé, newly elected president-elect of the National Bar Association, now holding its 75th year meeting in Baltimore, MD.

The National Bar Association, organized in 1920, is now celebrating its 75th year of service. It is an organization of lawyers serving African-Americans throughout this Nation. Mr. Bozé, a native Houstonian, has been a long-time activist in the Houston Lawyers' Association, the NBA, and the Houston community. He has used his legal training to enhance the lives of those least able to access our American system of justice. He has fought the legal fight against eliminating the 18th Congressional District.

As head of an organization, the NBA, that has led the effort to maintain equality, civil rights, and opportunity, I know that Mr. Bozé's administration will continue that service in an excellent manner.

It is my pleasure to salute the National Bar Association in its 75th year of service and Mr. Lawrence Bozé, the newly elected president-elect of the NBA.

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#### WE MUST PRESERVE MEDICARE

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, the Medicare program is a very, very essential program we need to save in this country. It is very important in my congressional district in Florida, where I have more senior citizens than any other congressional district in the country. It is also important not only for the seniors but for the jobs in my area, the hospitals, the

nursing homes, the home health agencies. So it is very essential we preserve this very essential program, and it has to be a bipartisan effort.

The President speaks normally in a bipartisan fashion on Medicare, which is the way we should treat that. It is only when he gets into the partisan campaign reelection that he gets carried away on Medicare. But we start off with a bipartisan agreement that it is going broke. The President's own trustees, Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of HHS, the Secretary of the Treasury, they all said in their report on April 30 of this year, it is going broke in 7 years, and it starts running out of money next year.

Last night in the news the President is saying, according to headline news stories, that we need to look at the private sector. Great. We need to look at the private sector because the private sector health care costs also are not growing nearly as much as is happening in Medicare.

We must preserve Medicare.

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#### THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA'S SENIORS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, as many know, the Republicans seek to cut \$270 billion from the Medicare program, and the Republicans claim that these cuts will not hurt senior citizens.

But if health care costs continue to rise faster than the money budgeted for Medicare, then seniors will either get less services or pay more money. It is that simple.

One plan that the Republicans are considering is a voucher plan which would force senior citizens to purchase their own health insurance. While Republicans claim this is giving seniors more choice, many forget the reason Medicare was enacted was because health insurance was so expensive. Prior to Medicare, most seniors did not have any medical insurance.

What the Republicans are in effect saying is, "Seniors, here is a small amount of money. Go out and buy health insurance that you will not be able to afford."

Now that Republicans are in power, they want to enact the largest cuts in Medicare history. The Republicans talk about reform, but they start with the cuts first. This is backwards, and it is also wrong.

Republicans have forgotten the truly important contract, the contract with America's seniors.

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#### WE NEED TO SAVE MEDICARE

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

Mr. DICKEY. Madam Speaker, I think I am going to introduce a new

word to this thing, counter-consultants' advice.

What we have here is we have consultants who are trying to take the Medicare issue and make it an issue of political proportions. Then the counter-consultants come back and say, "No, we can't do this. We have got to respond to this politically."

We just have a contrast here with the previous speaker and myself. I think we all have something in common. I think we all agree, we all agree we must save Medicare. We all agree that if we continue like we are doing, with the overutilization and the rising costs, that Medicare is going to go broke.

So what we need to do in this particular discussion is keep the consultants and the counter-consultants out of it.

Look at the facts. In 2002, Medicare will go bankrupt, and \$1 billion in Medicare part A will be spent over, above, what we have to spend.

We need to save Medicare, and we all agree on that.

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#### DRAMATIC CUTS IN EDUCATION

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

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, here in today's newspaper, USA Today, "Nation rates average in school reform,". Only "average". Yet today we will debate a bill that cuts education dramatically. It cuts the money that we provide schools to help kids who need help, doing math and reading, because they are behind.

We are eliminating a program that actually helps us get schools reformed, eliminating the program that helps 44 million students. We are eliminating 27 percent of funding for vocational education.

We are eliminating \$137 million for Head Start Programs for our kids. We are cutting in half Healthy Start Program moneys. We are eliminating \$286 million for safe and drug-free schools, to make sure our kids have a safe environment to go to.

At the same time we are doing this—the Gingrich Republicans are axing education funding, not only are they doing that, but they are adamant about giving corporations and the wealthiest of Americans \$20,000 in tax cuts and at the same time they are adding \$8 billion to the defense budget, which the Department of Defense did not even request.

Wrong-headed is the word.

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#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 789

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 789.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mrs. WALDHOLTZ). Is there objection to the