

which are necessary for the long-term stability of southeastern Europe. Many of us worked hard to correct this flaw in the immediate post-Dayton years, and continue to encourage democratic forces in Serbia to reckon fully with the Milosevic legacy.

Fortunately, along with the eventual ouster of Slobodan Milosevic in Serbia, we have seen more vigorous and positive action to move ahead in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the past five years. More of the displaced have returned to their original homes than was thought possible when Dayton was negotiated. It hasn't been easy for many who return as members of a minority population, but determination has helped them to prevail. More and more individuals indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, including Milosevic, have been transferred to The Hague, and, at a recent Helsinki Commission briefing, we learned that Bosnia's own War Crimes Chamber has been established and is ready to conduct sensitive trials in accordance with the rule of law. Srebrenica is being acknowledged as the crime that it was. Defense and police reform are underway, helping to pave the way for Bosnia's further Euro-Atlantic and European integration. The region around Brcko, so brutally contested during the conflict that not even Dayton could determine its status, now provides a model of multiethnic cooperation and economic recovery for the rest of the country. There are now discussions of constitutional reforms which, if adopted, will hopefully make the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina a sum of its citizens and not a balance of its ethnicities.

If the Dayton Agreement succeeded in anything, Mr. Speaker, it was because its detailed provisions and improved implementation have provided the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina with both the parameters of a state and enough time to bring their country back from the abyss. I have increasing confidence that they will succeed in moving from what was admittedly a "General Framework for Peace" to a solid basis for unity, freedom, prosperity and integration.

In the meantime, the international community has much it still needs to learn and develop. The conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina gave new purpose to NATO and enabled it to begin operating out of area. Fifty years after the Holocaust, those who commit war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide no longer operate with complete impunity. Still, the international community—whether the United States and its allies, regional bodies or the United Nations—remains slow in responding to human suffering, or in recognizing the implications massive human rights violations can have on international security. It too readily accepts the reality of innocent people being attacked, brutalized and killed. Look at the response during the assault on Srebrenica and then at the response to Darfur today; the similarities are strong.

I therefore hope, Mr. Speaker, that Dayton's tenth anniversary is commemorated in a way that includes not only encouragement for Bosnia and Herzegovina to move beyond the agreement's limiting provisions, but encouragement for all policymakers to learn from the lessons of inaction in the face of evil.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I speak today in opposition to H.R. 3010, the Labor-HHS-Education Conference Report. First and foremost, I am highly disturbed that the report has no earmarks for Member programs. Unfortunately, this conference report invests nearly \$1.5 billion less in critical education, health care and job assistance than last year. In fact, Republicans will spend more on tax cuts this week, \$70 billion, than they will on all education and labor programs over the entire coming year, \$68 billion. The conference report is only the most recent evidence that Republicans are out of touch with the priorities of the American people. Together, America can do better.

With a record 55 million children in public schools and state budgets stretched thin, No Child Left Behind funding is cut by \$784 million. Title I, which is the core of NCLB's efforts to improve reading and math skills, receives the smallest increase for Title I in 8 years—only \$100 million—which means 3.1 million low-income children will be left behind. Further, even as the cost of a 4-year public college education has increased \$3,095, 34 percent, since 2001, the maximum Pell Grant is frozen for the fourth straight year, and no new funding for all other student financial aid and support programs is provided. These cuts are unthinkable, and the American people do not deserve this treatment.

In addition to other horrible cuts, in an age where being tech-savvy is a necessity not a privilege, the digital divide just got bigger as the bill cuts the Education Technology Program by \$221 million or 45 percent. Republicans will actually cut the Federal share of special education costs from 18.6 percent in FY 2005 to 18.0 percent by providing the smallest increase for the Individuals with Disabilities Act in a decade. The bill provides \$4 billion less than Republicans promised for IDEA. It is hard to imagine, but with 7.4 million Americans out of work, Republicans cut the Community College Initiative's efforts to train workers for high skill, high paying jobs by \$125 million and rescind \$125 million from funds provided last year, denying this assistance to 100,000 Americans. Republicans also cut job search assistance through the Employment Service by \$89 million, 11 percent. To further add injury to insult, state Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service offices are cut by \$245 million, 7 percent, eliminating help for 1.9 million people. With consumers expected to pay 52 percent more for electricity this winter, Republicans still failed to increase funding for LIHEAP home heating assistance, which helps keep the heat on for low-income seniors and children.

Only about 10 percent of physicians in America practice in rural areas despite the fact that one-fourth of the U.S. population lives in these areas. There are significant shortages of

health care providers in urban, underserved areas, but training grants for healthcare professionals are cut \$206 million, 69 percent. Further, nearly 46 million Americans are without health insurance yet Republicans provide virtually no funding for new Community Health Centers beyond those approved last year. Republicans also eliminate the Healthy Communities Access Program, \$83 million, and state planning grants to improve health care coverage, \$11 million. Preventive Health Block Grants to state health departments help address critical public health problems. The bill provides less for responding to disease outbreaks, immunizing children, and improving care for people with chronic diseases, when it cuts these grants by \$31 million or 24 percent.

In addition, The International Labor Affairs Bureau will have a hard time protecting American workers from being undercut by child and slave labor abroad after being cut by \$20 million or 21.4 percent.

In closing let me note that I was disappointed that the bill did provide earmarks for Member projects. However, I was pleased to see that this action by the Republicans was the straw that broke the camel's back, and as a result, the Conference Report was voted down. I hope once conferees return to the drawing board; they get it right once and for all.

CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF
LAW

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, when our new Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales, pledged earlier this year that enforcement of our civil rights laws would be one of his priorities, we all wished him well in fulfilling that commitment.

When leaders here in Washington—Democrats and Republicans alike—have expressed support for extension of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, our hopes for a better and more just society have been encouraged.

When this Nation rose as one and bowed our heads in respect for the life of Ms. Rosa Parks, the "Mother of Civil Rights in America," we also were re-dedicating ourselves to the ideals of equality, opportunity and civility that are the foundation of American society.

I remind the House of these promising, non-partisan expressions of our Nation's shared values, Mr. Speaker, for a very important reason.

Last Sunday, the Washington Post published a news article that outlined some deeply disturbing assertions about the operation of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.

The article entitled Civil Rights Focus Shift Roils Staff at Justice, written by Mr. Dan Eggen, reported that nearly 20 percent of the Civil Rights Division's non-political attorneys resigned or retired during fiscal year 2005.

We also learned that significant disagreements exist between career civil rights attorneys within the Department and administration appointees about the priority that should be given to the enforcement of our civil rights laws.