Madam Speaker, after racking up nearly $3 trillion in

new debt in the past 4 years, suddenly this Congress has decided to

become

budget hawks. Tomorrow we are set to slash up to $50 billion from

essential investments in America in order to cut taxes for the

wealthiest 1 percent. To pay for those tax cuts, we are cutting health

care, education, community investments, heating assistance, and

nutritional programs. American taxpayers all the while are being asked

to carry $445 billion invested in Iraq's war. In Iraq we have built and

renovated 110 primary health care centers, vaccinated 3.2 million

children, but right here this budget by the Republicans is cutting $10

billion from Medicaid.

In Iraq we have rehabilitated 2,700 schools, trained 36,000 secondary

school teachers. In America, we are cutting $806 million from public

school funding and college assistance by billions of dollars. We have

funded 3,100 community development projects in Iraq, but this Congress

is cutting $250 million from community development block grants.

Madam Speaker, it is our duty to rebuild Iraq, but Iraq's future

should not come at the expense of America's. This Congress should be

working to leave America stronger in the future, not weaker.