

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RULES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the rules package proposed by the new Republican majority in the House.

The very first vote in the 112th Congress reveals the extent of the Republicans' fiscal hypocrisy. The new House rules create a huge loophole that allows Republicans to pass billions in additional tax cuts without finding savings elsewhere in the federal budget. These rules are a major step backward in our effort to solve the federal budget crisis. No Member who votes for this fiscally reckless rules package is serious about deficit reduction.

The public backlash against the new Republican rules started days before today's vote. In a December 29, 2010 editorial titled "Deficit Hypocrisy," the New York Times said the new rules proposed by the incoming majority "will codify the Republican fantasy that tax cuts do not deepen the deficit."

The bi-partisan Committee for a Responsible Budget expressed "serious concerns" about the Republican rules package saying that "because many of these new rules would apply to only the spending side of the budget (replacing rules that applied to both the tax and spending side), this new rules package could actually weaken, rather than strengthen, our ability to deal with the debt."

By exempting the cost of tax cuts and the repeal of the health care reform law from budget restrictions, the Republican majority makes it clear that they embrace—not oppose—deficit spending. H. Res. 5 enables Republicans to return to their discredited economic policies of the past decade that exploded deficits with tax cuts, two wars and a huge new prescription drug entitlement program all financed with borrowed money.

What the Republicans do oppose and promise to cut are the investments that strengthen American communities and support the most vulnerable citizens in our Nation. Under the new rules, the American middle class will be forced to live with less while the wealthy and special interests have it all. In the weeks ahead, Republicans will target America's middle class with unsustainable cuts to education, transportation, public safety, clean energy and advanced research and technology. The Washington Post editorial board said that the rules reflect "about as upside-down a set of priorities as can be imagined."

I reject the skewed priorities expressed in this rule package. I refuse to abandon America's families and communities when they most need the support of their government. And I will continue fighting for the federal investments our communities need to compete in the 21st century.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHOOL FOOD RECOVERY ACT

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this legislation is to make clear that schools participating in the school lunch program are legally allowed to donate excess food to local food banks.

In 1996, Congress passed the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act, which protects donors who give to food banks in good faith from all liability except in cases of gross negligence or intentional misconduct. This landmark law has allowed businesses and civic organizations to donate critically-needed food to local food banks and food pantries.

Despite this law, many schools and school districts have been hesitant to donate excess food from school lunches, primarily due to a misperception that U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations don't allow for excess food to be donated.

Loudoun County, Virginia, in Congressman FRANK WOLF's district, has expressed these reservations. That is why Congressman WOLF, an original cosponsor of this bill, reached out to work with me to help address this issue. I'm sure there are many other examples in congressional districts across the country.

This is unfortunate as excess food is being thrown away rather than provided to food banks to support those in need. In many cases, students who rely on school lunches also rely on support from local food banks.

The purpose of this bill is straightforward: to keep excess school food out of the garbage and get it into food banks. The bill will clarify that schools and school districts are permitted to donate excess food and that they are covered under the Good Samaritan Act when doing so.

HONORING NEW YORK PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL, THE NEW YORK BLOOD CENTER AND THEIR OUTSTANDING PARTNERSHIP FOR LIFE-SAVING BLOOD DONATIONS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the New York Presbyterian Hospital and the New York Blood Center for their outstanding partnership to increase life-saving blood donations in our nation's greatest city. Thanks to donations from thousands of New Yorkers from all walks of life, this outstanding collaborative effort has helped provide nearly 14,000 blood donations over the past five years, representing an immeasurable contribu-

tion to saving and improving the quality of countless lives. The outstanding leadership of both Dr. Herbert Pardes, the Chief Executive Officer of New York Presbyterian Hospital, and Dr. Christopher Hillyer, the Chief Executive Officer of the New York Blood Center, have helped make this joint initiative so extraordinarily successful.

Under the leadership of Dr. Pardes, New York Presbyterian Hospital has done a spectacular job of encouraging its employees to donate blood. As a result, it is the largest hospital donor group in New York City and the third largest donor group in Manhattan. The hospital has increased the number of donations it generates every year for at least a decade. Each pint donated saves three lives. Last year, it generated more than 3,500 donations through its various blood drives, saving more than 10,000 lives. And for the first five months of this year, donations are up 50% over the same period last year. Blood donated by New York Presbyterian Hospital is distributed by the Blood Center to more than 200 hospitals in the greater New York metropolitan area.

Established in 1964, the New York Blood Center (NYBC) has become one of the nation's largest non-profit, community-based blood centers. For more than forty-five years, it has provided donated blood, transfusion products and services to nearly 200 hospitals in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area. In 2009, the NYBC set a personal record after receiving nearly 3,500 blood donations. It is also home to the National Cord Blood Center, the world's largest public cord bank. The Cord Blood Center provides adults and children with life-threatening illnesses with stem cell transplants from unrelated donors.

New York hospitals need a diverse range of blood donations to match the diverse nature of New York's population. With the help of the participation in blood drives of New York Presbyterian Hospital's diverse employee population, the Blood Center is able to ensure that local hospitals have blood available to serve patients with sickle cell anemia and other diseases that disproportionately affect minority communities.

One of New York City's most respected health care institutions, New York Presbyterian Hospital is the product of a partnership that was formed in 1998 between The New York Hospital, founded in 1771, and The Presbyterian Hospital, founded in 1868. As a merged institution, New York Presbyterian Hospital has provided first rate medical care to untold numbers of New Yorkers. With two affiliated medical schools, New York Presbyterian is recognized as one of the greatest academic health centers in the world. With more than 13,000 employees and 2,298 patient beds, the hospital is ranked among America's best by U.S. News and World Report. It has centers of excellence in AIDS care, digestive diseases, gene therapy, preventive medicine, reproductive and fertility medicine, vascular medicine and others. The William Randolph Hearst Burn Center is the largest

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