

at risk for losing their homes, American families need a break. This budget would do that.

I have listened to a number of my friends on the Republican side of the aisle criticize this budget. They say it spends too much, taxes too much, we have to borrow too much. They are ignoring the obvious. This President is committed to cutting the deficit in half in his first 4-year term. When President Bush was elected, he inherited a surplus from President Clinton, a surplus in the budget. It had been a 2-year surplus and it was reducing the debt of programs such as Social Security. We were moving in the right direction. Our national debt that we accumulated over the history of the United States to that moment when President George W. Bush took office was about \$5 trillion. So the President, George W. Bush, came in with a \$5 trillion national debt that he had inherited from George Washington until his moment in history and he inherited a budget surplus.

What happened over the next 8 years? Sadly, under President Bush, we saw the national debt of America more than double in 8 years. The accumulated history of the United States had produced \$5 trillion in debt. The 8 years of the Bush administration more than doubled that debt. President Bush took the surplus of the Clinton years and brought us to the biggest annual deficits in American history.

Many of those who supported the President's approach, many of those on the other side of the aisle who voted for his budgets—many who stood in defense of President Bush when he said I don't want to count the cost of the war; we will set that aside; we will call it an emergency; we will not put it in the budget—are the same people who made that excuse for 7 years during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan under President Bush. They saw the accumulated cost of those wars exceed \$700 billion and none of it was in the budget. None of it was accounted for. Many on the other side said that was acceptable.

They also supported the President's idea of tax cuts, tax cuts for some of the wealthiest people in America. Taking these things off budget, tax cuts for the wealthy—what happened? We ended up with the worst deficits we had seen in our history. That is what this President inherited. Now that he has promised to reduce the size of our deficit by half in his first 4 years, many on the other side are standing and saying we are destined now for bankruptcy. Where have they been for the last 8 years? Some of the harshest critics of the President's budget were giving a stamp of approval, year after year, to President Bush's budget.

What President Obama is doing is an honest budget, a responsible budget that moves us toward reducing the deficit in a time when the economy is in a sorry situation.

I think that is important. I think it is important we come together on a bi-

partisan basis to pass that. As to those who think this budget borrows too much, this President is on the right track of reducing the deficit. They have been on the wrong track for a long time. These are policies that they have offered before that did not work. They are yesterday's policies, yesterday's politics. It is time for something new. It is time for real change. Preparing the budget is about making choices and President Obama's budget is a document that makes the right choices. It is a document that is fair, giving tax breaks to working families, putting money into investments so their children can see a brighter future. It is a budget that is responsible. It puts the cost of the war online in the budget so we can track it as part of our real debt. It is a budget that also makes smart investments in America's future.

It is not just a matter of creating a job, a make-work job. This President's vision is to create the kind of jobs in energy and new energy for the 21st century; in education, so our kids can compete in this century, and to make sure our health care system is one that gives us quality care at the lowest cost. That embodies three sensible goals that we in America share.

This budget would bring true long-lasting change to America, and I certainly encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to look long and hard at this budget, realize the good-faith effort President Obama is making with this budget, and join him in charting a course of spending for the next 4 years that will move us out of this recession, create jobs and businesses and give America a smart investment for our future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECESS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:24 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CARPER).

#### NATIONAL SERVICE REAUTHORIZATION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the bipartisan legislation

before us today, the Serve America Act. I would like to thank Senators KENNEDY from Massachusetts and HATCH of Utah, as well as Wyoming's Senator ENZI and Senator MIKULSKI of Maryland for their hard work on this legislation.

Last week I held a conference call in my office with two very impressive young men who are a testament to what the Serve America Act is all about. Their names are Mark Rembert and Taylor Stuckert. I met them last year in Wilmington, an Ohio city in southwest Ohio that has been devastated by the closure of the Wilmington Airport where DHL employed about 8,000 people—DHL, Astar, and ABX, three national companies.

Mark and Taylor decided they simply could not sit on the sideline while their community struggled to absorb this tremendous economic blow. Instead they founded Energize Clinton County, a nonprofit focused on economic development and environmental awareness.

In the midst of an economic disaster in their community, these two young men, Mark and Taylor, decided to serve. They are examples of what inspired this bill and what service to our country is all about.

I know something personally about City Year, one of the programs within the Serve America Act. City Year is part of AmeriCorps. My daughter Elizabeth served in City Year Philadelphia about 4 or 5 years ago. She was paid \$700 a month, as were the six or seven roommates she had in an old house on Baltimore Pike near the VA in Philadelphia. They met every Sunday night to talk about how they were going to, after paying their rent—about \$300 a month each—how they were going to figure out how to eat. They pooled their resources and figured out how to do that.

During the day—each day of the week, often 6-day weeks, often more—Elizabeth and other of her colleagues would go into a middle school in Philadelphia and work with local students in some of the poor areas of Philadelphia.

This program mattered to those students she helped. It mattered to my daughter who I said was paid \$700 a month for this service in City Year. It made her more reliable, and it made her more strong. It made her more understanding of the community around her, and it taught what so many of these programs over the years, so many of these volunteer service organizations have taught us. Whether it is the Peace Corps or Vista or City Year or Teach America, not just the people who are served by these young people but the people who do the serving, it stays with them the rest of their lives. It matters so much to them as they understand our society even better.

The passage of this legislation will mean even more Americans will be able to answer President Obama's call to service. The Serve America Act will provide opportunities for Americans of all ages and from all backgrounds to