

Currently, approximately 13 million people in North Korea suffer from malnutrition, and over 2 million North Koreans have died of starvation since 1995. In addition, over 200,000 men, women, and children are imprisoned in political prison camps in North Korea.

North Korea is controlled by a dictatorial regime where human rights and personal freedoms are nonexistent. The region suffers from an extremely weak economy and is dependent on the international community even for its food. Unfortunately, about 30 percent of all the international aid that is provided to North Korea goes to the country's military and its elite, and very little of that ever gets to the real people of North Korea.

Under the current regime, universal human rights do not apply to the people of North Korea, and freedom remains a foreign idea for the men and the women of this repressive country.

I call on my colleagues in Congress and the Obama administration to take action to improve the deteriorating human rights crisis in North Korea.

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#### ENERGY

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

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because we are at a crossroads in the way we power America. Breaking our dependence on foreign oil will not only create new domestic jobs, but it will ensure our economic recovery is sustained for future generations.

The American Solar Energy Society recently released a report that stated in 2007, the renewable energy and energy-efficiency sectors created 9 million jobs in the United States and over \$1 trillion in revenues. In my home State of Colorado alone, the energy-efficiency field added 81,000 jobs in 2007, and we all know it is cheaper to use less energy than to make it.

Innovation and entrepreneurship have always been the backbone of the American spirit. As I travel to the eastern plains of Colorado, the landowners often tell me they are ready to install wind turbines on their property as an economic development tool. However, we must update our fragmented transmission system to transmit these vast resources.

By becoming a leader in renewable energy and energy-efficiency technologies, we can invest in our future and put Americans back to work.

#### MYTH: AMERICANS DON'T WANT BROAD HEALTH REFORM

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, another health care myth. It

is amazing that opponents of comprehensive health care reform still make the argument that Americans don't want it, but they do, and it is time to debunk it. According to an April 2009 Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll, just from this month, 59 percent of Americans say that it is more important now than ever to pass health care reform, 59 percent. And it is easy to understand why. Because of costs, 42 percent of Americans reported that they didn't see a doctor in the past year; 36 percent skipped dental care; 27 percent skipped a recommended medical test or treatment; and 18 percent of Americans reported that they cut their pills in half because they couldn't afford it.

This isn't time for small ideas. This isn't time to just protect the status quo. Americans demand comprehensive health care reform, and it is time that this Congress gives it to them this year.

#### BORDER VIOLENCE

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, just across the border, heavily armed militias fueled by drug trafficking cartels are at war with the Mexican Government. Although the worst of the violence has been contained south of the border, its impact is being felt throughout the region.

These trafficking organizations are powerful, but we are fighting back. Recently, the Flagstaff Police Department busted a major drug ring that supplied a quarter of the methamphetamine in the area. I congratulate the Flagstaff Police Department on their successful bust, which helps keep drugs out of our community and is a blow against drug trafficking organizations on both sides of the border.

#### CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, in these difficult economic times, we, as leaders, must ask ourselves the question, whose side are we on? Are we on the side of people—the consumers, the taxpayers, and hardworking families across the Nation? Well, I certainly am.

Today, I rise in favor of the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights. For too long, hardworking Americans have been victimized by high fees, high interest rates, and confusing credit card agreements that these companies can change at will.

The Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights protects everyone from the unfair and often abusive practices that credit card companies put on everybody. It prevents credit card companies from unfairly increasing interest rates on existing balances.

The Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights will protect everyone. It ends unfair penalties for cardholders who pay on time, and it protects vulnerable consumers from high fees due to subprime credit cards. In short, it prevents these companies from constantly moving the goalposts and taking advantage of ordinary people who have done nothing wrong.

Let's pass the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights and build a better Nation for everyone.

#### ENERGY

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a progressive vision for America's energy future and the opportunity to create millions of American jobs for our working families.

President Obama and this Congress are taking on our Nation's energy crisis with a plan to create green jobs and build a clean energy economy; a plan that creates 300,000 new jobs by implementing a Renewable Electricity Standard, and another 222,000 new jobs with its high efficiency savings provisions.

Mr. Speaker, we have a choice to make in this Congress; we can choose to create millions of new American jobs that cannot be shipped overseas, reduce our dependence on oil from overseas, increase production of cleaner renewable energy sources, crack down on polluters who damage our air and our water quality, and give American entrepreneurs and innovators the tools they need to stay combative in the global economy, or we can do something else.

America can become a world leader in the new clean energy economy, or we can continue the failed policies of the last 8 years.

#### MAKING IN ORDER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 627, CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order on Wednesday, April 29, at any time for the Speaker, as though pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, to declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of H.R. 627, and that consideration of the bill proceed according to the following order: The first reading of the bill is dispensed with; all points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI; general debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the Chair and ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services; after general debate, the Committee of the Whole shall rise without motion; and, no further consideration of H.R. 627