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Thank you for reading the Conaway Chronicle.



Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives debated the Democrats' budget for fiscal year 2008. On Thursday, the bill passed by a straight party-line vote of 216 to 210, and is set to impose the largest tax increase in American history. According to the Democrats' plan, taxes will increase by almost \$400 billion dollars across the United States over five years, affecting every single American. It also puts off reform for entitlement programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, for at least five years, despite repeated warnings of fiscal instability as these programs are currently structured.

As House Democrats continue to expand the Federal government, reckless policies like this will lead to job losses and a struggling economy. This proposal holds no accountability and calls for huge spending increases with no significant reform or offsets. Their claim that this plan will balance the budget in just a few years can only be accomplished on the backs of hard working Americans. Even so, the balanced budget would be temporary as the budget does not take steps to reform entitlement programs. If we do not address entitlement reform, important programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security will not be able to exist in the future. Allowing the Republican tax cuts of '01 and '03 to expire is irresponsible, and will result in a massive tax increase for hard-working Americans. Higher taxes are not the answer to balancing the budget; reforming the way the government spends taxpayer money is.

House Republicans offered a budget that would balance the budget without raising taxes that preserves and protects entitlement programs. It would extend the Republican tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 and freeze discretionary spending. These tax cuts have led to exceptional economic growth, which has in turn led to millions of new jobs and delivered the lowest national unemployment rate in a generation. Unlike the Democrat budget resolution, the Republican budget represents a vision of fiscal restraint and economic growth, and I am disappointed in today's vote.



Every hard working Texan would be affected by Democratic Tax Hikes. The House Democrat Budget would increase taxes by \$2,755 for the average Texas taxpayer. Texas does not levy an income tax, but instead finances state operations primarily through the collection of the state sales tax. Current federal income tax law allows all taxpayers the option to deduct their State and local sales taxes in lieu of State and local income taxes. The Democrat Budget would let this provision expire, essentially raising federal income taxes on Texans, thereby subsidizing high income tax states and penalizing low sales tax states. I am deeply disappointed in this legislation, and will continue working in the

House to drive pro-growth policies that are driven by tax relief and fiscal restraint. [Click here](#) to listen to my weekly podcast on the Democrats' Budget.

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Last week, we voted to pass the Wounded Warriors Assistance Act of 2007 ([H.R. 1538](#)) with a bipartisan vote. This bill works to ensure America's wounded soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines receive the finest healthcare available through the Military Health System. Every single member of the military deserves the finest care. This legislation is a solid first step in our efforts to ensure that these courageous Americans and their families have access to the necessary care in a more expeditious and streamlined manner. Everyone was upset about the circumstances at Walter Reed, and Congress will do everything in its power to ensure that these kinds of problems don't persist there or elsewhere in the military medical system.

On Wednesday, I attended a General Farm Commodities Subcommittee hearing to listen to and review an array of proposals from various commodity organizations aimed at amending the program crop provisions of the 2002 Farm Bill. The hearing provided excellent first-hand testimony on how our federal policies are affecting various sectors of the agriculture industry. It is imperative that we listen to the thoughts and concerns of industry experts and producers as Congress begins drafting the 2007 Farm Bill.



The next couple of weeks I will be back in Texas. During the district work period, I will be speaking to students at several high schools, visiting with constituents, and meeting with community leaders across District 11.

Thank you for reading the Conaway Chronicle. We will be back in two weeks with another update from Washington.

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The Conaway Chronicle will be issued every Monday or Tuesday when Congress is in session. I hope that you will find it informative and will continue to stay informed with my recent legislative activities in Washington. In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for future issues of the Conaway Chronicle, please visit the website at [www.house.gov/conaway](http://www.house.gov/conaway) or don't hesitate to call me at (202) 225-3605. Check out my blog at [www.conawayblog.com](http://www.conawayblog.com)!

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