

Mahoney Speaks on FY 2009 Budget

Representative Tim Mahoney

Floor Statement - H.Con Res 312 - Fiscal Year 2009 House Budget Resolution

March 12, 2008

I would like to thank my good friend from Florida for recognizing me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into this colloquy with Mr. Boyd to express my support for the House Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2009.

A budget is a reflection of our priorities. For far too long, the Administration's priorities have been misplaced. In fact, the budget submitted by the President earlier this year makes cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, and the environment. In addition, it taxes our veterans by requiring them to pay new fees for health care. As a result of this Administration's misplaced priorities, the 5.6 trillion projected 10 year surplus that they inherited has been squandered. As a result, our children and grandchildren are confronted with the challenge of paying of a \$3.2 trillion deficit.

This budget before us today, however, is a good budget for Florida and the nation. The House budget protects our homeland by rejecting the President's cuts to first responder programs, reinstates funding for the COPS program and will put 247 more cops on Florida streets.

This budget helps Florida kids. It provides substantially more money for schools and education than the President's budget. It will allow our schools to hire the highly skilled teachers that over 25,000 Florida kids desperately need to help them compete in a global economy.

It rejects the President's irresponsible new fees that he wants to put on the backs of our veterans. It increases health care funding and allows the Veterans' Administration to treat 5.8 million more patients, including 333,275 Iraq and Afghanistan war vets.

I support this budget because it is fiscally responsible. It balances the budget by 2012 and adheres to all PAYGO rules.

Finally, I support this budget because it protects the most vulnerable among us - our nation's seniors. Specifically, the budget resolution improves supportive housing for the elderly. I would like to thank Chairman Spratt and his staff for working with me to ensure the Section 202 Housing for the Elderly program is adequately funded.

In closing, I would urge my colleagues to support this resolution so that we can begin restoring America's real priorities.

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