

Mr. Speaker, this proposal makes no sense and is immoral. We cannot balance the budget on the back of the poor.

People across the country responded with compassion and generosity to the suffering and devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the federal government must continue to play a role to reduce the suffering of our fellow Americans in the gulf region.

It is not compassionate to cut funding for critical programs that in many cases would hurt those very communities.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this budget resolution.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this horrible legislation. In all my years in Congress, this is easily one of the ugliest bills I have ever seen. I can't think of a more glaring example of pandering to the rich on the backs of the poor. It's no wonder the Republican leadership needed all the extra time to bring it to the floor.

The cuts in this legislation will result in the reduction, if not elimination, of services to those who need it most, and those who are able to fight for them least. I hope that those in the faith-based community are watching closely: this is the true face of "compassionate conservatism." This from the party which claims to have cornered the market on morality.

It is hard to identify what is most egregious about this bill—there is such a litany of problems here. Is it the cuts in food stamps that will leave hundreds of thousands hungry? Is it that Medicaid funding has been decimated, adding to the rolls of the millions without adequate health insurance? Is it the hits that student loan programs take, leaving our Nation's youth with still more financial burdens? Is it the insidious weakening of environmental provisions, inserted under cover of darkness? The list goes on and on.

And despite the rhetoric from the other side, this bill will do nothing to reduce the staggering deficits we've been seeing. That is because, under the Republican fiscal policies, deficits are built into the system. As a result of the tax cuts for the wealthy that the Republicans forced down this country's throat several years ago, there is simply not enough revenue coming into the treasury to eliminate the shortfall. Indeed, unless Republicans are planning to gut just about all discretionary spending, there is simply no way to plug the hole. It's basic arithmetic.

No, what's going on here is that my Republican friends have created a monster. Their tax cuts have starved our government of its resources, and have brought us from record surpluses to record deficits. But will budget reconciliation reduce the deficit and begin to fix the problem, as they claim? No. This bill actually increases the deficit. This bill is about making room for still more tax cuts. In fact, the bill allows for up to \$106 billion in new tax cuts during FY 06, not just the \$75 billion specified in the bill. \$50 billion in spending cuts, and \$106 billion fewer dollars in the treasury, leads to an increase in the deficit to \$56 billion!

And the \$106 billion in tax cuts will not benefit the families of the troops fighting in Iraq, nor those who suffered in the gulf coast. No, these cuts are targeted to benefit corporations and the wealthy.

Three hundred thousand low-income Americans will lose food stamp assistance; 17 million Americans, half of them children, will see increased costs in Medicaid; the average student will suffer an almost \$6,000 increase in his or her college costs because of \$14.3 billion in cuts to student loan programs. So we give tax cuts to those who don't even need them, and the back of our hand to those who need assistance. This is a disgraceful bill. It is socially unjust, and it will aggravate, not help cure, our Nation's fiscal crisis. In the strongest possible terms, I urge a no vote on this bill.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, tonight the House leadership is making a second attempt at passing its 2005 budget reconciliation bill. This is still the wrong bill at the wrong time for America, and I will oppose it.

We have heard a host of arguments from the majority in support of this bill, which will cut vital Federal programs by approximately \$50 billion over 5 years. Some have made the case that higher deficits hurt our Nation's economy. I agree, but although this bill is titled the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, it will do nothing to ease our deficit situation.

H.R. 4241 is part of a larger strategy by the House leadership resolution that calls for a total of \$106 billion in additional tax cuts. This strategy includes \$70 billion in reconciled tax cuts and \$36 billion in unreconciled tax cuts. The spending cuts in this bill are the initial step. The majority intends to follow tonight's vote with a tax cut bill. After the tax cuts are passed and in place, there will no funds available to pay for hurricane relief. In the end, the House leadership's charade will not reduce the deficit; it will make the deficit even larger than it is today.

In the weeks after Hurricane Katrina devastated the land and the lives of so many on the gulf coast, many lawmakers said they had a newfound understanding of the extent and depth of poverty in America. They also said that the photographs from New Orleans, particularly those taken at the Superdome and the Convention Center, had demonstrated that government does have an important role in lifting Americans out of poverty. There seemed to be bipartisan support for authentic, meaningful approaches to addressing the plight of poor Americans. I would hope that this sentiment still remains. But if it does, it is not evident in the majority's reconciliation bill that is on the House floor tonight.

This bill reduces access to health care for the poor. It contains \$11.9 billion in cuts to Medicaid, including cuts of \$8.8 billion that are borne by low-income beneficiaries through higher cost-sharing and new premiums. It also gives the States the green light to eliminate periodic health care examinations and the treatment of conditions picked up by those ex-

aminations for many of America's neediest children. Maryland's Medicaid rolls cover 430,000 children and health services for 90,000 of them will be jeopardized by this provision. Approximately \$2.5 billion of the Medicaid cuts will affect elderly Americans, who will lose access to nursing home care through tougher restrictions on eligibility.

This bill reduces access to higher education. It contains \$14.3 billion in reductions to Federal student loan programs over 5 years, by increasing the interest rates and imposing a new 1 percent origination fee on all loans.

This bill will hurt many families who rely on child support payments. It reduces the Federal match for child support administrative costs from 66 percent to 50 percent, eliminating \$4.9 billion in help for the States to enforce child support orders. The majority, which claims to want to help our States, is shifting the cost of enforcement to them. It will not save money in the long run, and it will hurt struggling single parent families across America.

As a result of this bill, fewer children in foster care will be eligible for payments, and \$577 million will be cut from these funds. This bill will also limit food stamp eligibility to only those households who are receiving cash assistance through TANF, and requires that legal permanent residents live here for 7 years, rather than the current 5 years, before they can receive food stamps. The result will be \$844 million less in food stamp assistance to low-income families.

The legislation before us is also making it harder for some of the most disadvantaged Americans, those who receive Supplemental Security Income, SSI, to receive assistance. It imposes an extra level of review for certain disability determinations and for those who are found eligible after lengthy delays, this bill requires that retroactive payments are spread out over a longer period of time, for a total savings of \$732 million.

So in the name of paying for hurricane relief, we cut funding for the programs that would help the neediest Americans, including many of the gulf coast citizens who were affected by that disaster.

At this time of economic uncertainty for our country, the so-called Deficit Reduction Act places the burden on the shoulders of the American families least able to carry it. It is clear that this legislation will make painful cuts, and when combined with the tax legislation will increase deficit problems that we face, and so I must vote against it.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Conference Report on H.R. 3010, which provides Federal funding for health, education and worker programs.

On healthcare, the bill takes a huge step backward in efforts to maintain basic health

care services for the people in this country who are uninsured or underinsured. It eliminates the Healthy Communities Access Program, which helps health centers and public hospitals provide care for the uninsured. The bill cuts rural health care program funding almost in half, and it wipes out almost all of the Title VII health profession training programs that institutions like the CU Health Sciences Center need in order to provide critical training and education for medical students and residents who aim to practice in rural, low-income, and under-served areas.

And while the bill eliminates or cuts funding for several programs, it also fails to adequately fund others. The bill virtually provides no new funding for community health centers to cover rising health care costs at existing centers or to expand care for the uninsured even though the president called for a doubling of these centers. The National Institutes of Health, which works to find cures for many diseases, gets a paltry .5 percent increase in funding, the smallest percentage increase in 36 years which is not even enough to keep up with inflation in research costs. State and local health departments will be hobbled in protecting the public against infectious and other diseases because the bill cuts the Preventive Health Block Grant by 24 percent. Further, grants that help health departments improve their preparedness against bioterrorism and other public health emergencies are cut, and the Ryan White AIDS programs funding is frozen, even though the number of people living with HIV/AIDS has been rising by more than 6 percent each year.

Many of the education provisions are equally as troubling. The Republican majority has imposed a decline in funding for the Department of Education while requiring local school districts to implement federal mandates under the No Child Left Behind Act. Though I am pleased to see some of the programs such as vocational programs that were cut in the President's budget were restored in this bill, I am concerned by the low levels of funding for several education programs.

Our Nation has seen a decreased number of students in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics, STEM, disciplines, and in turn fewer Americans are seeking careers in STEM fields. The Math and Science Partnership provides grants to recruit STEM majors into teaching, and links current teachers with state agencies or universities to improve teaching skills. This program, coupled with its counterpart at the National Science Foundation, works to improve the quality of teaching in math and sciences that will excite students to study these disciplines. I am disappointed to see only \$184 million for this program. Unless we make a serious investment in these programs we will continue to see the decline in the number of STEM majors and those seeking these careers.

I am also concerned by the funding levels provided for Part B state grants under IDEA. Last Congress we passed an authorization for IDEA that sought to reach full funding of the program by 2011. This Conference Report provides the smallest increase in funding for IDEA in a decade and actually decreases the federal contribution from 18.6%, already far below the 40 percent full funding would provide, to \$18 percent. It is clear through these numbers that we are not doing enough to help states provide adequate education for disabled students.

This bill is another example of the Republican majority's misplaced priorities. 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. It cannot support it.

TRIBUTE TO KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Kalamazoo Public Schools' recently announced scholarship program: The Kalamazoo Promise. In a single word this program is tremendous. It is difficult to comprehend, but through the extreme generosity of an anonymous donor, or group of donors, every student enrolled in Kalamazoo Public Schools will now have the opportunity of receiving scholarship funding to attend one of Michigan's many superb public colleges.

The Kalamazoo Promise will cover 100 percent of tuition and mandatory fees for graduates who have been enrolled in KPS since kindergarten and whose parents live in the school district. A partial scholarship of between 65 and 95 percent will be given to students who enter after kindergarten and before 10th grade.

This is such terrific news for the folks of the Kalamazoo community. This remarkable scholarship program will promote a better educated work force, a friendly place to do business, and an unprecedented boom to business and economic development.

A college education is the dream of our youngsters, and this great program will turn dreams into reality for literally thousands of students. With the ever rising costs of higher education, the Kalamazoo Promise sets a new incentive for our students to work hard and earn good grades so that they can attend a college of their choice.

I would especially like to thank the donors whose generosity will not only bring the dream of a college education to the future of our students, but will also continue to make Kalamazoo a great place to live. I would like to also congratulate KPS Superintendent Janice Brown on this wonderful gift.

HONORING DR. W.A. HAYDEN SCHILLING, 2005 PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Dr. W.A. Hayden Schilling, a professor from the College of Wooster, who was selected as a national winner of the U.S. Professors of the Year award. As a former educator, I know how important education is to the success of our future.

This is the only national award that recognizes college and university professors for ex-

cellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. I am pleased to say that Dr. Schilling was one of four national winners to receive this honor.

After receiving his bachelors degree in history from Southern Methodist University, Dr. Schilling earned both his masters and Ph.D. in history from Vanderbilt University. I should also point out that he is a Fulbright Scholar.

Dr. Schilling is a model educator who has spent his career dedicated to the success of our Nation's students. In fact, he was chosen over 300 other candidates for the Professor of the Year award. Wooster President R. Stanton Hales summed up Dr. Schilling's achievements when he said, "Besides being a superb lecturer and professor, Dr. Schilling gives generously of his personal time for students. There's no way you can try to calculate the hours that he does this. I have seen no one more passionate about student success in all my 27 years in higher education."

Helping the youth in the community excel has always been a passion of Dr. Schilling. He founded, directed and taught in the Wooster-Youngstown Early Intervention program which brings students together to improve their proficiency in math, science and language skills. His program has been a tremendous success, as many of the participants have successfully enrolled in college and it now serves as a model for several area colleges.

Lou Gerstner, former chairman of IBM said, "If we don't step up to the challenge of finding the best teachers, we'll undermine everything else we are trying to do to improve our schools. That's a conscious decision that would threaten our economic strength, political fabric, and stability as a nation. It's exactly that clear cut." Dr. Schilling is an example of the type of teachers that Mr. Gerstner speaks of and this award serves as a testament to Dr. Schilling's outstanding career in education.

I appreciate all that Dr. Schilling has done to improve the lives of students and extend my congratulations to him as a 2005 U.S. Professor of the Year.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES BRANYAN

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of James Branyan, a pillar of the Camden, Arkansas community for nearly a half century. Mr. Branyan died on November 3, 2005 at the age of 72 in Camden.

James Branyan was born in Glendale, Arkansas on January 15, 1933. A 1950 Glendale High School graduate, Mr. Branyan played basketball for Henderson State University. Following graduation, he moved to Camden in 1956 to manage the Black and White Store. Throughout his impressive career, Mr. Branyan went on to own the Credit Shop, the Downtown Antique Mall, the Starr Fashion Shop, Banks Jewelry, A & H Ready to Wear, Stephens Department Store, Packard's Office Supply, Data Service Center Computer Service, KJWH Radio Station, Robertson Feed Store, Walker and Associates Advertising and Public Relations, and the Good Times Travel Agency.