

Democrats Seek Tax on the Rich, Jobs Bill Stalled in Congress

By CHRIS BENNET

WASHINGTON — Democratic efforts to take up President Obama's jobs bill were blocked again by Senate Republicans on Wednesday. For the past four months, Republicans have continuously defeated every Democratic economic stimulus plan that was put before the Congress.

Amid this controversy over government expenditure, Danielle Kelly's death has left Republicans open to counterattack by Democrats. Danielle, a disabled teenager, died of starvation in 2008 because the two social workers assigned to her failed to check up on her once a week due to their overload. The two social workers, Dana Kreft, 54, and her manager Michael Wilson, 62, were sentenced Thursday to three years in prison for child endangerment.

"The loss of the child is a shame," said Democratic Representative Ben Pershing to reporters. "However, reflecting the limited workforce, the loss is not a product of the personal failures of Dana Kreft and Michael Wilson. It's a system failure."

Since the economic recession began in December 2007, state and local governments

have shed over a half million jobs, while the 2010 Census data shows the nationwide number of children living in poverty has jumped by 28 percent.

"More people are in need. Yet hands are in short supply," Mr. Pershing added.

Referring to Danielle's case, Democrats emphasized the need to rebuild Social Security. On Thursday, thousands of protesters congregated on the west side of the Capital mourning Danielle's death and in opposition to further government budget cuts.

"Continuous budget cuts kick the most vulnerable people in our society out of the system," said organizer Sarah Ervin.

**'The rich have a larger
responsibility
to finance the economy'**

Democratic Representative David Barnes joined the rally with many of his fellow Democratic House members and said that Republicans are trying to use the public's

legitimate concerns about the deficit to seriously cripple the social security net.

"The solution for the fiscal deficit is not defunding Social Security but taxing the rich," Mr. Barnes shouted. Supporters responded with chants of "Tax the rich."

However, raising tax rates is anathema to Republicans. "We cannot raise any more taxes to bail out cities and states that cannot pay their bills," said Republican Senator Bruce Morrison in an interview with Bloomberg.

Still, Democrats believe that the rich have a larger responsibility to finance the economy.

"By taxing the richest of the rich a little bit more, we can fund job creation and ensure this country's economic success," said Democratic Senator Eric Jeffrey. "Republicans should remember that the economic recession occurred during the Bush administration and their policy of cutting tax rates is responsible for the major financial problems we suffer from right now."

With just eight months remaining until the 2012 Presidential election, the rivalry between Democrats and Republicans over government expenditure is getting intense.

Republicans Defeat Tax on the Rich, Jobs Bill Stalled in Congress

By **CHRIS BENNET**

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans on Wednesday succeeded again in defeating a Democratic effort to take up President Obama's jobs bill, which requires a tax on the rich. Over the past four months, Republicans have resisted every Democratic economic stimulus plan that has been put before the Congress.

Amid the controversy over government expenditure, Danielle Kelly's death has further motivated Republicans to put their position forward. Danielle, a disabled teenager, died of starvation in 2008 because the two social workers assigned to her failed to check up on her once a week. The two social workers, Dana Kreft, 54, and her manager Michael Wilson, 62, were sentenced Thursday to three years in prison for child endangerment.

"The loss of the child is a shame," said Republican Representative Ben Pershing to reporters. "While the lack of morality in civil servants is nothing new, how could a child under social care have starved to death? Taxpayers should not have to support this irresponsible spending by the current government."

Since the economic recession began in December 2007, many states and local governments have suffered from fiscal deficits. To meet balanced-budget requirements, they have made spending cuts in public services such as education, health care, and human services.

"Layoffs are painful," said Mr. Pershing. "However, we cannot raise more taxes to bail out cities and states that cannot pay their bills."

**'We cannot raise any more taxes
to bail out cities and states
that cannot pay their bills'**

Referring to Danielle's case, Republicans emphasized the need to downsize government and cut taxes. On Thursday, thousands of Tea Party members congregated on the west side of the Capital mourning Danielle's death and in opposition to raising tax rates.

"Democrats are trying to tax the money that will create private sector jobs and boost the economy," said organizer Sarah Ervin.

Republican Representative David Barnes joined the rally with many of his fellow Republican House members and lambasted the Democratic proposal.

"Democratic proposal would impose a permanent tax hike on 300,000 US business owners," Mr. Barnes shouted. "It is an attack on job creators." Supporters erupted into cheers and applause.

However, Democrats believe that the rich have a larger responsibility to finance the government. "Taxing the richest of the rich a little bit more will reduce the deficit substantially," said Democratic Senator Bruce Morrison in an interview with Bloomberg.

Still, Republicans doubt the effectiveness of more spending.

"Why on earth would you support an approach that we already know won't work?" asked Republican Senator Eric Jeffrey. "President Obama should explain how another stimulus would be more successful than the \$787 economic stimulus law he signed in February 2009."

With just eight months remaining until the 2012 Presidential election, the rivalry between Republicans and Democrats over government expenditure is getting intense.