

APPLAUDING CONGRESS FOR ITS PASSAGE OF THE AMERICAN RE- COVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

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

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the critical actions taken by this Congress to create jobs, to cut taxes, and to invest in America's long-term economic growth by passing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

With the goal of creating and saving jobs, rushing relief to America's businesses and families and pulling our country back from the brink of catastrophe, the Recovery Act was signed into law by President Obama in my home State of Colorado.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I was especially pleased to see that the Colorado Department of Transportation was prepared with shovel-ready projects that would have an immediate and positive impact on the lives of Colorado's businesses and families.

Since the passage of the Recovery Act, 576 jobs have been created or sustained through transportation projects alone in Colorado. These jobs have created a payroll of over \$700,000. Not only have these projects helped reduce unemployment, but they're improving the safety and efficiency of Colorado's highways. With interchange improvements and with the addition of shoulder and bike lanes, the Recovery Act is making Colorado a more multimodal and sustainable place to live.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARINE GUN- NERY SERGEANT AARON KENEFICK

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Marine Gunnery Sergeant Aaron Kenefick, a Williamsville, New York, native who made the ultimate sacrifice earlier this month in Kunar province, Afghanistan.

Sergeant Kenefick followed in his grandfather's footsteps when he signed up for the Marines. Nothing made his grandfather prouder. He was twice named Marine of the Year, and was the Distinguished Honor Graduate at Fort Benning, assigned to Central Command. Just 2 days before he lost his life, Sergeant Kenefick earned a Purple Heart after being hit by shrapnel in a rocket attack.

I want to recognize the courage of Sergeant Kenefick's family: his father, Donnie; his mother, Susan; and his sisters, Jade and Jacquelyn, to whom he was extremely close. They will surely fill the coming days with stories about Aaron, including the Thanksgiving a few years ago when he was pushing to have dinner as quickly as possible because he wanted to get to the VA hospital.

He said, That's where the true heroes are.

Now Aaron stands firmly among our Nation's truest heroes. The example he has set and the sacrifices he has made will always be with us.

CONGRESS, LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF PASSIONATE AMERI- CANS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, across the country, tens of thousands of passionate, boisterous Americans have come to townhall meetings to make their voices heard to Members of Congress.

I welcome that expression of concern. Those concerns have touched a wide range of issues, but there is a common theme running through all of them, and that is that people feel they are not being listened to. While I understand the frustration, I think, maybe, the source of their frustration is not understood. It is that, no matter how loud we scream, there is still a torrent of money that is pouring into the political system on the other side that drowns out those voices.

So, as we debate health care and energy and the reform of our financial system, I hope those same passionate Americans will talk to Congress about the need to reform our campaign finance system, about the need to create public financing so that their voices, as passionate and as intelligent as they may be, are not drowned out by the huge amounts of money that we now see in the political system.

I think this is the cause for the future as the Supreme Court debates a decision which could make this even more compelling need more salient. We need to deal with this important topic.

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THE AMERICAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT—PAGE 2

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the American resistance movement has begun. It was seen in D.C. this weekend when over a million people came to show their displeasure with government. Their grievances: too much government spending, borrowing and taxing, too much bloated government, too much waste and irresponsibility in government.

This is not the 1960s violent antiwar protests led by radical draft-dodging college elites. These are families, working people, business owners, veterans, seniors and the backbone of the American spirit. These people have a stake in America and a concern about the future of a Nation they treasure and love.

Government beware, these people have engaged in that political fight and

are not about to give their country away to those who want to run roughshod over their lives and force more government intrusion upon them. These people don't like the atmosphere that disagreement with government is frowned upon.

This American resistance is not going away. People will not be dismissed and intimidated by those whose only answer to their valid concerns is to say they are "un-American." These Americans want government to listen, and we ignore them at our own peril.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the vast majority of American workers have private health insurance. If you are among those with health insurance, do you really know what you have or what you will have in 5 years? Unfortunately, many people do not understand the limits of their insurance until they get sick.

Without health care reform, insurance companies will continue to deny coverage or increase rates because of preexisting conditions. They will continue to drop people when they get sick or water down coverage when it's needed the most, and they will continue to set caps on the coverage in a given year or over a lifetime.

If you watch your current policy very closely, read the fine print, the American people will see that they are paying more and more for less and less. For Americans with health insurance, these reforms provide stability, affordability, security and peace of mind. Americans should not have to wait for reform.

Congress must get it done this year.

LISTEN TO WHAT REAL AMERI- CANS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT HEALTH REFORM

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, after 16 listening sessions over August, I heard from thousands of Montanans about health care reform.

Today, I am here to report that away from the influence of powerful special interests and the spin of political operatives, this debate is very different. That's why it's so important to get out of Washington in order to hear Americans, our bosses, what they think.

We haven't yet seen a final bill in either the House or the Senate. Once we get a final bill, but before we vote on it, Congress should adjourn this body for 30 days, not for more vacation. Far from it, we need those days to return home to listen to what real Americans have to say about the new bill. Then we can vote.