

Congressman Mike Rogers – MI

Breaking the Chains of Poverty Speech

January 27, 2006

I. Open

Story –Livingston Technical Academy “thanks for not giving up on a kid like me?” Many had given up on the people of New Orleans

II. Devastation of Hurricane Katrina

- Proved that 60 years after the New Deal and 40 years after declaring a War on Poverty, **poverty had been institutionalized** in certain areas – like New Orleans
- Some in Washington want to give these families devastated by this storm **a little more welfare, or a little more in food stamps** to make themselves feel better
- When we should take this opportunity to do something a little harder and **give them a chance to succeed**

III. Solutions

- **Medicaid Health Savings Accounts** – empowering low income families with a say in their own healthcare
- **Home ownership** – sponsored a bill which is now law, The American Dream Downpayment Act
- Support **strong job training** – cofounder of Livingston Technical Academy – to give people training on skills in demand and connect them to real world jobs
- Support and voted for a measure to create **\$3,000 personal reemployment accounts** – to allow people who are between jobs to pay for daycare while they search for a job or computer training to make them more attractive for a job or to put it toward a community college or job training center
- **Education** – has to keep getting better to compete with China and India and our friends in Europe and all around the world.
- Right here in Michigan, in Detroit – **56% of kids who start high school in Detroit** will not graduate. These kids don’t have a chance to succeed – we must improve their schools, work to prevent teen pregnancy,

- Increased **Pell Grants** by **one million** people, 50% increase over five years
- **Welfare reform** – we have to improve upon the historic changes to welfare which required people on welfare to at least be looking for a job.
- Giving **4.7 million new Americans the dignity of earning their own paycheck** and providing for their own family.
- Taxes – **took 25 million people off of the tax rolls** – the last five years
- Doubled the **child tax credit** to help families get by with all the expenses children bring.
- **Eliminated the marriage penalty** – marriage helps bring stability and dedication to a community

IV. **Why** should we do this?

- These are **common-sense ideas to empower people** to give them a greater stake in their own lives and their own future.
- When people own something or are a part of something, we know **crime rates go down, employment rates go up, a sense of family is restored, and the community improves** and becomes a more stable place to raise a family.

IV. **Close**