

concerned with this legislation because it fails to seriously address our Nation's true immigration problems.

Our nation's immigration system needs a serious overhaul, but this is not it. This is a bill that has been rushed to the floor, about a week after it was introduced and after only one committee hearing that later discharged the bill on a party line vote. For an issue as important as this, we should work together, we should work towards consensus, we should take the time it takes to get it right. Instead, the Republican leadership is more interested in passing legislation that may look good on a press release, but does not solve our immigration problems and is not realistic.

If the Republican leadership was serious about securing our borders and preventing the entry of undocumented immigrants, they would fully fund the additional 10,000 border agents that we authorized when we passed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, Public Law 108-458, last year. The addition of these agents, which had broad bipartisan support, was a provision that would have a direct impact on securing both our Southern and Northern borders and had broad bipartisan support. However, when it comes time to fund these additional agents, Congress consistently comes up short.

This bill is strongly opposed by a broad range of organizations such as U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Immigration Lawyers Association, American Farm Bureau, National Association of Homebuilders, Catholic Charities USA, Associated Builders and Contractors, United Auto Workers, among others. This broad coalition of organizations and interest groups understands that H.R. 4437 is not a solution to our existing immigration problem and in fact may exacerbate it.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1932,
DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today we begin to debate this budget package and attempt to wrap up legislative business for the year. As we do so, many members find themselves thinking about going home to be with their families.

For me, I look forward to spending time with my family and particularly my 2-year-old granddaughter Anna. As many of my colleagues already know, Anna is the driving force behind my work in Congress—I want to make sure that we create policy that is best for Anna and those in her generation who do not have a say in what we are doing here today.

Therefore, I favor reducing the deficit. Anna and her generation should not have to bear the burden of the debt this Congress has created. But Congress must reduce the deficit in a responsible manner that results in a shared sacrifice.

Unfortunately, H.R. 4241 fails to do this. It disproportionately places the burden of these cuts on a few. And it also imposes cuts on key programs including Medicaid, child support enforcement and student loans.

When I consider how these cuts will impact my constituents and their families back in Sacramento—not to mention Anna and her friends—it is clear this is not a conscientious way to cut spending.

For example, one of the critical programs cut in this bill are student loans. By doing so we are placing greater financial stress on students who are already spread thin.

Recently I met with a group of students from Sacramento State, who reiterated this point to me. Each one of them stressed the importance of student loans in financing their education.

We need to be investing in the future to compete in the global marketplace. But, by cutting these loan programs we are undercutting America's ability to compete.

This is only one example of the impact of these cold-hearted spending cuts. Spending cuts necessary to finance the tax breaks in this budget package.

We need to restore fiscal responsibility in a way that makes sense—in a way that aligns with the priorities of the American people. But the draconian cuts in this bill will not accomplish that. If you showed the American people the tradeoffs in this budget, they would tell Congress to go back to the drawing board and get it right. They would urge us to fund vital programs before cutting taxes for the fifth time in five years.

Why rush through legislation that could have tremendous repercussions on so many in this Nation? Instead, I would urge my colleagues to vote down this bill—take this holiday season to reflect on our Nation's true priorities and needs. Let's start fresh next year and figure out a way to protect future generations without impeding this government's ability to help those that need it the most.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2863,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly oppose the use of our brave troops as political cover to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, ANWR, to oil drilling.

Adding the totally unrelated and highly controversial ANWR drilling provision to the Defense appropriations bill (H.R. 2863) is the most outrageous abuse of power I've seen in my 15 years as a member of Congress.

This last-ditch effort to impose oil drilling in the Arctic wilderness by converting the Defense appropriations bill into a "garbage bill" is a great insult to our troops and a flagrant abuse of the legislative process.

We should oppose this heavy-handed, backdoor tactic to impose oil drilling in one of the Nation's last great wilderness areas.

We should vote down the conference report so the conferees can remove the ANWR provision and bring back a clean Defense spending bill tonight for our approval.

I urge members to honor our troops and stand up for the environment by rejecting this conference report.

Let's not hold our brave troops hostage to Arctic oil drilling!

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2863,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, reluctantly, I rise in opposition to the bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2006. Had this bill been limited to providing funding for our Nation's defense and our men and women serving our country, this bill would have my wholehearted support. But there are major sections in this bill that have nothing to do with our Nation's defense. They found their way into this bill because it is "must have" legislation. I refuse to play the game of legislative blackmail. These provisions ought to be stripped from this bill. The majority leadership profanes the military by adding these extraneous provisions. For these reasons, I must vote against this defense-funding bill.

One of the major problems with this bill is that it will make an \$8 billion across the board cut in all 2006 discretionary spending, excluding veterans. I strongly support our veterans but the \$8 billion in cuts include special education, "No Child Left Behind," homeland security, defense spending, low-income heating assistance, job and employment assistance, the Women, Infant, and Children Program, WIC, and many other programs.

The sections authorizing oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, ANWR, should not be in this defense-spending bill. H.R. 2863 also exempts drug companies from liability. Drug company language does not belong in this bill. Drug companies should be liable when their products cause physical harm or death to consumers. I am also opposed to this bill because I do not think that the Republican leadership should use our troops to accomplish political goals that are unpopular with Americans. For these reasons I must vote against this defense bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1932,
DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Ms. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, this administration, in concert with this Congress under this leadership, has given us five years of record debt and deficits. It seems that with each new month comes a new dubious record—just last week we learned that the trade deficit for October hit another all-time high.

This reckless fiscal policy has come on the heels of the thriving economy of the 1990s, when we showed that government can be fiscally disciplined and compassionate to our neighbors most in need at the same time.

That time and that economic philosophy is a distant memory, having given way to misguided priorities. Now, instead of fundamentally changing the economic approach that