

Wages are worse than stagnant. Families are paying more for energy, health care and education, and yet real household income for working-age families has declined every year of the Bush administration, dropping nearly \$3,000 in real terms. Personal debt is at the highest in many years, and America's debt has climbed 50 percent, to more than \$28,000 per person since Bush took office, and will double to more than \$11 trillion.

I wonder if Americans realize that Republican leadership has stubbornly and consistently refused to accept Democratic calls to have pay-as-you-go budgets. The Democratic leadership would take our Nation in a new direction and begin to repair the economy for regular middle-class American families.

BREAST CANCER PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1849, the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act introduced by my colleague from New York, Congresswoman SUE KELLY.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women today. This legislation requires health care providers to cover hospital expenses for breast cancer patients undergoing a mastectomy or lumpectomy.

In my home State of Florida, it is estimated that over 13,000 new cases of breast cancer in women will be diagnosed this year, and that over 2,500 women will die of this disease. It is our duty to reduce these numbers, both in Florida and nationwide, by ensuring medical coverage for these lifesaving procedures. I urge my colleagues to join the fight against breast cancer by supporting this and other crucial pieces of legislation.

A PLEA FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE PEOPLE OF DARFUR

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to plead for the survival of the people of Darfur. Despite a peace agreement signed in May and the U.N. Security Council's approval for a peace-keeping force of 20,000 last month, Darfur is descending into chaos.

Twelve years ago the world stood by as ethnic war erupted in nearby Rwanda. One hundred days later, 800,000 bodies, hacked to death by machetes, had piled up in the streets and rivers. Without swift intervention, Darfur may soon erupt into a scene as deadly. Today's poorly trained and equipped African Union Force can only watch the chaos unfold. When they leave in a week, they must be replaced by a U.N.

force that can protect the Darfuri people from slaughter.

Sudan must allow the U.N. peacekeepers to end the government-sponsored genocide. President Bush must decisively lead the international community for this effort to succeed. The U.N. force must have the training, the equipment and the mandate to stop the slaughter and punish the slaughterers. The world must not deploy another force that will simply bear witness to the slaughter of innocents.

AMERICANS DESERVE REAL IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you know, all Americans know if you are here legally, you ought to be rewarded. If you are here illegally, you ought to be deported.

My constituents constantly complain to me that illegal immigration is a huge problem. Local officials have used the so-called "catch-and-release" policy when they apprehend an illegal immigrant. Really, that person should be sent to jail. Why would we want someone who was just picked up by the police and is here illegally still out in the community and potentially free to flee? That just doesn't make any sense.

It is time America totally ends catch-and-release policy when it comes to illegal immigration. Texans and all Americans want, need and deserve real immigration reform.

PROVIDING A NEW DIRECTION ON ECONOMIC SECURITY ISSUES

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern about the economic crisis facing American families under the failed policies of the Republican leadership.

Housing construction has plunged to the lowest level in more than 3 years. In fact, many families in my district can't even make their mortgage payments anymore. The average cost of food supplies is increasing, just like the increase in electricity bills.

In my home State of California, gas prices have doubled in the past 5 years to well over \$3.50 in my district. Families with two cars in Los Angeles will pay an extra \$2,330 per year for gas. That is higher than it was 5 years ago. The increase in gas prices will cost Los Angeles drivers an extra \$9.2 billion this year alone.

Real wages have not kept up with increased costs as well. In Los Angeles, workers there only make 84 cents on the dollar. In East Los Angeles, in my district, the unemployment rate is currently 7.1 percent, compared to 4.9 percent for all of California.

America's working families need a new direction, one that works for everybody and doesn't discriminate depending on where you live, instead of one that rewards the very wealthy at our expense.

SUPPORT THE FEDERAL ELECTION INTEGRITY ACT OF 2006

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give advance notice of a bill that will be coming up today, and I certainly appeal for your support for that bill.

There are very few things in this life that I hate, but one that I hate is dishonesty, particularly dishonesty in voting. I am very eager to make certain that every vote taken in this country is legitimate, is properly cast and properly counted, so that all citizens can be assured their vote will be counted and not be diluted by others who vote illegally.

With that in mind, our committee, the Committee on House Administration, has taken up H.R. 4844, a bill proffered by the gentleman from Illinois Mr. (HYDE). This bill will be coming up today.

It is very simple. It simply requires by the year 2008, in every Federal election, every voter will have to display a photo ID. That is not a bad requirement. You already have to show it to cash a check, to get on an airplane or to buy cigarettes or alcohol. It is not at all a difficult proposition. By the year 2010, that photo ID will also have to have something on it that shows that the voter is a citizen.

With those two improvements, I believe we can go a long way to get rid of fraud in our electoral process.

DEMOCRATS WORK TO FILL THE DOUGHNUT HOLE SO SENIORS DON'T LOSE DRUG COVERAGE

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, there is an old saying that goes, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Well, just the opposite is true when it comes to the Republican prescription drug plan that is seriously broken. We must fix it.

This week, the average American senior will be denied payment of their drug costs through the private plans they have selected because they have fallen into the so-called doughnut hole. Under the Republican plan, seniors lose drug coverage after they have spent \$2,250 in out-of-pocket costs, and they won't be eligible for more assistance until they have spent \$5,100 for the year.

It is expected that more than half of the seniors who fall into the doughnut hole will not be able to escape it. This