

The United States is the single most competitive nation in the world. Tomorrow, Congress will have an opportunity to enable America's small businesses to prove their global competitiveness. We must pass Trade Promotion Authority and allow our small businesses to compete.

PASS TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in strong support of the bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority that this House will take up tomorrow. Just like a labor union designates one person to negotiate its contract with management, America needs one voice empowered to put our interest first at the world trade negotiating table.

As my colleague from Georgia just expressed so well, Trade Promotion Authority is in the interest of small business. Ninety percent of exports come from companies with less than 500 employees. For every \$1 billion in increased exports, we create 20,000 new jobs that pay an average of 17 percent more than the domestic economy.

Mr. Speaker, the only question for my colleagues is simply this: Do Members trust this President to put America's interests first at the trade negotiating table? I say proudly, along with some 80 percent of the American people, I trust this President. President Bush deserves a vote of confidence from this House. He deserves Trade Promotion Authority, and I urge a "yes" vote tomorrow.

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DECREASING DELAY AND IN- CREASING SECURITY AT AIR- PORTS

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the National Air Transportation Association and its leader, James K. Coyne, for coming up with an innovative Sky ID program. This plan would identify frequent flyers on commercial and general aviation planes and aviation personnel who could be classified as trusted travelers. They would have to undergo an intensive background check to be included in this program, but it would be completely voluntary, and people would be free to choose whether to participate or not. Their carry-on and other bags would still be screened, but this plan would be a significant step toward the goal of shortening the lines and reducing the delays at our Nation's airports.

The plan would use advanced digital identification technology and would produce smart cards with biometric

template information so they could not be used by others. This plan would be similar to security systems used in very sensitive areas by the Department of Defense.

I want to encourage and urge the FAA to work closely with the National Air Transportation Association in this effort to decrease delays and, at the same time, increase security in a very low-cost way at our Nation's airports.

SUPPORT TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

(Mr. ISAKSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, 10 weeks ago this Congress, with one lone dissenting vote, granted the President of the United States the authority to send our sons and daughters in harm's way, to root out and bring justice to the terrorists or take justice to them.

Tomorrow, this House will have the chance to vote on Trade Promotion Authority for our President, an exact comparable authority for the President of the United States to do for the global economy what we have allowed him to do militarily across the ocean and in Afghanistan.

If there were ever a time for us to ensure prosperity in the long-term in the 21st century, it is to give the President the same power to make the American economy the strongest weapon for peace and security and for employment of all our citizens.

I urge my colleagues to support Trade Promotion Authority tomorrow when it reaches the floor of the House of Representatives.

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT OF GROWTH

(Mr. TOOMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, we all know we have got a weak economy right now. The slowdown that began in September of 2000 accelerated in September of 2001, and the result is that hundreds of thousands of Americans have lost their jobs as a result.

What is our responsibility in Congress? I think it is to help to create an environment of growth and hope and opportunity to enable our neighbors to get back to work, and there are two vital ways we can do that.

One is to pass an economic stimulus package that lowers the tax burdens that are keeping people out of work. We have done that in the House. The President supports that. I hope the rest of the necessary steps are taken soon.

The second thing we can do is pass Trade Promotion Authority tomorrow. Give this President the authority to lower the barriers to open up foreign markets to American goods and services and help people get back to work

producing those goods and services. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that the American workforce is the most productive workforce in the world. If we are given a chance to compete, we win.

Let us give this President the opportunity to open up those markets, give our workers the opportunity to compete and let people get back to work.

BEEFING UP RESEARCH TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC GROWTH

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced a bill, H.R. 3400, that I think moves in the direction of establishing spending priorities. That legislation provides for beefing up the kind of research that is going to stimulate economic growth. A companion bill develops extra protection against cyber terrorism.

I chair the Subcommittee on Research of the Committee on Science. The bill increases our emphasis on basic research for information technology and networking, which has been so important in our economic expansion. The other bill increases our research effort to counter cyberterrorism. We will take up these two bills tomorrow in the Committee on Science.

As we approach additional spending on defense, we need to understand that defense spending has gone down while social spending since 1991 has increased by about 30 percent; and we need to start setting priorities that are going to help the two main goals that this Congress should be looking at: one is the defense and security of the people of this country, and the other is continued economic growth.

Our goal should be to reduce spending that is lower priority so as to accommodate security and economic needs without mounting huge deficits.

SMALL BUSINESS AND TRADE IN ILLINOIS

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about the success of a small business in Illinois, a business that can continue to offer products and services to foreign markets if we pass H.R. 3005, a bill to renew Trade Promotion Authority.

W.S. Darley & Company, a Melrose Park, Illinois-based, family-owned small business will have to hire more workers to fill a \$12.8 million order for 40 fire trucks, spare parts and services from the Ghana National Fire Service. The company, founded in 1908, overcame stiff foreign competition to win Ghana's government contract, which is expected to lead to substantial additional business.

Passing H.R. 3005 is a necessary step in continuing to expand exports to foreign markets, including new and emerging marketplaces. W.S. Darley & Company is just one of more than 14,000 Illinois companies that rely on exports and are eager to find new opportunities in the global marketplace. Passing TPA will give U.S. negotiators the credibility they need to make agreements that will create those opportunities.

GRANT TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY TO PRESIDENT

(Mr. OXLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to speak on granting Trade Promotion Authority to the President. Free trade is good for our overall economy; but as chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, I would like to focus this morning on how important trade is to our country's vital financial services sector.

Ambassador Zoellick gave a compelling presentation to our committee just recently on the advantages of trade and services. Note, for example, that our financial services trade surplus was \$8.88 billion last year. That is a surplus. Financial services exports have seen an overall net increase of 273 percent over the last 10 years.

Clearly, we want to encourage continued growth in this vital industry. In my home State of Ohio, Columbus has had the distinction of being one of the fastest growing cities in the country, partly because of its emergence as a financial services center. But U.S. exports of financial services also help to promote the development of capital markets, open economies and democracy across the world.

When the President does not have Trade Promotion Authority, other countries are reluctant to enter into new agreements with the United States, so it is more difficult to get the kind of trade agreements that open up new markets for our financial services companies; and ultimately, that threatens U.S. preeminence in the international financial world.

We cannot afford to lose that standing. It is just one reason why this Congress needs to approve TPA tomorrow.

OPPOSE FAST TRACK TRADE AUTHORITY

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will vote on a bill offered by the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means which concedes to the executive branch this body's constitutional authority to negotiate trade agreements. My role in Congress is to represent the voices and

values of the working men and women of Minnesota's fourth district, not to abdicate my vote to the President.

I want an opportunity to have input on agreements that promote global trade. Trade agreements are essential to our economic well-being, to our role as a global leader in promoting workers' rights, human rights and healthy environment. This Fast Track trade authority requires no congressional approval prior to the signing of a trade agreement, only consultations. This body may only vote to certify that the administration has failed to consult with Congress.

I was not elected to Congress to be a consultant. We are the House of Representatives, not the House of Consultants. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 3005.

TIGHTENING BORDER CONTROL

(Mr. GRAVES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, we have taken many good steps since September 11 toward protecting our country. As our focus returns to the domestic issues, let us not overlook one critical piece missing from our Nation's security plan, tightening border control.

Each day, countless travelers freely cross our borders without proving their right to be in our country. Our ability to screen these people, even when this is an option, is severely compromised and must be addressed by bolstering the technology and intelligence capabilities at our ports of entry.

I, along with some of my colleagues, have introduced the Enhanced Border Security Act to strengthen our border security and monitor foreign nationals, particularly those on student visas visiting our country.

Our legislation would allow government law enforcement and intelligence agencies to share background information through a shared database. Additionally, this legislation will track foreign students receiving visas from educational institutions to ensure they are accounted for upon their arrival, during their study, and when their visa expires.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this comprehensive legislation that will help ensure the safety of our Nation.

SUPPORT TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

(Mr. CRANE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I just heard the gentlewoman from Minnesota commenting about Trade Promotion Authority, and there were a couple of comments that she made that I think need clarification.

One of these is the President has trade negotiating authority and has al-

ways had trade negotiating authority. What TPA does is let us participate in the process during the negotiating process, with consultation before, during and after the agreement is reached with another country.

The important thing to keep in mind is we had President Clinton go forward with his executive authority to negotiate that agreement with Jordan. He did bring it back, and we ultimately have the authority to vote it up or vote it down; that authority is retained.

I hope the gentlewoman will look at this, because TPA gives us greater opportunity for involvement in the process than anything that we have done in the past. Please, we need support on both sides of the aisle. It is a bipartisan issue.

FREEZING COPAY FOR VETERANS' PRESCRIPTION COSTS

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I think veterans across this country would be upset to learn that at a time when we are giving multi-billion dollar tax breaks to wealthy corporations, we are in fact contemplating increasing the cost of prescription medications available to our veterans by a whooping 250 percent. We are in the process of increasing the copay for our veterans from \$2 per prescription to \$7 per prescription.

Now, many veterans receive 10 or more prescriptions per month. Ten times seven is \$70 a month. This is absolutely outrageous and unacceptable, when we are providing billions of dollars in tax breaks to profitable corporations, we would burden the veterans in our country by increasing the copay for their medications by 250 percent.

This House should support my bill, H.R. 2820, which would freeze the copay for 5 years at its \$2 per prescription level.

THANKING THOSE SERVING AND WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE MILITARY

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, it has been quoted as saying that war is hell. We mourn the reported deaths of our soldiers in Afghanistan. We know the risks of combat. We know that wars are fought and won on the battlefield, and it is only on the rarest of occasion that in warfare we do not lose some of our own.

The military accepts these risks, the military and our government. We do not like it, but it is reality. To serve and protect, that is what they do. Duty, honor, country. Our liberty is paid for by the blood of our sons and daughters.