away to people who aren't working as hard?''

A dentist in Colorado said she is going to work fewer days, see fewer patients and eliminate employees so she can be underneath the tax increase. She says, ''If I am going to be working just to give it back to the government, it is demoralizing.''

Mr. Speaker, this cannot be. What are we to do if all these small business owners start following this downsizing plan, lay off employees and don't send more money to Washington? Don't they know they can't do that? Don't they know that they need to pay more taxes to take care of the rest of us?

Mr. Speaker, all citizens pay enough income tax already. It is absurd to raise taxes on anybody during this recession.

And that's just the way it is.

WORKING TOWARDS COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, President Obama has said ''our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness.'' Yet there are those that are full of hate and anti-immigration rhetoric that cannot see the rich contributions immigrants have made to this country.

Racial profiling in my district alone is alarming and the controversy of enforcement practices must be investigated. We will not stand for enforcement-only approaches that create a mistrust of law enforcement amongst the public. We need comprehensive immigration reform that addresses the real issues, respects families and includes enforcement and security of our Nation.

Congress needs to be proactive on this issue, instead of reactive to the negative few who preach enforcement-only failed approaches.

I urge my colleagues with the help of the CHC to have President Obama and Speaker PELOSI work towards comprehensive immigration reform.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF FRED PIERNO, JR.

(Mr. ROONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Martin County Fire Medic Fred Pierno, Jr. Freddy is the only member of the Martin County Fire Rescue to ever die in the line of duty. He lived a life of service to his community and country. He was a Navy veteran during the Vietnam War and served for 20 years with Martin County Fire Rescue. His fellow firefighters enjoyed working by his side and he always put others first.

It was in 2006 while trying to save the life of a patient that he contracted hepatitis C. Firefighters and medics like Freddy put their lives on the line day in and day out and face dangers that can't always be seen. Freddy is only the 13th firefighter in the United States to die in the line of duty from this virus.

We honor Fred Pierno's sacrifice to the people of Martin County. He will truly be missed.

FIXING THE BROKEN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Today, the President will convene a health summit as he continues to engage experts, Members of Congress, health providers and consumer advocates in what is one of many discussions on how to best fix our broken health care system and ensure access to quality health care for every American more efficiently and effectively.

We have already made a great down payment with the expanded SCHIP, the Medicaid and other provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We in this body continue to work with our President through our omnibus bill; and as we prepare to develop a 2010 budget, we do so in a holistic way, also addressing the social determinants of our health, which is critical in order for us to meet our obligation to close the gaps in health that cause premature preventive illness and death in the poor and people of color and those in our rural areas.

We must remember that health care is a right.

PUTTING COMPETITIVENESS AND GROWTH FIRST

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, you know, it is so interesting to go home on the weekends and visit with all of my constituents. This past weekend, some of them said, I feel like everything that I am hearing from the leadership in D.C. is focused on fear and envy to push their agenda.

The President's budget is just big government reinvented. Here it is, the era of enormous big government. It expands government spending past the traditional no more than 20 percent of GDP that we have always expected, and it is going into the stratosphere. Programs are piled on top of each other to give us what is now a $3.55 trillion budget that has come from this Democrat administration. And the deficits? $1 trillion as far as the eye can see. And this is on top of the stimulus, the omnibus, the ''Housing-us'' bills, that are just ripping through this Chamber at speeds that would make my NASCAR drivers dizzy.

You know, some of my constituents suspect that the leadership in this House actually is choosing to confuse the issues. They know you cannot spend your way to recovery.

GARDEN STREET LOFTS IN HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY, HONORED BY SUSTAINABLE BUILDING INDUSTRY COUNCIL

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Sustainable Building Industry Council honored the Garden Street Lofts in Hoboken, New Jersey, at their Beyond Green High Performance Buildings Awards. I am proud of the accomplishments of MAST Construction and all those involved in the project. I am pleased that their important work has been recognized.

The Garden Street Lofts project, completed last November, successfully converted an 80-year-old warehouse into a ''Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design'' silver-certified building with 30 loft-style residences and over 7,000 square feet of retail space. The building also is located within reach of multiple forms of public transportation, further increasing its appeal and environmental benefits.

I commend this sustainable project, and I thank the Sustainable Building Industry Council for including it in its Beyond Green Awards program. MAST Construction continues to provide the 13th Congressional District of New Jersey with exceptional facilities. It is my hope that the Garden Street Lofts will serve as a successful example for other developers.

ENDING NO-BID CONTRACTS IN THE FEDERAL PROCUREMENT PROCESS

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, President Obama announced an initiative yesterday to fix the Federal procurement process. He wants to make sure that there are no more no-bid contracts.

Now, this is a welcome move. But if the President really wants to get serious about ending no-bid contracts, he should veto the omnibus spending bill we are just about to send him. It contains thousands of no-bid contracts for private companies. If the President can't see fit to veto the omnibus, he should at a minimum commit to veto future legislation that contains no-bid contracts.

Again, a congressional earmark for a private company is nothing more than a no-bid contract. What is worse, many of these congressionally directed no-bid contracts go to companies whose executives and their lobbyists turn around and make campaign contributions to those who secured the earmark or no-bid contract.

This morning we will be voting on a privileged resolution to investigate earmarks and campaign contributions