

Rep. Louise M. Slaughter

Floor Statement- Ryan Budget

March 28, 2012

I thank the gentle_____ for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

M./ Speaker,

A budget is a reflection of our values. Through that prism, the budget that we are considering today is morally bankrupt.

Today's Republican budget puts the wealthiest Americans and corporations above the needs of working and middle class families.

Under this budget, millionaires get an average tax cut of \$150,000, while programs like Medicare and Medicaid are slashed by billions of dollars. According to the non-partisan CBO, the GOP budget would shrink Medicare benefits, and shift the burden of cost to seniors. Meanwhile, the Majority itself indicates that this plan will add \$3.1 Trillion to our deficit between 2013 and 2022.

In addition, the Majority's budget proposes repealing the many health care benefits now enjoyed by middle class families- benefits that keep children insured until they're 26, and remove lifetime limits on necessary medical care.

For many Americans, limits of \$1 million dollars means that head trauma- from a car accident, bike accident, or simply a workplace error on a construction site- could lead you to reaching your limit and no longer being eligible for health insurance. Right now, most individuals still face this danger- but thanks to the Affordable Care Act lifetime limits will be phased out in 2014.

Under the proposed Republican budget, the Affordable Care Act would be repealed and lifetime limits would be reinstated on American families.

While asking seniors and middle class families to sacrifice their healthcare coverage, the Majority doesn't close a single corporate tax loophole. Instead, they preserve these cash cows for corporations who ship jobs overseas.

These are not the values I hold dear, and they are not the values of the Western New Yorkers whom I represent.

I support a budget that responsibly brings down our deficit while creating construction jobs throughout our country, and high-tech jobs for the next generation. I support a budget that protects Medicare and invests in education, while ending tax breaks for millionaires and tax loopholes for corporations. I support a budget that stops spending billions of dollars waging war in Afghanistan, and instead invests responsibly in roads, rails and airports right here at home.

I only wish that we would consider such a budget today. I urge my colleagues to oppose the misguided and immoral proposal before us, and consider one of the numerous alternatives that protect the middle class while reducing our deficit in a responsible way.

I RESERVE the balance of my time.