

Rep. Louise Slaughter

Plan B- Floor Opening

December 20, 2012

M./ Speaker,

What's before us today is a hoax. The legislation before us isn't a solution to the fiscal cliff- it is a political gimmick that has no chance to become law. The process that has brought us here has equally shameful. It has been painful to watch otherwise-responsible Members of the Majority play their part.

Last night I witnessed one of the greatest miscarriages of the democratic process in my time on the Rules Committee. Facing an impending fiscal cliff that could devastate our economy and harm millions of Americans, the Majority decided to cobble together last minute legislation with a lick and a prayer.

Last night the Rules Committee spent most of the evening debating legislation we had never seen. Then, as the hours grew late, the Majority dropped a 69-page bill into our lap and gave us an hour to read it before calling us back to vote.

What's before us today is one last attack on the poor and middle class before our nation tumbles off the fiscal cliff.

Here are the top five things to know about today's bill:

It provides an average tax cut of \$50,000 for America's millionaires and billionaires.

Meanwhile, 25 million working families would pay an average of \$1,000 more in taxes. And 11 million families would lose a tax credit that helps pay for college.

2 million Americans would lose unemployment assistance just days after Christmas.

And 50 million seniors and other Medicare enrollees would face danger as doctors receive a 27 percent cut in Medicare payments.

Just days ago, it appeared the President Obama and Speaker Boehner were close to a fiscal cliff compromise.

But in the blink of an eye, the House Majority has decided that to destroy a chance of compromise and instead introduce the political gimmick before us today.

M./ Speaker, the American people are smarter than this. They know that in order to reach a compromise you must meet in the middle. Unfortunately the Majority continues to think that if they pass extreme legislation and then run for the hills, the rest of us will be forced to give in.

In the process, they've conducted a shameful legislative process that is not worthy of the institution in which we stand. Our nation is in desperate need of serious solutions, and the Majority is doing everything in their power to prevent that from happening.

I strongly oppose today's gimmick that is before us, and I urge my colleagues to oppose the Rule and the underlying legislation.

I RESERVE the balance of my time.