

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of the Congressional Progressive Caucus Alternative Budget for Fiscal Year 2013. The budget plan outlined by the CPC takes a calculated and balanced approach to restoring America's promise, and investing in our future.

Unlike the House GOP Budget Resolution, the CPC Alternative Budget protects Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, Unemployment Insurance and other programs that are vital to the most vulnerable populations in our society.

In my district, we suffer from rates of unemployment and home foreclosure that are significantly higher than the rest of the country. Although our nation's economy is showing positive signs of growth, we must continue to make critical investments in our communities to accelerate our recovery.

To that end, the CPC Alternative Budget makes smart investments in education, job creation measures, and transportation and infrastructure projects. These investments are necessary to ensure that America has a skilled and educated workforce that is prepared to tackle the challenges of the 21st Century. Without these investments, the United States will lose its competitive edge.

A \$556 billion surface transportation bill would help meet the overwhelming need for repair and construction of our roadways and aging infrastructure. Lastly, the Budget for All outlines a plan for nearly \$1.7 trillion in widespread domestic investment, getting badly needed funds to valuable programs that are scheduled for starvation under current law.

This budget outlines a plan to put over 2 million individuals back to work over the next 2 years by hiring them for work in areas critical to our quality of life. This would create the School Improvement Corps for public school rehabilitation projects, the Park Improvement Corps made of youth ages 16 to 25 for restoration on public lands, the Student Jobs Corps of college students for part-time work study positions, among others. Priority hiring is given to the unemployed and veterans.

Domestic investments create jobs and lay the foundation for exceptional American industries competing in the global economy. The creation of an infrastructure bank would attract private investment toward critical infrastructure projects and facilitate private-public partnerships with our states and localities. Some projections estimate that the iBank could mobilize up to \$625 billion in funding for infrastructure.

The revenue raised from tax reform measures in the CPC budget will allow us to pay for an extension of tax cuts for hard working, middle class Americans—providing them with more money to feed their families, pay their bills, and fill up their gas tanks.

Mr. Chair, the CPC Budget will do all of this while managing to be able to reduce the deficit by \$6.8 trillion.

Instead of working to strengthen Medicare, the Ryan budget would end Medicare as we know it, turning the guarantee of retirement security into a voucher that will shift higher and higher costs over time to over 45 million seniors.

In California alone, 5,252,371 seniors would be forced onto vouchers when they retire.

The GOP budget will force seniors to pay higher premiums in order to access the same benefits they would receive under the current system. For a typical 67 year-old senior, the

Ryan budget could increase out-of-pocket health care costs by \$5,900.

The GOP budget would decimate our primary assistance to the poor by cutting \$3.3 trillion from essential programs like Medicaid and SNAP.

In fact, a report conducted by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that 62 percent of proposed cuts in the Ryan budget plan come from programs that assist low-income individuals. This is the Republican vision: to balance the budget on the backs of the seniors and the poor.

The Ryan budget plan would weaken job growth. The Economic Policy Institute found that if we were to follow Chairman Ryan's proposal, 1.3 million jobs would be lost in 2013 and 2.8 million jobs would be lost in 2014.

Mr. Chair, the CPC has a better way. We understand that our current economic situation calls for a balanced approach that protects our fragile recovery and invests in our future.

For these reasons, Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the CPC Alternative Budget.

IN HONOR OF CÉSAR CHÁVEZ

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of César Chávez on the occasion of what would have been his 85th birthday.

César Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona. After losing their family farm, the members of the Chávez family became migrant workers, moving to California and following seasonal harvests around the state. Upon experiencing the exploitation of migrant workers and injustices committed against them, Mr. Chávez became a champion of workers' rights.

In 1962, Mr. Chávez and Dolores Huerta co-founded National Farm Workers Association, later known as the United Farm Workers, UFW. Mr. Chávez was inspired by leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and understood the power of non-violence as a tool for change. As a leader of UFW, he used non-violent tactics and strong organizing methods to protest poor working conditions. Mr. Chávez fought for basic improvements for farm workers such as access to drinking water, shade, and restrooms. He was also a tireless advocate for fair wages and decent living conditions.

César Chávez led the fight for the passage of the landmark California Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975. This law was the first in the nation to guarantee farm workers the right to organize and bargain collectively. Additionally, his understanding of human suffering led him to fight against the use of the short-handled hoe, which caused personal injury and pain to farm laborers. A California Supreme Court ruling in 1975 banned the use of this tool.

Mr. Chávez was known for his spirit as much as his accomplishments. Mr. Chávez and the UFW embraced an empowering and enduring rallying cry that exemplifies his optimism of the human spirit: "Sí se puede," or "Yes we can."

César Chávez is an inspirational figure in California and throughout our nation. I have no doubt that his efforts have made a positive impact on the lives of countless workers. It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring César Chávez on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of his birth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall vote numbers 107-110. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: rollcall No. 107, Amendment to H.R. 3606 by Rep. Peters, "no"; rollcall No. 108, Amendment to H.R. 3606 by Rep. Capps, "no"; rollcall No. 109, H.R. 3606, Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "no"; rollcall No. 110, H.R. 3606, the JOBS Act, "yes."

RECOGNIZING THE MILLBROOK HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Millbrook High School Girls Basketball team, on becoming the only Virginia high school team that has ever won three consecutive State championships in girls basketball.

Earlier this month, the Millbrook Pioneers broke the 61-year-old Virginia High School League record by winning an unprecedented third state title with a victory over the Courtland Cougars. I commend the team for their hard work and their passion for basketball. I would like to extend a special thank you to Coach Debby Sanders who has led the team on the path to success.

I submit the following piece from the Winchester Star on the Millbrook Pioneers' record-breaking victory.

[Mar. 12, 2012]

OUR VIEW: PERFECT PIONEERS—THIRD TITLE
"ICING ON THE CAKE!"

RICHMOND.—Thirty minutes before her girls basketball team took the floor in search of an unprecedented third straight state title Saturday night, Millbrook High Principal Carrie Butler was talking about cake.

No, Mrs. Butler was not hungry, at least not discernibly. The cake she was rather nervously describing to Frederick County School Board member Peggy Clark was purely figurative.

"I told Debby (Millbrook coach Sanders), 'The cake is sweet . . . with or without the icing,'" Mrs. Butler said to Mrs. Clark.

In other words, even if the Pioneers somehow came up short of their 80th consecutive victory on the Siegel Center floor, this "cake," baked with care and love over the last three winters, would not lose its "sweet" taste. Win or lose, what the Pioneers had accomplished up to then—a record 79 straight wins, two state championships—was simply amazing. Or, like the famous song or hit new TV drama, "unforgettable."