

MINNESOTA STEM CELL ADVANCES

(Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, stem cell researchers at the University of Minnesota and BioE, a company in my home State, have reported that they have successfully differentiated cord blood stem cells into lung cells.

This potential breakthrough would extend the promise of stem cell research to a treatment of many respiratory conditions. And just this past February, researchers at the University of Minnesota discovered the potential application of cord blood stem cells in nerve tissue regeneration.

This research reinforces the importance of the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act we passed last year, and why we must fully fund the stem cell research it authorized.

This research out of my home State of Minnesota reminds us that stem cell research that respects life is already being used to provide astonishing miracles for devastating diseases.

OUR COUNTRY IS LIVING IN DEBT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, during these tough economic times when Americans are paying record amounts at the pump, struggling with rising college tuition bills and facing high health care costs, many families are working hard to keep their bank balances positive and their heads above water.

These families know well the consequences of going into debt and the importance of living on a pay-as-you-go system. It is a lesson that they should teach House Republicans who have once again proposed a budget resolution that sends us spiraling even further into record debt and proposes no plan for balancing our Nation's account.

Republicans propose we continue living on credit, money borrowed from nations such as China, to whom we now owe \$257 billion. In fact, they have the audacity to propose that we even increase the debt limit for our Nation for the fifth time since this President took office.

Mr. Speaker, this shameful budget proposal is another example of how this Republican Congress failed to do what every American family must do, to live within their means.

BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week President Bush laid out a plan to

strengthen our border security, and I commend him for focusing on this vital issue. There is nothing more important to me than the safety and security of this country. Border security is the starting point for ensuring that all Americans remain safe.

Don't get me wrong. I sympathize with those who wish to live the American dream. America is a Nation of immigrants, but we must never forget that we are also a Nation of laws. Immigration laws exist to provide the necessary steps for safe and legal entry into this country. And we must be able to enforce them.

Illegal immigration is a major problem that is having a very negative effect on our education, health care, Social Security, taxes, employment, wages, crime and countless other areas of our daily lives. Immigration laws exist to provide the steps for safe and legal entry into this country, and we must enforce them.

I support doing whatever it takes to secure our border and enforce our laws, including deploying members of our National Guard to our southern border. I also support denying government benefits to illegal aliens, making English our official language, and cracking down on those who knowingly hire illegal workers. However I do not support a guest worker program that has amnesty components or that leads to citizenship for those who break our laws.

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BUDGET IMPACT ON WOMEN

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise to highlight how the Republican budget resolution will harm millions of women and children around the country.

This budget makes it more difficult for young women to earn college degrees by cutting their financial aid. This budget continues to shortchange hundreds of thousands of children by freezing for the 5th year, the 5th year, the Child Care Development Block Grant.

During the President's tenure, the number of children living in poverty has actually increased and not decreased. In addition, the Republican budget resolution cuts key health programs, veterans programs, and environmental programs. These cuts, as you know, will hurt our American families when they are feeling the pain the most, when they have to pay higher gas prices. All their bills are going up. Health care costs are out of bounds.

H. Con. Res. 376 will actually increase the Nation's deficit, does nothing to balance the budget, and adds to the crushing national debt.

I urge my colleagues to support the Democratic budget substitute and vote "no" on this immoral and irresponsible Republican budget resolution.

REPLACE IMPORTED OIL WITH DOMESTIC BIOFUELS

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is addicted to oil, and it is a national security issue.

The fact that two-thirds of the oil that we consume is imported puts us at risk. Today left-wing autocrats like Venezuela's Hugo Chavez have told us very clearly they plan to use oil as a political weapon against the United States.

There is a reason we have \$3 gasoline. It is time that we replace imported oil with domestic, homegrown biofuels like ethanol and biodiesel.

Last year's energy bill was a good start, doubling the biofuels that we consume from 4 billion to 7.6 billion gallons by the year 2011. That is why today there are 26 organizations in Illinois planning to move forward to build ethanol plants, five in the district that I represent alone. But that only represents 2.5 percent of all the fuel that we consume; so we need to do more.

I urge this House to move forward on an aggressive plan to replace imported oil with the homegrown biofuels. The Biofuels Act of 2006 accomplishes that goal. Let us pass it. Let us move it now.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET PUTS U.S. FURTHER IN DEBT TO OTHER NATIONS

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, instead of offering a plan to bring us out of debt, the Republican budget actually makes the deficit worse. This is fiscal irresponsibility, and that means that we will continue to borrow billions of dollars from other nations.

Today we owe Japan \$682 billion; China, \$249 billion; the Caribbean nations, \$115 billion; Korea, \$66 billion; and OPEC, that is right, the oil-producing nations we rely on so heavily to fuel our vehicles, we owe \$67 billion.

Washington Republicans have been so fiscally irresponsible that President Bush has now borrowed more money from other nations than all other 42 predecessors combined. And they are not done. They plan to borrow more because they stuck another debt limit increase in the budget.

Mr. Speaker, this does not sound like a record anyone would be proud of. No wonder that so many Republicans are skittish about supporting it.

The Democratic plan balances the budget in 5 years and restores pay-as-you-go that worked so well in the 1990s.

THE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, Monday marked the cut-off date for all seniors to sign up for the new Medicare prescription drug plan. And I am happy to announce that more than 38 million seniors, representing more than 90 percent of all seniors on Medicare, now have coverage for prescription drugs.

We created this program because seniors were having to choose between their prescriptions and paying their bills, and now they do not have to make those sacrifices to get the medicines that they need.

I also want to take a moment to thank the countless organizations who helped them and made sure that they signed up for the right plan. They walked them through the process, and I applaud them for that. It was very helpful. And, again, now more than 38 million seniors have coverage for prescription drugs. They have it because we made a promise, and we kept it.

DARFUR, SUDAN

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a tragedy of the highest magnitude exists in Darfur in Sudan, Africa.

Mr. Speaker, over 450,000 have died; 2.5 million have been displaced internally; 200,000 have fled to Chad; 3 million, Mr. Speaker, are living on emergency aid.

Mr. Speaker, this tragedy exists for two reasons: One, people of ill will, the actions of these people of ill will; and two, the inactions of people of goodwill.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for people of goodwill to take a stand and realize that injustice anywhere, as Dr. King put it, is a threat to justice everywhere. And injustice in Sudan in Africa is a threat to justice in America.

BORDER SECURITY

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the American people have reached a consensus on the border security issue; so I find it very hard to understand why we here in Washington are having trouble doing the same.

Outside the Beltway people think it is perfectly reasonable to build a wall to protect the border. They do not see a problem with installing surveillance technology to monitor the border. They do not support amnesty.

It is only here where the pundits rule, and in the New York newsrooms, that we see such hand wringing on the border security issue. An op-ed in The Washington Post called people concerned about illegal immigration "nativists." Apparently, worrying about border security and the rule of law

makes one a nativist. I find that it is a sad statement on the attitude of those opposed to beefing up our border security.

I ask my colleagues to join me to look past the pundits, past the liberal editorial pages, and do what the vast majority of Americans want done: Secure the border and do it without amnesty.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET INCREASES DEBT WITH NO PLAN TO BALANCE BUDGET

(Mr. SALAZAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, 6 years ago our Nation was in a secure financial position. We had a balanced budget, a pay-as-you-go system for funding government programs, and a record surplus of \$5.6 trillion.

Now after years of imposing their reckless fiscal policies on this country, the administration and Congress have squandered our reserves, and their policies have created a record \$3.2 trillion debt.

Not only that, but under this watch the cost of living for average Americans has gone up significantly. In just the last few years alone, gas prices have reached \$3 a gallon, fuel costs for farmers have gone up 113 percent, and the interest rate has risen more than 16 times.

But just when you think things cannot get any worse, the leaders of this body put forward a shameful budget resolution that makes no attempt to bring our Nation's finances back into balance. Instead, their irresponsible fiscal record continues full steam ahead. The proposed 2007 budget will increase the deficit even further with no plan to ever return to balance in the future.

Mr. Speaker, this budget resolution may be more of the same, but Americans know it is time for change.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. House last year in December did the right thing and passed a strong immigration reform bill that increases border security and takes amnesty off the table.

Now it is time for the Senate to respond to the growing problem of illegal immigration and do what is best for legal immigrants and citizens of this country.

I am encouraged by President Bush's plan to increase our security by positioning National Guard troops on our southern border. This will provide essential, but temporary, security along our porous and vulnerable borders.

However, the better alternative is to enact a comprehensive border security program like the House bill by con-

structing fences, bolstering our Border Patrols, and improving our surveillance capabilities.

Additionally, a guest worker program is nothing more than amnesty wearing makeup. It is easier to look at, but it is still ugly underneath. The simple truth is that if you break the law to come to this country, you will not respect it once you are here.

STROKE AWARENESS MONTH/STOP STROKE ACT

(Mrs. CAPPs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I wish to remind my colleagues today that May is Stroke Awareness Month.

Throughout this month we recognize the millions of Americans struggling with the effects of stroke, and we recommit ourselves to helping them. We also acknowledge the efforts of organizations, like the American Stroke Association, which provide leadership, helping all of us to prevent and treat stroke.

On average every 45 seconds, someone in the United States has a stroke, and someone dies from stroke every 3 minutes. Representative PICKERING and I have introduced the Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Stroke Act, H.R. 898, the STOP Stroke Act, which now has the support of 132 of our colleagues. This legislation will increase awareness, provide critical resources to implement stroke care systems. The legislation will help ensure that patients recognize the symptoms of stroke and treat it as a medical emergency. We want to ensure that hospitals and other health care providers provide timely, lifesaving treatment that reduces disability from stroke and the need for extensive rehabilitation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and all efforts which address the scourge of stroke.

HYPOCRISY HAS CROSSED THE BORDER

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, hypocrisy has crossed the border. Mexico has its own serious illegal immigration problem. Hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants are coming across Mexico's southern border from Guatemala and other Central American countries.

What do Mexico's politicians say about it? They say these illegals are overcrowding Mexico's hospitals and schools. They say they are taking away jobs from Mexican citizens. They say it poses a security threat to Mexico.

In other words, they sound like the Minutemen.

What did Mexico do about it? Did they put out a welcome mat? Did they grant everyone citizenship? No. They got tough. Mexico put their military at the southern border to stop illegals.