

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR CERTAIN COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on National Security, the Committee on Resources, and the Committee on Small Business.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2127, Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996, and that I may include extraneous material along with tables and charts.

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

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 208 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House on the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2127.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes with Mr. WALKER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, August 2, 1995, title II had been designated.

Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] will be recognized for 45 minutes, and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] will be recognized for 45 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER].

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. PORTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Chairman, the total discretionary funding for the Departments of Health and Human Services declines by \$1 billion from \$29.2 billion to \$28.2 billion, or 3.5 percent. Mandatory spending, on the other hand, increases from \$152 billion to \$170 billion.

One of the committee's top priorities is funding for biomedical research. The bill provides \$11.9 billion for the National Institutes of Health, which is an increase of \$642 million, or 5.7 percent.

The committee believes strongly we should permit scientists to determine the funding priorities at NIH rather than Members of Congress. As a result, the committee has not earmarked funds for specific diseases or directed NIH to fund particular research mechanisms. These decisions should be, and are under the bill, left to scientists.

Another high priority in the health and human services section of the bill is support of preventive health programs. Funding is maintained for the Centers for Disease Control and prevention programs supporting increases for a broad range of prevention programs and funding many others at last year's levels. Increases are provided for childhood immunization, breast and cervical cancer screening, sexually transmitted diseases, chronic and environmental disease, and infectious disease.

The committee has also adopted a strategy of preserving funding for the large block grants which permit States flexibility to provide a broad range of services or to reduce or eliminate funding for the smaller categorical programs which must be used for very specific purposes and constituencies.

For example, the bill preserves funding at the 1995 levels for the substance abuse and mental health services block grants, the preventive health services block grant, the community services block grant, and the child care and development block grant. The bill level funds the title X family planning program at \$193 million. Ryan White AIDS treatment programs are level funded, with the exception of title I assistance to cities, which is increased by \$23 million in recognition of the new cities coming on board in 1996.

Funding for health professions training is maintained at the 1995 funding level and is provided in one consolidated line item, pending reauthorization of various training programs.

The core programs addressing rural health care needs are protected. The National Health Service Corps is level funded at \$120 million, as is the Rural

Outreach Grants Program at \$26 million; \$10 million in continuation costs is provided for rural hospital transition grants.

In addition to supporting ongoing programs to address violence against women, such as the Family Violence Program, the bill provides an additional \$39.9 million for violence against women programs specifically authorized in the crime bill.

Funding for the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research declines by 21 percent, to \$125 million, and the bill abolishes the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health, with its allocation of 14 deputy assistant secretaries and 6 special assistants at grade 15 or above, and transfers some of its core functions to the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is eliminated because the original justifications for this program at the Federal level no longer exists.

The bill does make a very small reduction in Head Start funding of \$137 million, or 3.9 percent from last year, but even with this small reduction, Head Start is still funded at over \$3.3 billion for fiscal year 1996.

We reduce in the bill Federal administrative costs by cutting overall administrative budgets by 7.5 percent and congressional and public affairs offices by 10 percent. The bill changes current law by 10 percent.

The bill changes current law by providing States with the option of providing Medicaid funding for abortion in cases of rape or incest. It also prohibits use of Federal funds to discriminate against medical schools who do not include abortion training as part of their overall Ob/Gyn training, and bans human embryo research by NIH.

All of these provisions are the subject of possible amendments today.

I believe that this section of the bill reflects a thoughtful approach to the funding for the Department of Health and Human Services.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 8 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, yesterday we talked about the implications of this bill for working Americans. Today we are moving to the portion of the bill that attacks our most vulnerable citizens.

This is really the second stage of a three-stage attack on the elderly, on disabled, and poor Americans.

Last week, this House adopted legislation which will substantially increase the rent that low-income elderly will pay to live in section 8 housing and other federally subsidized housing. In September we will be considering legislation that will radically scale back the options of senior citizens on Medicare and will substantially increase their out-of-pocket expenses, and today we are attacking vulnerable Americans on another front in this bill.

This bill kills the program that helps pay winter fuel bills and summer air-