

TIME FOR BUSH ADMINISTRATION  
AND CONGRESS TO DEAL WITH  
BUDGET NEEDS IN RESPONSIBLE  
FASHION

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2002*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last year, President Bush presented and Congress passed his tax cut predicted on Americans paying down the deficit in the next ten years. There were unrealistic assumptions about Federal spending, claiming to protect Social Security and Medicare, with a trillion dollars left over for contingencies. Today, \$4 trillion of those assumptions have disappeared. The White House has sent a budget to Congress that will never be presented for a vote because even the Republican leadership knows it would fail.

It is time for the Bush administration and Congress to step back and deal with our critical budget needs in a reasonable fashion. The tax changes that were all scheduled to expire in less than 10 years should be reassessed in light of our stated priorities. We should not dramatically increase our debt, borrow against Social Security and Medicare, and abandon priorities for senior citizens and veterans that were clear and important commitments to American voters.

There should be a careful reexamination of the proposed military budget to eliminate unnecessary weapons system that will not help us in our war on terrorism and that will not even be helpful fighting conventional wars. We should commit to reforming agricultural spending so it does not waste huge sums of taxpayers money while hurting the environment and consumers, not even benefiting most states and taxpayers.

Last year I made it clear that the budget resolution did not have a pretense of reality and that the tax cut was based on seriously flawed premises. The events of this last year have revealed with a vengeance the accuracy of these predictions. Oregonians expect their political leaders to keep their commitments to reduce our multi-trillion dollar national debt, protect Social Security and Medicare, avoid reckless and irresponsible spending, and reform existing programs to give more value while saving money. Today's vote is a political charade that does not advance any of these objectives. The fact that it is brought forward as a suspension bill with no meaningful debate underscore the fact that even the Republican leadership is not serious about it. I hope that we can stop these meaningless political exercises and get on with the hard and serious work of budgeting for this year and America's future.

PARCA—CELEBRATING 50 YEARS  
OF GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2002*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to

Parca, a private, nonprofit organization serving people with developmental disabilities, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Since 1952, Parca has enriched the lives of these special people while strengthening our community through its devoted services. Parca's impact on those with developmental disabilities, as well as on their friends and family, is recognized with great appreciation by many in our community.

Mr. Speaker, in 1952, people with developmental disabilities and their families were often unable to find programs and support to help meet their special needs. Flo Nelsen organized a group of concerned parents and established Parca to provide support for individuals and families with developmental disabilities such as Down's Syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and other neurological disorders. Flo Nelsen believed that every developmentally disabled person had the right to resources and support to help them reach their highest potential and become actively and productively involved in the community. Families and individuals with developmental disabilities can turn to Parca for advocacy, information, counseling, support, and, most important, fun.

Over the past fifty years, Parca has expanded to provide a variety of services and programs for different age levels, and it has expanded into Marin County, Silicon Valley, and the East Bay. Parca's Recreational Experience for All Children (REACH) program provides child care services for children with or without developmental disabilities, giving children an opportunity to appreciate and learn from one another. The recreational activities of REACH help children appreciate their differences and identify their similarities. Another great benefit of this program is the child to staff ratio is 6 to 1, and in some cases, 3 to 1, depending on the needs of the children. The result is a better learning experience because individualized attention is geared toward their pace of learning. Parca provides numerous recreational and social opportunities for families and individuals with developmental disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, one of Parca's important and unique contributions is the Raji House—a unique program that allows out-of-home weekend service for children and teens with developmental disabilities. As you know, Mr. Speaker, one of the many difficult challenges of raising such a child is getting a break, and this service provides parents with a respite care service. At the same time, it gives the children a chance to learn and grow as they spend a weekend in a rich home environment with the opportunity to go on fun, exciting, and educational field trips. Both parents and children have the opportunity to become rejuvenated through Raji House.

Parca also offers an adult service program that trains adults with the skills needed for self-reliance and independence. Among many of Parca's accomplishments is a collaboration with housing developers to provide affordable housing to individuals and their families, furthering Parca's efforts to promote independence. Independent Living Skills Counselors live on-site with residents to ensure their safety, and counselors help them learn the basic skills needed to live on their own, including balancing a checkbook, cooking meals, doing laundry, and planning grocery lists. These skills are something many take for granted,

but for those with developmental disabilities these skills are the key to greater freedom and independence and a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Sarah Hurlbut, a young woman who is currently a resident in Parca's Page Mill Court Apartments in Palo Alto, has made extraordinary progress since she moved into the apartments in 1998. With the help of Parca she has been able to live on her own for the first time. Sarah is no longer a shy young woman—through Parca's help she has become more assertive and is becoming a leader among her peers. As Sarah's experience has demonstrated, this program has been critical in our effort to help those with developmental disabilities become an integral part of our community.

Parca's excellent family and counseling services provide families with information regarding individualized education, program planning, and counseling on a variety of issues. The "Speaker Series" provides information to those interested in learning about important issues such as child care, education, independent living, and wills. Parca's People First chapter teaches adults with developmental disabilities on how to advocate for themselves. The group has also organized trips to our state capital in Sacramento and to our national capital here in Washington, DC, to provide families and individuals with developmental disabilities an opportunity to advocate their positions on issues directly affecting their community.

On February 9, 2002, Mr. Speaker, Parca will be holding its "Hearts of Gold Anniversary Celebration" to mark 50 years of golden opportunities to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. As Parca celebrates this historic milestone, I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing and commending the entire Parca family for the time, effort, and invaluable contributions that have been made to help individuals with developmental disabilities achieve their highest potential. We celebrate the vision and the success of Parca and wish continued future success.

ESTABLISHING FIXED INTEREST  
RATES FOR STUDENT AND PAR-  
ENT BORROWERS

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 24, 2002*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to support S. 1762, to establish fixed interest rates for student loans and to loans and to extend current law with respect to Federal support for lenders.

The passage of S. 1762 will establish fixed interest rates for students and correct a problem in the Higher Education Act that, if not acted upon, would threaten to end the participation of private lenders who fund the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). The continued availability of low-cost, federally guaranteed loans under FFELP is crucial to ensuring that our nation's students and parents are able to pay for college and other higher education opportunities.

As a member of the 21st Century Competitiveness Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction