

Mr. Speaker, a month ago, I voted against H.R. 3010, the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies first conference report, which failed in the House with 22 Republicans also voting against the bill. Today, a similar bill with some minor tweaks to gain a few more votes for a narrow passage is before the House again.

While I am glad to see \$90 million restored to rural health programs, the overall bill is still bad. It is irresponsible to raid from one program to pay for another program. This bill contains \$1.6 billion in cuts from FY 2005 to important labor, health, social services, and education services.

It is unfortunate that Republicans in Congress are choosing to strip away essential safeguards for families in order to implement tax cuts benefiting the wealthiest Americans. I am voting against this bill because Americans deserve better.