

money here, it is much more important that we send that money directly to the school districts.

One other thing that we agreed on with the President is that there is a surplus that can be spent on something other than saving Social Security. I think we need to keep in mind that the Republicans have put at the top of their list that we need to save Social Security and we passed a bill that said that 90 percent of the surplus would be set aside for saving Social Security and 10 percent would go to tax relief.

The President has insisted that we do not have any tax relief this time, but we wanted to make sure that we did have that money available. He has agreed that it is available, except he wants to spend it on the bureaucracy. So, we have agreed, in order to get some type of compromise, we have agreed with the President that we would take the Republican priorities and spend some of that on emergency spending.

One of those things that we did for emergency spending was provide tax relief for the financially strapped farmers. If my colleagues have been following the nationwide news, and certainly in Kansas it has been followed closely, farmers have been having a hard time this year. Weather has been a problem. Around the world prices have been depressed and that has caused a lower demand for farm commodities and so the prices have been down. Combine that with the natural problems that we had with the weather, and it has been a tough year.

We have also provided tax relief for farmers and other self-employed individuals by allowing 100 percent deductibility of their insurance premiums.

One of the other things that was a great victory for the Republicans in this settlement is that we now have much-needed increased funds for national defense. About \$9 billion of emergency spending for defense and intelligence needs.

This administration has increased the work level of the Department of Defense much more than any other bureaucracy that we have here in Washington, D.C., and yet they have limited the funds. They have tried to divert the funds. They have allowed much of it to be wasted, and they have sent people overseas on numerous missions. Bosnia comes to mind, and now we are looking at Kosovo. We have had intervention in Haiti and in Africa and different places.

Mr. Speaker, all of this costs money and the administration has been more than willing to send our young men and women abroad and not fund it. Well, because of that, we have created an emergency in our national defense system. We are going to now, with this final bill, be able to do something for our young men and women who are willing to risk their lives.

We also have some relief here for the need that we have to provide for our national defense. We have about a bil-

lion dollars that have been set aside for missile defense. Most people do not realize that we have no defense for incoming ballistic missiles. We have had in the past a policy of mutually assured destruction. We would not fire on anybody else because they would fire back on us and vice versa. If someone was to fire an intercontinental ballistic missile on the United States, they could be assured that we would enjoy their country too. And so this mutually assured destruction has been our policy.

Now, with the breakdown of the USSR and other Third World countries becoming nuclear powers, we find that we have no policy that is working and this mutually assured destruction cannot be guaranteed when we have terrorists that we are dealing with. So, it is very important that our country provide for a missile defense system.

We have now, because of the Republicans in our negotiation, our leadership in negotiations, we have provided the first step in continuing this missile defense program that is much-needed.

There are other provisions in here that were very important that we see become law. We are now protecting children from pornography on the Internet. We are now going to stop needle exchange programs, which have been proven not to work.

So we think that we have a good settlement and a good agreement and it shows that our system of democracy does work. Nobody got 100 percent of what they wanted, but we got an agreement and we are moving forward to make sure that this country is safe and secure and that our needs are met.

CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN'S CAUCUS LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have kept the count for the Women's Congressional Caucus of our legislative achievements in a productive session for our achievements, working closely with my Republican co-chair, the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

I come to the floor this afternoon cheered to know that one of the last of our seven must-pass provisions has now finally been passed, after having been passed several times, twice in the Senate and in the House, and that is a provision that will allow the full range of contraceptive drugs and devices for Federal employees who faced Federal insurance that was very diverse in what was offered.

This was a major fight. Abortion politics somehow made its way into this mainstream contraceptive issue. Finally, it has been settled and these drugs will be provided. That means that four of the seven must-pass bills of the Women's Caucus, which is a bi-

partisan caucus in the House has been passed.

We are grateful that the reauthorization of the Mammography Quality Standards Act was passed; the reauthorization and strengthening of sections of the Violence Against Women Act occurred; that a new Commission on Women, Minorities and People with Disabilities in Science, Engineering and Technology Jobs will take place.

Now that the contraceptive priority has passed, the House and the Senate have now been passed four out of seven of our priorities. It shows what bipartisanship can get us if we are willing to do it.

The women of the Congress have set the example for the entire Congress. I do want this body to know that in addition to our annual must-pass provisions, there were other legislative priorities that the caucus had and that were passed.

I am particularly cheered that gender-integrated military training, a strong bipartisan goal of the Women's Caucus, occurred. And my hat is off to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER), who were on the committee and carried the matter for the caucus.

Child care, as we desired it, did not come about because no bill came to the floor. But I am pleased to note that \$45 million was included in the Higher Education Reauthorization Act for campus-based child care.

Mr. Speaker, with all of the concern about taxes, this House did not overlook the need for tax relief for innocent spouses, women who were left holding the bag after divorce when taxes they did not know were not paid fell to them.

The Women's Caucus has led the notion that women and minorities are to be included in clinical trials. Now we have been able to get that proposition accepted under the Federal Food and Drug Administration Reform Act.

Mr. Speaker, child support enforcement continues to be a priority concern of the congressional women. We are moving along incrementally until this full job is done. There are incentive funds that we have passed in order to improve the performance of child support enforcement programs. We take heart that it has now become a felony if parents do not pay their child support for a year, or if they owe more than \$5,000. That is what a felony ought to be, when we consider what is at stake is the lives of children.

We are pleased that the House, in fact, has helped displaced homemakers find job skills. These are women who will not qualify for welfare, many of them divorced or separated, women who now under the Job Training Reauthorization Act will in fact be able to get job training targeted and focused on them.

Mr. Speaker, I have been to the floor this week already with a strong set of disappointments about women's issues.

They were quite overwhelming. They involved, especially, choice and child care issues. I come to the floor this afternoon, however, grateful that we have removed contraception from the women's list of demerits for the 105th Congress. May we all do better in the 106th Congress.

FOUR YEARS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF REPUBLICAN-CONTROLLED CONGRESS

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I just came from our Republican Conference talking about what is in this omnibus appropriation bill. The good news is that when we think of what might have happened with the tax-and-spend presidency, with the tax-and-spend Democrats, what would have happened if Democrats were in control of this Chamber not fighting to make sure that we did not reach into the surpluses that we have for additional spending.

What we have accomplished since the Republicans took the majority 4 years ago is a tremendous reduction in deficit spending. The unified budget deficit 4 years ago was \$210 billion. If we add to that what we were borrowing from the Social Security trust fund, then it came to about \$160 billion, more deficit at that time than we have this year.

We actually paid down the debt to the public this past year by \$60 billion. We expect that this current fiscal year, the 1999 fiscal year, we will reduce the debt to the public, the public debt, by an additional \$62 billion. It is not as good as it should be. We are still borrowing some of that money from the Social Security trust fund for other spending. I wish my colleagues would join me in cosponsoring my bill that stops the government from borrowing this money and leaving simple IOUs.

Look, the point is that we have got a good start. We have got a smaller deficit by \$260 billion than we had 4 years ago. If we look at what happened when I first came to this Congress in 1993, the frustration of a Democrat majority and a presidency that increased taxes on senior citizens, on gasoline, and so most Republicans voted against it, most every Democrat voted for it, and we have been trying to turn that around ever since.

Now the goals of this Congress, with a majority of Republicans, I think is twofold. I think we are looking at traditional family values. There is not a lot that government can do about traditional family values, but, look, there are some things we can do. The marriage penalty tax. We can set an example. We can encourage neighborhoods to get involved. And that is what we are trying to do with our drug program.

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We have expanded money for drug control in this Congress with this

budget that we expect to pass in the next 48 hours. Drugs are disrupting education. Drugs are one of the major causes of crime. And we are saying that, look, we are going to be serious about an all-out war on drugs.

I think as we look at our challenges ahead for the future, certainly we have got to put a priority on trying to deal with the fiscal problem of Social Security and Medicare. Those are two huge challenges that we have got to face up to. I am concerned about the politics that is being played with those items during this election year.

I would just suggest, Mr. Speaker, to everybody out there that might be listening to this program to brace up for the last two weeks of this campaign, as there is going to be a lot of misleading and false information out there that suggests that one side of the aisle cares less about balancing the budget or more than the other side, that one side cares less or more about Social Security and Medicare.

Our two biggest fiscal problems are Social Security and Medicare that we have got to deal with. I think on the domestic side, we need to look at traditional family values. We need to give the kind of priority to education that this appropriation bill gives, as we have expanded over and above what the President requested for the programs for the slow learners, for the special program education money that goes into IDEA, because hopefully both sides of the aisle will give the kind of priority to education, will give the kind of priority to reducing crime that this particular appropriation bill does that we will pass in the next two days.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). The Chair would advise that it is inappropriate to address the viewing audience.

HOW HISPANIC AMERICANS FARED

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

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, we are very close to the end of this session, and perhaps it is fitting that we have an opportunity to try to assess what has gone on this year. It happens that as the individual who has been given the privilege to serve this Congress as the chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, a caucus which is composed of all those Members of Congress of Hispanic heritage, that this year we have an opportunity to talk a little bit about how Hispanic Americans have fared in this Congress and through this White House in legislation and in proposals administered by the executive branch of government.

And to help us in that we are fortunate. About 8 years ago many of the national Hispanic organizations came

together and formed an umbrella organization, the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda. Back in 1991, when they formed, they decided to have a policy to try to come together and see if with all the voices of these national organizations, they could try to project a voice for Americans of Hispanic descent.

This organization is nonpartisan and it is, as I said, a coalition of all the major national Hispanic organizations. It includes communities from all the different streams of Hispanic America. It includes those individuals of Mexican American ancestry, Puerto Rican ancestry, Cuban Americans and all those who are from the Caribbean, Central and South American areas.

Let me give you a list of some of the organizations, national organizations that are part of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda. We have the Hispanic National Bar Association. We have the Hispanic Association of Corporate Responsibility. We have the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Cuban American National Council, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the National Hispanic Corporate Council. We have the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the American GI Forum, Alianza Dominicana, the National Puerto Rican Coalition, MANA, a National Latina Organization, the National Hispanic Council on Aging, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, the National Council of La Raza, and the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, to name some of the many organizations that are part of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda. Overall they represent millions of Americans and try as best possible to come together in one voice.

Let me show you a little bit of what they came up with. This is their scorecard that they just recently issued. It is called the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda congressional scorecard, 105th Congress. What the various organizations do within the NHLA is to take a number of very important votes that this Congress took this year and in 1997, during the 105th Congress, and assess where we stood as a Congress with respect to issues important to Americans of Hispanic descent.

They took many votes, about 24 of the most important votes that were taken here in the House and about 11 of the most important votes taken in the Senate, and they came up with a scorecard. And I went ahead and summarized some of that so we would at least have a sense of where we are this year at the end of the year.

Let me, if I may then, refer to this chart. If you break it down, you will see that votes taken by the House and the Senate, there were more votes taken in the House than in the Senate