

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Committee Members Outline Budget Priorities on the House Floor**

**Washington, DC** – *Today four members of the House of Representatives Committee on the Budget took to the House floor to lay out key Democratic priorities for the budget debate. Democrats are committed to a sustainable fiscal path into the future that takes a balanced approach involving spending cuts and increases in revenue. Any budget deal would have to contain three underlying characteristics: 1) It cannot hurt the fragile, recovering economy, 2) It must create jobs, and 3) It must include revenue in addition to cuts in spending. Below are excerpts and video links for each Member's floor speech.*

### **Rep. Earl Blumenauer (OR-3)**

“Our focus should be on job creation which reduces unemployment costs and increases tax revenue. However, in their first six months in the majority, the Republicans have not passed any legislation to create jobs. The government budget is often compared to a household budget, but every family knows that expenses are just one side of the equation. How many Americans in tough times take on second or even third jobs to increase their income because some expenses just can't be cut? As a nation, we have the ability to increase our revenues, our income. An obvious place to look for additional income is closing tax loopholes and ending unnecessary subsidies.”

**Watch all Rep. Blumenauer's floor speech [here](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4bINmTU_NxI) ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4bINmTU\\_NxI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4bINmTU_NxI))**

### **Rep. Mike Honda (CA-15)**

“I rise today to urge the President and this Congress to listen to the American people when negotiating a budget agreement. As much as the politicians argue, they don't seem to hear the good sense of the

American people.... Ask the public what they want and they will tell you. Let us defend our health programs for the elderly and the poor, Medicare and Medicaid. Let us hold to our intergenerational promise of promise of Social Security. Let us invest in education, research and development and fix our crumbling infrastructure. Let us bring our men and women home from Iraq and Afghanistan and save at least \$150 billion a year, not to mention the lives saved as well. Let us rebuild America.”

**Watch Rep. Honda’s floor speech [here \(http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmTWERY1giI\)](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmTWERY1giI)**

**Rep. Gwen Moore (WI-04)**

“I can tell you that one of the most heartbreaking experiences that I have had as a Member of Congress is to watch this Congress attempt to balance the deficit and the budget on the backs of infants, on the backs of children who need their educational opportunity, and on the backs of seniors. We have seen gargantuan efforts to cut Medicare, the main program to prevent poverty for our seniors, Medicaid, The Women, Infants, and Children's Program, nutrition programs for children, effort to decimate educational opportunity for young people while we refuse to end tax breaks for big oil.”

**Watch Rep. Moore’s floor speech [here \(http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vLkUz1b\\_1I\)](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vLkUz1b_1I)**

**Rep. Paul Tonko (NY-21)**

“Why are tax write-off earmarks for corporate jets off the table? Why are hundreds of billions of dollars in tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires off the table? Why are we talking about cutting programs for nursing homes and preschools for local cops and firefighters, for retirement security, and the future of renewable energy, why are we talking about cutting these programs without talking about asking the big five oil companies to stand on their own two feet? I have watched programs that my constituents rely on end up utterly decimated on the floor of this House this year. Yet I come before you today not asking for less sacrifice but for more. I’m asking for these at the top to bear their fair share of both the burden and potential triumph of this historic moment.”

**Watch Rep. Tonko’s floor speech [here \(http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zePNMS3GrcI\)](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zePNMS3GrcI)**

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