

Mr. Chairman, I have been listening to the debate here this evening and have been troubled by the perverse logic that this small, but important, 5 percent of the Nation's educational expenditure is dismissed. It is dismissed by people who obviously have not been talking to the struggling school boards, teachers and principals who are trying to make do, particularly in areas like this bill that would provide less per pupil at a time when many communities are struggling with growth, as has been documented by the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. Obey].

But most of my concern, I guess, is focused on the dismissal of the critical partnerships with State and local government. Every Member of this Chamber has benefited in the Nation's prosperity in the 25 years after World War II due in no small measure to Federal educational investment and unprecedented partnerships with local schools. Everyone benefited from that. This bill would turn its back, and I use just one example:

The bipartisan effort, the Goals 2000 to promote educational reform that has made a great deal of difference in my State increasing academic standards for students, bringing technology into classrooms, fostering an increased relationship between schools and higher education, and developing those public private partnerships between schools and employers that people talk so much about; this has been done in my State using this. And somehow we could not find less than 1 quarter of 1 percent in this bill to fund Education 2000 . It is a tragic mistake. It is shortsighted and counterproductive.

Yes, it is difficult to balance the budget, but the issue is one of priority.

I just want to say that turning our back on the Federal partnership and investment, ignoring our past successes, our current obligations and our children's future is no way to achieve that goal of a balanced budget.