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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 15, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KATHLEEN A. DAHLKEMPER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair would now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CLYBURN) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

This world was created by You, Almighty God. In You and through You,

humanity has been freed and brought to a liberty that is powerful enough to enable us to learn from mistakes and resolve with firm determination to live with compassion for others and bring greater and equal justice to all peoples.

Help this Nation live up to its calling in these historic times. May all those who are committed to love others and pursue justice, work together, without illusion or deceit, and build a world of true and lasting peace.

This we ask calling upon Your Holy Name, with lasting faith. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1660. An act to amend the Toxic Substance Control Act to reduce the emissions of formaldehyde from composite wood products, and for other purposes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thurs-

day, June 10, 2010, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair to receive the former Members of Congress.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

RECEPTION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

The Speaker pro tempore presided.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On behalf of the House, I consider it a high honor and a distinct personal privilege to have the opportunity of welcoming so many of our former Members and colleagues as may be present here for this occasion. We all pause to welcome them.

The Chair now calls on the Honorable John J. Rhodes, president of the association, to take the chair.

Mr. RHODES (presiding). It is my pleasure at this point in time to yield the floor to the vice president of the association and my great friend, the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Hertel, for the purpose of making a presentation.

Mr. HERTEL. I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

It is always a distinct privilege to be back in this revered Chamber, and we appreciate the opportunity to present today the annual report of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress.

Our association's president, Jay Rhodes of Arizona, along with some of our colleagues, will report on the activities and projects of our organization. Before we get to this report, however, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to present our 2010 Distinguished Service Award to William H. Gray of the great State of Pennsylvania.

Bestowing our association's highest award on Bill Gray was an easy decision and one that was long overdue. The reward recognizes distinguished

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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service, and few Members have served their community and country with more distinction than Bill Gray did before, during and after his years here on Capitol Hill.

Majority Whip Gray embodies the spirit of our award, having spent his post-congressional career as an education leader, which he believes is his higher calling for our entire country. As president and CEO of the United Negro College Fund, he worked to elevate historically black colleges, and believes they provide vital educational bridges that need continued support. We are thrilled to honor him today. Bill, please join me here at the dais.

You know, Bill first of all had to have the political hard sense and experience to become the whip to be elected by the caucus. And then once he was the whip, on a daily and weekly basis he had to lead us and be able to count those votes in such a political way. So it is not just education and public service, it is being one of the greatest politicians that we have had in the history of our House. On behalf of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, it is a great pleasure and honor for me to present our 2010 Distinguished Service Award to William H. Gray of Pennsylvania.

The plaque is inscribed as followed:

The 2010 Distinguished Service Award is presented by the United States Association of Former Members of Congress to Chairman William Herbert Gray, III, for his lifetime of exceptional public service. Both in and out of Congress, Minister Bill Gray has demonstrated his tremendous dedication to civil rights, fairness and equality. Representing the State of Pennsylvania with great distinction, he served as the first African-American majority whip and the first African-American chairman of the House Budget Committee. His leadership helped young Americans obtain the dream of a college education, his perseverance contributed to the fall of apartheid, and his humanity brought relief to the people of Haiti. Congressman Bill Gray is an inspiration to us all, and his former colleagues from both sides of the political aisle salute him today.

Mr. GRAY. Thank you to the president, the distinguished gentleman from Arizona, to my former colleague from Michigan, to all of you who are here, those who I had the privilege of serving with, and those that I have known over the years through outstanding service since or before.

It is a real privilege and a pleasure to be here today and to receive this award because of the group that is making it, the former Members of Congress who gave service not only when they were elected officials, but continue to give service, inspiring fellow Americans to get involved in public service and understand that democracy must have participation by all of its citizens.

Sometimes the debate can get kind of tough. But one thing we all learned long ago, and that is that civility is

the cement that holds the bricks of democracy together. And so we must always keep in mind in our public service that although we disagree, we can never have the point that we reach in our society where we think of each other as evil because of our disagreements. We are all fellow Americans fighting for the best.

I want to recognize one of our former Members, because in a way our partnership symbolizes that civility, that working together, even though we probably in the 10 or 12 years that we spent together here in the House of Representatives, he and I never voted alike on anything, not even the approval of the Journal, I don't think. He was from Texas, from San Antonio, and a rock-ribbed conservative, and I was from Philadelphia, a rock-ribbed progressive, and today we are partners in a firm. And that is Tom Loeffler, who came to the House about the same time as I did, and yet today we are working together.

So I want to thank all of the members of the Former Members Association for this outstanding award. I enjoyed immensely my years on this floor and in this body serving with so many of you. I have enjoyed immensely my work in education. But above all, I have enjoyed my work of 45 years as a Baptist preacher.

Today I thank you for this award, and continue to say what my father said to me years ago. He said, "Service is the rent you pay in the house of democracy." Thank you, and let us continue to work together to pay good rent for the next generation and broaden the house of democracy.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. RHODES. Congressman Gray, thank you very much for being with us today, and for all that you have done for this institution, and this country, and for our God. Thanks, Bill. I appreciate it.

I am going to yield the chair in a moment to the gentleman from Michigan to preside over the balance of the meeting. I want to take a special moment—actually, I am going to take several special moments, because the majority leader has entered the Chamber, and it's my hope that he will have some comments and remarks to make for us.

Mr. HOYER. Good morning and welcome back.

Many of you, of course, visit on a relatively regular basis. Others of you we don't get to see as often. I now have been here long enough to know almost all of you, and have served with almost all of you. And I am always pleased to join here to welcome you back to the House.

I have my own Connie Morella from Maryland and Bev Byron. You know the story about Bev Byron. We met in 1962. She was wondering who this skinny kid was who had written to her husband, "Dear President Byron." He was president of the Young Democrats of Maryland. And I signed it "Steny Hamilton Hoyer," and she has not let me forget the officiousness of that letter.

But I am so pleased to be with all of you. I have lamented on numerous occasions welcoming you here that when I first came here it was 1981, and clearly the partisanship was starting to elevate.

All of you know, because I have said on so many different occasions, what respect and deep, deep affection I have for Bob Michel. Respect in the sense that I thought he brought the best of what the American people want and represented to the House of Representatives. He brought a philosophical judgment as to what policies we ought to support, direction the country ought to go, but he also brought a deep conviction that what the American public expected of us was to work together, respect one another, and try to do the best that we could for the American people.

Unfortunately, as all of you have seen, we are a deeply polarized Congress. That does not mean that we don't sit down together and talk about issues from time to time. Leader BOEHNER has just walked in. He and I are working on a joint enterprise that we think may have some real positive effect. And hopefully, we can win the day on that issue. But for the most part, we are not working together as collegially as I think the American public would like us to do.

The problems that confront our country, as all of you know, are very, very substantial. We have an immediate crisis, the oil crisis, which has given to the American public a sense of almost helplessness that their government is not responding in a way that can stop this oil from leaking. Clearly, BP and the entire oil industry has extraordinary incentive to do that. They have been technically unable to do it. We are in deep water both figuratively and literally on this issue.

JOHN and I were on a television program on Sunday morning together on which we both agreed that, A, BP ought to be held responsible, and B, we need to do everything we possibly could to not only stop the oil, but to help those who have been hurt, which nobody can contemplate exactly how broad that will be.

The other issue that we are grappling with that I feel keenly about that has gotten cumulatively worse during the 30 years that I have been here, and that is the fiscal crisis that confronts our country. We are in deep debt. We are approaching or about at 90 percent of GDP in terms of our debt load. We are moving towards 100 percent. No country in the world can sustain that kind of debt load for very long and remain healthy, vibrant, and growing.

So we need your continued wisdom and counsel. Notwithstanding the fact you are not voting, you are all very, very influential people in this country and in your States and in your districts still. And your voice is needed, as we try to reach some bipartisan consensus on how to achieve a more positive fiscal picture confronting our country.

But notwithstanding those serious issues, as someone who just turned 71 yesterday, and I am sending the message to my constituents that I have no intention of retiring; I hope they have no intention of retiring me. I enjoy my service here. I continue. And I enjoyed serving with all of you on both sides of the aisle.

So on behalf of Speaker PELOSI, JOHN will speak for himself, obviously, but I know in a very bipartisan way we welcome all of you back here. We enjoy seeing you. We enjoy reminiscing about the good times, about the challenges, and about how we got things done, and how we might apply those lessons of the past to the solving of the problems that confront us today.

So thank you all very, very much. Enjoy this day, and make sure that you come back on a regular basis to give us, as I said, not only advice and counsel, but perhaps even encouragement. Not everybody in America, as you have noticed, is giving us encouragement.

You know, the bad news for Democrats is that we are very low down in the polls. The good news for Democrats is Republicans are there with us. They don't like any of us. They don't think any of us have got it. So working together, perhaps we can reinstate their confidence and reinstate a positive, more confident America as we move forward, as you have done when you served America so well in this body. Thank you very much.

I now, if I might, the distinguished gentleman from Arizona, I know he wants to recognize him, but I would be pleased to yield to my friend with whom I from time to time have the opportunity to work together, but always try to have a cordial and positive relationship with, the Republican leader, Mr. BOEHNER.

Mr. RHODES. Mr. HOYER, my wife and I own a little piece of property in Calvert County which happens to be in a major part of your district, and one of the things that we constantly notice is between Prince Frederick and Solomon's Island, roughly every half mile there is a post office. Now, I know that you and everybody else thinks that earmarks are not good, but you are not going to be defeated as long as you keep building those post offices.

Mr. HOYER. I appreciate your confidence, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. RHODES. The Chair recognizes the Republican leader.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, this is the first time in my 20 years here that I have seen the Speaker lobbying from the podium.

Let me welcome all of my colleagues here to the Capitol today. There are a good number of you. I would hope that some of you would work to get more of your colleagues to come back for what really is a very special day, and we, on a bipartisan basis, really do welcome you and glad to see many of you. Some of you, this is the only day of the year I get to see; others I get to see a little more often, like these two over here.

To Bill Gray, congratulations. Bill Gray has spent a lifetime of service to his country, whether it was the years that he spent here, the years that he spent with a number of organizations where he has provided exemplary service, and I am very pleased that Bill is being honored today by all of you. He and I had a chance to serve together. I was a young pup, he was one of the senior leaders in the other party, but we still always had an opportunity to talk to one another.

As all of you know, we continue, as STENY said, to face big challenges, and what is really of interest to me and I'm sure to Steny is the political rebellion that is going on in America today. I have never seen anything like this. When you look at what is happening, we've got people who have been driven off the couch, off their easy chair, away from their TV, and into the streets protesting what their government is doing. The result of this, we will see what happens in November, but it really is—there's nothing short of a political rebellion going on in the country, something like I have never seen in my lifetime. It is creating more challenges for the Members that are here and clearly will create challenges for candidates on both sides of the aisle as we get into November.

Let me just once again say thank you for being here. Anytime that we can be of service to all of you, we would certainly like to do that.

Mr. RHODES. Thank you, Mr. Leader.

I wasn't aware that I was lobbying, but if that's the way you take it, then that's fine.

I am going to yield the chair to the gentleman from Michigan, but before I do, I want to pay special recognition to my Republican leader, Bob Michel, and to three individuals who were elected at the same time that I was in 1986: Jack Buechner, Ernie Konnyu and Connie Morella. I appreciate you being here.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. HERTEL. I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

I want to thank the majority leader who has always taken the time to participate with us and to welcome us here on the House floor but has always participated in our other activities, too, and encouraged us to continue in serving our country in the capacity of former Members. He reminds me of 30 years ago when he talked about Minority Leader Bob Michel, who we all looked to for advice, and those times of, as he said, really the beginning of increased partisanship.

But just as Majority Leader HOYER and Mr. BOEHNER were last year at our golf tournament for the wounded warriors playing golf and there were some press excerpts of them working together, the majority leader has always reached out to the other side because, while we have partisan differences, as I saw with him back 30 years ago with

our esteemed Speaker Tip O'Neill and our revered minority leader, Bob Michel, they were able to show us how you fight for what you believe in, you fight for your partisan position, you fight for your party position, but in the end, you're elected by the people to serve this country and to reach the best accommodation and policy in the interest of the United States for the future and the people of our country.

In that light, the president of our association, Jay Rhodes, has set up a bipartisan day tomorrow where we have former Speakers of the House, Foley and Hastert, and Dick Gephardt and others coming forward, a full day over at the National Archives to talk about the need for bipartisanship and what it has meant in the past. I know of Tip O'Neill's great respect for Bob Michel; I know of Tip O'Neill's great love for Jerry Ford, who was minority leader and then President of the United States; and there was never anybody who would give an inch on an issue that he believed in than Speaker O'Neill and neither was there from President Ford from my State of Michigan. And yet as partisan as they were in their leadership, there is no one in this country who doesn't know how their leadership really was embodied for the entire Nation and the people of this country, to serve them and to move things forward.

That's the example that we see, just as we saw yesterday Minority Leader BOEHNER coming out to our golf tournament again for the wounded warriors and showing his leadership again today by welcoming us with the majority leader and the comity that they have in working together on policy issues for our country.

Again, I am reminded of the foresight of our leader from Arizona, having this bipartisan day tomorrow, but not just a day. It's a yearlong program that he has established to talk about the need for bipartisanship and the examples of bipartisanship in our future.

So, today, I would like to ask President Jay Rhodes to step down here to the dais with me, and before you deliver our association's report to the Congress of what has been going on this last year under your leadership, I want to thank you for 2 years of outstanding leadership as president of this organization. Our membership and board of directors really appreciate all that you have done for the Former Member Association, and we really can't capture all the time that you've spent, all the hours, all the leadership, all of your iconic and ironic wit that you've demonstrated in this last year of leadership and also here on the House floor, but all the hard work you've done on our international issues, on our national issues, on the Congress to Campus program, Jay, and the way that you've taken time to listen to all the members of our association to implement their ideas and to involve all the different members of our association to move things forward.

So I would like you to come down here, Jay, because we have a special plaque for you.

Mr. RHODES. I don't think it's appropriate to leave the chair unattended.

Mr. HERTEL. Well, I will come up to you, then.

Let me read this, which is presented to the Honorable John J. Rhodes, III:

In recognition and appreciation of his strong leadership as President of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress. His tremendous enthusiasm and effectiveness will always be remembered by his very grateful colleagues.

Washington, D.C., June 15, 2010.

Jay, we want to thank you for all that you've done in your continued service with us as a past president, how much we appreciate it. And we are anxious to hear your report of our organization.

Mr. RHODES. Thank you, Mr. Soon-to-be-President Hertel. I have really enjoyed the time that you and I have spent together, along with the members of the board and the executive committee. I look forward to continuing my relationship with the association, and I look forward to your presidency—which is not formal yet, so don't get too excited.

I now yield the chair to the Honorable Dennis Hertel.

Mr. HERTEL (presiding). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, MIKE PENCE, the Republican Conference Chair. Thank you for coming.

Mr. PENCE. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you all.

Those of you that don't watch C-SPAN incessantly may not know I serve as the House Republican Conference Chairman now, and I am just honored to be here with our former leader, a man deeply admired, and to see so many familiar faces back on the floor, back in the people's House. To Congressman Rhodes, it is wonderful to see you. Congratulations on a great tenure in leadership.

Thank you all for being here. We just adjourned the House Republican Conference, and I think you will see former colleagues and current Members coming over to say hello. We just appreciate your continued leadership. I appreciated what JOHN BOEHNER said about your continued role in the leadership of this country. So many of you have gone on from Congress and played an even greater role in the life of this Nation in various industry and philanthropic ways, and I want to commend you for that.

But let me also say I want to commend Congressman Rhodes and our new president for the call for bipartisanship. In the 9 years that I have served on Capitol Hill, I remain convinced that we could learn an awful lot from those who have gone before on this floor in this current time. As we think about the extraordinary challenges facing this country at home and abroad, the hard choices that we are

going to have to be making that can only be made if we act as Americans first and not on a partisan basis, please know that we're going to continue to turn to the men and women who have served in this place before.

We will have a competitive election, I expect, this fall. The American people will decide what the composition of this place looks like. I want to tell you as I came onto the floor and I saw a lot more people on this side than on that side, it's kind of how it feels for us Republicans right now, but whatever the American people decide. I want to thank you for being here today. Thank you for your involvement in the former Members group; some men and women that I have had the privilege of serving with are here.

But I also want to challenge you, the extraordinary and intractable problems—rising deficits and debts, a difficult economy—we need to turn to the wisdom of the men and women who have been here before. We need to turn to you to facilitate an environment of good will where we can solve these problems for this and future generations of Americans, and I know that we will. When I see where we have come from, the part of this national life that you've been a part of, I know that we will meet these challenges and make this the next great American century.

Thank you all for your involvement. God bless you all. It's an honor to speak to you this morning.

Mr. HERTEL. Thank you very much for taking the time. We appreciate the gentleman from Indiana for coming today.

I was reminded of—well, two things. I see Mike Barnes here joining the two gentlewomen from Maryland; I wish every State had the same representation as Maryland does here at our meeting today. But I am reminded to tell about the victory of the Democrats yesterday at the golf tournament for the wounded warriors. I think it's the second year in a row that Democrats have been successful. Marty Russo reminded me of that today.

And now, I will call on our president, the gentleman from Arizona, for his annual report on the association's work under his leadership.

Mr. RHODES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that the Democrats enjoyed their victory yesterday, and I trust that that will be just about the end of it.

We are very constrained in terms of the time that we have available to us; we have to vacate the floor by 11 o'clock.

There are three of our association members who have reports to deliver about some of the activities of the association over the course of the past year.

I would first like to recognize the gentleman from New York, Mr. McHugh, distinguished former president of the association and a tremendous asset to the association, for his report on the Congress to Campus program.

Mr. McHUGH. Thank you very much, Jay. It's a great privilege, as always, to report again on this outstanding program.

As you have indicated in the past, this Congress to Campus program has been administered by our association now for 3 years in cooperation with the Stennis Center. During that time, the program has experienced marked growth and has expanded to include a number of community colleges as well as traditional universities.

As most of you know, this is the association's flagship program. It sends bipartisan teams of former Members to colleges, universities, and high schools across the country to educate the next generation of leaders on the importance of civic engagement. The participating students benefit from the interaction with our association members, whose knowledge and experience clearly are a unique resource. Our members at the same time benefit through their continued involvement in public service and the ability to engage young people on issues of real importance to them.

During each visit, our bipartisan team conducts classes, meets individually with students and faculty, speaks to campus media, participates in both campus and community forums, and meets with local citizens. The program has made both domestic and international visits this academic year, including two separate visits to campuses in the United Kingdom. During the 2009–2010 academic year, the program has made a total of 22 campus visits. More than 35 former Members participated, and I want to thank all of you who took the time from your busy schedules to do so. I also want to encourage those who have not yet had the opportunity to seriously consider doing so. It's a great way to continue our public service after Congress.

I also want to thank the faculty, staff members and students who worked so diligently on each of these visits. Without the hard work of these folks, these visits would not have been possible at all.

We have continued our relationship with the Stennis Center for Public Service in the administration of the program, and we owe a special debt of gratitude, I think, to Tracy Fine of our staff and to Brother Rogers of the Stennis Center for their fine work throughout the year. Our staffs work very closely together to make the program such a success and we also appreciate the continuing financial support from the Stennis Center. We look forward to our continuing association in the years ahead.

In addition to the expansion of the program to community colleges, and with the help of a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the program has also commenced a concerted effort in partnership with the University of Central Florida and the Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government to reach out to high school students

through a series of webcasts. These programs focus on specific topics related to Congress and the legislative process and are designed as a tool for teachers to showcase these topics and encourage involvement in government. During the fall and the spring, the program was piloted to high schools in Florida and around the country. The broadcasts were taped and streamed live with an in-studio audience of high school students in Washington as part of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council.

We have also continued our working relationship with the People to People Ambassador Program that brings young people to our Nation's capital for a week of events centered on the concepts of character and leadership. This year, the association sent former Members to 30 different speaking engagements in this area and reached hundreds of students through these appearances. These students are younger than those who participate in Congress to Campus activities, but they have already demonstrated a commitment to the ideals that Congress to Campus seeks to promote. The association's involvement in this program allows our members living in the Washington area to speak to these younger students on the importance of public service and to answer their many questions about our country and its government. A number of our members continue to work full-time, and the People to People engagements allow them to continue their public service in this way. The events are typically held in the early morning at suburban locations. Again, I want to thank my colleagues, especially Orval Hansen, Jack Buechner and Martin Frost, who have participated in this program regularly over the past year.

Finally, Jay, I want to say again how grateful we are to those who have made the Congress to Campus program such a great success, and I strongly encourage all of my friends and colleagues to participate in this program either by making a visit to a school or by recommending a school to host the program. As you know, a democracy can prosper only if its citizens are both informed and engaged. As former legislators, we have a particular opportunity and responsibility to encourage such involvement. This program gives us the chance to do so, particularly with our young people.

Again, many thanks to you for your leadership. My congratulations to our friend and colleague, Bill Gray, on this award, and it is great to see all of you back again.

Mr. RHODES. Thank you, Matt. Your continued association and your continued leadership in this organization is unparalleled, and we appreciate it extremely much.

Speaking of unparalleled service, I would like to recognize a former Member, the former president of the association, the Honorable Lou Frey from Florida. I am not going to ask you to make a speech because that would take up the rest of the time.

Lou and I, a month or so ago, were privileged to go to China together, and we had a very, very fascinating trip. He has written eloquently in his Lou Frey reports about that trip, and I hope that you will have an opportunity to review those reports because he has encapsulated, basically, what we did and what we saw.

I would now like to recognize my friend from Maryland, Connie Morella, who will discuss the activities of our various study groups.

Ms. MORELLA. Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you for your exemplary service as president.

Congratulations also to Bill Gray, a great statesman of the year. It is nice to see Bob Michel in this great reunion. I'm Connie Morella and I approved this message.

My message is to give you a little synopsis of the Congressional Study Groups for which the former Members are so noted. The association is pleased to oversee and to administer the Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Turkey and Japan, which create invaluable opportunities for current Members of Congress to engage with their counterparts in the legislative branches of those countries.

The Congressional Study Group on Germany is the association's flagship international program, and it is the largest, most active parliamentary exchange program involving the U.S. Congress and the legislature of another country. Since its inception, which was almost 30 years ago, the study group has offered lawmakers a unique forum to discuss potential avenues of cooperation on issues ranging from the current economic global crisis to NATO's role in Afghanistan. A group of current Members of Congress chair the study group in a bipartisan manner. In the House of Representatives, Congressman RUSS CARNAHAN of Missouri serves as the chairman, and Congressman PHIL GINGREY of Georgia serves as the vice chairman. In the Senate, Senators EVAN BAYH (D-IN) and JEFF SESSIONS (R-AL) serve as co-chairs.

The study group on Germany's programming consists of three pillars: the Distinguished Visitors Program, which offers monthly roundtable discussions on Capitol Hill for Members of Congress, featuring visiting dignitaries from Germany; annual seminars, which meet in Germany and in the United States on a rotating basis; and a senior congressional staff study tour to Germany. Recent Capitol Hill discussion partners include the German Federal Minister of Economy and Technology, the Minister-President of Hessen, and the Minister-President of Lower Saxony.

The highlight of each programming year is the annual Congress-Bundestag seminar, which brings together Members of the U.S. Congress with their counterparts in the German Bundestag for in-depth discussions about issues that affect the transatlantic relationship. In addition to current and former

lawmakers from the United States and Germany, representatives from the State Department, the German Foreign Ministry and the business and academic community also participate. Discussion topics are dictated by current events and issues influencing U.S.-German relations. The 27th Annual Congress-Bundestag took place the second week of May in Washington, DC and St. Louis, Missouri. Seminar sessions examined prospects for peace in the Middle East, mutual national security risks, as well as outlook on the 2010 mid term elections. The 2010 Senior Congressional Staff Study Tour to Germany took place at the end of March, bringing 10 House chiefs of staff to Berlin and Cologne.

Since its inception, the Congressional Study Group on Germany has received generous grants from the German Marshall Fund of the United States. The association would like to thank the German Marshall Fund's president, Craig Kennedy, for his support and trust in the study group.

Additional funding to assist with administrative expenses is received from a group of organizations that make up the study group's Business Advisory Council. This council is chaired by former Member of Congress Tom Coleman of Missouri, who served as the chairman of the Congressional Study Group on Germany in the House in 1989. Current Business Advisory Council Members are Airbus, Allianz, BASF, Daimler, Deutsche Telekom, DHL, Eli Lilly, Fresenius, Inc., Lufthansa, RGIT, and Volkswagen.

The Congressional Study Group on Turkey, the second study group, was established in 2005, and it quickly has become a major focus for the Former Members Association, obviously. The study group offers lawmakers a unique educational forum to examine issues ranging from the current economic global crisis to cooperation in the Middle East peace process.

Taking the successful and long-running Congressional Study Group on Germany as a model, the Congressional Study Group on Turkey has grown into a highly relevant and productive program for American and Turkish legislators. The study group is currently active in the House of Representatives, and is co-chaired by Congressman STEVE COHEN of Tennessee and Congresswoman VIRGINIA FOXX of North Carolina. Congressman ED WHITFIELD of Kentucky remains active in the study group as immediate past chair.

Similar to the study group on Germany, the Congressional Study Group on Turkey hosts roundtable discussions on Capitol Hill for Members of Congress featuring visiting dignitaries from Turkey and U.S. administration officials as part of its distinguished visitors program. The study group has recently hosted the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, among others.

The Congressional Study Group on Turkey also conducts an annual U.S.-Turkey seminar, which brings together American and Turkish lawmakers to discuss current issues pertinent to the bilateral relationship. The fifth annual U.S.-Turkey seminar took place at the end of August 2009 in Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey, and the 2010 annual U.S.-Turkey seminar is slated to take place this summer in Washington and in Chicago. Discussion topics will examine current issues in Turkish-American relations, such as the Strategic Cooperation Framework on Trade, the Middle East peace process, and energy security. The study group will also take this opportunity to inform the visiting parliamentarians about the 2010 mid term elections in the United States via meetings with journalists, think-tank representatives, and policymakers.

In the past, the Congressional Study Group on Turkey continued to receive a generous funding boost from the German Marshall Fund of the United States and a group of corporate sponsors making up its Business Advisory Council. The Study Group's current Business Advisory Council members include Eli Lilly and the Turkish-American Business Council.

The Association also organizes and administers the Congressional Study Group on Japan. Founded in 1993 in cooperation with the East-West Center in Hawaii, the Congressional Study Group on Japan brings together Members of the U.S. Congress and members of the Japanese Diet for a series of discussions covering issues of mutual concern. A group of current Members of Congress chair the study group in a bipartisan manner. In the House of Representatives, Congressman JIM McDERMOTT of Washington and Congresswoman SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO of West Virginia serve as co-chairs. In the Senate, Senators JIM WEBB of Virginia and LISA MURKOWSKI of Alaska take an active role in study group programming. The Congressional Study Group on Japan is funded by the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission.

Finally, last year the association launched a new program called the Trilateral Renewable Energy Roundtable for legislators from Germany, India and the United States. Together with the Alliance for U.S. India Business, the Bertelsmann Foundation, the Robert Bosch Foundation and TERI North America, we brought together German, Indian and America lawmakers in Washington, DC, for a series of discussions on renewable energy solutions and ways of cooperation in a trilateral framework. We aim to replicate this successful dialogue in the near future, possibly involving Japanese lawmakers in the project.

The Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Turkey, and Japan, as well as the Trilateral Roundtable, demonstrate the significant role that the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress plays in assisting current

Members in maintaining a strong dialogue and personal relationships with their counterparts around the globe. We are very proud of the work that is done by the association to keep these study groups as vital programs in the association, and I hope that all of you will look forward to further participation in them.

Mr. RHODES. Thank you, Connie.

The Study Groups are very important and they are very enjoyable. Congress to Campus is a very viable program and I hope more of you will take advantage of it. The gentleman from Kansas and I are living proof that a bipartisan approach to Congress to Campus can be survived.

Mr. Slattery is going to deliver a report on our election monitoring expedition to Iraq. Mr. Slattery is within 2 weeks of losing his exalted position as the immediate past president of this association, but I hope that that does not mean you're going to diminish your activities.

Mr. SLATTERY. Thank you, President Rhodes, for the opportunity to report on the International Election Monitors Institute and its March mission to Iraq. I also want to thank you, Jay, for your dedicated service as president of this association. You have done a terrific job and we all appreciate it. We know the time commitment that you have made to making this association more vital and more actively involved in all the projects we're involved in.

I also want to congratulate my chairman, Bill Gray. It was always an honor and a pleasure to serve with you on the Budget Committee. As I look back on those days, I can't help but recall with some fondness our intense debates around deficits at that time that we were trying to get under \$200 billion. Chairman Gray, you did a great job and it was an honor to serve with you.

I want to also join those who have already previously recognized our friend, former Leader Bob Michel, who is really one of the true patriots to have served in this body. What an honor to have known and worked with you during those years and to continue our friendship. Bob Michel, terrific. It's great to see you here today.

It was an honor to travel to Iraq and participate in this project. As you have mentioned, Jay, the International Election Monitors Institute was created in 2005, under the leadership of our good friend, Jack Buechner, when he was president of the association. It is a joint project of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, the Association of Former Members of the European Parliament, and the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians. In addition to conducting annual workshops for former legislators to train them for election monitoring missions, the International Election Monitors Institute has sent delegations to places like Morocco and Ukraine. Our most recent mission was our most ambitious. We sent six former legisla-

tors to observe the March parliamentary elections in Iraq.

Our team was invited to monitor this election by the Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq. Six former legislators from the United States, Canada, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, including former Congressman Scott Klug and myself, traveled to Iraq to witness these elections.

On March 7, 2010, the brave people of Iraq gave the world another inspirational example of their commitment to freedom and democracy. This was a pivotal election, with more than 300 accredited political entities, more than 80 having candidates competing in the election. There were 6,292 candidates competing for 325 seats. Nearly 300,000 poll workers staffed 52,000 polling stations in 8,600 polling centers. In addition, there were 314 out-of-country voting precincts located in 16 countries.

To get an overall idea of what was happening during the elections, we met with people from all sides of the political spectrum. We spoke to people from several election-oriented NGOs, members of the international community, the Iraqi High Election Commission staff, political parties, and people at special needs polling stations.

With the world's attention on Iraq for these elections, many Iraqi people were ready, inspired, and really excited to go to the polls. To me and our team's amazement, Iraqi citizens made it to the polls even with the explosion of nearly 50 bombs in Baghdad by noon on election day. I have monitored elections in other troubled countries, including the Nicaraguan election in 1990 and the Orange Revolution in Ukraine in 2004, but I have never seen security at the level it was in Iraq. My two-person team was accompanied by a group of 16 armed guards in five armored vehicles provided by the U.S. Government.

On election day, we visited 25 polling stations. We were welcomed by each person we met. They were obviously happy to see neutral officials monitoring their election. The Iraqis working the polls were passionate about the election. The staffers were well trained in voting policies as well as the fact that an adequate amount of supplies were provided for each voter at the polling stations. There was also a sense of pride and camaraderie among the Iraqis who voted that day. We were happy to see that there was no discrimination based on age, ethnicity, religion, or political parties at the polling stations we visited. In addition, both the Shia and Sunni sects were encouraged to vote by their leaders, rather than boycott the election as they had been instructed to do in previous elections.

Let there be no mistake. Iraq has a long way to go in developing a western style democracy where the threat of death is not associated with active political participation. And while there was no conclusive outcome on election day with no one party winning more

than 40 percent of the vote, we believe that this election was a giant step forward. Nearly 60 percent of registered voters voted in a free, democratic election, in spite of the violence. There were, of course, some problems with this election, just like there are issues with every election. But in the final analysis, all of us who observed this election were confident that it mechanically went off as good as could be expected. We are confident that it was a great improvement over the last election, and we are confident that it's a giant step toward that day when America's incredible military personnel can withdraw from this troubled land, which likes to think of itself as the "cradle of civilization," and leave the people of Iraq in the hands of a stable democracy.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve on this mission and to report on its outcome today.

Mr. RHODES. Thank you, Jim. I appreciate that very, very much. The interesting thing to me about giving people the vote is that they hunger for it, and they are willing to take all kinds of risks to exercise it. My first experience with something like that was in 1970 in Vietnam. Like Jim, I saw what happened in Nicaragua, I saw what happened in Ukraine, I saw what happened in Afghanistan, and when people are given the opportunity to express themselves, they jump at it, and they are excited about it.

I would like to include my formal remarks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this point. I want just simply to put in a pitch for our bipartisan programs of tomorrow. I'm not sure I know what bipartisanship is, but I do know what civility is. And I do know that when we were first elected and when Mr. Mitchell was the leader and Mr. O'Neill was the Speaker, civility was the rule. I would hope that we can return to the days when the Members of this body are civil to each other, even if they do not agree. And so if bipartisanship is not a definable term, I know that we know what civility is.

THE U.S. ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, 2010 ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS, JUNE 15, 2010

I. INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the activities of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress for the period June 2009 through June 2010. Pursuant to the Association's Congressional charter requirement, the Association's President, former Member of Congress John J. Rhodes, III, delivered this report to the Congress on June 15, 2010. The report was preceded by the presentation of the Association's 2010 Distinguished Service Award to former Member of Congress William H. Gray. The inscription read:

The 2010 Distinguished Service Award is presented by the United States Association of Former Members of Congress to Chairman William Herbert Gray, III for his lifetime of exceptional public service. Both in and out of Congress, Minister Bill Gray has demonstrated his tremendous dedication to civil rights, fairness and equality. Representing the State of Pennsylvania with great distinction, he served as the first African-American

Majority Whip and the first African-American Chairman of the House Budget Committee. His leadership helped young Americans obtain the dream of a college education, his perseverance contributed to the fall of Apartheid, and his humanity brought relief to the people of Haiti. Congressman Bill Gray is an inspiration to us all and his former colleagues from both sides of the political aisle salute him.—WASHINGTON, DC June 15, 2010.

The Association also presented to its outgoing President the following plaque in appreciation for his 2 years of service: Presented to The Honorable John J. Rhodes, III in recognition and appreciation of his strong leadership as President of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress. His tremendous enthusiasm and effectiveness will always be remembered by his grateful colleagues.—Washington DC, June 15, 2010.

II. GENERAL OVERVIEW ABOUT ASSOCIATION

Mr. Rhodes: Let me take this opportunity to also congratulate Bill Gray on this well-deserved honor. You are an inspiration to us all and we thank you for your many years of distinguished public service.

As President of this organization, it is now my duty to report to the Congress about the activities of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress since our last annual meeting in June of 2009.

Our Association is nonpartisan. It was chartered by Congress in 1983. The purpose of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress is to promote public service and strengthen democracy, abroad and in the United States. About 600 former Senators and Representatives belong to the Association. Republicans, Democrats and Independents are united in this organization in their desire to teach about Congress and the importance of representative democracy. We receive no funding from the Congress. All the activities which we are about to describe are financed either via membership dues, program-specific grants and sponsors, or via our fundraising dinner. Our finances are sound, our projects fully funded, and our 2009 audit by an outside accountant came back with a clean bill of financial health.

We again have had a very successful, active, and rewarding year. We have continued our work serving as a liaison between the current Congress and legislatures overseas; we have created partnerships with highly respected institutions in the area of democracy building and election monitoring; we have developed new projects, which we are in the process of expanding, including our webcasting civics education program, and we again sent dozens of bipartisan teams of former Members of Congress to university campuses here in the United States and abroad as part of our Congress to Campus Program.

III. ASSOCIATION DOMESTIC PROGRAMS

a. Conference on Bipartisanship

We were incorporated on June 18th, 1970, almost 40 years ago to the day. Let me quote from our original by-laws as they describe the purpose for which the Association was created: purposes include the promotion of the cause of good government at the national and international level by strengthening and improving representative government, by teaching about our system of government, and by sending delegations to help countries as they develop democratic systems of government.

You will find that all the programs we have initiated meet one or more of the goals outlined in our bylaws. For example, tomorrow we will host a one-day conference focused on the issue of bipartisanship. The conference is a joint project with the Na-

tional Archives and the Bipartisan Policy Center. Three different panels will examine our current political discourse, how bipartisanship—or the lack thereof—has influenced our political decision making, the way our media influences this nation's political climate, and what concrete steps we might be able to take to foster a more civil relationship across the aisle. Panelists and speakers include current Members such as Senator Ron Wyden, and former Members such as Speaker Tom Foley. The media is represented, for example by Judy Woodruff and Jackie Calmes. This will be an outstanding conference and it is a good example of the type of contribution former Members can make to the issues that affect us all.

Our founders 40 years ago envisioned former Members teaching about Congress and encouraging public service. They were hoping that former Members could inspire the next generation of America's leaders. No program of ours does a better job implementing that vision than the Congress to Campus Program. Established many years ago as a way to reach college students, it has since grown to also bring former Members into the high school civic education classroom as well as connecting with students as young as middle school age.

We continue to work with the Stennis Center for Public Service, but all administration of this great program is now done in-house by Association staff. I will now yield to a former President of our Association, Matt McHugh of New York, who co-chairs the Congress to Campus Program.

b. Congress to Campus Program

Mr. McHugh: Thank you, Jay, for the opportunity to report on this outstanding program. As you indicated, the Congress to Campus Program has been administered entirely by the Association in cooperation with the Stennis Center for three years now. During that time, the program has experienced marked growth and has expanded to include community colleges. As most of you know, this is the Association's flagship program for its members. It sends bipartisan teams of former Members to colleges, universities and high schools across the country to educate the next generation of leaders on the importance of civic engagement. The participating students benefit from the interaction with our Association members, whose knowledge and experience are a unique resource. Our members also benefit through their continued involvement in public service, and the ability to engage young people on issues that are important to them.

During each visit, our bipartisan team conducts classes, meets individually with students and faculty, speaks to campus media, participates in both campus and community forums, and meets with local citizens. Institutions are encouraged to market the visit to the entire campus community, not just to those students majoring in political science, history or government. Over the course of two and a half days, hundreds of students are exposed to the former Members' message regarding the significance of public service.

The program has made both domestic and international visits this academic year, including two separate visits to campuses in the United Kingdom. During the 2009-2010 academic year, the program has made 22 campus visits, including visits to the United States Naval Academy, Boise State University in Idaho, Waubensee Community College in Sugar Grove, Illinois, Cabrini College in Radnor, Pennsylvania, and Miami University Hamilton in Ohio.

More than 35 former Members participated, and I want to thank all of you who took time from your busy schedules to do so. I also want to encourage those who have not yet

had the opportunity to seriously consider doing so. It is truly a great way to continue our public service after Congress.

I would also like to extend our thanks to the faculty, staff members and students who worked so diligently on each visit. Without their hard work, these visits would not have been possible. We rely heavily on the universities to take the lead in coordinating logistics related to each visit, and appreciate the time they devote to ensuring that their students receive the full benefit of the program.

We have continued our relationship with the Stennis Center for Public Service in the administration of the program, and we owe a special debt of gratitude to Tracy Fine of our staff and to Brother Rogers of the Stennis Center for their fine work. Our staffs work very closely together to make the program such a success and we also appreciate the continuing financial support we receive from the Stennis Center. We look forward to our continuing association in the years ahead.

In addition to the expansion of the program to community colleges, and with the help of a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the program has also commenced a concerted effort in partnership with the University of Central Florida and the Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government, to reach out to high school students via a series of webcasts. These programs focus on specific topics related to Congress and the legislative process, and are designed as a tool for teachers to showcase these topics and encourage involvement in government. During the fall and spring, the program was piloted to high schools in Florida and around the country. The broadcasts were taped and streamed live with an in-studio audience of high school students in Washington as part of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council. We want to thank the U.S. Department of Education, the University of Central Florida, the Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government, George Washington University School of Media and Public Affairs, and the Congressional Youth Leadership Council for their support of this great program. In the 2010-2011 academic year, the project will continue to reach out to high school students. While these "virtual" visits cannot replace the person-to-person experience of a traditional Congress to Campus visit, they can play an important supplemental role in teaching about representative democracy at the high school level.

We have also continued our working relationship with the People to People Ambassador Program that brings young people to our nation's capital for a week of events centered on the concepts of character and leadership. This year the Association sent Former Members to 30 different speaking engagements in this area and reached hundreds of students via these appearances. These students are younger than those who participate in Congress to Campus activities, but they have already demonstrated a commitment to the ideals that Congress to Campus seeks to promote. The Association's involvement in this program allows our members living in the Washington area to speak to these younger students on the importance of public service and to answer their many questions about our country and its government. A number of our members continue to work full time, and the People to People engagements allow them to continue their public service in this way. The events are typically held in the early morning at suburban locations, and I want to thank my colleagues, especially Orval Hansen, Jack Buechner, and Martin Frost who have participated in this program regularly over the past year.

Finally, I want to say again how grateful we are to all of those who have made the

Congress to Campus Program such a success and to strongly encourage all of my friends and colleagues to participate in the program, either by making a visit to a school, or by recommending a school to host the program. As you know, a democracy can prosper only if its citizens are both informed and engaged, and as former legislators we have a particular opportunity and responsibility to encourage such involvement. This program gives us the chance to do so, particularly with our young people. Thank you.

c. Political Rules of the Road

Mr. Rhodes: One of the lessons we have learned from interacting with America's college students, is that there is a void of real-life experience and advice when it comes to civic education textbooks. To fill that void former Member of Congress Lou Frey of Florida collected the words of wisdom our membership had to offer and edited two books we have since published. The first, *Inside the House—Former Members* reveal how Congress really works—was published several years ago and is being used by political science professors across the country. This past summer, we published a follow-up volume entitled *Political Rules of the Road*. This book focuses on some of the rules of the road we all have learned during our political lives, and I thank the many former Members who took the time and submitted contributions for this terrific collection. We have over 500 rules by almost 200 former and current Members as well as several U.S. Presidents! The book has received quite some attention; as a matter of fact Lou Frey did a call-in show on C-Span late last year. Please visit our website at www.usafmc.org for more information about ordering either one of these publications.

d. Statesmanship Award Dinner

None of these projects would be possible without funding. We do not receive a single taxpayer dollar from the Congress for our organization. All programs are self-financed via membership dues, grants, contributions and our annual fundraising dinner. We have taken the occasion of the fundraiser to recognize former or current Members of Congress who have inspired others through their leadership or statesmanship. Our 2010 Statesmanship Award Honoree was Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood. Early on we decided to dedicate our 40th anniversary year to the theme of bipartisanship. It was therefore a very easy decision to recognize Secretary LaHood for his many years in the Congress and in the current administration as a public servant who strives to reach across the aisle, create dialogue, and work with others regardless of their political persuasion. The dinner was a rousing success and we are so pleased that we had a chance to recognize Secretary LaHood for the good work he did in the Congress and the good work he is doing as Secretary of Transportation.

e. Charitable Golf Tournament

Two years ago we took a 35-year-old tradition—our annual golf tournament which pits Republicans against Democrats—and gave it a new and much bigger mission: we converted it into a charitable golf tournament to aid severely wounded vets returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. Our beneficiary, the Wounded Warrior Project of Disabled Sports USA, is as impressive and remarkable an organization as you are likely to find anywhere in this country. They use sports to help our wounded veterans readjust to life after a severe injury, they involve the entire family in the sport, and they take care of all the equipment and training. We held the third golf tournament yesterday and between the three tournaments we have raised

almost \$200,000 for this outstanding organization. We are very proud of this new focus for our organization and hope to be able to support our wounded heroes for many years to come.

IV. ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

a. China Delegation

According to our bylaws and articles of incorporation, we are tasked with promoting representative democracy at home and abroad. We therefore have created a number of programs with an international outreach.

For example, earlier this year I was privileged to lead a delegation of former Members of Congress to China. Our bipartisan group had a number of meetings in Beijing as well as in Shanghai. The purpose of the trip was to learn about China firsthand, engage Chinese officials in a frank dialogue, shed some light on current U.S. politics and foreign policy, and gain knowledge about U.S.-Chinese trade relations from U.S. corporate representatives in Asia. To conduct this mission we partnered with the China Association For International Friendly Contact and the China U.S. Exchange Foundation. Our discussion partners included the Vice Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, the Assistant Minister of Commerce, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. In addition, we met with a number of Chinese university students, Chinese cultural representatives, and the Deputy Governor of China's central bank. Our talks were frank and productive, we learned an awful lot and were able to dispel some myths. Most importantly, we established an avenue for an exchange of views and ideas. This was a very successful trip and we are planning a followup in the fall.

Another example of our international outreach is the work we do via the International Election Monitors Institute. Created in 2005 under the leadership of our then-President Jack Buechner, the IEMI is a collaborative effort administered in conjunction with our Canadian and European Union sister organizations. IEMI takes former legislators from the United States, Canada and Europe and trains them in proper election monitoring techniques and a code of conduct. To this end we have been able to put together a two-day training course which we've now administered numerous times in Ottawa. The course, as well as a host of other achievements for the Institute, was made possible via a three-year grant from the Canadian International Development Agency. Dozens of U.S., Canadian, and European former legislators have gone through the training and are now well versed in the actual set of responsibilities and challenges that come with election observation. Our most recent mission was also our most ambitious undertaking: we were one of only two organizations with U.S. election monitors in Iraq for that country's March parliamentary elections. Former Member of Congress Jim Slatery was in Baghdad as an IEMI election observer and will report on this project.

b. IEMI Iraq Election Monitoring Mission

Mr. Slatery: Thank you, Jay, for the opportunity to report on the International Election Monitors Institute and its March mission to Iraq. It was an honor to be able to travel to Iraq and participate in this endeavor and to be part of such an important moment for democracies around the world.

As you mentioned, the IEMI was created in 2005 under the leadership of our good friend Jack Buechner, when he was President of our Association. It is a joint project of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, the Association of Former Members of the European Parliament, and the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians. In addition to conducting multiple annual workshops for former legislators to train them for

election monitoring missions. IEMI has sent delegations to places such as Morocco and Ukraine. Our most recent mission was arguable our most ambitious, when we sent six former legislators to observe the March parliamentary elections in Iraq.

A team from the IEMI was invited to visit Iraq and monitor the 2010 elections by the Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq. Six former legislators from the United States, Canada, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, including myself, traveled to Iraq to witness the elections.

On March 7, 2010, I had the opportunity to observe the elections in Iraq and see how the brave people of that country gave the world another inspirational example of their commitment to democracy. This year was a pivotal election year with over 300 accredited political entities, more than 80 having candidates competing in this election. There were 6,292 candidates competing for 325 seats. Nearly 300,000 poll workers staffed 52,000 polling stations in 8,600 polling centers. In addition, there were 314 out-of-country voting precincts located in 16 countries.

In order to get an overall idea of what exactly was happening during the elections, we met with people from all sides of the spectrum. We spoke to people from several election-oriented NGOs, members of the international community, IHEC staff, political parties, and people at special needs polling stations.

With the world's attention on Iraq for these elections, many Iraqi people were ready, inspired and excited to go to the polls. To me and my team's amazement, Iraqi citizens still made it to the polls even with the explosion of nearly 50 bombs in Baghdad by noon on Election Day. I have monitored elections in other troubled countries, including the Nicaraguan election in 1990 and the Ukrainian election in 2004, but I have never seen security at the level it was in Iraq. My two-person team was accompanied by a group of 16 armed guards in 5 armored vehicles, provided by the U.S. Government.

On Election Day, we visited 25 polling stations. We were welcomed by each person we met. They were happy to know that there were neutral officials coming to monitor the elections. The Iraqis working the polls were passionate about these elections. All of the staffers were well trained in voting policies and procedures. Instructions on the voting process as well as an adequate amount of supplies were provided for each voter at the polling stations. There was also a sense of pride and camaraderie amongst the Iraqis who voted that day. People sat in voting centers sharing food and drink, celebrating this noteworthy day. We were happy to see that there was no discrimination between age, ethnicity, religion, or political parties at the polling stations we visited. In addition, both the Shia and Sunni sects were encouraged to vote by their leaders, rather than boycott the election as they had been instructed to do in previous elections.

Let there be no mistake. Iraq has a long way to go in developing a Western style democracy where the threat of death is not associated with active political participation. And while there was no conclusive outcome on Election Day with no one party winning more than 40 percent of the vote, we believe that this election was a big step forward. Nearly 60 percent of registered voters voted in a legitimate, democratic election. There were, of course, some problems with this election—just like there are issues with every other election that takes place in any country on this planet. For example, we found that there is a need for a definite voter list. The lack thereof continues to adversely affect citizens' attitudes toward democracy and their belief in the legitimacy of the

process. Another issue was that the Council of Representatives did not complete the revisions to the electoral law until December 6, 2009, barely three months before election day. However, domestic monitoring organizations and nearly all Iraqi officials with whom we met believed the March election was a major improvement on the 2005 election.

We hope this election is another giant step toward that day when America's incredible military personnel can withdraw from this troubled land, which likes to think of itself as the "Cradle of Civilization", and leave the people of Iraq in the hands of a stable democracy. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve on this mission and to report on its outcome today.

c. House Democracy Partnership project

Mr. Rhodes: For the past year, we have been working in conjunction with current Members on democracy building and legislative strengthening projects abroad. Specifically, the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress has had the privilege to support the important work of the House Democracy Partnership.

HDP is an undertaking by the House of Representatives to strengthen democratic institutions by assisting parliaments in emerging democracies. One of the objectives of HDP is to provide expert advice to members and staff of the parliaments of partner countries. HDP is chaired by David Price of North Carolina and David Dreier of California. It is an extension of the great work begun by Martin Frost and Gerry Solomon as part of the Frost-Solomon Task Force. We are very pleased to be able to play an important role in this outstanding project.

Via a grant by the U.S. Agency for International Development, bipartisan teams of former Members have travelled to Kenya, Georgia, and Poland. In addition, we have assisted with the work of a team of former Congressional Staff in Haiti. The missions are issue-specific, have an intense and active program, and give former Members the opportunity to share some of their experiences with current legislators in parliaments overseas. The Georgia mission, for example, had the very specific focus of talking about effective civilian control of the military and an appropriate role for Parliament in the setting, funding and oversight of defense policy. This mission was led by former Member Martin Lancaster and included former Members Heather Wilson, Joel Hefley and Pete Geren. The Kenya mission was led by former Member Martin Frost and included former Members Barbara Kennelly, Connie Morella and Phil English. The delegation had meetings with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Agriculture, and Water; the Speaker of Parliament; the Parliamentary Reform Caucus; Former Members of Parliament; and leaders of the major political parties. They discussed challenges and coalition building with Civil Society leaders, including Transparency International, the Law Society of Kenya, SUNY, and Youth movement organizations. The mission to Poland included former Member Martin Frost and coincided with the 20th anniversary commemoration of the Frost-Solomon Task Force working with the Polish legislature. During this mission, the delegation focused on organizing a training program for legislative staff. Clearly former Members can play an important and productive role in this type of legislative strengthening project. We thank David Price and David Dreier for including us in their work and we hope that we will be allowed to contribute further in the future.

In addition to the international work which I just highlighted, our Association also focuses on creating a dialogue involving

current Members of Congress and their colleagues in legislatures abroad. Mainly we achieve this objective via several Congressional Study Groups involving Germany, Turkey, and Japan. We have arranged over 500 special events at the U.S. Capitol for international delegations from over 80 countries and the European Parliament, hosted meetings for individual legislators and for parliamentary staff, and organized over 50 foreign policy seminars in about a dozen countries involving more than 1,500 former and current legislators. Former Member of Congress Connie Morella will report on the activities of our Congressional Study Groups.

d. Congressional Study Groups

Ms. Morella: Thank you, Jay. The U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress is pleased to oversee and administer the Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Turkey and Japan, which create invaluable opportunities for current Members of Congress to engage with their counterparts in the legislative branches of those countries.

The Congressional Study Group on Germany is the Association's flagship international program, and is the largest and most active parliamentary exchange program involving the U.S. Congress and the legislature of another country. Since its inception almost 30 years ago, the Study Group has offered lawmakers a unique forum to discuss potential avenues of cooperation on issues ranging from the current economic global crisis to NATO's role in Afghanistan. A group of current Members of Congress chair the Study Group in a bipartisan manner. In the House of Representatives, Congressman Russ Carnahan of Missouri serves as the Chairman and Congressman Phil Gingrey of Georgia serves as the Vice Chairman. In the Senate, Senators Evan Bayh (D-IN) and Jeff Sessions (R-AL) serve as Co-Chairs.

The Study Group on Germany's programming consists of three pillars: the Distinguished Visitors Program, which offers monthly roundtable discussions on Capitol Hill for Members of Congress featuring visiting dignitaries from Germany; Annual Seminars which meet in Germany and the United States on a rotating basis; and a senior Congressional Staff Study Tour to Germany. Recent Capitol Hill discussion partners include: the German Federal Minister of Economy and Technology, Rainer Brüderle; Minister-President of Hessen, Roland Koch; and Minister-President of Lower Saxony, Christian Wulff.

The highlight of each programming year is the Annual Congress-Bundestag Seminar, which brings together Members of the U.S. Congress with their counterparts in the German Bundestag for in-depth discussions about issues that affect the transatlantic relationship. In addition to current and former lawmakers from the United States and Germany, representatives from the U.S. State Department, the German Foreign Ministry, and the business and academic community also participate. Discussion topics are dictated by current events and issues influencing U.S.-German relations. The 27th Annual Congress-Bundestag took place the second week of May in Washington, DC and St. Louis, MO. Seminar sessions examined prospects for peace in the Middle East, mutual national security risks as well as outlook on the 2010 Mid-term elections. The 2010 Senior Congressional Staff Study Tour to Germany took place at the end of March bringing ten House Chiefs of Staff to Berlin and Cologne.

Since its creation, the Congressional Study Group on Germany has received generous grants from the German Marshall Fund of the United States. The Association would

like to thank GMF's President, Craig Kennedy, for his support and trust in the Study Group. Additional funding to assist with administrative expenses is received from a group of organizations that make up the Study Group's Business Advisory Council. This council is chaired by former Member of Congress Tom Coleman of Missouri, who served as the Chairman of the Congressional Study Group on Germany in the House in 1989. Current Business Advisory Council Members are: Airbus, Allianz, BASF, Daimler, Deutsche Telekom, DHL, Eli Lilly, Fresenius Inc., Lufthansa, RGIT and Volkswagen.

The Congressional Study Group on Turkey was established in 2005, and it has quickly become a major focus for the Former Members Association. The Study Group offers lawmakers a unique educational forum to examine issues ranging from the current economic global crisis to cooperation in the Middle East peace process. Taking the successful and long-running Congressional Study Group on Germany as a model, the Congressional Study Group on Turkey has grown into a highly relevant and productive program for American and Turkish legislators. The Study Group is currently active in the House of Representatives, and is co-chaired by Congressman Steve Cohen of Tennessee and Congresswoman Virginia Foxx of North Carolina. Congressman Ed Whitfield of Kentucky remains active in the Study Group as Immediate Past Chair.

Similar to the Study Group on Germany, the Congressional Study Group on Turkey hosts roundtable discussions on Capitol Hill for Members of Congress featuring visiting dignitaries from Turkey and U.S. Administration officials as part of its Distinguished Visitors Program. The Study Group has recently hosted: the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ahmet Davutoglu; and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, MP Murat Mercan.

The Congressional Study Group on Turkey also conducts an annual U.S.-Turkey Seminar, which brings together American and Turkish lawmakers to discuss current issues pertinent to the bilateral relationship. The 5th Annual U.S.-Turkey Seminar took place at the end of August 2009 in Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey, and the 2010 Annual U.S.-Turkey Seminar is slated to take place this summer in Washington, DC and Chicago, IL. Discussion topics will examine current issues in Turkish-American relations, such as the Strategic Cooperation Framework on Trade, the Middle East peace process and energy security. The Study Group will also take this opportunity to inform the visiting parliamentarians about the 2010 mid-term elections in the United States via meetings with journalists, think-tank representatives and policy makers. In the past year, the Congressional Study Group on Turkey continued to receive a generous funding from the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and a group of corporate sponsors making up its Business Advisory Council. The Study Group's current Business Advisory Council members include Eli Lilly and the Turkish-American Business Council.

The Association also organizes and administers the Congressional Study Group on Japan. Founded in 1993 in cooperation with the East-West Center in Hawaii, the Congressional Study Group on Japan brings together Members of the U.S. Congress and Members of the Japanese Diet for a series of discussions covering issues of mutual concern. A group of current Members of Congress chair the Study Group in a bipartisan manner. In the House of Representatives, Congressman Jim McDermott of Washington and Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito of West

Virginia serve as co-Chairs. In the Senate, Senators Jim Webb of Virginia and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska take an active role in Study Group programming. The Congressional Study Group on Japan is funded by the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission.

Last year, the Association launched a new program called the Trilateral Renewable Energy Roundtable for legislators from Germany, India and the United States. Together with the Alliance for U.S. India Business, the Bertelsmann Foundation, the Robert Bosch Foundation and TERI North America, we brought together German, Indian and American lawmakers in Washington, DC for a series of discussions on renewable energy solutions and ways of cooperation in a trilateral framework. We aim to replicate this highly successful dialogue in the near future, possibly involving Japanese lawmakers in the project.

The Congressional Study Groups on Germany, Turkey and Japan, as well as the Trilateral Roundtable demonstrate the significant role that the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress plays in assisting current Members in maintaining a strong dialogue and personal relationships with their counterparts around the globe. We are very proud of the work we do to keep these Study Groups as vital programs in the Association, and I look forward to being an active participant in Study Group activities for many more years to come. Thank you.

e. Middle East Fellows Program

Mr. Rhodes: The Study Groups do important work and are another example of how former Members can assist current Members in their international outreach.

I wish to highlight one more international project which we initiated this year and hope to replicate in the future. Just last month our Association hosted six Legislative Fellows from the Middle East here in DC. In partnership with an organization called Legacy International, we implemented a small grant from the U.S. Department of State. Via this program we brought a group of young professionals from the Middle East to Washington for one month. The group came from Kuwait and Oman and included lawyers, journalists and government employees. Each fellow—and I should highlight that there were two female fellows—was paired up with a former Member of Congress to serve as a mentor. I thank our six colleagues who went above and beyond in terms of taking their visitor under their wings. In addition to the time spent with the former Members, each fellow spent three weeks on Capitol Hill as a visiting fellow in Congressional offices. Let me also thank the six current Members of Congress who participated in this project. We are hoping to bring a second and larger group of Middle East Fellows to DC in the fall, and then possibly send a former Members delegation to the Middle East as a follow up visit. This program clearly falls within our goal of strengthening ties via people-to-people interaction and dialogue.

V. CONCLUSION

a. In Memoriam

It is now my sad duty to inform the House of those former and current Members who passed away since our last report. We honored them via a memorial breakfast for which Speaker Pelosi joined us earlier today. It was a fitting commemoration of the service these Members gave to our country. They are:

Ike Andrews of North Carolina
William Avery of Kansas
Henry Bellmon of Oklahoma
James Bromwell of Iowa
Frank Coffin of Maine
Bob Davis of Michigan

Paul Fino of New York
Robert Franks of New Jersey
Thomas Gill of Hawaii
Clifford Hansen of Wyoming
Cecil Heftel of Hawaii
Bill Hefner of North Carolina
Jay Johnson of Wisconsin
Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts
Don Lukens of Ohio
Charles "Mac" Mathias of Maryland
John Murtha of Pennsylvania
Stanford Parris of Virginia
John Rarick of Louisiana
David Treen of Louisiana
Stewart Udall of Arizona
Charlie Wilson of Texas

I ask all of you, including the visitors in the gallery, to rise for a moment of silence as we pay our respects to their memory.

Before we conclude, let me welcome to Washington several former Members of the Canadian Parliament who have joined us as our guests. Leo Duguay is my counterpart in the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians and is leading a delegation of his colleagues as part of our continued excellent relations with our neighbors from the north. Also with us are four former Members of the Ontario legislature, led by Steven Gilchrist. To you also a warm welcome and our thanks for joining us again this year. Last, but certainly not least, we are so pleased that an old friend of this Association has again made the long trip from the UK to join us. Richard Balfe serves in the Executive of the European Union Former Members Association and it is always wonderful to see you! We are honored that you have joined us for our annual meeting.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the other members of our Association's Executive Committee: our Vice President, Dennis Hertel; our Treasurer, Connie Morella; our Secretary, Barbara Kennelly, and our Immediate Past President, Jim Slattery. You all have made this Association a stronger and better organization than it has ever been and I thank you for all your time and energy. Your counsel was invaluable to me during these two years as President.

Former Member Dennis Hertel will succeed me as President starting July 1st. He will have a great group of former Members to work with on the Executive Committee level and we are pleased to announce that former Member of Congress Jim Kolbe will become a new officer with the Former Members Association. In addition, I wish to thank our Board of Directors and our counselors for their commitment to our Association. Your service is valued and appreciated! As of July 1st our newest board member will be former Member of Congress Scott Klug.

To administer all these programs takes a staff of dedicated and enthusiastic professionals. We have five full-time employees and we appreciate their hard work. They are: Esra Alemdar, Program Officer
Bryan Corder, Member Services Manager
Tracy Fine, Democracy Officer
Sudha David-Wilp, International Programs Director

Pete Weichlein, Executive Director

Closing Remarks. That concludes the 40th Report to Congress by the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress. We thank the Congress, Majority Leader Hoyer, and Minority Leader Boehner for giving us the opportunity to report again this year on the activities of our organization and we look forward to another active and productive year. Thank you.

Mr. HERTEL. I thank the gentleman from Arizona and the president of our association for all his service. I think it could be summarized best by Speaker PELOSI, coming this morning to our

memorial service for those Members who have died in this last year in talking about Jay Rhodes and how much she respected him and how she hopes he will continue in service of this organization and in service of our country. Those were the remarks of Speaker PELOSI this morning.

I want to thank Lorraine Miller, the Clerk of the House, for being with us again and for hosting us and for spending all this time with us. We are honored to have you here. Thank you very much, Madam Clerk. I want to thank all of the guests of our whip and Budget chairman, Bill Gray, who received our Distinguished Service Award. We are very honored that you all took the time to come. You are just as proud of him as we are. You know how much time it took from his community but especially his family.

I want to recognize his wife, Andrea; their three sons, Bill, Justin and Andrew, up in the gallery; their daughter-in-law, Jennifer; and two grandchildren, Sabrina and Aidan, here today. Thank you very much for coming. We are so proud of him and for all the time he gave on behalf of us taken from you.

Finally, I want to thank Richard Balfe from the European Union Association of Former Members; Steven Gilchrist who is leading a delegation of the Ontario legislature; and lastly Leo Duguay, my counterpart and the president of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, and Don Boudria and Francis LeBlanc for taking the time to join with us. All of the public service that all of you are accomplishing for us on the international level, we very much appreciate; and I want to thank all of our Members here for all their service.

We are adjourned.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House continued in recess.

□ 1130

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at 11 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the recess have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

JOBS

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission

to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of putting Americans back to work. You know, we cannot overturn and change 8 years of Republican rule with simply a snap of a finger. However, the Democratic Caucus is on its way to restoring this country's economic well-being.

The House passed the Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act. The legislation will create 160,000 jobs and extends successful Build America Bonds for schools, roads and bridges. We also passed the Summer Jobs Act which creates 300,000 summer job opportunities for our youth. We have seen an increase in GDP, and we've seen an increase in manufacturing, and we've seen a significant increase in economic indicators. As President Obama said, this is the Nation where anyone with a good idea and the will to work hard can succeed. Dallas, my hometown, is no stranger to good ideas, hard work, or small businesses.

I commend Dallas' small businesses which have created hundreds of jobs, provide valuable goods and services, and help drive our local economy.

I encourage my colleagues in the House and in the Senate to work together to enact policies that creates and saves jobs.

House Democrats are committed to create good American jobs, build a strong foundation for the economy, and work to turn around our Nation's economy.

RECOGNIZING COLLIERVILLE AND HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOLS FROM SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

(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, today I rise to praise two outstanding high schools in Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District. Collierville High and Houston High Schools, both in Shelby County, Tennessee, have been named by Newsweek magazine among America's top high schools. Only 6 percent of America's high schools make this list. This is an important accomplishment that comes because of hard and diligent work not just from students but faculty, staff, principals, from parents and from lots of participation from the community.

I congratulate Principals Leisa Justus of Houston and Tim Setterlund of Collierville, along with the faculty and most importantly the students of both schools for all the hard work that has led them to this important achievement.

FLAG BURNING

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, yesterday folks across Amer-

ica gathered together to celebrate our national flag. For 233 years now, the Stars and Stripes have been a unique symbol of freedom and democracy across the globe, the representation of all we are and all that we stand for. Millions of young men and women fought and died for their country under that flag, and every day our servicemembers risk their lives in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world to protect the ideals it represents.

To burn or desecrate it is an insult to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe and to those who helped build our great Nation. It should be illegal, and this Congress should make it illegal by finally passing a constitutional amendment to ban the burning of a U.S. flag. Every day this House begins its work by pledging allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. We need to live up to that pledge.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, U.S. ARMY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the United States Army celebrated its 235th birthday. Since the Continental Congress first created the Continental Army to protect and secure our new Nation, men and women have continued to make the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom and independence. For three centuries, from the Revolutionary War to D-day and the current global war on terrorism and every day in between, America's soldiers have performed bravely. The American military has achieved the largest number of countries living today in freedom and democracy in the history of the world.

I appreciate firsthand the Army as a 31-year veteran of the Army Reserve and Army Guard myself. Also, my father served in the Army Air Corps as a Flying Tiger in China and India. But more meaningful to me is that I have three sons today serving in the Army National Guard, with my oldest son an Iraq veteran of the field artillery. On this 235th birthday, I extend my appreciation to those who have served or are currently serving and especially to those family and friends of soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of liberty.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. Happy birthday, U.S. Army.

INTRODUCING THE TEEN PARENTS GRADUATION AND COLLEGE ACT

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

Ms. CHU. The author Robin Cook wrote that "education is more than a luxury. It is a responsibility that society owes to itself." Our country far too

often neglects this duty. Every year, nearly 750,000 American teens become pregnant. Every year, 70 percent of these new teen mothers drop out of school. Every year, the lack of services to keep low-income parents in school focuses this problem on our Nation's most underprivileged communities.

That's why I have introduced the Teen Parents Graduation and College Act. This bill would fund grants to help teen parents finish high school and college. It would provide tutoring and child care and counseling to help them succeed. It would let teen parents and their children lead better, fuller lives. This basic support is the least we owe our young people. Together we will ensure that the beginning of a new life doesn't mark the end of an education.

Alix Klein's Bat Mitzvah

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to wish a happy bat mitzvah to a wonderful young lady in my congressional district, Alix Klein. She recently celebrated her bat mitzvah surrounded by family and friends and chose to mark the occasion with more than just a party, but with a concert to benefit those less privileged than she is. Alix's kindness and generosity has made a difference in the lives of the young patients of Alyn Hospital and Rehabilitation Center in Israel. These patients have physical disabilities.

Alix has demonstrated a maturity beyond her years, and she serves as a role model for her fellow teenagers. Alix's selfless contributions will provide much-needed support for these patients and their families in Israel.

MEDICARE PART D DOUGHNUT HOLE IS BEGINNING TO CLOSE

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to deliver some good news to Medicare participants around the country. This week, seniors who fall into the Medicare part D doughnut hole will begin receiving \$250 checks in their mailboxes to help them cover their prescription drug costs. This is one of many benefits for Medicare participants included in the health care reform law that Democrats passed earlier this year.

Across the country, nearly 4 million seniors will be helped by these checks. In my district alone in Ohio, over 9,000 people will receive this benefit. While the doughnut hole will soon be closed completely, seniors will continue to see lower prescription drug costs. Next year, those experiencing a coverage gap will receive a 50 percent discount on their brand-name drugs. I am proud to work hard to improve Medicare for all seniors.

NO NEW ENERGY TAX

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

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to echo the concerns that I have heard from thousands of my constituents. They tell me that Washington has failed to focus on economic recovery; and you know what, they are right. Last year, the House passed a massive national energy tax known as cap-and-trade, and it's similar to legislation passed in Europe in the 1990s. It cost Europe hundreds of thousands of jobs and made virtually no change or effect whatsoever on their environment. Estimates are that if Washington forces this bill on the American public, it will kill more than 2.5 million more American jobs.

Fortunately, the national energy tax is now stalled in the Senate, and I sure hope it stays there. With unemployment near 10 percent, the last thing America needs is more job-killing legislation and more taxes. America does need to know that Congress is listening to them.

PAY THE DOCTORS FOR TREATING PATIENTS ON MEDICARE

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

Ms. BERKLEY. The Republicans in the Senate are once again doing everything they can to destroy Medicare for millions of seniors by blocking legislation that will stop the 21 percent cut in payments to doctors who care for our elderly citizens. They say they are worried about the deficit, and paying the docs will add to the deficit. Excuse me, we're fighting two wars not paid for. We have homeland security needs not paid for. Medicare part D, not paid for.

Not a word from the Senate Republicans. But they are drawing a line on paying the doctors who treat Medicare patients. This is going to add to the deficit. Let's stop playing politics with Medicare, pay the doctors, and provide health care for millions and millions of our senior citizens.

THE U.S. NEEDS A BUDGET

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, at its most fundamental level, the duty of Congress is to steward the tax revenue. Lately, all Congress has been doing is spending it. Through the first 8 months of the current fiscal year, the Federal Government amassed \$941 billion in deficit spending. Every penny of debt accumulated must be paid for by our children and grandchildren. Without a budget, the only spending rule is, there are no rules.

The deadline for the House of Representatives to pass an actual budget has come and passed, and we still have nothing to show the American people. The budget process can be frustrating, but that's what we're here to do, to make the tough decisions. Families, small businesses, cities and States have to put together a budget. Congress must do the same for our country. We need a practical, workable Federal budget which restrains spending and puts us on a path to solvency, economic growth and prosperity.

PAYMENTS TO MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES

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

Mr. MURPHY of New York. Today we're seeing the implementation of one of the things in the health care reform bill: payments of \$250 to help our seniors with the doughnut hole coverage. One of the things that's also going on that most Americans don't know about is fundamental reforms with respect to waste and fraud in the Medicare system. Our efforts on that front have been dramatically improved by things that were in the health care bill that was passed earlier this year, giving Medicare the power to do commonsense things that any small business in America would do, do a better job of checking new providers as they come into Medicare, do a better job of putting people on probation and checking up on them in that first year to make sure they are not abusing our system.

There is a rampant problem with waste, fraud and abuse in our Medicare system. The health care bill we passed earlier this year is making steps to bring that into check. Today we had a hearing here in Congress about other things that we can do. And I testified about my legislation to put more tools in the hands of our law enforcement professionals and CMS to cut down on the waste and fraud in Medicare. I look forward to continuing to work on this and making sure that we use the dollars in Medicare to provide health benefits to our seniors, not allow criminals to run rampant.

GEERT WILDERS—CHAMPION OF THE PUBLIC LIBERTY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, free speech is under assault from Islamic terrorists worldwide. They use threats and political correctness to silence anybody who speaks out about their violent beliefs. Dutch lawmaker Geert Wilders made a movie about these Islamic clerics who incite violence in the name of religion. But the Dutch Government is putting Wilders on trial for incitement to hatred. The oppressive Dutch Government says it's irrelevant that the speech in the movie may be true.

You see, there is no freedom of speech in the Netherlands if a person is critical of radical Islam. Freedom of speech is a basic human right. Political speech and religious speech are the most controversial types of all speech. That is why these types of speech should be protected the most. Benjamin Franklin said, "There can be no such thing as public liberty without freedom of speech." Geert Wilders is a champion of the public liberty and the free speech that guarantees that liberty.

And that's just the way it is.

PASS ANNUAL BUDGET

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

Mr. DJOU. Mr. Speaker, last month I left the Honolulu City Council for the great honor of entering this Chamber as a Member of the United States House of Representatives. Last week, my former chamber, the Honolulu City Council, passed its annual budget. The budget was \$3.5 billion. My position is that the Honolulu City Council budget is too big, increased taxes by too much, and increased government size by far more than the citizens of the city and county of Honolulu could afford. But at least the city and county of Honolulu passed a budget. It was \$3.5 billion. The Federal Government will spend that money in about 5 minutes.

Here today in mid-June, the United States Congress still has yet to pass a budget. If the Honolulu City Council, which I just departed, can pass a budget for \$3.5 billion, which the Federal Government will spend in just a few minutes, it is the responsibility of our government here in the United States Congress to pass a budget. We are spending far too much money. Even worse than that, we are spending far too much money on programs that are not working. Even worse than that, we have no plans to pay it back. Let us get to work and pass a budget.

ECONOMIC TURNAROUND

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I would ask my friends to take a walk down memory lane and consider where our economy was at the beginning of last year compared to where it is today: 2009 had the biggest single year turnaround this Nation has seen in more than 30 years, going from negative 6 GDP in the first quarter of last year to plus 6 GDP in the last quarter. And we are currently in the midst of our fourth consecutive quarter of strong GDP growth.

We have had positive job growth for six of the past 7 months, and the stock market, which bottomed out at 6500 just before we passed the stimulus, is over 10,000 today. Housing starts are

up, consumer confidence is on the rise, the auto industry is coming back, and manufacturers are increasing orders and hiring back thousands of workers.

No, everything is not where we want it to be or even where we need it to be, but things have gotten better, and there can be no doubt that the bold action of this Congress is the reason why.

TWO MONTHS LATE ON PASSING BUDGET

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the House is 2 months late in passing a budget. In that time, unemployment has remained nearly 10 percent, and the national debt has now exceeded \$13 trillion. Last week, I gave the President a letter signed by more than 100 top economists from around the country that urges both parties to cut spending now in order to create jobs and boost our economy. Less spending, more jobs, it really is just that simple.

But the President responded Saturday night with a letter asking for another \$50 billion in stimulus bailout money. Without specifying where this money would come from, the President asked us to be patient with his administration for its continuing job-killing spending spree.

This money comes from our kids and grandkids who this year are going to get stuck with 43 cents out of every dollar the Federal Government spends. The debt is going to be laid on them.

The American people are shouting at the top of their lungs: Stop, and stop now. They are making their voices heard through YouCut, where more than 830,000 votes have already been cast to cut spending.

And today, on America Speaking Out, PAUL RYAN has posted a plan to cut spending now and to reduce the budget deficit. You can visit AmericaSpeakingOut.com right now and check out these ideas and vote on them in order to cut spending quickly.

FILLING THE DOUGHNUT HOLE

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

Ms. WATSON. Good news, Mr. Speaker, the first \$250 checks have been sent out, 3 weeks ahead of schedule, to about 80,000 people who are already in the doughnut hole. The rest will be mailed at monthly intervals through the year as more part D enrollees, about 4 million in all, hit that gap. The one-time rebate will be sent directly to anyone who falls into the Medicare part D doughnut hole during 2010.

Health care reform will eventually close the doughnut hole completely. Additional checks will be sent to seniors who fall into the doughnut hole every month or so after that, with a total of 4 million seniors receiving these \$250 checks in the mail. While the

Medicare part D program has helped millions of seniors obtain prescription drug coverage, there will be more.

CONGRESS ISN'T LISTENING

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, the American people know when they are being ignored. Congress just isn't listening. Unemployment is nearly 10 percent. The national debt is skyrocketing past \$13 trillion; and even more spending is coming down the pipe this week. Dependency on the Federal Government is rising at an alarming rate, and the Democrats have failed to even propose a budget.

Our Founding Fathers would not be pleased with this situation, and neither are the American people. That is why I am launching The Empowerment Project. To get America back on track, we must restore our founders' principles of empowerment by having more limited government, increasing personal freedom and responsibility, and having greater choices and opportunity. The Empowerment Project will work to highlight Member initiatives that empower the American people to prosper.

Our Nation cannot thrive if it is built on government dependency. It is time to put America back on the path of empowerment. To learn more about The Empowerment Project, go to my Web site at Randy.house.gov.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE ON RISE

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, each month the numbers come in, and the signs are clear: Our economy is growing in the United States.

Consumers agree. Consumer confidence rose to the highest level in more than 2 years this month. I believe our economy is on the rebound largely because we are making the move back to a manufacturing and production economy and away from the paper economy of Wall Street.

Our manufacturing sector is up for the 10th month in a row. Manufacturing has added more than 125,000 jobs this year. Companies like Acutec in Crawford County, a manufacturer of aerospace parts, have been performing well and hiring new employees despite the recession.

A strong economy is one that makes things, produces goods and products that people want to buy here and all over the world. American can-do attitude and entrepreneurship will continue to lead us out of this recession. I am proud to support our American manufacturers, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

GUN RIGHTS

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, too many people in Washington, D.C. are under the dangerous impression that the Second Amendment is obsolete and unnecessary. If they had their way, only criminals and agents of the State would be armed, while law-abiding Americans would be at their mercy.

While we can stop gun control in Congress, progressives and Washington, D.C. bureaucrats will use every tactic at their disposal to disarm the American public, including banning firearms on public lands.

That is why I have sponsored the Firearms Freedom on Federal Lands Act with Representatives Rob Bishop and Paul Broun. This legislation creates a statutory protection of gun rights, preventing land management agencies from restricting firearms on public lands, as they have done in the past.

The NRA has endorsed this measure, and I hope my colleagues will follow their lead and cosponsor this legislation.

CELEBRATING LIFE OF BARBARA GREENSPUN

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Barbara Greenspun whose recent death marks the end of an era in Nevada. With her sad passing, we have lost a remarkable individual who gave so much of herself to our community.

Together, Hank and Barbara Greenspun poured their heart and soul into the Las Vegas Sun, showing a dedication and commitment that would turn the paper into a leading publication. Then moving from behind the scenes to publisher after Hank's death, Barbara built upon his legacy as the paper earned journalism's most prestigious award, the Pulitzer Prize.

Known for her grace and generous spirit, Barbara also committed herself to a number of important causes, including higher education and women's health that touched the lives of so many. While she will be truly missed, her legacy will live on through her remarkable family, the landmark Greenspun building at UNLV, and the continued excellence of the Las Vegas Sun.

CONGRESS IS NOT LISTENING

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, an oft-forgotten dictum in Washington is that to govern is to choose. It is to choose between the dizzying array of wants,

wishes, and needs of the American people, while constrained by the Constitution, fiscal, and political realities of the day.

Sadly, the leadership of the majority of this House have punted on choosing anything. They have ignored fiscal realities, our present condition, and the constitutional limits on our authority, and simply enacted whatever they could twist enough arms to pass. This majority has made promises it cannot keep with money it does not have. It has not made hard choices; it has not governed. No place is this more evident than in the Speaker's refusal to pass a budget this year, the most basic fiscal document our Nation has.

The budget is the foundation of all the taxing and spending that the Federal Government does. It constrains the appropriators and sets the boundaries for the spending debate. In choosing not to pass a budget, the Speaker is failing in her responsibility to govern this House and our Nation.

The American people, though, are not standing idly by. They are suggesting difficult choices for the Speaker through the YouCut program. To date, the American people have voiced support for over \$60 billion in hard choices.

Mr. Speaker, we are a Nation governed by the people; the people are not being heard. This Congress is not listening.

AMERICAN JOBS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about jobs: where we were, where we are, and where I hope that we will be in the next 10 years.

In the last 3 months of 2008, we lost an average of approximately 650,000 jobs per month. The first quarter of 2009 saw us lose over 700,000 jobs per month. In the first quarter of 2009, our economy shrunk by 6.4 percent.

We have stopped the bleeding. We have added jobs in six of the last 7 months, averaging almost 200,000 jobs, the majority originating in the private sector. If this pace continues, this administration will have added more jobs in 1 year than the previous Bush administration did in 8 years. I repeat, 1 year compared to 8 years. Our economy grew by 3 percent for 3 straight quarters of economic growth, 9 percent in 12 months. After February of 2009, household wealth grew for 10 straight months, regaining nearly 30 percent, \$5 trillion of the \$17.5 trillion of household wealth wiped out during the former Bush administration in its final 18 months.

We have stopped the bleeding. The economic policies of this Congress is investing in America. There is no snap-your-finger fix to our economy.

□ 1200

PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives has passed a budget every year since the Congressional Budget Act took effect in fiscal year 1976. To be completely accurate, there have been times under both Democrats and Republicans when a finished budget was not passed by both Houses. But this is the first time the House of Representatives has simply decided there is too much peril for the American public to see the numbers that they are pursuing, so they are going to stop the game before the coin is even tossed.

We have more than \$13 trillion in debt and a Presidential budget that puts the deficit at \$1.6 trillion and spends \$3.8 trillion. Even Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke says this budget is, quote, "unsustainable."

Faced with similar challenges in your personal budget, there would be a talk around the kitchen table and the children's allowances would be cut, along with many other luxuries. It is that discussion that the majority seems unwilling to have under the theory that if they ignore it, it might go away. Unfortunately, the debt will not go away. The pain will be transferred to our children and grandchildren in the hopes that they will have the guts to face reality.

WALL STREET REFORM

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, Congress must decide whether to protect the interests of a few deceptive bankers who ruined the industry for others or to protect the hardworking Americans of this Nation.

House Democrats have already decided. We have decided to choose Main Street over Wall Street. We have decided to choose parents who want to provide for their children and for people who are saving for retirement. We have decided, Mr. Speaker, that the American people are more important than the overzealous bankers.

Maintaining the status quo is not the answer. Look at what the current situation has done to America. Eight million jobs were lost without the safeguards to protect Main Street. Millions of homes were taken in foreclosure due to subprime mortgage schemes.

American people deserve and want better. A CNN poll shows 6 out of 10 Americans support Wall Street reform. Republicans have blocked efforts to protect Americans. House Republicans voted unanimously against the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. This act would reform Wall Street, reform executive pay, end taxpayer-funded bailouts, and hold banks

and financial firms accountable to the American taxpayers.

Congressional Republicans are making backroom deals with the bankers. It is time for us to protect Main Street.

The same Republicans who deregulated the industry, and opposed reforms, now claim the Wall Street reform bill "allows bailouts." This is false.

Let's give Americans what they deserve—fairness in the financial system.

PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at this time last year, we, for the first time in the 221-year history of our Republic, saw the appropriations process shut down, completely shut down. Never before had that happened. It was difficult to imagine that anything could be done to jeopardize and undermine openness, transparency, and accountability than shutting down the appropriations process.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it's hard to believe, but this Democratic majority has gone one step further. Incomprehensible, but they have now decided not to pass a budget at all. Now, in the last 17 months, we have witnessed an 84 percent increase in nondefense discretionary spending. And we all know that a budget is a blueprint and absolutely essential if a majority is going to make any attempt whatsoever to govern.

Well, Mr. Speaker, they have failed in the appropriations process, and now they have failed to come forward with even a budget. Our children and our grandchildren deserve better.

PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, a recent Gallup Poll tells us that the American people rank the growing debt in this country as the single most threatening issue to the future of our country's well-being.

When the American public in their homes face a debt crisis, the first thing they do is prepare a budget so they can live within their means and start to reduce their debt burden. But this House, under the Democratic leadership, has chosen to prepare no budget. In fact, for the first time in modern budgetary history, they are telling us there will be no budget here in this House this year.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are crying out for us to get control of our spending. How can we control our spending without a budget? It's a crying shame there is no budget. No wonder we've got issues with jobs.

And by the way, when you're trying to create jobs, why do you shut down a major industry in the gulf and kill tens of thousands of jobs up and down the

gulf coast, stopping drilling in the Gulf of Mexico?

PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today Republicans are on the floor of the House of Representatives speaking out on behalf of the American people that we believe that the leadership of this House of Representatives should bring forth a budget, a budget that would give the American people more confidence in this body. We are at record low numbers of people who have confidence in the leadership of the House of Representatives, the ability to lead this country in a direction that will bring us closer to jobs and addressing the issues of this Nation.

We just got the budget numbers that come in from May, and through May of this year, we have a \$936 billion deficit. Mr. Speaker, the American people understand that we must have a road map, a road map to lead America back to where we become an employer Nation again. Taxing, spending, and unemployment will not lead us that way.

I urge this House leadership, the Democrats, please bring forward a budget where the American people can be part of this debate.

RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR JOB CREATION POLICIES

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, sales are suffering, the economy remains stagnant, and millions of hardworking Americans are looking for work. Arkansans believe that the recent Obama-Pelosi health care bill, cap-and-trade, and other job-killing tax increases will hurt, not help, our struggling economy.

We should take action to help businesses get on their feet by focusing on job creation as opposed to some of the misplaced priorities. New taxes and health care mandates are harming smaller firms and businesses. The so-called stimulus bill is not creating long-term jobs but is increasing the budget deficit and sending the bill, plus interest, to tomorrow's taxpayers.

Congress must stop growing the tax burden and creating job-killing policies. Tax relief and incentives for small businesses would help all Americans, especially the middle class, and get our economy back on track. The key to this will be fiscal discipline. Now is the time to put a cap on Washington spending and to focus on the economic issues that matter instead of further inflating the national debt.

PUT PEOPLE TO WORK

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, we just heard a very interesting 1-minute presentation that didn't make much sense. We have a world of hurt. People are unemployed. People are going to lose their jobs in local governments and State governments, and teachers are going to be laid off across this Nation. And to simply say we need fiscal discipline doesn't solve this problem.

The Democrats put out, without one Republican vote, an American Recovery Act a little more than a year ago, and it really worked. People did get jobs. Things were done. Infrastructure was built. We need to continue that, and we need to keep people working.

Yes, we need fiscal discipline, and I would be welcoming any idea from the Republicans on how they are going to do that other than simply say there ought to be. Yes, there ought to be, but we need right now to put people to work.

There is a program that's available that will be coming up that will stimulate small businesses. It puts forward major programs for the Small Business Administration to support loans. We also need to support the local governments. Yes, it's going to cost us some money in the short term, but we have a choice: We are either going to put people to work or we are going to have welfare. I want people to work. I want them to be taxpayers.

THE GULF OIL SPILL TRAGEDY

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

Mr. PENCE. The oil spill in the gulf is a widening tragedy of epic proportions. BP must be held accountable for every dime of cost that will affect the families and the environment and the communities of our gulf region. And this administration must be held responsible, responsible for failing to provide the kind of energetic leadership that the American people expect and the law demands.

What's obvious to Americans across the political spectrum is this administration has been a day late since day one. Unable to make this crisis a national priority, we now hear that the President is poised tonight to go to the Oval Office in the midst of explaining the Federal response to this crisis and use it as an opportunity to press for a climate change bill.

The American people don't want this administration to exploit the disaster in the gulf to advance their disastrous energy policies. America needs a new energy policy. But cap-and-trade won't cap that well. This administration should work the problem in the gulf instead of working their liberal environmental agenda.

THE U.S.-MEXICO PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. This last weekend, I was part of a delegation to Campeche, Mexico, as part of the U.S.-Mexico parliamentary exchange. This was the 49th annual U.S.-Mexico parliamentary exchange, and I rise today to emphasize the importance of the U.S.-Mexico relationship.

Our topics included three major areas:

We talked about border security, what we need to do on both sides of the border to improve security, to reduce the flow of drugs from Mexico into the United States, and reduce the flow of weapons from the United States into Mexico;

We talked about how to expand our economic partnership to create jobs in both nations. Mexico, depending upon how you measure it, is our second or third largest trade partner, and we continue to grow our trade;

And finally, we talked about immigration. However frustrating it is for the United States to deal with this issue, it's even more frustrating for Mexico to see many of their best and brightest fleeing northward. And the Mexican Government resolves to take action on this issue. Likewise, it's critical for our country to replace our broken immigration system with one that works for the United States.

PASS A BUDGET

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, we have heard today some comments from our friends on the other side of the aisle about fiscal responsibility and about creating jobs, but the one thing we haven't heard from them is anything about the budget.

If they were from Hollywood, they would be up here saying, "We don't need no stinkin' budget." If they were involved in, oh, Presidential politics a few years ago, they would say, "Where's the beef? Where's the budget?"

Fiscal responsibility starts with knowing where you are and where you are going. Every family in America adopts a budget, but I guess we are too big to fail. We are too big to create budgets because we can just print money after money after money. The fundamental proposition is, as stated by the chairman of the Budget Committee a couple years ago, if you can't budget, you can't govern.

They've told us they can't budget. They're proving to us they can't govern. The problem is this is not a game; this is not a Hollywood movie; this is real life, and real people are hurting.

Let's get down to the business of helping people by being responsible here, and let's start with a budget. Everybody understands that, perhaps, except the Democratic leadership.

PASS WALL STREET REFORM

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve a financial system that protects their savings and their money. Until this Congress passes the Wall Street reform package, America's families and small businesses are at risk. By supporting reform, we support the kind of financial stability that supports job creation.

Regulation, effective regulation, is the unbiased referee that protects us as we compete. Everyone benefits when Americans' savings are protected and small businesses can get loans. Yesterday's laws do not protect us today.

I commend Chairman FRANK and Senator BAUCUS for their hard work going on right now to get a final version of Wall Street reform before this Congress for the American people.

AMERICANS WILL BE FORCED TO CHANGE THEIR HEALTH CARE PLAN

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, the selling of ObamaCare to the American public has been trademarked by one empty promise after another. On September 9, 2009, President Obama infamously promised Americans, and I quote, "If you are among the hundreds of millions of Americans who already have health insurance through your job, nothing in this plan will require you or your employer to change the coverage or the doctor you have." Yet yesterday, in an ironic twist, the Obama administration released draft regulations indicating that up to 69 percent of employer-provided plans may be forced to change their health plans when the new health care law's mandates and requirements begin.

Speaker PELOSI was quoted as saying that we will have to pass this bill to find out what's in it. As the fine print is being placed, we are learning bad news daily about this unpopular law.

Mr. Speaker, I again ask: How many promises will ObamaCare have to break with the American people before we repeal this disastrous legislation?

□ 1215

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DOUGHNUT HOLE

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. About 80,000 senior citizens and people with disabilities have already fallen into what we call the doughnut hole. What is that? That is a gap in Medicare prescription drug coverage and is a result of—you know, we just heard criticism of so-called ObamaCare—but the Republicans passed a bill called Medicare part D.

But what it says is that Mrs. Jones, after a certain amount of money that has been spent on her prescription drugs stands in line at the drugstore and says, I'm ordering a refill of my prescriptions.

And the druggist says, Well, Mrs. Jones, that will be \$100.

She says, What do you mean, I thought I was insured?

They say, Oh, no, you've gone over the amount of money that the government will give you, and now you're going to have to pay \$3,000-plus out of pocket in order to get covered again.

Well, we finally have done something about that, and checks are going to start going out this week to people, the 80,000 that have fallen into the doughnut hole, of \$250 to try and help them pay for that, and we're going to ease out the prescription drug doughnut hole.

LEADERSHIP REQUIRES MAKING TOUGH DECISIONS

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

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, you know, America is broke, and it's time for us to start making tough decisions. Continuing debt spending is actually the easy choice. Leadership requires making tough decisions, and yet we stand here today as Members of Congress with the majority not even sending up a budget.

Now, the Obama administration did propose a budget. It was \$3.8 trillion funded with revenue that totaled \$2.2 trillion. The majority doesn't even seem to want to address the budget. Now, when we were in the majority, JOHN SPRATT said, If you can't forward a budget, you can't govern, and yet today we don't see a budget.

All across this country, American families have had to readdress their budget, make tough decisions in their family households. That's what you do during difficult times. Businesses have had to make tough decisions, and yet this Congress is refusing to make the tough choices. Instead we continue the deficit spending, tacking on debt to the next generation.

America deserves better. Our children and our grandchildren deserve better than continued deficit spending.

STAND UP FOR HARDWORKING AMERICANS

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

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on Members of Congress and the Wall Street reform conference committee to stand up for hardworking Americans and send us a strong bill that protects the interests of those on Main Street who have been continuing and will continue to pay the price for Wall Street excesses.

Over the past few weeks, I've been meeting with small business owners, like Joe Lorentz of Myles Lorentz Trucking Company in Mankato, Minnesota. Community leaders, like Owatonna Mayor Tom Kuntz, Waseca Mayor Roy Srp, and New Ulm Mayor Joel Albrecht, and all of them have delivered a very simple message: We must end too big to fail by ensuring large financial firms are allowed to fail without burdening the taxpayer. We must protect Main Street businesses and consumers from the negative effects of greed run amuck. And we must not penalize Main Street institutions that work, community banks, credit unions and auto dealerships.

So on behalf of Main Street Minnesota, I urge my colleagues to send us a tough bill that restores transparency and accountability to America.

FISCAL YEAR 2010 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AND FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better from their elected leaders. Vital funds to protect our troops are being held hostage, and serious proposals to deal with our soaring national debt aren't even being discussed in this body.

The brave men and women fighting our enemies overseas have been waiting for Congress to approve an emergency funding bill critical to their operations since February. Over 4 months later, still nothing. Only broken promises and missed opportunities for bipartisanship. Not only has the majority party repeatedly failed to deliver funds for our troops in harm's way, they've bypassed regular order to tack on billions more in unnecessary deficit spending. No committee deliberations, no markups, no offer of amendments, and no input from the minority. It's a national disgrace.

I urge the Congress to act to support our troops.

SMALL BUSINESS LENDING FUND ACT

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

Mr. BACA. This week, the Chamber will consider H.R. 5297, the Small Business Lending Fund Act. This bill will create a small business loan fund and provide capital to American small businesses. This bill also includes a boost to State lending programs, providing \$2 billion in funding to new and existing programs across the country.

Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy and create two out of three jobs in this country. Our economy has begun to show signs of growth and recovery, and our largest

financial institutions are stabilized, but it's time to assist local and community banks that provide the bulk of the capital to small businesses.

Job creation needs to be the number one priority forward, and legislation like this will help accomplish our goals and restore the public faith in our economy.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 5297 when it comes before us.

WE MUST HAVE A BUDGET RESOLUTION

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, it's now official. We're now a full 2 months behind the congressional deadline with no budget resolution in sight. In the past, this would be just another failure by the majority to meet a technical responsibility. But this year is different.

This administration's enormous government spending increases have driven our annual budget shortfall to \$1.4 trillion. That's the deficit. We're spending \$1.4 trillion more than we're bringing in. The accumulation of all our past budget deficits, the national debt, last month rocketed past \$13 trillion, and media reports last week predicted that it would balloon over \$15 trillion by 2015.

And how do we finance this debt? When American families and businesses find themselves short of cash, they cut their spending. When the Federal Government finds itself with a record deficit, we borrow money. From whom? The Chinese, the Japanese, from the Saudis, and we pay interest on that debt, hundreds of billions of dollars each year.

We can do better. We must do better. We must have a budget resolution. We must cut spending.

MONEY IN THE STIMULUS BILL WENT TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I ran for Congress 4 years ago because I had watched the Republicans use the power that they had accrued here to turn our government over to their friends in the oil industry and the insurance industry, the drug industry and the banking industry, and so I wonder what kind of stimulus bill they would have written last year were they still in charge.

It would have been very different than the one that's on the ground today in Connecticut, one that has put funds in a small solar company in Bethel, Connecticut, Apollo Solar, creating jobs in renewable energy; a stimulus bill that just opened up a new early Head Start program in Danbury, Connecticut, employing 20 people im-

mediately and creating a lot of job opportunities for the parents who now have child care. It would have been very different than the bill that gave millions and millions in tax credits to middle- and lower-income individuals in Connecticut that have allowed them to go out and start to create a retail resurgence.

The stimulus bill would have been done very differently under the Republicans. Democrats in charge, the money went to the right people.

KYRGYZSTAN

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, this week, violence flared up in Kyrgyzstan, prompting tens of thousands of Uzbeks to flee their homes and places of birth to seek refuge in neighboring countries. Innocent people, including women, children and the elderly, are suffering with over 100 killed.

Just 2 months ago, the people deposed the authoritarian President Bakiyev, who promptly fled to Belarus and the protection of the Lukashenko government. Approval of a new constitution and general elections were proceeding smoothly until the recent violence, which was prompted by forces supportive of the deposed president and other lawless elements.

Even with the present chaos, the interim Kurdish government is insisting that the date of elections will remain unchanged. For many years, I've worked with the nations along the old Silk Road in central Asia, and it pains me to see the Kyrgyz fleeing violence in their homeland.

The U.S. wants to keep our Air Force base in Kyrgyzstan, but we have shown little interest in helping the people of this nation build a republic that respects human rights free of corruption. Even China and Russia are lending their support with humanitarian aid flights. We need the State Department and President Obama to offer the support of America to a nation struggling to create democracy and freedom to strengthen their independence and sovereignty.

Without action on the part of the U.S., violence will continue, and then more than just a military base will be lost.

DON'T LET AN OIL SPILL RUIN YOUR VACATION

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as co-chair of the Congressional Tourism Caucus to remind this Nation that we should not let an oil spill ruin our vacation. Disasters drive people away from wherever there is a disastrous incident. In the Gulf States, local tourism is suffering from it. It's suffering

from the greatest oil spill in American history.

Mr. President, when you address the Nation tonight, I hope you will urge them to visit the Gulf States to shore up the local economy and have BP pay for that tourism promotion. I urge you to have the coastal State Governors support a regional tourism plan for the Gulf States for this summer, for now, immediately.

A disaster of this proportion is a disaster of national significance. It's time that we as a Nation respond by spending our money and our time in those communities most affected. God bless America. Let's promote tourism.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair requests that Members observe decorum by addressing comments through the Chair.

THE BUDGET

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

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, when you and I and the American people want to start a business and we want to borrow money to do it, we go to a bank, and we have to present a business plan with income projections and where we are going to get the money to pay the debt we're requesting back.

When my State of Wyoming is doing a budget, it projects its revenue, and every month we see how much money we have collected pursuant to those projections. And if we don't have enough money, we cut our budget.

In Washington, we don't even have a budget. For the first time since 1974, this House does not have a budget, isn't going to pass one. That's irresponsible. That's not leadership.

Mr. SPRATT was right: If you can't budget, you can't govern. And this is a perfect example, Mr. Speaker.

WE HAVE TO HOLD BP ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, a week ago I was in Chalmette, Louisiana, for a field hearing on the BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster. We heard compelling testimony from people whose lives have been devastated, including two of the widows who lost their husbands on that explosion on the rig. We also flew out over the site of that disaster, and as they opened up the rear hatch on the plane, you could see the burn-off from the relief wells being drilled, and you could smell the overpowering stench of oil coming off the water.

Well, our friends on the other side like to take a position that government should be hands off when it comes to business development, and BP is teaching us that we can't afford to let businesses misrepresent to this country what they're planning to do the way BP did when they knew that there was a 99 percent chance of a blowout during the 40-year period of this lease and still got a waiver from any deep, intensive environmental impact analysis before that well was explored.

We have to hold this company accountable for the American people, the American taxpayers.

They created this problem. This is what happens when we stay hands off and don't keep people accountable for their conduct.

SPENDING IS OUT OF CONTROL

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

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, spending is out of control. In April, the U.S. Government ran a record monthly deficit of \$82.7 billion. That's almost \$83 billion in just one month.

Unfortunately, the Democratic majority has done nothing to reduce spending. Overall, spending has only gone up since they've been in power. Perhaps the most outrageous thing is that the majority is not even trying to pass a budget, which would give us a framework to rein in runaway spending.

Budgeting is the most basic duty of government. Yet here we are 2 months beyond the deadline to produce a Federal budget, and it doesn't appear this House will produce one. This will be the first time since 1974 we haven't produced a budget. Failing to consider a budget doesn't make the problems go away. It simply provides more proof that the current leadership in Congress has no plans for dealing with the debt and deficits that continue to rise.

We cannot keep laying the current financial burdens on our children and our grandchildren. They can't afford it, and we can't afford it. Let's pass a budget. Reduce spending, rein in, and get ourselves back in control.

□ 1230

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEVASTATING FLOODS OF 2008

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, Iowa experienced the worst natural disaster in our State's history as a result of the great flood of 2008. We have made amazing progress, but 2 years later there is still damage in small and large communities like Oakville, Columbus Junction, Palo, Cedar Rapids, and Iowa City. Many

homeowners are struggling to recover still, and many small businesses have been unable to access relief programs because of red tape, all this on top of an economic downturn. Government-wide, we need to cut down on red tape and approve efficiency. I think we can all agree with that. With disaster relief, this is even more important because effective assistance is absolutely critical to communities' ability to recover.

Communities are also trying to mitigate future flooding through a variety of structural and nonstructural means. I will continue to work with city leaders, homeowners, and businesses to ensure that we reduce inefficiency and the chances of another devastating flood like the one we experienced in Iowa 2 years ago.

PARTIAL DRILLING IN LOUISIANA

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

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, the oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico has caused great economic impact to my district. Hundreds of businesses have closed and thousands of people are out of work. The moratorium imposed by the administration potentially can also cost Louisiana thousands of jobs, yet there is a very simple solution to allow the administration the time that it needs to review the safety and to implement procedures for the deep oil industry and at the same time preserve the jobs in Louisiana: Allow the oil companies to do partial drilling; allow them to drill, but do not allow them to tap into the reservoir.

Modern technology allows companies to know exactly where the oil is. What this partial drilling does is preserve the jobs in Louisiana during a time when we need the amount of revenue that the State needs to sustain its economy to help the people to bring about the livelihood.

RECORD-BREAKING DEFICITS MEAN CONGRESS SHOULD PASS A BUDGET

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, someone once said, If you can't budget, you can't govern. Those words came from my distinguished colleague from South Carolina, the current chairman of the Budget Committee. He uttered them in 2006 as ranking member of the committee. The question is, What does that mean for this Congress?

Today, we face a budget deficit five times larger than the one that Congress faced in 2006 of \$1.4 trillion, and here we are 2 months past the budget deadline and there is no budget. Unprecedented spending, unprecedented debt, and no budget.

It is only 8 months into the current fiscal year and the Federal Government has racked up close to \$1 trillion

in new debt. Mr. Speaker, it's time for this Congress to prove it can govern and debate a budget. If today's record-breaking deficits aren't reason enough to debate a budget, then I don't know what is.

WHERE'S THE BUDGET?

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, suppose your family is deeply in debt, bills are piling up, your credit card interest is eating you alive, and finally you seek the help of a financial counselor. What's the first thing that debt counselor is going to say? He's going to say, the first thing we've got to do is sit down and sketch out a family budget. We all know that. It's hard work, it's painful, but it's absolutely necessary if you're going to get your finances back under control.

Mr. Speaker, our national debt is fast approaching the size of our entire economy, yet while this House has all the time in the world to consider the most trivial matters, it can't spare the time to develop a national budget at the very moment in the life of our Nation when we need one the most, before we bury our children in debt.

Churchill once spoke of a locust generation. I wonder if that's what we've become.

DOES THE ADMINISTRATION FAVOR GOVERNMENT WORKERS?

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, with no budget or overall spending plan, the administration apparently wants at least another \$25 billion to save the jobs of local government workers; yet at the same time, the administration's space plan would destroy 30,000 jobs, many of them scientists and engineers who are working in the private sector who would cost this government nine times less. Is there any kind of wonder why so many people watching what we're doing in Washington suffer from policy whiplash? It's almost as if this administration is saying, If you are a government worker, we'll bend over backwards to help you, but if you're in the private sector, especially a scientist or engineer, you'd better be hoping that Wal-Mart is hiring.

BUDGET

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Congress received a surprise Saturday night. Late in the evening, President Obama sent a letter to Republicans and Democrats requesting an additional \$50 billion in emergency stimulus funds.

After justifying his new spending request, President Obama expressed a newfound interest in fiscal responsibility. He urged Washington to "establish a fiscally responsible budget path, discipline the budget process, and ensure a sustainable and responsible long-term budget." I have just one question: What budget?

For the first time since 1974, Democrats in the House have failed to even outline a budget. Similar to the family budget, a Federal budget provides guidance and transparency for how the government spends the American people's hard-earned money. With the U.S. national debt at \$13 trillion—and rising—I agree that Congress needs to discipline the budget process. Unfortunately, President Obama's spending request does not reflect his rhetoric.

SPILLED OIL ROYALTY COLLECTION ACT

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, last week I introduced legislation to make sure that BP pays royalties on all of the oil from the Deepwater Horizon disaster. The Spilled Oil Royalty Collection Act, H.R. 5513, will ensure that BP pays royalties on every gallon of oil spilled without the administration having to determine whether BP was negligent or violating MMS regulations. Royalties on oil drilled at offshore locations are paid to the Minerals Management Service, MMS, in an effort to compensate taxpayers for the use of publicly owned resources. Under current regulations, leaseholders like BP are only obligated to pay royalties on gallons of oil sold. This legislation is part of responding to the disaster in the gulf and holding BP accountable.

We need to clean up and repair the gulf, holding BP accountable for its oil spill, enact stronger environmental, technological and spill response standards, and invest in an American clean-energy future.

BP CEO was on television saying that his company will "make it right," but we should have more than just a television commercial to go on. We need the force of law to make sure they pay every penny they owe to us. I hope you will join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

AMERICANS DEMAND A BUDGET

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, as I travel around America's First District, I hear unanimously from folks out there, and they ask this question: Rob, what's happening in Washington about our budget? Why do we continue to deficit spend? We are on an unsustainable path. When are we going to reduce the national debt?

I was just in Heathsville, Virginia, on Sunday. There folks asked, ROB, when

is Congress going to adopt a budget? Why aren't you adopting a budget? We, as family members, have to adopt a budget. We have to make sure that we're responsible in spending. Why isn't Washington doing the same thing? Well, I ask the majority the same question, Why aren't we adopting a budget? Why aren't we on a path of sustainable spending, reducing this deficit and addressing this national debt?

Folks, it's incumbent for this country to do that; it's a responsibility of this Congress to do that. I challenge the majority to do their duty, put a budget on the table. Let us get to work for the American people.

BUDGET

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the American people who deserve an answer about the out-of-control spending policies coming out of Washington. For the first time, the House has failed to produce a budget. There is no plan for how the majority will spend the American taxpayers' hard-earned money for fiscal year 2011.

For American families, if they don't get a budget and pay the bills, there are real consequences. Unfortunately, the majority continues to turn a blind eye to future consequences as they push spending to a record \$3.8 trillion in fiscal year 2011 and widen the deficit to a record \$1.5 trillion this year.

House Republicans stand ready to make tough choices in order to rein in spending. Recently, we introduced a measure on the House floor to freeze Federal civilian pay, which will save about \$30 billion over 10 years. The program was selected by the American people through the innovate YouCut initiative. The American people have spoken: stop the spending frenzy, budget for the future, and return fiscal sanity to Washington.

WHERE'S THE BUDGET?

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

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, each and every year since passage of the Budget Reform Act of 1974, this House has managed to produce a budget resolution, a document necessary for responsible governing—each and every year except this one.

What's the problem? In addition to outlining spending for the year ahead, budget resolutions include plans for multiple years, laying out anticipated spending and revenue and calculating anticipated deficits and surpluses. If the House were to pass a 2011 budget resolution, it would establish as official House policy that we will run enormous deficits for as far as the eye can see, but several Democrats here are reluctant to associate themselves with

such an irresponsible document. Of course it's theoretically possible that the current House majority could propose a budget resolution mapping a path back to balanced budgets. But no. Substantial numbers of the Democrats here think we should be spending more, not less.

With Members in the majority party pulling in opposite directions, the majority leadership appears to have given up on finding the votes necessary to pass an official budget whether big spending or responsible. This is a failure of mammoth proportions.

□ 1245

DISASTER RECOVERY IN THE GULF

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I spent this last Friday on Grand Isle, South Louisiana, which is at the epicenter right now of this battle against the oil which is coming into our marsh. The anger and frustration I heard from official after official on the ground was that they are spending more time fighting the Federal Government and BP than they are fighting the oil. This is unacceptable.

It still goes on day after day, 57 days in, and the President continues to refuse to lead on this crisis. He has let BP be the gatekeeper for our local officials who have plans to protect our marsh. Yet they now have to go through BP instead of having the President have a real command structure that holds people accountable.

The latest plan by the President is to actually have this ban on offshore drilling that actually punishes everybody—people who haven't done anything wrong and who have much safer records than BP. Now, over 40,000 people are going to be put out of work by the President's arbitrary ban, which actually goes against the recommendations of his own scientific panel. So now he is placing politics in front of science.

When is the President going to meet his obligations under the law to lead and to be responsible for the disaster recovery with BP's paying the bill instead of allowing BP to call the shots on the ground?

WHERE IS THE BUDGET?

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, for some time now, my colleagues have come to the floor to ask the question: Where are the jobs? Now, in addition to asking that question, I am also asking: Where is the budget?

With our national debt standing at over \$13 trillion, we must enact a plan to curb wasteful and reckless spending. Although Democrats in this House

have not undertaken the hard work of compiling a budget plan, House Republicans have.

Under the Republican plan, we reduce the 10-year deficit by \$3.3 trillion. The Democrats have no plan to do this.

Under the Republican plan, we borrow 3.6 trillion fewer dollars than the administration does. Congressional Democrats have no plan.

Under the Republican plan, we spend \$4.8 trillion less than the President's bloated budget. Once again, congressional Democrats have no plan.

I call on the majority today to produce a budget so that we can have a debate on improving our fiscal condition.

DAY 57 OF THE DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL

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

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 57th day of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. It is estimated that up to 40,000 barrels of oil may be flowing into the Gulf of Mexico each and every day.

At this point, it is nearly impossible to even calculate the impact this spill will have on Florida's economy as well as on the other Gulf States. Oystermen, charter captains, restaurants, and hoteliers are already suffering, along with those who depend on them. The gulf fishing industry alone supports 200,000 jobs.

It is important to note that Florida remains open for business. Our beaches and restaurants continue to welcome guests from throughout the Nation and from around the world, but we must eliminate the bureaucracy that is causing delays in this recovery, from sideline volunteers to unused skimmers, to ensure that Florida's economy and vital tourism remain vibrant.

Tonight, the President will address the Nation. After 2 months of delayed promises, failures, and finger-pointing, it is time for leadership. It is time for action that addresses this crisis.

STOP THE LEAK AND PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, today is the 57th day of one of the largest oil disasters in history. Today is also the 166th day this year that this Congress has failed to produce a budget.

Each day, oil continues to flow into the gulf, increasing the catastrophic damage. Also each day, this Congress continues to produce red ink, damaging the American economy. The administration was caught flatfooted, repeatedly underestimating the severity of the oil leak and slowly allocating critical Federal resources to the gulf.

While red ink is flowing out of Washington and while oil is flowing into the gulf, this administration has no plan, and this Congress has no budget. How are we going to stop the oil leak, and how are we going to stop the red ink?

Just as the President has no plan, this Congress has no budget. For the first time since 1974, when the Budget Act was enacted, this House has failed to pass a budget resolution. This is a catastrophic disaster.

Mr. President, stop the leak.

Mr. Speaker, pass a budget.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I think it's time for a little bit of a history lesson.

Before President Obama even got into office, that first January, we were losing almost 800,000 jobs a month; the stock market was at 6,000, and the Republican policies had all been implemented on energy, on health care, on budget, on foreign policy, with tax cuts for the wealthiest, with borrowing the money, and with running our country and our economy off the cliff.

We are turning the country around. We now have positive job growth. The stock market went up to 11,000 and now up past 10,000. 401(k)s are returning. Jobs are coming back. We do not need to go backwards with the Republican economic policies that drove us off the cliff in the first place.

I ask my friends on the other side, Mr. Speaker:

What are you going to tell the police officers, the firefighters, and the teachers who will get laid off if this country doesn't step up to bat and reinvest back in America? What are you going to tell them? What are you going to tell them?

We have enough money for the wealthiest to get tax breaks, but we don't have enough money for police, for firefighters, and for road projects in the United States.

Good luck.

REFORMING THE EARMARK PROCESS

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my Democrat colleagues: Where is the budget?

House Democrats haven't passed a budget for next year, something that hasn't happened in the modern era. This shows that they plan to spend without any restraint or accountability. If they can't budget, can they really govern?

However, one thing we can and must do is control runaway spending by reforming the earmark process. I have agreed to ban all earmarks for 1 year

while we consider meaningful reform. I cosponsored the resolution, along with Leader JOHN BOEHNER and most of my Republican colleagues, calling for an earmark ban. I followed that up with a letter to the Democratic leadership, asking that House Democrats join me in this 1-year ban with other Republicans. I have also called for the creation of a joint select committee to come up with proposals to reform earmarks.

The American people are demanding that we get our fiscal house in order. They, too, want to know: Where is the budget?

HEALTH CARE REFORM IS LAW

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

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, since we have passed health care reform into law, I have received a flood of gratitude from my constituents.

Edith of Madison assures me “the plan will bring real benefits to many people in Wisconsin.”

Beth of Verona also thanked me, saying that, for the first time, she believes someday every woman diagnosed with cancer won't have to worry about being buried by the bills.

Patrick of Madison wrote, “Don't let negativity and fear-mongering ever lead you to question your decision,” which was to vote “yes.”

Mr. Speaker, since I entered public service, I have worked to enact comprehensive health care reform. Now, just 2 months after this bill has become law, we are already seeing the expansion of insurance to young adults across the country. In just a few weeks, the Federal high-risk pool will be open to individuals who have been denied medical coverage because of pre-existing conditions, and seniors are already getting extra help with their prescription drugs.

With each milestone, I can feel hope grow across America.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, inside the beltway, Republicans threaten to take us back to the failed policies that created this economic crisis in the first place. They are siding with the special interests, with credit card companies, with Big Oil, and with insurance companies. These failed economic and fiscal policies created the George Bush recession—the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, with job losses of nearly 800,000 per month.

This Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which is responsible for 2.8 million jobs saved or created, including jobs for teachers, police, and firefighters. More than a third of the bill was for tax cuts for 98 percent of Americans and for small

businesses—the very people who suffered through 8 years of George W. Bush.

This act is also rebuilding America with clean tech, clean energy, and 21st century jobs. Our passage of health insurance reform will create not only 4 million new jobs over the next decade, primarily in small businesses, but it will also unleash the potential of the American economy.

STEADY ECONOMIC GROWTH IN AMERICA

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that we continue to see steady economic growth in our country. The work that we have done here in this very Chamber and the work that our President has done to ensure our economic turnaround is making a real and positive difference for America's families.

To put this statement into real numbers, here are some statistics that indicate undeniable growth and recovery: An average of 200,000 jobs have been created each month over the last 7 months. Stocks have risen across the board since the passage of the Recovery Act. We have now seen three quarters of economic growth. There are 98 percent of families who are seeing their taxes decrease for tax year 2009. Average refunds are up 10 percent, which is around \$3,000. Since January of 2009, we have restored \$5 trillion of household wealth.

In my own State of Florida, I am proud to report that, for the first time in nearly 4 years, we have seen improvement in the jobs report, with the unemployment rate dropping in May.

With these numbers as proof, I can say with confidence that America is on the road to recovery.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5486, SMALL BUSINESS JOBS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2010; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5297, SMALL BUSINESS LENDING FUND ACT OF 2010

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1436 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1436

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5486) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions

in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. (a) At any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5297) to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be 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 amendments specified in this subsection and shall not exceed one hour, with 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services and 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Small Business. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution modified by the amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

(b) The Chair may entertain a motion that the Committee rise only if offered by the chair of the Committee on Financial Services or his designee. The Chair may not entertain a motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill (as described in clause 9 of rule XVIII).

(c) In the engrossment of H.R. 5297, the Clerk is authorized to make technical and conforming changes to amendatory instructions.

SEC. 3. (a) In the engrossment of H.R. 5297, the Clerk shall—

(1) add the text of H.R. 5486, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 5297;

(2) conform the title of H.R. 5297 to reflect the addition to the engrossment of H.R. 5486;

(3) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; and

(4) conform provisions for short titles within the engrossment.

(b) Upon the addition of the text of H.R. 5486 to the engrossment of H.R. 5297, H.R. 5486 shall be laid on the table.

SEC. 4. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of June 18, 2010, providing for consideration or disposition of any Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4213) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

SEC. 5. It shall be in order at any time through the legislative day of June 18, 2010, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules. The Speaker or her designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or his designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section.

□ 1300

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maine?

There was no objection.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 1436 provides for consideration of H.R. 5297, the Small Business Lending Fund Act of 2010, under a structured rule, with 1 hour of general debate with 30 minutes controlled by the Committee on Financial Services and 30 minutes controlled by the Committee on Small Business.

The rule makes in order an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of H.R. 5297, as reported by the Committee on Financial Services, with the addition of Title 3, which would establish at the Small Business Administration a program to provide equity financing to support early-stage and high-growth small businesses. It also includes a manager's amendment which makes a number of important changes to the base text.

The rule makes in order 17 amendments, which are printed in part C of the Rules Committee report accompanying the rule. The amendments are each debatable for 10 minutes. The rule provides one motion to recommit H.R. 5297, with or without instructions.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 5486, the Small Business Jobs Tax Relief Act of 2010, under a closed rule. The rule provides 1 hour of debate controlled by the Committee on Ways and Means.

In addition to paying for the cost of the Small Business Lending Fund Act, it will provide a number of important tax breaks to our Nation's struggling small businesses.

The rule also provides one motion to recommit H.R. 5486, with or without instructions. The rule then provides that these two bills will be combined upon adoption before being sent to the Senate.

Additionally, the rule waives clause 6(a) of rule XIII, which would allow for same-day consideration through Friday, June 18, of a rule providing for consideration of any Senate amendment to H.R. 4213, the Americans Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010.

Finally, the rule also allows the Speaker to entertain motions to suspend the rules through June 18.

Mr. Speaker, today, the House will take up two very important pieces of legislation that will directly help small businesses around the country. These bills will provide much needed support for the small businesses that make up our communities and are the backbone of our economy and our economic recovery. These bills will help small entrepreneurs grow and create jobs. As President Obama said last fall, supporting small businesses needs to be our highest priority because "when small businesses are succeeding, America succeeds."

In order for small businesses to succeed, we must give them the tools they need to grow. One of these tools is the ability to access capital.

When I go back to Maine each week, I hear often the same story from business owners across the State. When the credit market dried up, they were hit hard. Now as the economy has started to make a recovery, they are still unable to access the credit they need to expand, rehire, and grow. About a year ago, I hosted an event focusing on helping connect small businesses with capital. The response was overwhelming. Hundreds of small business owners showed up, in fact, so many that we need an overflow room to accommodate the demand. There were businesses of all types and sizes, and many of these small business owners had driven hours to come to the workshop. They came to this meeting because they felt they had nowhere else to turn.

As a small business owner myself, I know what a challenge it can be to make ends meet. When I started my last business before the credit crunch, I was fortunate that I had a small community bank to work with that gave me access to capital I needed to start my business. But for many who have tried to get the money necessary to start, operate, and expand a business over the past few years, it hasn't been

so easy. Today, we have an opportunity to make credit available to millions of small businesses across the country.

Today, we can assist the small lenders who know firsthand the difference those businesses make to a community. Today, we can make it easier for companies to get access to the financing that will help them grow, expand, and create jobs. The Congressional Research Service estimates that the investments made by this bill will stimulate \$300 billion of lending to small businesses.

Small business owners and bankers alike have told me they think this bill is a good idea. As the economy recovers, it will help increase lending by our local financial institutions in Maine. As the owner of Rumery's boatyard, a small boatyard in Saco, Maine, told me, it is imperative that we support our small businesses and ensure that they are "ready to go once the economy fully recovers." The folks at Rumery's make a good point.

Although we are now seeing signs of economic recovery, economists tell us that we could still face a double-dip recession if we aren't careful. Without access to capital, I'm afraid the recovery will be limited to Wall Street and not Main Street. By investing in small businesses, we can keep the momentum going and make sure the economic recovery turns into jobs for people in my State and across the country.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you a little bit more about what I've heard from the people who live in my State. One person in my district who helps small business owners told me recently that he is "convinced that the inability of small businesses to access capital is the number one impediment to economic growth for our Nation." He also said that he works with "successful entrepreneurs who survived the recession but are having a difficult time reestablishing their credit lines or accessing money for growth even when they have real, profitable opportunities. The banks are not necessarily lending unless you have hard collateral, and they are shutting down credit lines to customers who pay their bills on time."

For example, over the past 17 years, one small manufacturing company in Cornish, Maine, has grown from a sole proprietorship to employing 17 people. They have borrowed money to invest heavily in the machinery and technology necessary to produce a high-quality product. But as the economy stalled out, they were facing a shortfall in receipts and needed to refinance, but have been struggling to find the capital they need. They are continuing to provide jobs and ship product all over the world and pay for their operating costs of doing their business. If they had access to capital, they could also continue to make innovative new designs. Demand for their product is increasing daily, and without financing, they are unable to grow their company and provide new jobs.

Small businesses are desperate for credit to expand and to grow. And

that's why this bill is so important. As the economy picks up, small businesses in Maine and elsewhere in this country need to have the capital to expand and grow their businesses. Without access to capital, these businesses will not be able to grow. I look forward to supporting this important legislation later today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Maine for yielding time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will urge my colleagues on this side of the aisle to vote "no" on the rule and "no" on this bill, and I believe that my colleagues and I will be able to explain why.

In case there are some folks still listening to what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were talking about in the last of the 1-minutes that were spoken a while ago, I need to say that they have very selective memories. They talked about what the economy was like when President Obama took office, and they blame everything on our former President Bush. But they failed to mention ever, ever, ever that they were in charge of the Congress the last 2 years of President Bush's administration, and they were the ones in charge of what was happening in terms of spending money and why our economy was in such an unfortunate situation. It's very easy to blame President Bush because he was President, but they were in charge of the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate that I, again, find myself before this body amazed by the stunning arrogance of the liberal Democrats responsible for bringing this rule before us today which provides for consideration of H.R. 5297, the Small Business Lending Act, and accompanying legislation, H.R. 5486, a bill intended to offset the immense cost of H.R. 5297. Consideration of this legislation, which will cost taxpayers another \$32 billion, comes at a time when the Democrats have demonstrated a complete paralysis in presenting the annual budget resolution necessary for guiding congressional spending decisions.

We all know that many small businesses have not been able to get available credit. However, the Democrat response is, unfortunately, too predictable: Borrow more money from foreign lenders in future generations and spend it on yet another in a long string of bailouts; create a lot of Federal Government jobs; and do nothing to really help small businesses.

The way we can help all businesses in this country is to lower taxes across the board and not continue to create unnecessary, inefficient government programs which don't deliver what they need to deliver.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield 5 minutes to my distin-

guished colleague from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the supporters of this bill tell us it's going to increase lending to small businesses. To do so, they're creating a \$30 billion slush fund to make loans to smaller banks, therefore encouraging smaller banks to make loans to small businesses, or so they say. I believe it is a splendid example of what I like to call McClintock's Second Law of Political Physics: The more we invest in our mistakes, the less willing we are to correct them. It has apparently escaped the supporters' attention that we are already doing precisely what the proposed new Small Business Lending Fund would do through the existing TARP Capital Purchase Program.

Now that's not just my conclusion. That's the conclusion of the Special Inspector General of TARP, Neil Barofsky. He wrote to the Financial Services Committee on May 17, and observed, "In terms of its basic design, its participants, its application process, and perhaps its funding source, from an oversight perspective, the Small Business Lending Fund would essentially be an extension of TARP's Capital Purchase Program."

So if this scheme actually worked, we wouldn't need this bill, would we? Banks would already be lending like crazy.

The only problem is, it doesn't work. But some Members can't bear to face the American people and admit that they have squandered billions of dollars of working families' hard-earned money. So, instead, they bring us more of the same.

Now this places an additional \$30 billion of taxpayer money at risk. We're told, Don't worry; we'll get that money back.

When have we heard this song before? Oh, yes. When they bailed out Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. And according to the Congressional Budget Office, taxpayers have now lost \$145 billion, heading to \$400 billion.

Don't worry; it'll be paid back.

What is likely to happen to the \$30 billion put at risk by this bill? Those banks with sound finances won't touch this money. They don't need it, and they don't need the Federal entanglements that come with it. Only those banks whose finances are unsound will accept these moneys, with little chance that they will actually be paid back. In fact, by removing the Special Inspector General from oversight of these funds, that risk is further aggravated.

□ 1315

And just to be clear, there's no guarantee that a dime of this money will actually be lent to small businesses in the first place. In fact, any commercial or industrial loan will count toward the requirements of this bill, not necessarily just loans to small businesses.

Now, after a failed \$700 billion TARP, \$30 billion might not sound like a lot of

money. But let's put it in perspective. The combined cleanup and economic costs of the gulf oil spill are currently estimated around \$17 billion. So in terms of economic damage, this bill could actually cost more than cleaning up the entire mess in the gulf. It's true that small businesses are having great difficulty getting loans. So are home buyers. Why is that? I suspect one of the principal reasons is that unprecedented public sector borrowing has crowded out the capital pool that would otherwise have been available to make private sector loans to small businesses and home buyers and consumers.

Under this administration and this Congress, the government is running a \$1.5 trillion annual deficit. That's roughly \$20,000 for every family of four in America. Well, where does that money come from? Well, we borrow it. From whom do we borrow it? We borrow it from the same capital pool that would otherwise have been available to loan to small businesses and other employers seeking to add jobs or loan to home buyers seeking to reenter the housing market or loan to consumers seeking to afford consumer purchases. And remember, two-thirds of economic growth directly depends upon those consumer purchases. But that money now is not available to loan to employers and to home buyers and to consumers to expand the economy because government has now borrowed it in order to expand government. That is the core of the problem.

Now, I've offered an amendment to forbid the use of this TARP III money in the presence of a deficit for a very simple reason: if the government borrows that money to loan to one business, that same money won't be available to loan to another business. Government cannot inject a single dollar into the economy until it has first taken that same dollar out of that same economy. But of course this amendment was forbidden under the rule we are now considering. Therefore, I oppose the rule, and I oppose the underlying bill.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

I rise in strong support of this rule and the underlying legislation that provides relief to small businesses by expanding lending opportunities and offering tax incentives to help them grow. Small businesses are absolutely the backbone of the American economy, and they are especially important in my home State of Rhode Island, where they make up 97 percent of our employers.

Now more than ever, we are pursuing every possible avenue to create a job that gets this economy back on track. None of us can be satisfied that our

economy is performing where it should be, especially in my home State where we now have the fourth highest unemployment rate in the Nation of 12.5 percent. None of us can accept that status quo right now, and Congress absolutely must support the growth of these small businesses and help stimulate the real engine of our Nation's economy.

American prosperity absolutely depends upon the success of small businesses and the innovative spirit of the American people, but they need the right support. I'm committed to bringing relief to the small businesses that are struggling in our States.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and let's give our small businesses what they need to create the jobs that will get America back on track.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, you know, this bill is being promoted as necessary to increase the availability for small businesses. But as my colleague from California so eloquently pointed out, it's really a bailout for banks that are in shaky positions. And what nobody has pointed out yet is, incredibly, this money doesn't have to be available for 2 years and probably will not be available for 2 years. So what is that going to do, again, to help small businesses that need help right now?

Again, as my colleague pointed out, it creates a \$30 billion lending fund for banks with less than \$10 billion in assets. It also is going to appropriate \$2 billion to States to shore up their small business lending and guarantee programs. But we shouldn't be doing that either. We have no business going in and shoring up programs that the States have when they haven't been responsible with the use of their money. But what this bill is going to do is deepen our debt problems, duplicate the goal of the original \$700 billion TARP program, as Mr. MCCLINTOCK pointed out.

We have nearly 10 percent unemployment, and the so-called economic leadership of the ruling liberal Democrats has proven to be a failure. This is TARP III, and its \$32 billion price tag is not going to be any different from the previous mechanisms that they've used to try to stimulate the economy. Rather than proposing sound economic policies, like lowering taxes and reducing regulatory burdens, the Democrats continue to advocate misguided policies that expand the government's control and increase the Nation's debt. The simple truth is that taxpayers can't afford another bank bailout.

The original bailout bill, TARP I, was \$700 billion. In 2009, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle rammed through a so-called stimulus bill costing \$1.138 trillion—part of that is the cost of the interest—a \$410 billion omnibus appropriations bill for FY09, a \$3.6 trillion fiscal year 2010 budget. They increased the debt ceiling by \$1.9 trillion. The national debt now stands above \$13 trillion. The taxpayers lost \$145 billion by bailing out Fannie and Freddie, and the CBO expects that to approach \$400 billion overall.

Recently, the European Union and the International Monetary Fund pledged \$145 billion to bail out the bankrupt nation of Greece. American taxpayers are on the hook for \$6.8 billion in loan guarantees for the IMF. The European Union and the IMF have also announced a \$1 trillion bailout plan that could put American taxpayers on the hook for \$50 billion in additional loan guarantees to bail out other financially irresponsible members of the European Union. And the news today is that Spain is almost ready to go bankrupt and expects our support. Yet the ruling liberal Democrats continue to spend our Nation into a financial abyss.

I've just gone over a lot of numbers, and I want to go over them one more time to make sure the American people fully understand what these people in charge of the agenda of this Congress are doing. They have been in charge, by the way, Mr. Speaker, since January 2007, which is when most of our problems began happening. So let me go over it again: a \$700 billion bailout for the megabanks, a \$1.138 trillion spending bill, a \$410 billion omnibus spending bill, a \$3.6 trillion fiscal year 2010 budget, a \$1.9 trillion debt ceiling increase, \$6.8 billion to the International Monetary Fund loan guarantee program for countries in Europe—not even helping people in the United States—and an additional \$50 billion in loan guarantees for bailing out other financially irresponsible members of the European Union.

Again, this bill is going to create unnecessary programs. Already under TARP I, the megabank bailout, Treasury created these programs, as Mr. MCCLINTOCK pointed out. So it's a clear indication that TARP I was a failure if the Democrats have to bring this back and create \$32 billion more to do what the \$700 billion TARP wasn't able to do. So what we're seeing is our friends on the other side of the aisle creating more taxpayer-funded jobs at the Federal level, not jobs for average Americans, and not money for small businesses. And yet our unemployment rate continues to stay almost at 10 percent when they have promised with the first stimulus bill that it would never go above 8 percent.

Albert Einstein is credited with defining insanity as doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. The American people have a right to question why our friends on the other side of the aisle are doing the same things over and over again and expecting different results from what they've gotten in the past.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from North Carolina has talked a little bit about the content of this bill, and I know it will be debated at great length after we have finished the debate on this rule. But I just want to mention a couple of points from my

perspective, why I am here supporting this bill today, and why I somewhat disagree on her notion that we're just doing the same thing over and over again. I am not actually doing the same thing over and over again. I am a freshman Member of Congress. Unlike my colleague, I wasn't here last year.

When the President from the former administration, President Bush, proposed the TARP to Congress, many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle actually voted in favor of that bailout of Wall Street. Many believed it was critical to reviving our economy, just as I believed it was critical to support the Recovery Act to make sure that we did, yes, in fact, send a considerable amount of money back into our home districts, whether it was for infrastructure construction or to shore up the jobs of our teachers and firefighters, to make sure that we were continuing to build projects in our own districts, continuing to make sure that we supported our education system.

I am pleased to see that the economy is making some improvement. Now, I would be the first to say it's not improving fast enough, the jobs aren't growing fast enough in my home district. We have lost too much in our manufacturing segment. We have given too many jobs away in offshoring, and we have done so many things over the last two decades, I believe, in this country that has hurt our fundamental economy.

But I will say that what I think is different about what we are doing today and what made me very pleased when I first heard the President announce this is we are finally looking after some of our small businesses. For my year and a half in Congress, as I mentioned before, I have been meeting with small businesses, meeting with the bankers that loaned them money, holding a workshop, as I did around access to capital. I was floored with the number of people who came to that workshop, with people who drove from all over my State, even outside of my district, because they were so desperate to make sure they got more information about how to access that difficult capital, whether it was someone who was ready to start a small business, even in a tough economy; or it was someone who said to me, You know, I want to do a little expansion. I want to build my own infrastructure here while I have the opportunity, or I am just trying to survive long enough until the economy improves so my business can still be there when, I hope, things get better.

Well, I desperately hope things get better. In my home State of Maine, frankly, we hope for a very sunny summer. We hope that the tourists will be busy in our State, that the lobster fishermen will harvest a lot of lobster, that all of you will come and stay in our hotels, eat our wonderful seafood, and spend a little bit of time, maybe even purchase some real estate and build a new home. For us, that is critical. For many of our small businesses,

who I hear from regularly, they still can't find the capital that they need.

We have a huge boat-building industry in our State, and we have met with the boat builders who say, The floor plan lending proposal and what we are able to access through the Small Business Administration isn't enough. Our banks aren't able to access enough capital. We sit down and meet with those very bankers that you mentioned. We meet with those bankers, many of whom are on solid footing, who give good loans to people with good credit, but they say to me, You know, we wish the SBA had a little bit more.

When you talk about the sort of government programs that don't do us any good, I just want to remind us, we are talking about the Small Business Administration. My guess is that there are a lot of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who are very happy to go to the ribbon-cutting when a new business is opening, backed by a loan guarantee from the Small Business Administration. I am very confident that many of you meet with your bankers, and you hear your bankers say, I wish we could just access a little bit more of that support from the SBA. My guess is that many of you, while you are proclaiming that this is some kind of Democratic left-wing liberal agenda, are happy to go back to your districts and say, We want a little more SBA lending. We want to make it a little bit easier for businesses to thrive and flourish.

□ 1330

And somehow you get down here and this turns into a left-wing Democratic agenda because you are not interested in voting for it today. I have to say, sometimes I am completely confounded about exactly which party I am in. I feel pretty much like I am in the party of common sense. Like we are listening to our constituents, our small businesses, who everybody proudly proclaims is the backbone of the American economy. In my State, it is the backbone of our economy. We listen to them, and they say, We are still having a little trouble accessing the capital.

The President comes before us and he says, let us make sure that \$30 billion goes to small business, not just Wall Street and big business, let's not just bail out the big banks, as was done under the Bush administration, let's direct this very money to our small businesses who have been asking for this for a year and a half.

I, frankly, am confounded about why anyone would vote against this, why anyone would say "no" to small businesses, why anybody would believe that this economic recession is over, that it is okay to just walk away and use all kinds of excuses about why you don't feel like voting for something anymore, why you don't want to continue helping our struggling businesses, why you don't want to continue to build jobs in this country. That is what people are desperately asking us

to do, and it is my belief if we stop too soon, if we don't help our small businesses, frankly if we don't help our States that are struggling, that have loan guarantee programs themselves who have done an excellent job supporting businesses and economic growth, if we are not there to say to those entrepreneurs who have a good idea today, or who are already in business and want to expand with a creative new idea, we shouldn't be surprised that so many other economies are starting to move ahead of us in this difficult time.

Frankly, I cannot understand why anybody would not support this rule or the underlying bill. I hope that Members change their minds, think about the Small Business Administration and the small businesses we can help today, and the great good we can do to help support jobs in this country.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I realize that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle sometimes can't understand why Republicans vote against their ill-conceived legislation, but it is really because we have a very different philosophy about what makes this country successful. We believe that we should adhere to the capitalistic society that has always made us successful. It isn't the government that makes us successful. It isn't taking money from hardworking taxpayers, sending it through government bureaucracies, and then giving a small portion of that money back to the taxpayers that has made this country successful. And this bill is very misnamed. It isn't a small business bill, it is a bailout of banks, smaller banks than the megabanks that were bailed out by the Democrats primarily, with the help of President Bush. This is not a small business bill but a bank bailout bill.

I would now like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN).

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today in opposition to the rule, and here is why. I offered three amendments before the Rules Committee and cosponsored a fourth. Sadly, none of them were made in order for today's bill.

My top concern and the concern of my constituents continues to be jobs. I believe everything Congress does should be looked at through the prism of is it helping or hurting job growth, and is it going to put Americans back to work. Unfortunately, Washington has not pursued a pro-jobs agenda over the last few years. In fact, since the stimulus was signed, we have lost about 3 million jobs, and we continue to spend and grow our Nation's debt to a larger and larger percentage of our GDP.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses have created about two of every three net new jobs in the United States since the early 1970s. Small businesses are also responsible for roughly half of the privately generated GDP in the United

States. This is where our jobs are going to come from in the future. This is where our recovery is going to come from in the future. But what has Congress done in terms of focusing on small business? Unfortunately, not much.

That is why I offered a specific amendment in the nature of a substitute which would have allowed subchapter-S and LLCs to defer their income tax on any money that is reinvested in their company or their business. Instead, they would have to pay the tax only once on the money that is withdrawn from the company. If small businesses receive tax relief and they could reinvest that money in their company to hire workers, that would be a true economic stimulus to put people back to work.

More than two-thirds of all small business income is taxed at the top two individual tax rates, and now the majority party is going to let those rates rise at the end of this year, forcing small businesses to shoulder an even higher tax burden. So this amendment would have provided real incentives for small businesses to grow without creating another bailout-style fund of borrowing and spending even more government money.

I also offered an amendment that would have stricken the section of the legislation that would treat S-corporations differently. Why should a small business or a small business corporation be targeted for higher interest rates? A study that was sponsored by the SBA demonstrated that they already shoulder the highest effective tax burden of any business structure. If anything, they should be offered lower rates.

Finally, I cosponsored an amendment with the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), and it was also not made in order, and that amendment would have prevented any provisions of this legislation, the underlying bill, from taking effect until certain tax provisions that benefit small businesses are extended until 2012.

Mr. Speaker, the number one issue I really hear about is jobs, it is small business help, and how can we help them, and the uncertainty small businesses face right now coming from Congress. The Biggert amendment is a much better approach because it would have addressed that level of uncertainty, focusing time and attention on the needs and concerns of small businesses, and making sure that they know with certainty what they can do in terms of providing, where they are going to deploy their capital.

Mr. Speaker, these are the amendments that I think would have provided more direction to Congress to focus on true small business growth. It would be a targeted approach. It would have been smart. It would have been strategic. I urge a "no" vote on the rule because these amendments were not included as an option.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, there are other reasons why this rule and this bill deserve “no” votes. The bill lacks proper oversight for the TARP III program because it would not be subject to the effective oversight of the Special Inspector General for TARP, otherwise known as SIGTARP. I believe my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK), pointed out some of these concerns in his remarks.

On February 19 of this year, SIGTARP’s watchdog, Neil Barofsky, sent a letter to Treasury’s Assistant Secretary For Financial Stability, Herb Allison. In the letter, Barofsky expressed concern regarding Treasury’s decision to remove TARP III from SIGTARP’s oversight and warned that such a move would be terribly wasteful and could lead to a significant exposure to waste, fraud and abuse.

If all of this weren’t enough, Americans should know that TARP III creates more uncertainty. Like the original TARP megabank bailout, the Federal Government will once again, at its discretion, be able to reach into the board rooms and pocketbooks of private sectors firms and employees. The use of the original TARP by some banks begets the use of the Obama administration’s pay czar and auto task force, which closed thousands of dealerships. Also, the use of the original TARP inspired the Democrats to pursue a “responsibility fee,” another tax on financial firms. Through TARP III, many small and mid-sized banks may soon find the Federal Government as their new senior partner.

This approach is particularly disturbing given availability of sensible, cost-free alternatives, some of them offered by our Democratic colleagues such as Mr. KANJORSKI’s bill, H.R. 3380, the Promoting Lending to America’s Small Business Act which hosts a bipartisan list of 123 cosponsors, including myself.

Fortunately, the American people have a choice between the same old, tired liberal agenda or new, innovative solutions being offered by members of the GOP.

Some of the no-cost proposals offered by House Republican leadership to President Obama last December include: halting any proposed mandate or regulation expected to have an economic cost, result in job loss, or have a disparate impact on small business; eliminating job killing Federal tax increases; freezing domestic discretionary spending at last year’s levels; removing unnecessary barriers to domestic energy production; providing an incentive for companies to repatriate earnings back to the United States; and increasing exports through trade agreements beneficial to domestic job creation. To that list I would add a few more items such as rescinding unspent stimulus funds, reforming the tort system to lower cost and uncertainties facing small businesses, suspending the job killing Davis-Bacon Act, and shrinking the cost of the Federal min-

imum wage, particularly for young and inexperienced workers seeking entry-level jobs.

Basically, Mr. Speaker, there are alternatives to the bad legislation being proposed by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Again, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the rule and “no” on the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I have to say, my colleague continues to act as though we don’t have a problem out there with our economy. That somehow, as happened in the last administration, we can just take this laissez-faire attitude; we can just say it will get better on its own, we don’t need to do anything or somehow this recovery has already been good enough. Well, I don’t hear anybody saying it is good enough, that there is enough jobs and enough support.

I want to quote from a couple of things I recently read that reinforce this issue that there isn’t enough credit and lending going on, particularly to help our small businesses who are, as I have said before, are one of the important engines to drive this economy.

A report by the U.S. Congressional Joint Economic Committee that was released in May found that small businesses have been severely hurt by the tighter lending standards that resulted from the 2008 financial crisis. I want to quote a couple of sentences from that report: The tightened credit conditions experienced by small businesses have curtailed their ability to meet payroll or produce the products and services that are in demand. In 2009, small business hiring was 20 percent below its 2001–2007 average.

As further evidence of the impact that tight credit markets are having on small businesses, hiring in mid sized and larger establishments has been increasing since the middle of 2009 while small business hiring continues to decline. I don’t know how much more evidence we need than what we hear every weekend, but it is clear small businesses in our districts are still struggling.

There was some question about whether or not the bankers even wanted this to happen, whether banks already had plenty of money to lend, people were just not showing up to take it. I want to read a letter from the Independent Community Bankers of America. They say: This act would offer capital to interested community banks to use to increase small business credit. It goes on to say: Notably, leveraging the \$30 billion in funds with community banks would potentially support many times that in loan volume to small businesses, as much as \$300 billion in additional lending.

Well, I don’t know anyone who analyzes our businesses out there who says it wouldn’t be good to have more credit, more availability, more lending, more growth in our businesses. We haven’t been going on that path, we haven’t been growing fast enough, and

we haven’t done a sufficient amount to support availability of credit and growth in our small businesses.

□ 1345

Now we have done, according to this report, a fair amount for some of our bigger or midsized businesses, but yet we are always the ones who say, and now I am going to quote from Professor Campbell Harvey of Duke University, his quote, “Small and medium-sized firms are the drivers of employment growth in the economy, and they are being squeezed.” He went on to say, “Results show an extraordinary 44 percent of small businesses restricted their capital spending below desired levels because of borrowing difficulties. These capital projects create jobs both today and over the longer term.” He concludes by saying, “Analysis suggests we need to refocus our efforts on the root of the problem. Businesses are not spending on capital projects because of borrowing difficulties. Fixing the credit problem goes a long way toward creating the conditions for robust employment growth.”

We can talk around this all we want, but it’s a relatively simple problem that we have all known about ever since this economy started going bad. Banks tightened up on their lending. There hasn’t been enough credit availability. Businesses have been struggling. Many of them just want to hang on. Some of them actually want to grow.

And here is Professor Harvey telling us, “Results show an extraordinary 44 percent of small businesses restricted their capital spending below desired levels because of borrowing difficulties.” Borrowing difficulties, that’s almost half of small business reporting this, borrowing difficulties mean they can’t get enough money to borrow. They want to borrow money. These are legitimate businesses, many with good credit ratings, who just can’t get enough out there.

And here are the bankers saying to us, yeah, this would put potentially \$300 billion in additional lending into our economy at a time when we are just starting to chug forward, where people are just starting to feel a little bit hopeful, where consumer credit is going up just a little bit, but we are not doing enough.

It’s easy to stand back and say, oh, no, no, this isn’t the government’s job. But remember what happened before we started assisting in this terrible recession. We were going nowhere. We were losing a tremendous amount of jobs.

I don’t like spending this money any more than anybody else, no matter what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle may say. Nobody likes to increase the deficit or feel we are spending more money. But are we really going to turn our backs on our small businesses and on our community

banks when they are saying to us, Almost half of us are having trouble accessing the credit we need? Couldn't you just give us a helping hand?

We helped out Wall Street. We helped out the big financial institutions. Now, we finally have a bill before us to help the backbone of our businesses and we are going to say "no."

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, what we need, again, are across-the-board tax cuts. We don't need more government control. It's interesting to me that our colleagues have two different tacks. One is blame everything on the previous administration. But the next to the last Democrat who spoke during 1-minutes made a speech telling us about how everything was great and how much better everything is going. So it's a little hard, I am sure, for the American people to wonder what is the policy of this group that's in charge of the Congress.

I now would like to yield 2 minutes to my distinguished colleague from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentledady from North Carolina for yielding me this time. I don't think I will take that much time.

Each workday every Member of Congress receives a publication called Congress Daily. A few months ago, the Congress Daily had a cartoon which showed the President and his Secretary of the Treasury hollering out, "Loan, loan, loan." And then it showed the banks with huge bags full of money, and then local examiners pulling back saying, "No, no, no." And that is the crux of the problem. The banks have plenty of money to loan, but they have got the examiners at the local level saying, "No, no, no."

And this is something that both administrations have agreed on, because President Bush and his Secretary of the Treasury started this back before President Obama even came into office, urging the banks to make more loans to small businesses. But they can't do it because the examiners have turned down almost every kind of loan that they wanted to make except to people who didn't need loans.

Just the weekend before last I had a banker in east Tennessee tell me that they had turned down a \$5.5 million loan. They have plenty of money to loan, but they knew the examiners would turn this down. A few months ago, the chairman of the BB&T banking chain, one of the most respected banks in this country, told a group of us that it was breaking his heart because they had plenty of money to loan, but they were having to destroy people's businesses, turning down loans that at any other time they would have made.

So we will never really correct this problem until we get the top banking regulators to get on their examiners on the local level to start giving some businesses some flexibility and start making some loans. Not only do the

banks tell me this, they are in a catch-22 position. They can't complain publicly because then the examiners would come down even harder on them. But they are telling me this, and then all the small business people from all types of businesses are telling me they can't get the loans because the examiners are saying, "No, no, no."

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as my colleague has pointed out, there are lots of different perspectives from our folks on the other side of the aisle. They change the line of talking to depend on what it is they want to point out.

I want to say again that we have major problems with our economy. We have a problem with spending. Not a problem with revenue, but a problem with spending. And I want to point out some comments and contrast positions from when our colleagues were in the minority to now.

In May of 2006, then-Minority Leader PELOSI declared, quote, "Our national debt is a national security issue. Countries that own our debt will not only be making our toys, our clothes, and our computers, pretty soon they will be making our foreign policy. They have far too much leverage over us." Keep in mind that, at the time she said this, the total public debt outstanding was \$8.351 trillion. Now, when they have created a debt of over \$13 trillion, suddenly it's not a problem.

Or in December 2005 when she declared, quote, "Democrats support pay-as-you-go. No deficit spending. If something is important to you, figure out how to pay for it, but do not make my grandchildren and children have to pay for it, or anybody's children and grandchildren have to pay for it." Again, keep in mind that, at the time she said this, the debt was \$8.107 trillion. Now, when they've created a debt of over \$13 trillion, they seem not to be concerned about their children and grandchildren.

The ruling liberal Democrats' pride in their fiscal irresponsibility is also a far cry from March 2005, when Minority Whip HOYER expressed outrage, declaring that, quote, "On the Republican Party's watch, the Federal Government recorded the worst budget deficit in American history, \$412 billion in fiscal year 2004. \$412 billion of deficit spending . . . We ought to be ashamed of that. We ought to be ashamed to tell our children that that's what we have done to them. We ought to be ashamed to tell our grandchildren, of which I have three, that that is what we have done to them and their generation. That is the height of fiscal irresponsibility, and I suggest it is also a fiscally immoral act and is the abuse of our children and grandchildren and generations yet to come, who in their time will face a challenge perhaps like Iraq, perhaps like AIDS, perhaps a tsunami or other natural disaster, and they will look around for resources to respond to their crisis in their time and say, oh, my goodness, the re-

sources were spent by this Congress and by the previous Congress. What a shame."

So, apparently under Republican rule, a \$412 billion deficit was considered a threat to our descendants, but a \$1.42 trillion deficit under Democrats is somehow excused for some reason. What a shame indeed.

Mr. Speaker, when the liberal Democrats seized control of Congress in January of 2007, the number of unemployed persons stood at 7 million and the unemployment rate was 4.6 percent. Oh, how times have changed. Today, the numbers are more than double. Fifteen million Americans unemployed, resulting in a staggering 9.7 percent unemployment rate.

Strange how these immutable numbers from the same nonpartisan official government source tell a different story than the liberal Democrats in desperate search of a scapegoat would have you to believe.

Mr. Speaker, we do not need to continue to borrow money and put our children and grandchildren into greater debt. The evidence is in. The liberal Democrat agenda has failed. They need to go back to the drawing board and come back to the American people with real solutions to their real problems.

And do we hear from small business people? Do we hear from people who are out of work? Absolutely. Every weekend. This isn't the time to dither and blame the Republican minority for the disappointing collapse of governance we've seen since the liberal majority seized control in 2007.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I wish to say a few things in conclusion.

We have debated a little bit today about whether or not this bill is important, and I just want to say this is a critical need that we are fulfilling today. This bill will support small businesses when they need it most—access to the financing they need to survive, to grow, to expand and create the jobs that will drive our economic recovery.

I don't really know how anyone could oppose this. I know this is essential because I hear it from businesses throughout the 125 towns in my district, and I know this is essential because I have owned a business myself for much of my adult life. For many years, I owned a knitting company that sold our products around the country.

I grew the business, and eventually employed 10 people in a town of just 350 year-round residents. And like many women who start their own businesses, I know what it is to argue with a banker to get more access to credit, to start your business or expand your business on a credit card, or to have to go to your husband to cosign on a loan.

Now I own an inn and a restaurant that uses vegetables grown on our island and locally caught seafood, and I still know what it is to meet a payroll and argue with the bank about borrowing the money to expand.

Mr. Speaker, I have been lucky to own a business that's been an important part of my own community, but it never would have been able to survive without cooperative bankers in my community or access to the investment that the business needed to grow.

When businesses are coming to us and saying this is their problem, how could we possibly tell them no? And when facing a tough economic crisis like this one, it is vital that we do everything in our power to support the small businesses that create 64 percent of new jobs in this country, that comprise more than 99 percent of all employer companies, and that are the backbone of the communities that most of us live in.

This bill is an important step in supporting those small businesses, ensuring that they have the necessary capital to stay in business and to expand as the economy recovers. This bill is more than just simply an investment in small business. Frankly, it is an investment in American job growth. And what could be more important at this moment in time?

I urge a "yes" vote on the previous question and on the rule.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOYLE). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

□ 1400

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF FATHERS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1389) recognizing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1389

Whereas fathers factor significantly in the lives of children;

Whereas fathers play an important role in teaching their children life lessons and preparing them to succeed in school and in life;

Whereas children with involved fathers are more likely to do well in school, have a better sense of well-being, and have fewer behavioral problems;

Whereas supportive fathers promote the positive physical, social, emotional, moral, and mental development of children;

Whereas promoting responsible fatherhood can help increase the chances that children will grow up with two caring parents;

Whereas, when fathers are actively involved in the upbringing of children, the children demonstrate greater self-control and a greater ability to take initiative;

Whereas responsible fatherhood can help reduce child poverty;

Whereas responsible fatherhood strengthens families and communities; and

Whereas Father's Day is the third Sunday in June: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the millions of fathers who serve as a wonderful, caring parent for their children;

(2) calls on fathers across the United States to use Father's Day to reconnect and rededicate themselves to their children's lives, to spend Father's Day with their children, and to express their love and support for their children;

(3) urges men to understand the level of responsibility fathering a child requires, especially in the encouragement of the mental, moral, social, academic, emotional, physical, and spiritual development of children; and

(4) encourages active involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of their children, including the devotion of time, energy, and resources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1389 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1389, to honor and celebrate Father's Day this Sunday and to recognize the involvement of our Nation's fathers in their children's lives. This resolution recognizes the special bond between father and child by celebrating the significant and positive impacts a present, supportive, and involved father has on their child and the entire family.

Every year on the third Sunday in June, families across the country take time out to celebrate the dad in the family. New fathers and experienced fa-

thers alike are honored for the hard work and deep love it takes to be a supportive father. Whether it be through a home-cooked meal, a card, or even a simple phone call, we stop once a year to thank fathers for everything they do in our lives.

Unfortunately, 25 million children in America today are living apart from their biological fathers. This means that one out of every three children grow up without their biological father present in their lives.

Fathers play a significant and influential role in their child's development. When supportive fathers are involved in their children's lives, their children are more likely to enjoy learning, earn better grades, and participate in extracurricular activities. We celebrate the fathers who are positive role models for their children.

By commemorating the hard work and dedication of fathers on Father's Day, we encourage responsible fatherhood and happy, successful, and stronger families and communities.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the resolution before us, House Resolution 1389, recognizing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day, and really on every day.

Children with involved, caring fathers have improved educational outcomes compared with children whose fathers are absent. A number of studies suggest that fathers who are involved, nurturing, and playful with their infants have children with higher IQs, as well as better linguistic and cognitive capacities. Toddlers with involved fathers go on to start school with higher levels of academic readiness. They are more patient and can handle the stresses and frustrations associated with schooling more readily than children with less involved fathers.

The influence of a father's involvement on academic achievement extends into adolescence and young adulthood. For instance, a U.S. Department of Education study found that highly involved biological fathers had children who were 43 percent more likely than other children to earn mostly As and 33 percent less likely than other children to repeat a grade.

Fathers play a significant role in shaping the character of their children. By spending time with their sons and daughters, being stern yet fair disciplinarians, and listening to their experiences, fathers mold and shape children into the men and women they will become. They instill important values and prepare their children for the challenges and opportunities ahead by demonstrating true leadership.

On Father's Day and every day, we honor our fathers and celebrate the

special bond between a father and a child. I rise today in support of this resolution and ask my colleagues to do the same.

I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from east Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for yielding me this time.

I come in support of this resolution because of a very meaningful time that I spent as a judge in Tennessee. I spent 7 and a half years as a criminal court judge before coming to Congress, trying the felony criminal cases, the most serious cases. I've never forgotten that the first day I was a judge, Gary Tullock, the chief probation counselor for 16 counties in east Tennessee, told me that 98 percent of the defendants in felony cases came from what he referred to as broken homes. He was not exactly right on that. It was not quite 98 percent, but it was well over 90 percent that came from father-absent households, and that's the key.

I went through over 10,000 cases in the time that I was judge because 97 or 98 percent of the people in felony cases in criminal court plead guilty and then apply for probation, and I would get 8- or 10- or 12-page reports into their family and work background and so forth. And every day for 7 and a half years, I would read, Defendant's father left home when defendant was 2 and never returned; defendant's father left home to get a pack of cigarettes and never came back. When you read that thousands of times over several years, it really makes an impression.

I know that many wonderful and many outstanding people have come from broken homes and even from father-absent households, but it's an amazing statistic that the gentleman from California gave a few minutes ago when she said that one out of every three children in America are living apart from their biological fathers now.

We need to get a message across some way, especially to the young men of this country, that marriage is very, very important and that the role of fatherhood is very, very important and that it is harmful to a great many young people when a father leaves and removes himself from the raising of a child. A child is really blessed to have two loving parents, and certainly we all know and appreciate the very, very important role of mothers, but the role of fathers is important as well and not just for young men.

I have read in the past that many prostitutes and many women who get in trouble have had abusive or very negative or bad relationships with their fathers. So it's important to young girls as well, but it is especially important to young boys.

The root of the crime problem in this country is father-absent households. Drugs and alcohol are involved in most crimes, but they are secondary to the problem of father-absent households.

Where fathers have left the lives, we need to encourage mothers to get boys into Boy Scouts or find other good male role models within the family or within the neighborhood, and we need to encourage more men to teach in elementary schools and lead Boy Scout troops and do things like that because, unfortunately, millions of young boys are growing up without a good male role model in their lives.

I remember several years ago driving to the airport one Friday afternoon after we had finished our session, and there had been a school shooting out in I think Oregon. They had the national head of the YMCA on the national CBS news, and he said children are being neglected in this country like never before. I hope that's not true, but that is what he said. And it is a growing problem, and this resolution I hope will call attention to the great importance of fathers in the lives of their children, especially as we approach Father's Day.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from Pennsylvania, JOE PITTS.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1389, and I commend my colleague Mr. MCINTYRE for sponsoring this resolution.

We often hear about deadbeat and delinquent dads. So it's easy to forget that millions of dads across America are striving to be good husbands and positive role models for their kids. It is important for us to recognize those dads and the tremendous importance of promoting fatherhood in America.

There's no denying the invaluable role that a father plays in a child's life. We all know that children with involved and loving fathers have a significant advantage. They tend to perform better in school, to have a healthy self-esteem, to exhibit positive social behavior, and avoid drug use and other criminal activity. But this kind of statistical research really just affirms what we already know to be true: Fatherhood is important. A loving father plays an integral role in the family, and healthy families are the foundation for a healthy society.

This is not a partisan issue, and I'm glad that Republicans and Democrats are joining together on this bipartisan effort to honor responsible fatherhood. Small communities across our country rely on the work of families to keep our neighborhoods strong. Churches, community service clubs, and school boards should remember how critical fathers are in creating stable families and, therefore, stable communities.

I urge my colleagues to recognize the importance of fatherhood and to support this resolution, H. Res. 1389, today.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the resolution before us, have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I personally have the great privilege to

have raised two sons, Ed Critchett and Michael Woolsey, and I have a son-in-law, Mark Pauline, who are the most wonderful fathers on this earth. I am so proud of them, and I just thought I'd take this moment right now to be able to express that.

Their children, my grandchildren, Teddy and Julia, Jake-Eddie, Carlo and Luca are great kids, but they are all the better because they have such great dads.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1389, honoring and celebrating Father's Day and recognizing the involvement of our Nation's fathers in their children's lives.

With that, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE).

(Mr. MCINTYRE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1389, a resolution that recognizes the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supports responsible fatherhood, and encourages greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially with the celebration of Father's Day coming up this weekend.

On June 20, our Nation will celebrate the special place that fathers have in our country. From helping with homework to playing ball to reading a book to offering advice and support or to just listening and spending time with children, each and every day fathers of all ages contribute to the mental, moral, spiritual, and physical development of children, teenagers and, yes, adults.

According to the National Fatherhood Initiative, children with involved, loving fathers are significantly more likely to do well in school, have a healthy self-esteem, exhibit empathy and good behavior, and avoid high-risk activities, such as drug use and even criminal activity.

H. Res. 1389 recognizes the commitment of fathers and the wonderful work that both parents do on behalf of their kids, and I encourage my colleagues to join us as we all recommit ourselves to being the best fathers that we can be and honoring our fathers and grandfathers everywhere.

In conclusion, I would like to publicly thank my own father, Dr. Douglas C. McIntyre, for the great example he has been to me throughout my life and for the dedication and support he has shown in my every endeavor. Indeed, may we all intend and exemplify the type of example that we would want our own children to one day exhibit when they may have that opportunity to be a father.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a "yes" vote on this important bill.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for H. Res. 1389, and for fathers across the Nation. Nearly 50 years ago, Daniel Patrick Moynihan warned that, ". . . A community that allows a large number of

young men to grow up in broken families . . . never acquiring any stable relationship to male authority, never acquiring any rational expectations about the future—that community asks for and gets chaos.” Moynihan’s words hold a prophetic ring as we look at society today.

Fathers play a critical role in the development of their children, positively influencing everything from academic performance to mental and physical health. Children who do not live with both parents are more likely to repeat a grade, have lower grades, be diagnosed with a mental illness, experience drug or alcohol abuse problems, and commit violent crimes.

I do not mean to imply that those who grow up without both parents are doomed to failure, nor am I suggesting that children from two-parent homes are guaranteed success. But the presence of fathers in the lives of their children does have benefits that cannot be denied. This Congress, and America as a whole, are right to take time to honor the men who took responsibility for their actions, who invest in the lives of their children, who sacrifice their own wants and desires for the sake of future generations. So I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1389 as it is considered today.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the sacrifices made by my own father, Wilbur Tiahr. His sacrificial leadership, during his service in the Army Air Corps during World War II, and as a father and husband has provided a tremendous example for me and my siblings. I am grateful for the blessing that he has been to me and my family, and each Father’s Day, I am reminded of how fortunate I am to still have him with me.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1389, “Recognizing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father’s Day.”

This resolution commends the millions of fathers who serve as wonderful, caring parents for their children. It simultaneously calls on fathers across the United States (1) reconnect and rededicate themselves to their children’s lives; and (2) express their love and support for their children, not only on Father’s Day, but everyday.

Fathers all over the United States are involved in their children’s lives in multitude ways that go beyond the traditional roles of economic provider. Fathers are also involved by having direct contact with their children, engagement; making themselves available to their children even when they are not in physical contact, accessibility; and taking responsibility for their children’s care and welfare, again regardless of physical proximity, responsibility. For this reason and many others, I salute the millions of fathers who have embraced the attributes of fatherhood.

However, this piece of legislation also recognizes the need for fathers to take their place in their children’s lives and become more involved. The statistics on children without an active father in their lives are alarming:

63 percent of youth suicides are from fatherless homes (U.S. Department Of Health/Census)—5 times the average

90 percent of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes—32 times the average

85 percent of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes—20 times the average. (Center for Disease Control)

80 percent of rapists with anger problems come from fatherless homes—14 times the average. (Justice & Behavior, Vol 14, p. 403–26)

71 percent of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes—9 times the average. (National Principals Association Report)

75 percent of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes—10 times the average. (Rainbows for All God’s Children)

70 percent of youths in State-operated institutions come from fatherless homes—9 times the average. (U.S. Department of Justice, Sept. 1988)

85 percent of all youths in prison come from fatherless homes—20 times the average. (Fulton Co. Georgia, Texas Department of Correction)

Clearly, fathers represent a lot more than just a paycheck to a child; they represent safety, protection, guidance, friendship, and someone to look up to. This resolution urges men to understand the level of responsibility fathering a child requires, especially in the encouragement of the mental, moral, social, academic, emotional, physical, and spiritual development of children.

In conclusion, not only is this issue imperative to the development of the future of America’s youth, but also to the prosperity of the country as a whole. I am diligently seeking ways to bring families back together and this resolution can be the catalyze to promote such unity; by promoting fathers who already exemplify these qualities.

I must pay tribute to my own father Ezra C. Jackson. I thank him for being a father to my brother Michael and me. For also being a grandfather to our children. He was God-fearing, funny and a great mentor to young men who were not his children. Thank you Dad for being in my life, although you are no longer with us—your guidance will always be appreciated.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to congratulate Congressman MCINTYRE as the author of this piece of legislation.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1389.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1415

CONGRATULATING URBAN PREP CHARTER ACADEMY—ENGLEWOOD CAMPUS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1414) congratulating Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men—Englewood Campus, the Nation’s first all-male charter high school, for achieving a 100 percent college acceptance rate for all 107 members of its first graduating class of 2010, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1414

Whereas in a 2009 study by the Education Research Center found that in the 50 largest cities in the United States, which have significantly higher rates of poor and minority children, only 53 percent of students graduate on time;

Whereas African-American males are dropping out of high school in the Chicago Public School district, and in cities around the country, at a rate of over 50 percent and only one in 40 Black Chicago Public School males are graduating from college;

Whereas a University of Chicago study published in 2006 reported that only one in 40 African-American boys in Chicago Public Schools eventually graduate from a 4-year university;

Whereas a 2009 report by the American Council on Education found that only 28 percent of African-American males who have graduated from high school have gone on to enroll in college, compared to 41 percent of all students;

Whereas in 2002, a group of motivated African-American civic, business, and education leaders, organized by Tim King, determined to establish a new high school in Chicago focused on providing a strong college-preparatory high school option for boys in under-served African-American communities;

Whereas Urban Prep Academies is a non-profit organization that operates a network of all-boys public schools including the Nation’s first, and the State of Illinois only, charter high school for boys;

Whereas the mission of Urban Prep Academies is to provide a comprehensive, high-quality college-preparatory education to young men that results in graduates succeeding in college;

Whereas Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men—Englewood Campus was founded in 2002;

Whereas Urban Prep Charter Academy has a student population that is 100 percent African-American male and 85 percent low-income, has shattered stereotypes about the ability and willingness of African-American males to meet high expectations and serves as a national example that all students can succeed and achieve academically;

Whereas Urban Prep’s extended school day, rigorous curriculum, and extracurricular “arcs”, which includes the Academic Arc, Service Arc, Activity Arc, and Professional Arc, have been acknowledged as national models for other schools serving low-income communities by a variety of educational organizations and media outlets including the Chicago Public Schools, the American School Board Journal, the Urban School Improvement Network, the Illinois Policy Institute, Education Week, the Washington Post, and the Milwaukee Wisconsin Journal Sentinel;

Whereas Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men—Englewood Campus, achieving a 100 percent college acceptance rate for its June 12, 2010, first ever graduating class, will convene an Inaugural “Signing Day” event where each senior student will stand to publicly announce the college or university he has chosen to attend and commit to that school by signing the Urban Prep “100 Percent to College” board and the “Credimus Book”;

Whereas to date, more than 80 colleges and universities have admitted Urban Prep seniors to their incoming freshmen classes and these seniors will receive nearly \$4,000,000 in college scholarships and grants; and

Whereas Urban Prep has been recognized in the United States and internationally for its success in improving the academic, social, and emotional development of urban young men: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates Principal Tim King and all of the students, teachers, administrators, and support personnel at Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men—Englewood Campus for achieving a 100 percent college acceptance rate for its first graduating class of 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous materials on H. Res. 1414 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1414, which honors and congratulates Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men in Englewood, Illinois and all 107 members of its first graduating class for achieving a 100 percent college acceptance rate.

Students in America often face extraordinary challenges to completing high school. In our Nation’s 50 largest cities, only 53 percent of students are graduating from high school on time. In the Chicago Public School District in particular, African American males are dropping out at a rate of over 50 percent, and only one in 40 of those who finish high school are graduating from college.

The students at the Englewood campus of the Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men have bucked these national and local trends, Mr. Speaker. Their very first graduating class achieved a 100 percent college acceptance rate and will enroll in more than 80 different colleges and universities this fall. The graduates of Urban Prep displayed remarkable academic achievement and community engagement and received nearly \$4 million in college scholarships and grants.

When nationally only 28 percent of African American male high school

graduates are enrolling in college, the 100 percent acceptance rate at Urban Prep-Englewood is a remarkable accomplishment for these students, their families, and the community, as well as for the faculty and staff of Urban Prep-Englewood. The graduates serve as role models for their community and remind us that we must do more to increase America’s college attendance if we are to succeed in a 21st-century economy.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I express my support for H. Res. 1414 and congratulate the seniors of the Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men for their academic achievement and college acceptance. I want to thank Representative BOBBY RUSH for bringing this resolution to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to pass the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH).

Mr. RUSH. I want to thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for yielding time.

I also want to thank Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member KLINE, and Majority Leader HOYER for working with my office in order to bring this important resolution to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, today, we have the chance to vote on a very important congressional resolution, congratulating Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men-Englewood Campus, which is the Nation’s first all-male charter high school, for achieving a 100 percent college acceptance rate for all 107 members of its first graduating class of 2010. There have been over \$4 million in grants and scholarships awarded to this one class, which is the first of its kind in the Nation.

At a time when only 50 percent of African American males are graduating from high school in most large, urban, predominantly black school districts, the young graduates of Urban Prep are not only shattering the stereotypes that have surrounded the issue of black male dropouts, but they are also setting a standard and are establishing a model that we hope will be replicated in other school districts all around this Nation. The accomplishments that these students, teachers, administrators, and families of this esteemed high school, Urban Prep, have achieved are extremely important, not only to my district and to the African American community, but to the Nation at large.

The Englewood district, where Urban Prep is located, has been better known for its high rates of unemployment and for its lack of opportunity, which has led to an infestation of drugs, violence, and gang activity in recent years. Today, Urban Prep stands as a national symbol of academic excellence, and within the Englewood community, the school represents pride, hope, and inspiration.

There are countless hardworking and resilient Englewood families who have the same aspirations and desires for their children that you and I and the

rest of the Members of this body carry, which is to obtain quality educations and to have the opportunity to build better lives for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the Englewood High School Transition Advisory Council, I can recall working with Tim King, the founder, president and CEO of Urban Prep Academy, back in 2005, trying to get the Urban Prep charter approved through the Chicago Public Schools. I believed so strongly in Tim King and in his vision for building a strong, successful school in the Englewood community which would serve as a model for outstanding academic achievement and which would establish a solid foundation in the community that would make us all proud.

We received a lot of pushback from the Chicago Board of Education and even from the community as they did not believe that we could be successful in teaching our young African American males on a level rivaling any rich, affluent district in the Nation. Well, Mr. Speaker, the first graduating class has shown, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that Urban Prep is for real, that black males will learn, and that nothing is impossible if you are willing to dream and to work to make that dream come true.

A 2009 study by the American Council on Education reported that only 28 percent of African American males who graduate from high school go on to enroll in college, compared with 41 percent of all other students. Well, again, Urban Prep graduates have shattered both of those records. With their hard work, with their commitment, with their dedication, and with their expectation of high standards among their parents, teachers and overall community, they are proving again that nothing is impossible.

I am extremely proud of what Urban Prep has been able to accomplish over the last 5 years. That includes not only the students but also their families, teachers, staff, and of course, the leadership of Tim King, who is an outstanding young man and whose father I know quite well. For the sake of a strong national economy as well as for a more stabilized community around the world, we need more educated, strong, black male role models and black male leaders.

All of the students, all of their parents, all of their supporters, and all of their friends who are watching this debate today, I say to you: Congratulations on all of your hard work. You have been an inspiration to your country. May God continue to guide you and to bless you in all of your future endeavors.

The motto of Urban Prep is “We Believe.”

Mr. Speaker, I attended their graduation last Saturday. I saw all of these young men in their graduation regalia, young men who were coming from different backgrounds—backgrounds of depravation and poverty—who have been able to transform and to transcend those barriers. I saw them walk

across the stage to receive their diplomas. Not only, Mr. Speaker, are they graduating with high school diplomas, but every last one of them has a scholarship to a 4-year college in America—to Georgetown, to Howard, to Morehouse, to the University of Illinois. All across this Nation, Urban Prep is sending its graduates to represent my community, this community, and this Nation. Some of them—most of them—will be successful. They are the leaders of tomorrow.

I would like to submit the commencement program book “The First Commencement Exercises” for the Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men—Englewood Campus, for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to be added to my remarks on the same given previously.

URBAN PREP ACADEMIES—THE FIRST
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

URBAN PREP CHARTER ACADEMY FOR YOUNG
MEN ENGLEWOOD CAMPUS

(Saturday, June 12, 2010, University of
Illinois at Chicago Forum)

THE URBAN PREP CREED

We believe.

We are the young men of Urban Prep.

We are college bound.

We are exceptional—not because we say it,
but because we work hard at it.

We will not falter in the face of any obstacle
placed before us.

We are dedicated, committed and focused.

We never succumb to mediocrity, uncertainty
or fear.

We never fail because we never give-up.

We make no excuses.

We choose to live honestly, nonviolently,
and honorably.

We respect ourselves and in doing so, respect
all people.

We have a future for which we are account-
able.

We have a responsibility to our families,
community, and world.

We are our brothers’ keepers.

We believe in ourselves.

We believe in each other.

We believe in Urban Prep.

WE BELIEVE.

THE HISTORY OF URBAN PREP

Urban Prep Academies is a nonprofit organization founded in 2002 by Tim King and a group of African-American education, business, and civic leaders. Urban Prep’s mission is to provide a comprehensive, high-quality college preparatory education to young men that results in graduates succeeding in college. We opened our first school, Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men—Englewood Campus, in 2006. Urban Prep’s Englewood Campus is the country’s first public charter high school for boys. In 2009, we opened our second school, Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men—East Garfield Park. Our third school, Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men—South Shore opens in the fall of 2010. The Urban Prep motto is “We Believe.” Our motto is a constant reminder that Urban Prep students will not fall into the trap of negative stereotypes and low expectations. Instead, Urban Prep students believe in their potential and believe in their ability to exceed that potential. The Urban Prep family (teachers, administrators, staff, board of directors, community members and donors) also believes in these young men, and in our important and lasting role in their lives. At Urban Prep, We Believe.

URBAN PREP TRADITIONS, RELICS, & RITUALS

Urban Prep Mace

The tradition of a ceremonial mace began in Britain as early as the 14th century. In

the U.S., a mace has been used in the House of Representatives since our country’s founding. Today, almost all colleges and universities have a mace, which is carried at important institutional ceremonies. The Urban Prep mace was designed by Paul King III of Chicago, Illinois and carved from mahogany by architectural wood-turner Tom Boley of Red Oak Hollow in Purcellville, Virginia. It stands almost four feet tall, and is topped by a walnut medallion engraved with the Urban Prep Crest. Walnut collars, engraved with the school name, motto and founding date, also adorn the mace.

Urban Prep Creed

The Urban Prep Creed, developed by the faculty, administration and staff, articulates the schools’ values, ideals and the goals we expect our students to meet and exceed; including going to college, taking responsibility for their actions, achieving academically, persevering, and living honorably. Students collectively recite the Creed daily during Community and at all Urban Prep formal events. The Creed starts and ends with the Urban Prep motto, “We Believe.”

Credimus Book

The Credimus Book contains the register of Urban Prep graduates and the colleges they will attend. Seniors sign their names into the book as a pledge of their intention to succeed in college during a ceremony at Urban Prep’s College Signing Day event. At Commencement, the book is passed from the graduating class to representatives from the rising senior class. Passing on the relic symbolizes how the graduates’ success will inspire future generations to work diligently that they may one day too etch their names unto its pages.

The Passing of the Book Ceremony

At Commencement, the Credimus Book is passed from the graduating class to representatives of the Junior class. Once the book has been passed, the graduating class recites a pledge of support to the rising seniors: We are the graduates of Urban Prep, and We Believe. We Believe that our present lays the pathway for your future. We Believe that in action and in word, we are our brothers’ keepers. We Believe that you will carry on the tradition of excellence we pass to you today. We Believe that one year from now, you will reunite with us in college. We Believe that you are now the leaders of Urban Prep. We are the graduates of Urban Prep, and We Believe in you. Both the spoken pledge and the book-passing symbolize the perpetual bonds of brotherhood that unite all Urban Prep students and alumni.

Urban Prep Crest, Colors & Mascot

Like the heraldic coats-of-arms that inspired it, Urban Prep’s crest is rife with symbolism. The lions, Urban Prep’s mascot, evoke leadership and strength. The crowned lions face outward, independently focused on the future; but their tails entwine, illustrating brotherhood and solidarity. An open book is shown beneath them, symbolizing our foundation in academics. The eight-pointed star between the lions signifies Urban Prep’s eight core values. The eight points’ circular arrangement represents how Urban Prep’s four ‘arc’ programs encircle students in a caring school community. The Crest also contains our name, founding date, and motto—Credimus, the Latin for We Believe. The crest is styled in our school colors, red and gold. Red symbolizes the shared blood of brothers. Gold symbolizes the material riches available to college graduates, as well as the personal and spiritual reward of enlightenment through education. The Urban Prep Crest was designed by Nick Zembruski of Chicago, Illinois in 2006.

URBAN PREP COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

The Medal for Academic Excellence

Awarded to the student who has achieved the highest cumulative grade point average during his enrollment at Urban Prep.

The Pride Medal

Awarded to the Pride whose members collectively demonstrated the greatest commitment to exemplifying the Urban Prep Core Values over four years at Urban Prep.

The Medal for Greatest Improvement

Awarded to the student who has improved the most academically and socially over the course of his enrollment at Urban Prep.

The Team UP Medal

Awarded to the employee (teacher, administrator, or staff) who, as selected by the students, has demonstrated excellence in their job and extraordinary commitment to Urban Prep’s mission.

The Medal for Attendance

Awarded to the student who has had the fewest absences during his enrollment at Urban Prep.

The Award for Outstanding Service by a Parent or Guardian

Awarded to the parent/guardian of an Urban Prep senior who has demonstrated outstanding service to the school during the time his/her student was enrolled.

The Medal for Outstanding Participation in Athletics

Awarded to the student who has demonstrated the most significant and consistent leadership and participation in Urban Prep sports teams.

The Founder’s Medal

Awarded to the individual or organization that has shown exceptional support of Urban Prep Academies.

The Medal for Outstanding Participation in Activities

Awarded to the student who has demonstrated the most significant and consistent leadership and participation in Urban Prep clubs and activities.

The Credimus Medal

Urban Prep’s highest student honor, this medal is awarded to the student who has best exemplified the ideals of Urban Prep’s mission, Core Values and Creed during his time at Urban Prep.

Bryant Christopher Alexander, Jr.—Magna
Cum Laude

DePauw University/Alabama A&M University/Eastern Illinois University/Florida A&M University/Grambling State University/Kentucky State University/Mississippi Valley State University/North Carolina State University/Northern Illinois University/University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff/University of Louisville

Darrelle Marshawn Banks—Cum Laude

Pennsylvania State University—Hazleton/Indiana State University/Lake Forest College/Miami University (Ohio)/Philander Smith College/Southern Illinois University—Carbondale/Tougaloo College

Freeman Banks

East-West University

Cameron M. Barnes—Cum Laude

University of Illinois—Urbana Champaign/Dillard University/Kentucky State University/Mississippi State University/Southern Illinois University—Carbondale/University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff/Virginia State University

Marcus Bass

Jackson State University/Philander Smith College/University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff

Devante T. Bates

Southern Illinois University—Carbondale/
Alabama A&M University/Culver-Stockton
College/Indiana State University/Jackson
State University/Lincoln University/Mis-
sissippi Valley State University/Roosevelt
University

Tyler Beck—Summa Cum Laude

Trinity College/Arkansas State University/
Clark Atlanta University/Culver-Stockton
College/Dillard University/Lewis University/
Lincoln University/Mississippi Valley State
University/Norfolk State University/Phi-
lander Smith College/South Carolina State
University/Texas Southern University/Uni-
versity of Arkansas—Pine Bluff

Anthony A. Bell

Chowan University/Lane College/Lincoln
University/Mississippi Valley State Univer-
sity/Philander Smith College/Saint Augus-
tine College

Sherman Ben

Indiana State University/East West Uni-
versity

Jamil Boldian—Cum Laude

Benedictine University/Kentucky State
University/North Park College/University of
Arkansas—Pine Bluff

Phillip Boswell

Alabama A&M University/Elizabeth City
University/Lane College

Krishawn Curtis Branch

Fisk University/Kentucky State Univer-
sity/University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff

James Brisbon

Morehouse College/Dillard University/Fisk
University/Indiana State University/Lane
College/Miles College/Philander Smith Col-
lege/St. Cloud State University/Tougaloo
College/University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff

Jonathan Dwayne Brown, Jr.

Lincoln University/Parkland College

Nathaniel Brown

University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff/Indiana
State University/Lincoln University/Phi-
lander Smith College

Justin Bryant-Warner—Cum Laude

Western Michigan University/Concordia
University—Chicago/Southern Illinois Uni-
versity—Edwardsville/University of Arkan-
sas—Pine Bluff/University of Central Arkan-
sas

Shane Bryant—Magna Cum Laude

Morehouse College/Culver-Stockton Col-
lege

Eugene Najee Butler—Cum Laude

Southern Illinois University—
Edwardsville/Philander Smith College/
DePauw University/Indiana State Univer-
sity/Mississippi Valley State University/
Morehouse College/University of Arkansas—
Pine Bluff

Milan Jarrett Byrdwell—Cum Laude

University of Rochester/Indiana State Uni-
versity/Kentucky State University/Northern
Illinois University/Philander Smith College/
Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville

Byron Lamont Caulton, Jr.—Cum Laude

Dillard University/Central State Univer-
sity/Eastern Illinois University/George
Mason University/Indiana State University/
Kentucky State University/Morgan State
University/Norfolk State University/North
Carolina Central University/Philander Smith
College/South Carolina State University/
Southern Illinois University—Carbondale/
University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff Univer-
sity of Memphis/University of Missouri

Curtis Coleman

Chicago State University/Philander Smith
College/University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff

Daniel Connell

Northern Illinois University/Mississippi
Valley State University/University of Arkan-
sas—Pine Bluff/Lincoln University

Javon Cooper

Southern Illinois University—Carbondale/
Fisk University/Indiana State University/
Kentucky State University/Lincoln Univer-
sity/Tuskegee University/University of Ar-
kansas—Pine Bluff

Marquis D. Crawford

Denison University/Columbia College/
Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville/
Truman State University/University of Ar-
kansas—Pine Bluff

Jermaine Devon Davis, Jr.

University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff

Quinton Jarmall Davis

DePaul University/Lane College/Lewis Uni-
versity/Northern Illinois University/South-
ern Illinois University—Edwardsville/Trinity
Christian College/University of Arkansas—
Pine Bluff

Devanté Davison

Vincennes University/East-West Univer-
sity/Kentucky State University/Philander
Smith College/Wilberforce University

Donnell Apri Fields

Columbia College/Chicago State Univer-
sity/Lincoln University/Philander Smith Col-
lege/Tougaloo University/University of Ar-
kansas—Pine Bluff

Smith Joseph Francois

Oakwood University/Allen University/
Benedict College/East-West University/Phi-
lander Smith College/Texas Southern Uni-
versity/Wilberforce University

Jermaine B. Gamble

Saint Augustine College/Miles College/
Wiley College

Andrew N. Gantt

Miles College/Chicago State University

D'Angelo Gardner

Northern Illinois University/East-West
University

Travon B. George—Cum Laude

Denison University/Kentucky State Uni-
versity/Purdue University

Marquinn Gibson

Howard University/Fisk University/More-
house College/Saint Xavier University/
Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville/
University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff

Brandon Jerome Gray

Culver-Stockton College

Kijuanis Gray

Lincoln University/Allen University/Lane
College/Miles University/Philander Smith
College

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University/Indiana State University/Jackson
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Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville/
Tougaloo College/Trinity Christian College/
University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff/Western
Illinois University/Wilberforce University

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Central State University/DeVry University/
Miles College/Philander Smith College/
Tougaloo College

Paris D. Grigsby, Jr.

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lege/Mississippi Valley State/Saint Augus-
tine College/Saint Cloud State University/
Virginia State University/Wiley College

Clifton Hall

Southern Illinois University—Carbondale

Lawrence Hall—Cum Laude

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sity of Louisville

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ley University

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sity/Lake Forest College/Philander Smith
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Ohio/Seton Hall University/University of
Loyola—New Orleans/University of Tampa

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Laude

Lake Forest College/Livingstone College/
St. Cloud State University/University of Ar-
kansas—Pine Bluff/Upper Iowa University/
Winston Salem State University

Jerry N. Hinds, Jr.—Cum Laude

University of Illinois—Urbana Champaign/
Illinois State University/Michigan State
University/Northern Illinois University/Uni-
versity of Rochester

Rayvaughn Hines—Summa Cum Laude

University of Virginia/Denison University/
Howard University/Kentucky State Univer-
sity/Morehouse College/South Carolina State
University/Southern Illinois University—
Edwardsville/Tougaloo College/Tuskegee
University/University of Memphis/University
of Wisconsin—Madison

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College/Southern Vermont College

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Lindsey Wilson College/Indiana Tech Uni-
versity/Kentucky State University/Univer-
sity of Arkansas—Pine Bluff

Fredrick Huddleston

Miles College

Gerald Jackson, Jr.—Cum Laude

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lard University/Indiana State University/
Missouri University/North Carolina A&T
University/Philander Smith College/South-
ern Illinois University—Edwardsville/St.
John's University/Tuskegee University/Uni-
versity of Arkansas—Pine Bluff/University of
Memphis/Xavier University—Louisiana/Xa-
vier University—Ohio

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Magna Cum Laude: Cumulative GPA of 3.5 to 3.74/Summa Cum Laude: Cumulative GPA of 3.75 & Above
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Ahmad Rishawn Wright—Magna Cum Laude

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Jaclyn Smith, Counselor-EGP; Juanita Smith, Faculty-ENG; Latreese Smith, Office

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EGP—East Garfield Park Campus

ENG—Englewood Campus

UPA—Urban Prep Academies

We are unable to list all of the people who have helped Urban Prep and our students make this day a reality. You have our sincerest gratitude for supporting us and for understanding that this is what happens when We Believe.

Thank You!

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS).

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution to congratulate the Urban Prep Charter Academy on the wonderful accomplishment of sending every one of their 107 graduates on to college this year. For some students, getting an education is a simple feat, but for many students in our urban centers, that is not true, and this is the focus community, the population, that is served by Urban Prep.

Now, I knew Urban Prep some time ago. Their motto is "We Believe." I want to say here that I believe in Urban Prep and in the phenomenal work that they do to reverse troubling graduation and completion rates among African American men in Chicago's urban centers. We can learn many lessons from the Urban Prep experiment, and indeed, that experiment is being looked at across the country, even in communities like the one I represent in Maryland's Fourth Congressional District.

I know firsthand that the caliber of educators at Urban Prep plays an important role in the lives of their students. I want to speak today about one of those educators because in no one is this more prevalent than in Urban Prep's Dr. Derrick Brooms.

Dr. Brooms is an amazing and dynamic educator, mentor, and high school teacher who makes history come alive. He is a Ph.D. recipient from the University of Chicago, the director of athletics at Urban Prep, and he was a mentor to my son and to one of my staff members when he lived right here in Prince George's County, in Maryland, when he taught and coached at the Field School.

Dr. Brooms was excited to join the start-up Urban Prep because he wanted to mentor African American men to

their fullest potential. He is just one of the many reasons Urban Prep is able to create an environment that not only educates but that also teaches students the importance of striving for success and in contributing to our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I join Mr. RUSH in wholeheartedly supporting this resolution and in the shared belief that this country needs more educators like those at Urban Prep, educators like Dr. Derrick Brooms, and that the country needs more schools like the Urban Prep Charter Academy.

Now, for some of our young people, for some of our young African American men, education can come from a charter school or it can come from a private school. For the overwhelming majority of them, it can come from a regular public school. Yet the fact is, if we are to succeed as a nation, we have to begin to educate some of our most vulnerable and most challenging communities, and that is exactly what Urban Prep does. It doesn't matter what the school is. It matters that it educates our young people.

So I salute the 107 graduates of Urban Prep who aren't going to just finish high school but who are going to go on to college and who are going to make a contribution to their communities in the way that so many of their mentors have made contributions to them.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of the resolution before us, House Resolution 1414, congratulating Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men-Englewood campus for achieving 100 percent college acceptance rate for all 107 members of its first graduating class of 2010.

In 2002, a group of motivated African American civic, business, and educational leaders, organized by former Hales Franciscan High School president Tim King, determined to establish a new high school in Chicago focused on providing a strong college-preparatory high school option for boys in underserved African American communities. African American males have been and continue to be the lowest performing demographic in Chicago's public schools. A recent University of Chicago study published in 2006 reported that only one in 40 African American boys in Chicago public schools eventually graduates from a 4-year university.

The Chicago Board of Education approved Urban Prep Academy's charter application in 2005, and Urban Prep opened its first school, Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men-Englewood campus, the subsequent September. It is the first charter high school for boys in the country and currently enrolls 550 students in grades nine through 12. Urban Prep's second school opened in the East Garfield Park community in 2009, and the third will open this fall in the South Shore community.

The mission at Urban Prep Academies is to provide a comprehensive,

high-quality, college-preparatory education to young men that results in graduates succeeding in college. Urban Prep's first graduating class, the class of 2010, is well on its way to fulfilling the school's mission. The entire graduating class has been accepted to more than 80 colleges and universities and will receive nearly \$4 million in scholarships and grants.

The students' 8-hour day consists of a heavy math and science course load, an emphasis on studying a foreign language, plus two periods of English every day. In addition, students spend more than an hour a day with a mentor. The school fosters an environment where students can thrive. Failure is not an option.

A 100 percent college acceptance rate is clearly phenomenal. The Urban Prep Academy students should be commended for all their hard work and ability to beat the odds.

In addition, today we recognize Tim King, the president and CEO, the faculty and staff for providing these students with the support and encouragement they needed to succeed. I support this resolution and ask my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1414, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1414, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CELEBRATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALBERT EINSTEIN DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1322) celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program and recognizing the significant contributions of Albert Einstein Fellows.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1322

Whereas the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program was established in 1990, and formalized by law in 1994;

Whereas Einstein Fellows are selected through a highly competitive process from among the best science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teachers in the field, and represent diverse geographic regions and communities;

Whereas the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program places these exceptional teachers in positions within Federal agencies and on Capitol Hill where they contribute to advancing the fields of education, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and public policy;

Whereas the Department of Energy through its Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists, and the Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology Education have nurtured and grown the Einstein Fellowship Program;

Whereas over 190 Einstein Fellows have served professionally at the Department of Education, the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives;

Whereas the Einstein Fellowship Program fosters a spirit of cooperation between Federal agencies by placing a network of fellows at these different agencies;

Whereas Einstein Fellows provide practical perspectives on the application and impact of education policy;

Whereas Einstein Fellows have made invaluable contributions to the formulation of educational policy with their advice to Members of Congress and officials in Federal agencies, by developing legislation, and by creating innovative educational programs and interventions;

Whereas Einstein Fellows have experienced unique opportunities for professional growth and development, expanding their skills and knowledge;

Whereas Einstein Fellows learn valuable leadership skills to advance the fields of education, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and public policy; and

Whereas the contributions of the Einstein Fellows during their service and later upon the continuation of their professional careers, serve as role models and examples of dedication and commitment for past, current, and future generations of educators and public servants: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the significance of the 20th anniversary of the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program;

(2) recognizes the value of having current science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teachers directly engaged in the policymaking process;

(3) recognizes the sacrifices made by teachers who interrupt their careers to serve as Einstein Fellows;

(4) supports continuation of the Einstein Fellowship program;

(5) encourages Federal Agencies and congressional offices to host Einstein Fellows, and to leverage the expertise of former Einstein Fellows; and

(6) recognizes the contributions of Einstein Fellows, past, present, and future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gen-

tleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1322 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the important role of science, technology, engineering and math—known as STEM—educators in our schools and in our country. The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program recognizes kindergarten through 12th grade teachers as critical voices in the national conversation on education policy. The program acknowledges excellence in teaching and the value of a teacher's service to the community.

This program brings outstanding teachers to the Washington, D.C. area so they can be immersed in and help shape Federal policy. Fellows combine their teaching and their fellowship experience for the betterment of students across the country. This year commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Einstein Fellowship Program.

Over the course of the past 20 years, 173 fellows have served in this important program. This year, there are 24 fellows representing math, science, technology, career and technical education, special education, and engineering teachers. They have come from 47 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico with a diverse range of experience and background.

The Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship provides Congress direct access to teachers who come straight from their classrooms and bring with them a firsthand understanding of how school works. Einstein fellows have also served in most of the Federal agencies, including the Department of Energy, the Department of Education, the National Institutes of Health, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Science Foundation, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and Office of Science and Technology Policy.

In these agencies, fellows are directly involved with educational outreach activities, curriculum development, teacher training, grant proposal review, program analysis and improvement, and other activities where the experience of a STEM educator provides practical insight and vital input.

These teachers serving in our Nation's Capital lend another important voice for the students who will be tomorrow's leaders. These students are

entering a world that requires the concrete skills, creative thinking, and innovation that STEM education provides. Alumni of the program maintain leadership roles in STEM education, which amplifies the value of the fellowship.

Einstein fellows who return to their classrooms and communities bring a wealth of new skills, knowledge, and an enhanced perspective for how their teaching fits into the larger picture of our country's education policy. These teachers renew their efforts to inspire their students and encourage them to pursue STEM pathways. Einstein fellows have also gone on to teach and mentor teachers in university programs, coordinate statewide efforts on STEM curriculum initiatives, and continue serving in the administration and in Congress.

Congressman HONDA, who is not here today, wanted me to express his strong support for the Einstein fellowship program, but he is feeling under the weather and can't be here. So I will submit a statement by Congressman HONDA in support of the resolution into the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, once again I express my support for the 20th anniversary of the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program. I want to thank Representative HONDA for bringing this resolution to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to pass the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution, H. Res. 1322, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program, recognizing the significant contributions made by Albert Einstein fellows.

The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program offers current public or private elementary and secondary mathematics, technology and science classroom teachers who have demonstrated excellence in teaching an opportunity to serve in the national public policy arena.

□ 1430

Einstein fellows are selected, through a competitive selection process, to spend a school year in a congressional office or in one of a number of Federal executive branch departments. Einstein fellows provide policymakers and Federal agencies with a real-world perspective. Their invaluable contributions help to provide practical insight and a unique knowledge base in the formulation, application, and implementation of Federal policy. Some of the contributions of Einstein fellows include creating Web-based science education programs and establishing and evaluating national and regional programs on school reform and teacher preparation.

As educators who are working to provide the Nation's students with a high-

quality education, Einstein fellows enrich students' educations in a twofold manner: by educating them in the classrooms and by guiding the policy that will direct their educations in the future.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1322, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Program and recognizing the significant contributions of Albert Einstein Fellows.

For 20 years, Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellows have worked in the Senate and House, and Federal agencies, drafting legislation and creating innovative educational programs and interventions. Einstein Fellows are selected through a highly competitive process from among the best science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teachers in the field, and represent diverse geographic regions, backgrounds and communities.

Over 190 Einstein Fellows have played a critical role in helping to advance the fields of education, science, technology, engineering, mathematics in the United States by applying their classroom experience to shape public policy. Their deep understanding of both science and pedagogy has provided practical insights and "real world" perspectives to policy makers and program administrators.

Teachers who are chosen to be Albert Einstein Fellows demonstrate exceptional expertise in teaching in elementary or secondary schools and have an interest and willingness to be involved in public policy. Many are recognized for excellence through the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics or Science Teaching and other prestigious awards. These dedicated teachers interrupt their careers and leave their homes and classrooms behind to spend a school year in a Congressional Office, the Department of Education, the Department of Energy, NASA, NIH, NIST, NOAA, NSF, OSTP, applying their classroom experience to shape public policy while expanding their valuable skills.

The Einstein Fellows, during their service and later upon the continuation of their professional careers, serve as role models and example of dedication and commitment for past, current and future generations of educators and public servants:

I have had the benefit of having Einstein Fellows in my office for the past four years and I can personally attest to the tremendous contributions they have made to science education throughout the nation. For example, Luke Laurie, a middle school science teacher from California, worked on Global Warming Education legislation and an effort to congratulate Vice President Al Gore on his Nobel Prize; Ed Potosnak, a secondary school science teacher from New Jersey, who developed the Enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Act and the Educational Opportunity and Equity Commission Act; and Eduardo Guevara, a secondary school science teacher from Texas, who is working on the One America, Many Voices Act, which would appropriately compensate Federal workers with multilingual skills, on legislation to establish prizes for educational technology innovation, and on equity in educational opportunities for Bilingual Learners (ELLS).

President Obama himself experienced the benefits of having an Einstein Fellow in his office when he was a freshman Senator.

In conjunction with the 20th Anniversary of the program, on June 28th and 29th the Einstein Fellowship Summit will be held here in Washington, where former and current fellows will address issues related to STEM education. Members have been invited to the Congressional reception to be held at the Rayburn Gold Room, and I encourage my colleagues to attend that event to meet current and former fellows and celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and the Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program.

Mr. PETRI. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1322.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

WORK-LIFE BALANCE AWARD ACT

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4855) to establish the Work-Life Balance Award for employers that have developed and implemented work-life balance policies, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4855

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Work-Life Balance Award Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) EMPLOYER.—The term "employer"—

(A) means any person (as defined in section 3(a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 202(a))) engaged in commerce or in any industry or activity affecting commerce; and

(B) includes any agency of a State, or political subdivision thereof.

The term does not include the Government of the United States or any agency thereof.

(2) WORK-LIFE BALANCE POLICY.—The term "work-life balance policy" means a workplace practice which supports the ability of employees to balance their work and family lives.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Labor.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF AWARD.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established in the Department of Labor an annual award to be known as the Work-Life Balance Award (hereinafter referred to as the “Award”) for employers that have developed and implemented work-life balance policies.

(b) **PLAQUE.**—The Award shall be evidenced by a plaque bearing the title “Work-Life Balance Award”.

(c) APPLICATION.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An employer desiring consideration for an Award shall submit an application to the Work-Life Balance Advisory Board established under section 4, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as such Board may require.

(2) **REAPPLICATION.**—An employer may reapply for an Award, regardless of whether the employer has been a previous recipient of such Award.

(d) **DISPLAY ON WEB SITE.**—The Secretary shall make publically available on its Web site the names of each recipient of the Award.

(e) **PRESENTATION OF AWARD.**—After receiving recommendations from the Board established under section 4, the Secretary (or the Secretary’s designee) shall present annually the Award to employers that meet the criteria developed under section 4(b)(1).

(f) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Secretary shall submit annually to Congress and the public a report describing the type of work-life balance policies being offered to and utilized by employees, as evidenced by data collected through the award process.

SEC. 4. WORK-LIFE BALANCE ADVISORY BOARD.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established within the Department of Labor a Work-Life Balance Advisory Board (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”).

(b) DUTIES.—The Board shall—

(1) subject to the approval by the Secretary, not later than 180 days after the initial meeting described under subsection (f)(1)(B), develop criteria to determine recipients of the Award. In developing such criteria, such Board may—

(A) consider those work-life balance policies which—

(i) provide employees access to a variety of flexible work arrangements and other work-life balance policies of the employer, regardless of wage levels, job positions, or number of hours worked;

(ii) ensure that employees can avail themselves of such policies without risk of being penalized or losing opportunities for advancement; and

(iii) allow employees to exercise these policies with regard to a broad range of family members;

(B) evaluate other factors affecting the quality of the workplace, including other benefits and policies for employees of the employer, and the compliance with State and Federal labor and safety and health laws; and

(C) seek input from all interested parties, including input from stakeholders;

(2) develop a process for receiving and processing applications;

(3) recommend recipients of the Award from among those applications submitted to the Board in accordance with section 3(c);

(4) present to the Secretary the names of the employers that the Board recommends as recipients of the Award in accordance with the criteria developed under paragraph (1); and

(5) set an annual timetable for fulfilling the duties described under this subsection.

(c) **REVISIONS.**—The Board, subject to the approval of the Secretary, may make revisions, as appropriate, to the criteria developed under subsection (b)(1) from time to time.

(d) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) **NUMBERS AND APPOINTMENT.**—Subject to paragraphs (2) through (5), the Board shall be composed of 9 members appointed by the Secretary as follows:

(A) 1 member, who shall serve as Chairperson of the Board, representing the public.

(B) 1 member representing a State or local government.

(C) 1 member representing a nonprofit employer.

(D) 2 members representing private industry or industry organizations.

(E) 2 members representing labor organizations.

(F) 2 members representing families and children.

(2) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—In appointing any member of the Board under paragraph (1) who is not the chairperson of such Board, the Speaker and the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate, each shall submit to the Secretary recommendations with the names of proposed members of the Board, and from such submissions the Secretary shall appoint the members of the Board in accordance with such paragraph.

(3) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary may not appoint any Member of Congress to the Board.

(4) **POLITICAL AFFILIATION.**—Not more than 4 members of the Board appointed under paragraph (1) may be of the same political party.

(5) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—Members of the Board shall be individuals with knowledge of and experience with work-life balance policies.

(e) TERMS.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided under paragraphs (2) and (3), each member of the Board shall be appointed for 2 years and may be reappointed for one additional term.

(2) **TERMS OF INITIAL APPOINTEES.**—As designated by the Secretary at the time of appointment, of the members of the Board first appointed, 4 shall each be appointed for a 2-year term and the remainder shall each be appointed for a 3-year term.

(3) **VACANCIES.**—Any member of the Board appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member’s predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term. A member may serve after the expiration of that member’s term until a successor has taken office.

(f) OPERATIONS.—**(1) MEETINGS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except for the initial meeting of the Board under subparagraph (B), the Board shall meet at the call of the Chairperson or a majority of its members.

(B) **INITIAL MEETING.**—The Board shall conduct its first meeting not later than 90 days after the appointment of all of its members.

(2) **VOTING AND RULES.**—A majority of members of the Board shall constitute a quorum to conduct business. The Board may establish by majority vote any other rules for the conduct of the business of the Board, if such rules are not inconsistent with this section or other applicable law.

SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.

The Secretary may prescribe regulations to carry out the purposes of this Act.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. **WOOLSEY**) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. **PETRI**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. **WOOLSEY**. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which

Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H.R. 4855, as amended, into the RECORD.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. **WOOLSEY**. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the passage of H.R. 4855, as amended, the Work-Life Balance Award Act, a bill introduced with Chairman **MILLER**.

I thank Chairman **MILLER** for his hard work in bringing this legislation forward.

I also want to thank my Republican colleagues—Ranking Member **KLINE** and Representative **CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**, who is the ranking member of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee—for their support and for their hard work.

H.R. 4855, as amended, establishes an award at the Department of Labor to be presented annually to employers of any size which have exemplary work-life policies. The bill also sets up an independent board, appointed by the Secretary of Labor, based on recommendations from Congress, to develop the application process and to establish criteria for evaluating the work-life balance policies of applicants. The board is also charged with providing awardee recommendations to the Secretary. The board will consist of representatives from children and families’ groups, from State and local governments, from business or business organizations, and from labor.

The Workforce Protections Subcommittee held a hearing on the introduced bill in April. Our witnesses testified that the bill could be improved by establishing broad guidelines for the board to consider in establishing its criteria.

As a result, H.R. 4855, as amended, provides, in determining the criteria, that the board may consider those work-life policies which provide access to employees regardless of wage level, job position, or the number of hours worked; two, which ensure that workers can use the policies without risk of penalty; three, which allow workers to exercise the policy with regard to a broad range of family members. In addition, the board may also evaluate other factors affecting the quality of the workplace, including employee benefits and compliance with labor and health and safety laws.

Finally, the bill requires the Secretary to collect data from the application process. This data is important because it will tell us not only what policies are being offered but also what policies are actually being utilized by workers and employers.

Working Mother Magazine and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Mr. Speaker, also give out awards to companies with outstanding work-life balance policies. They are great programs, and this award is not intended to supplant these or other awards but to

complement ongoing efforts. Creating an award at the U.S. Department of Labor is important for a number of reasons.

□ 1445

Outside of the Family and Medical Leave Act, which provides unpaid leave for qualifying employees, there is no national policy to support work-life balance. This award will send a strong message that the Federal Government supports and encourages work-life balance.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4855, the Work-Life Balance Award Act, establishes an annual award within the Department of Labor to recognize employers with exemplary work-life balance policies. This bill represents a bipartisan effort to highlight the positive policies currently being used by employers to help their employees meet the competing demands of family and work. H.R. 4855 would highlight best practices by employers and encourage innovation in the adoption of work-life balance policies, which we hope will encourage other companies to adopt similar programs.

It's important to note that the bill does not create any mandates or new requirements. Many employers accommodate employee requests for greater workplace flexibility without the use of government mandates, which can increase the cost of employment and stifle creative arrangements. If employers want to pursue this award, they will do so voluntarily and with no penalty if they choose not to do so, nor will this award confer any specific government procurement or tax advantage on the recipients. The only advantage will be related to the employer being able to market themselves as winning this award and providing these types of flexibility in their workplaces.

It's appropriate that the bill sets out a process by which the criteria for receiving this award will be determined. For us in Congress to claim that we know best about what constitutes appropriate flexibility in the workplace and to lock that in so that it could not be changed without another act of Congress would be, frankly, presumptuous and ensure that this award would lose its relevancy over time as new concepts of flexibility emerge and employers respond to employee needs in new ways.

This award would complement similar private-sector awards and showcase public and private organizations that maintain and utilize policies to help their employees to find ways to maintain productivity, while providing workplace flexibility. The award program would be housed at the U.S. Department of Labor, and funding for the program would come out of existing funds at the Labor Department.

I'd like to thank the sponsors of the bill, particularly the main sponsor,

Congresswoman WOOLSEY, for working to craft this bill in a bipartisan manner and for maintaining an open dialogue with interested parties throughout this process.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I would like to commend Congresswoman WOOLSEY for her leadership on the work-life balance issues in her capacity as Chair of the Workforce Protection Subcommittee. Her commitment on these important issues is a great asset to the Education and Labor Committee in this Congress. I am pleased to serve with her and support her legislation before us today to recognize family-friendly workplaces. The Work-Life Balance Act will recognize employers of any size for their exemplary work-life balance policies. Not only will the award set a standard for best practices, it will shine a much-needed light on the concerns of working families.

Over the past 40 years, America's working families have changed dramatically. While once a single breadwinner could support a middle-class family, today that situation appears to be a relic of the past. Women now make up half of the workforce and share a greater responsibility for financially supporting the family. While women now are full partners in providing for families, many remain the primary caregiver for their children and other family members. Balancing the career and family responsibilities can seem impossible at times. But in today's economy, achieving balance is necessary.

Women are not doing this alone. Increasingly, men are becoming more involved with child care and elder care responsibilities. Good employers recognize this and understand the importance of providing flexibility to their employees. They have rightly revamped family leave policies to attract and retain best workers. Employers understand that family-friendly policies not only help workers balance work and family, but also improve employers' bottom line. These policies increase retention rates, decrease absenteeism, improve productivity and morale.

What's good for the modern family is good for business. Businesses that are doing the right things to promote a better work-life balance should be recognized. It goes to the heart of our Nation's competitiveness and how we value our Nation's families.

Parents should never have to choose between their paycheck and taking a day off because their child needs to see a doctor. This is precisely why I am a strong supporter of the bill before us

today, the Work-Life Balance Award Act. This award will serve as a benchmark for companies who wish to improve their current policies so that they can be more accommodating to the needs of their workers. It will also give prospective employees a leg up when they're looking for family-friendly workplaces to go to work.

The proof will be in the results. When employers choose to implement pro-family policies, they reap the benefits of a healthier, more productive workforce. I urge my fellow colleagues to vote "yes" with me today on this important and necessary bill. Thank you very much, again, to the author of this legislation, Congresswoman WOOLSEY.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, many years ago, when my children were not parents themselves, I was working full time outside of the home, with four children. It was a struggle to meet both the needs of my family as well as the responsibilities of my job. And as the human resources manager of a startup electronics company about 30 years ago, I was aware that many of my employees were going through the very same struggles that I was. Unfortunately, some 30 years later, nearly every single parent is under these pressures—men as well as women. And they are desperate for work-life balance.

One of the main reasons I ran for Congress over 18 years ago was to fight for working families. I was a new Member when we passed the Family and Medical Leave Act, and I knew what an important step we were taking, particularly for working women, to provide job-protected family and medical leave for certain workers, even though it was unpaid.

But the benefits provided by FMLA are not sufficient. While more than 100 million leaves have been taken under the Family and Medical Leave Act, nearly two in three workers are not covered by the Act. And even if they are, most can't take advantage of its provisions because they simply cannot afford to take unpaid leave.

Sadly, the United States lags far behind the rest of the world in providing work-life benefits to their employees. It is unacceptable that our country, which is the number one economy in the world, can barely compete with developing nations in this arena. Workers should not have to choose between work and family, and ultimately we in Congress need to do much more.

However, the effort for work-life balance must be waged on all fronts, and currently, many in the business world are leading the way. These companies know that providing work-life benefits increases retention, decreases absenteeism, and increases productivity and loyalty.

The award created by H.R. 4855, as amended, will recognize these employers for their efforts and create an incentive for others. It will also set

standards for best practices and shine a light on the needs of working families.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we will vote for the second step after the Family and Medical Leave Act that this Congress will take to support working Americans, men and women, and help them balance the challenges they meet in doing a good job for their families and a good job for their employer, because it must be possible. And we can help make that happen.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4855, the Work-Life Balance Award Act." Thank you to my colleagues: Congresswoman WOOLSEY and Congressman MILLER for introducing this important legislation that establishes, in the Department of Labor, an annual Work-Life Balance Award for employers that have developed and implemented work-life balance policies.

We are all aware of the benefits of holding a job, but too little attention has been paid to the dangers associated with stressful working conditions. Long hours have a significantly negative impact on life satisfaction and time-related stress, which in turn have a negative effect on wellbeing.

Non-standard work hours, and stressful workplace environments cause health problems, higher levels of stress, psychological distress, greater relationship conflicts for dual-income couples, less time spent with children and lower life satisfaction.

A peer-reviewed study of 10,000 Londoners tracked since 1985, published in the European Heart Journal, found that rates of angina, nonfatal heart attacks and death from heart-related conditions were 60 percent higher in people who worked at least three hours beyond "the normal, seven-hour day" compared with those who didn't work that amount of overtime. The study notes that overtime work "has increased in recent years" and that the U.S. is one of the countries that is well above average in percentage of people working overtime.

A Canadian study found that "people experiencing time pressure have lower levels of satisfaction, higher levels of stress, lower self-reported physical and emotional wellbeing, and greater insomnia. Work-life conflicts can lead to higher levels of anxiety and depression; sleep disturbances and a host of other ailments."

The World Health Organization (WHO) highlights recent research in the domain of occupational health psychology shows that many stressful experiences are linked to being offended—for instance, by being offended or ridiculed, by social exclusion, by social conflict, by illegitimate tasks. According to the WHO, "Such experiences of being treated in an unfair manner constitute an 'Offence to Self,' and this may have quite far reaching consequences in terms of health and wellbeing."

In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is greatly concerned with the health effects of workplace stress. According to the CDC, "evidence is rapidly accumulating to suggest that stress plays an important role in several types of chronic health problems—especially cardiovascular disease, musculoskeletal disorders, and psychological disorders."

Mr. Speaker, although some employers create unhealthy work environments, other em-

ployers now recognize that staff who feel able to balance the demands of work and home are more engaged, productive and motivated. These trendsetters deserve to be recognized for their compassion and leadership. This is why I support the Work-Life Balance Award Act.

Research has identified organizational characteristics associated with both healthy, low-stress work and high levels of productivity. According to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), examples of these characteristics include: recognition of employees for good work performance, opportunities for career development, an organizational culture that values the individual worker, and management actions that are consistent with organizational values.

Mr. Speaker, widespread workplace stress is costly to our citizens and our nation. Stressful work environments ruin lives and are costly to our healthcare system. It is often said that prevention is the best medicine; establishing a balance between work and life is a vital disease prevention measure.

Once again, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume. I rise in support for H.R. 4855, the Work-Life Balance Award Act, a bill that would establish an annual award in the Department of Labor recognizing the efforts of employers to implement exemplary work-life balance policies in the work place.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairwoman for her ongoing efforts in this area.

It's clear that the biggest concern for workers in this struggling economy is job security. And without a doubt, work-life balance issues play into these concerns—particularly as the needs of families are changing.

I know firsthand, being a wife and the mom of a three year old, that one of the biggest struggles working parents face is how to balance work and family responsibilities. Employees need flexibility to get their jobs done while still making the school play, staying home with a sick child, or supporting an aging parent.

At the same time, employers are finding that they have to meet these needs in innovative ways in order to remain productive and profitable.

The good news is that employers are rising to the challenge—recognizing that flexible work policies are effective and necessary. The bill that we are considering today will highlight those employers who are already creatively meeting the needs of their workers.

In addition, it is my hope that this award will continue the national discussion that has been started on the benefits of flexible work arrangements and will encourage more employers to invest in them.

Again, I would like to thank the Chairwoman for her efforts on this important area and urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4855, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Suspending the rules with regard to House Resolution 1383;

Adopting House Resolution 1436; and
Suspending the rules with regard to H.R. 4855.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

HONORING DR. LARRY CASE ON HIS RETIREMENT AS NATIONAL FFA ADVISOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1383) honoring Dr. Larry Case on his retirement as National FFA Advisor, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BRIGHT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 0, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 358]

YEAS—409

Ackerman	Bono Mack	Chandler
Aderholt	Boozman	Childers
Adler (NJ)	Boren	Chu
Akin	Boswell	Clarke
Alexander	Boucher	Clay
Altmire	Boustany	Cleaver
Andrews	Boyd	Clyburn
Arcuri	Brady (PA)	Coble
Austria	Brady (TX)	Coffman (CO)
Baca	Braley (IA)	Cohen
Bachmann	Bright	Cole
Bachus	Broun (GA)	Conaway
Baird	Buchanan	Connolly (VA)
Baldwin	Burgess	Conyers
Barrow	Burton (IN)	Cooper
Bartlett	Butterfield	Costa
Barton (TX)	Calvert	Costello
Bean	Camp	Courtney
Becerra	Campbell	Crenshaw
Berkley	Cao	Critz
Berry	Capito	Crowley
Biggert	Capps	Cuellar
Bilbray	Capuano	Culberson
Bishop (GA)	Cardoza	Cummings
Bishop (NY)	Carnahan	Dahlkemper
Bishop (UT)	Carney	Davis (AL)
Blackburn	Carson (IN)	Davis (CA)
Blumenauer	Carter	Davis (KY)
Blunt	Cassidy	Davis (TN)
Bocchieri	Castle	DeFazio
Boehner	Castor (FL)	DeGette
Bonner	Chaffetz	Delahunt

DeLauro Kirk Peterson
 Dent Kirkpatrick (AZ) Petri
 Diaz-Balart, L. Kissell Pingree (ME)
 Diaz-Balart, M. Klein (FL) Pitts
 Dicks Kline (MN) Platts
 Dingell Kosmas Poe (TX)
 Djou Kratovil Polis (CO)
 Doggett Kucinich Pomeroy
 Donnelly (IN) Lamborn Posey
 Doyle Lance Price (GA)
 Dreier Langevin Price (NC)
 Driehaus Larsen (WA) Putnam
 Duncan Larson (CT) Quigley
 Edwards (MD) Latham Radanovich
 Edwards (TX) LaTourrette Rahall
 Ehlers Latta Rangel
 Ellsworth Lee (CA) Rehberg
 Emerson Lee (NY) Reichert
 Engel Levin Reyes
 Eshoo Lewis (CA) Richardson
 Etheridge Lewis (GA) Rodriguez
 Farr Linder Roe (TN)
 Fattah Lipinski Rogers (AL)
 Filner LoBiondo Rogers (KY)
 Flake Loeb sack Rogers (MI)
 Fleming Lofgren, Zoe Rohrabacher
 Forbes Lowey Rooney
 Fortenberry Lucas Ros-Lehtinen
 Foster Luetkemeyer Roskam
 Foxx Luján Ross
 Frank (MA) Lummis Rothman (NJ)
 Franks (AZ) Lungren, Daniel Roybal-Allard
 Frelinghuysen E. Royce
 Fudge Mack Ruppersberger
 Gallegly Maffei Rush
 Garamendi Maloney Ryan (OH)
 Garrett (NJ) Manzullo Ryan (WI)
 Gerlach Marchant Salazar
 Giffords Markey (CO) Sánchez, Linda
 Gingrey (GA) Markey (MA) T.
 Gonzalez Marshall Sanchez, Loretta
 Goodlatte Sarbanes Sanchez
 Gordon (TN) Matsui Scalise
 Graner McCarthy (CA) Schakowsky
 Graves (GA) McCarthy (NY) Schauer
 Graves (MO) McCaul Schiff
 Grayson McClintock Schmidt
 Green, Al McCollum Schock
 Green, Gene McCotter Schrader
 Griffith McDermott Schwartz
 Grijalva McGovern Scott (GA)
 Guthrie McHenry Scott (VA)
 Gutierrez McIntyre Sensenbrenner
 Hall (NY) McKeon Serrano
 Hall (TX) McMahan Sessions
 Halvorson McMorris Sestak
 Hare Rodgers Shadegg
 Harman McNeerney Shea-Porter
 Harper Meek (FL) Sherman
 Hastings (FL) Meeks (NY) Shimkus
 Hastings (WA) Melancon Shuler
 Heinrich Mica Shuster
 Heller Michaud Simpson
 Hensarling Miller (MI) Sires
 Herger Miller (NC) Skelton
 Herseht Sandlin Miller, Gary Slaughter
 Higgins Miller, George Smith (NE)
 Hill Minnick Smith (NJ)
 Himes Mitchell Smith (TX)
 Hinchey Mollohan Smith (WA)
 Hinojosa Moore (KS) Snyder
 Hiron Moore (WI) Space
 Holden Moran (KS) Speier
 Holt Moran (VA) Spratt
 Hoyer Murphy (CT) Stark
 Inslee Murphy (NY) Stearns
 Israel Murphy, Patrick Stupak
 Issa Murphy, Tim Sullivan
 Jackson (IL) Nadler (NY) Sutton
 Jackson Lee Napolitano Tanner
 (TX) Neal (MA) Taylor
 Jenkins Neugebauer Teague
 Johnson (GA) Nunes Terry
 Johnson (IL) Nye Thompson (CA)
 Johnson, E. B. Oberstar Thompson (MS)
 Johnson, Sam Obey Thompson (PA)
 Jones Olson Thornberry
 Jordan (OH) Oliver Tiahrt
 Kagen Ortiz Tiberi
 Kanjorski Owens Tierney
 Kaptur Pascrell Titus
 Kennedy Pastor (AZ) Tonko
 Kildee Paul Towns
 Kilpatrick (MI) Paulsen Tsongas
 Kilroy Payne Turner
 Kind Pence Upton
 King (IA) Perlmutter Van Hollen
 King (NY) Perriello Velázquez
 Kingston Peters Visclosky

Walden Waxman Wittman
 Walz Weiner Wolf
 Wasserman Welch Woolsey
 Schultz Westmoreland Wu
 Waters Whitfield Yarmuth
 Watson Wilson (OH) Young (AK)
 Watt Wilson (SC) Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—23

Barrett (SC) Cantor Honda
 Berman Davis (IL) Hunter
 Bilirakis Deutch Inglis
 Brown (SC) Ellison Lynch
 Brown, Corrine Fallin Miller (FL)
 Brown-Waite Gohmert Myrick
 Ginny Hodes Pallone
 Buyer Hoekstra Wamp

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1523

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 358 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE FRANK EVANS OF COLORADO

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

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire Colorado delegation, I request a moment of silence today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant from the State of Colorado.

Former Congressman Frank Evans passed away on Tuesday, June 8, 2010. Colorado and the city of the Pueblo have lost a tremendously respected leader.

Congressman Evans led a remarkable life. A Pueblo native, Congressman Evans served in the Navy, flying planes in the Pacific theater of World War II. He returned to Colorado to get his law degree from the University of Denver, before being elected to represent Pueblo in the State Assembly in 1960. Named "Outstanding Freshman of the Year," his colleagues and constituents alike were inspired by his dedication to public service.

The tremendous impact his leadership has had on our district can still be felt to this day. Congressman Evans was responsible for bringing in the Government Printing Office Distribution Center to Pueblo, and he was the mastermind behind the popular Payment in Lieu of Taxes program that has brought Federal dollars for Federal lands to States like ours.

When serving in Congress, Congressman Evans was a fervent advocate for the people and western way of life in the Third District of Colorado. Never losing sight of issues important to Coloradans, he was also a true gentleman.

In the often contentious atmosphere of today's politics, Congressman Evans was an example to those of us who strive to serve the public. His close friend said of him: That was Frank, always a gentleman. He wanted the facts. He wouldn't go after somebody just for partisan reasons.

Congressman Evans never forgot where he came from and he lived to serve others so that they could have a brighter future. I am proud to serve in his former seat, and grateful for his legacy.

Our condolences go out to his family during this difficult time. He will be missed, but his memory will live on through all the lives he touched in western Colorado.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will rise and observe a moment of silence.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5486, SMALL BUSINESS JOBS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2010; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5297, SMALL BUSINESS LENDING FUND ACT OF 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on adoption of House Resolution 1436, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 228, nays 186, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 359]
 YEAS—228

Ackerman	Cohen	Fudge
Adler (NJ)	Connolly (VA)	Garamendi
Altmire	Conyers	Gonzalez
Andrews	Cooper	Gordon (TN)
Arcuri	Costello	Grayson
Baca	Courtney	Green, Al
Baird	Critz	Green, Gene
Baldwin	Crowley	Grijalva
Barrow	Cuellar	Gutierrez
Becerra	Cummings	Hall (NY)
Berkley	Davis (AL)	Hare
Berman	Davis (CA)	Harman
Berry	Davis (TN)	Hastings (FL)
Bishop (GA)	DeFazio	Heinrich
Bishop (NY)	DeGette	Higgins
Blumenauer	Delahunt	Himes
Bocchieri	DeLauro	Hinchey
Boren	Dicks	Hinojosa
Boswell	Dingell	Hirono
Boucher	Doggett	Holden
Brady (PA)	Donnelly (IN)	Holt
Braley (IA)	Doyle	Hoyer
Butterfield	Driehaus	Inslee
Capps	Edwards (MD)	Israel
Capuano	Edwards (TX)	Jackson (IL)
Carnahan	Ellison	Jackson Lee
Carney	Ellsworth	(TX)
Carson (IN)	Engel	Johnson (GA)
Castor (FL)	Eshoo	Johnson, E. B.
Chandler	Etheridge	Kagen
Chu	Farr	Kanjorski
Clarke	Fattah	Kaptur
Clay	Filner	Kennedy
Cleaver	Foster	Kildee
Clyburn	Frank (MA)	Kilpatrick (MI)

Kilroy
Kind
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McMahon
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Minnick
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)

Murphy, Patrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nye
Oberstar
Oliver
Ortiz
Owens
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutt er
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schrader

NAYS—186

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Biggert
Billray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cao
Capito
Cardoza
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Chaffetz
Childers
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Costa
Crenshaw
Culberson
Dahlkemper
Davis (KY)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Djou
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson

Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallely
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herse th Sandlin
Hill
Hunter
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kline (MN)
Kratovil
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.

Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
Melancon
Mica
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mitchell
Moran (KS)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Tim
Neugebauer
Olson
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rehberg
Reichert
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schmidt
Schock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster

Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—18

Barrett (SC)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buyer
Cantor
Davis (IL)
Deutch
Fallin
Gohmert
Hodes
Hoekstra
Honda
Inglis
Miller (FL)
Myrick
Pallone
Wamp

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining in this vote.

□ 1536

Mr. McINTYRE changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WORK-LIFE BALANCE AWARD ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4855) to establish the Work-Life Balance Award for employers that have developed and implemented work-life balance policies, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 249, nays 163, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 360]

YEAS—249

Ackerman
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Boyd
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bocchieri
Bono Mack
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (IA)
Bright
Buchanan
Butterfield
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cassidy
Castle
Chandler
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleave r
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Dicks
Dingell
Djou
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Ellsworth
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallely
Garamendi
Giffords
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Herse th Sandlin
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Holden

Holt
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lummis
Lynch
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McMahon
McHenry
McMahon

McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutt er
Perriello
Peters
Pingree (ME)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.

Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schrader
Schauber
Schnitzler
Schroeder
Schultz
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NAYS—163

Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Arcuri
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Billray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Boozman
Boren
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cardoza
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Chaffetz
Childers
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Costa
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson

Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
McCaul
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hill
Himes
Hunter
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson, Sam
Jordan (OH)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack

Maffei
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McIntyre
McKeon
Melancon
Mica
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Neugebauer
Olson
Owens
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rehberg
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schmidt
Schock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions

Shadegg	Sullivan	Upton
Shinkus	Tanner	Walden
Shuler	Taylor	Westmoreland
Shuster	Terry	Whitfield
Simpson	Thompson (PA)	Wilson (SC)
Smith (NE)	Thornberry	Wittman
Smith (NJ)	Tiahrt	Wolf
Smith (TX)	Tiberi	Young (FL)
Stearns	Turner	

NOT VOTING—20

Barrett (SC)	Castor (FL)	Honda
Brown (SC)	Davis (IL)	Inglis
Brown, Corrine	Deutch	Miller (FL)
Brown-Waite,	Fallin	Myrick
Ginny	Gohmert	Pallone
Buyer	Hodes	Rahall
Cantor	Hoekstra	Wamp

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members have 1 minute remaining.

□ 1544

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

□ 1545

SMALL BUSINESS JOBS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2010

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to H. Res. 1436, I call up the bill (H.R. 5486) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1436, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5486

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE V—TAX PROVISIONS

SEC. 500. SHORT TITLE; ETC.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This title may be cited as the “Small Business Jobs Tax Relief Act of 2010”.

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this title is as follows:

Sec. 500. Short title; etc.

 Subtitle A—Small Business Tax Incentives

 PART 1—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 501. Temporary exclusion of 100 percent of gain on certain small business stock.

 PART 2—LIMITATIONS AND REPORTING ON CERTAIN PENALTIES

Sec. 511. Limitation on penalty for failure to disclose certain information.

Sec. 512. Annual reports on penalties and certain other enforcement actions.

 PART 3—OTHER PROVISIONS

Sec. 521. Increase in amount allowed as deduction for start-up expenditures.

Sec. 522. Nonrecourse small business investment company loans from the Small Business Administration treated as amounts at risk.

Sec. 523. Benefits under the Small Business Borrower Assistance Program excluded from gross income.

 Subtitle B—Revenue Provisions

Sec. 531. Required minimum 10-year term, etc., for grantor retained annuity trusts.

Sec. 532. Crude tall oil ineligible for cellulosic biofuel producer credit.

Sec. 533. Time for payment of corporate estimated taxes.

Subtitle A—Small Business Tax Incentives

PART 1—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. TEMPORARY EXCLUSION OF 100 PERCENT OF GAIN ON CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS STOCK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 1202 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) SPECIAL 100 PERCENT EXCLUSION.—In the case of qualified small business stock acquired after March 15, 2010, and before January 1, 2012—

“(A) paragraph (1) shall be applied by substituting ‘100 percent’ for ‘50 percent’,

“(B) paragraph (2) shall not apply, and

“(C) paragraph (7) of section 57(a) shall not apply.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Paragraph (3) of section 1202(a) is amended—

(1) by striking “after the date of the enactment of this paragraph and before January 1, 2011” and inserting “after February 17, 2009, and before March 16, 2010”; and

(2) by striking “SPECIAL RULES FOR 2009 AND 2010” in the heading and inserting “SPECIAL 75 PERCENT EXCLUSION”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to stock acquired after March 15, 2010.

PART 2—LIMITATIONS AND REPORTING ON CERTAIN PENALTIES

SEC. 511. LIMITATION ON PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO DISCLOSE CERTAIN INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 6707A is amended to read as follows:

“(b) AMOUNT OF PENALTY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the amount of the penalty under subsection (a) with respect to any reportable transaction shall be 75 percent of the decrease in tax shown on the return as a result of such transaction (or which would have resulted from such transaction if such transaction were respected for Federal tax purposes).

“(2) MAXIMUM PENALTY.—The amount of the penalty under subsection (a) with respect to any reportable transaction for any taxable year shall not exceed—

“(A) in the case of a listed transaction, \$200,000 (\$100,000 in the case of a natural person), or

“(B) in the case of any other reportable transaction, \$50,000 (\$10,000 in the case of a natural person).

“(3) MINIMUM PENALTY.—The amount of the penalty under subsection (a) with respect to any transaction for any taxable year shall not be less than \$10,000 (\$5,000 in the case of a natural person).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to penalties assessed after December 31, 2006.

SEC. 512. ANNUAL REPORTS ON PENALTIES AND CERTAIN OTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of Internal Revenue, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate an annual report on the penalties assessed by the Internal Revenue Service during the preceding year

under each of the following provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986:

(1) Section 6662A (relating to accuracy-related penalty on understatements with respect to reportable transactions).

(2) Section 6700(a) (relating to promoting abusive tax shelters).

(3) Section 6707 (relating to failure to furnish information regarding reportable transactions).

(4) Section 6707A (relating to failure to include reportable transaction information with return).

(5) Section 6708 (relating to failure to maintain lists of advisees with respect to reportable transactions).

(b) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The report required under subsection (a) shall also include information on the following with respect to each year:

(1) Any action taken under section 330(b) of title 31, United States Code, with respect to any reportable transaction (as defined in section 6707A(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

(2) Any extension of the time for assessment of tax enforced, or assessment of any amount under such an extension, under paragraph (10) of section 6501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) DATE OF REPORT.—The first report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted not later than December 31, 2010.

PART 3—OTHER PROVISIONS

SEC. 521. INCREASE IN AMOUNT ALLOWED AS DEDUCTION FOR START-UP EXPENDITURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 195 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) INCREASED LIMITATION FOR TAXABLE YEARS BEGINNING IN 2010 OR 2011.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in 2010 or 2011, paragraph (1)(A)(ii) shall be applied—

“(A) by substituting ‘\$20,000’ for ‘\$5,000’, and

“(B) by substituting ‘\$75,000’ for ‘\$50,000’.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2009.

SEC. 522. NONRECOURSE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANY LOANS FROM THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION TREATED AS AMOUNTS AT RISK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) of section 465(b)(6) is amended to read as follows:

“(B) QUALIFIED NONRECOURSE FINANCING.—For purposes of this paragraph—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified nonrecourse financing’ means any financing—

“(I) which is qualified real property financing or qualified SBIC financing,

“(II) except to the extent provided in regulations, with respect to which no person is personally liable for repayment, and

“(III) which is not convertible debt.

“(ii) QUALIFIED REAL PROPERTY FINANCING.—The term ‘qualified real property financing’ means any financing which—

“(I) is borrowed by the taxpayer with respect to the activity of holding real property,

“(II) is secured by real property used in such activity, and

“(III) is borrowed by the taxpayer from a qualified person or represents a loan from any Federal, State, or local government or instrumentality thereof, or is guaranteed by any Federal, State, or local government.

“(iii) QUALIFIED SBIC FINANCING.—The term ‘qualified SBIC financing’ means any financing which—

“(I) is borrowed by a small business investment company (within the meaning of section 301 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958), and

“(II) is borrowed from, or guaranteed by, the Small Business Administration under the authority of section 303(b) of such Act.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subparagraph (A) of section 465(b)(6) is amended—

(1) by striking “in the case of an activity of holding real property,”; and

(2) by striking “which is secured by real property used in such activity”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to loans and guarantees made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 523. BENEFITS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS BORROWER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EXCLUDED FROM GROSS INCOME.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 139F. BENEFITS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS BORROWER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Gross income shall not include any amount paid on behalf of a borrower by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration under the Small Business Borrower Assistance program established under section 402 of the Small Business Assistance Fund Act of 2010 (as in effect immediately after the date of the enactment of such Act).

“(b) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, with respect to the person for whose benefit a payment described in subsection (a) is made—

“(1) INTEREST.—No deduction shall be allowed for interest to the extent the liability for such interest is covered by such payment.

“(2) PAYMENTS OF PRINCIPAL.—If any payment is applied to reduce the principal of the loan to which such payment relates—

“(A) ALLOCATION AMONG FINANCED EXPENDITURES.—Such payment shall be allocated pro rata among the expenditures financed with such loan.

“(B) CREDITS AND DEDUCTIBLE EXPENSES.—No deduction or credit shall be allowed for, or by reason of, any such expenditure to the extent of the amount of the payment allocated to such expenditure under subparagraph (A).

“(C) ADJUSTMENT OF BASIS.—The adjusted basis of any property acquired with such expenditure shall be reduced to the extent of the amount of the payment allocated to such expenditure under subparagraph (A).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 139F. Benefits under the Small Business Borrower Assistance Program.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to payments made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle B—Revenue Provisions

SEC. 531. REQUIRED MINIMUM 10-YEAR TERM, ETC., FOR GRANTOR RETAINED ANNUITY TRUSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 2702 is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively, and by moving such subparagraphs (as so redesignated) 2 ems to the right;

(2) by striking “For purposes of” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of”;

(3) by striking “paragraph (1) or (2)” in paragraph (1)(C) (as so redesignated) and inserting “subparagraph (A) or (B)”;

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO GRANTOR RETAINED ANNUITIES.—For purposes of subsection (a), in the case of an interest described in paragraph (1)(A) (determined without regard to this paragraph) which is retained by the transferor, such interest shall be treated as described in such paragraph only if—

“(A) the right to receive the fixed amounts referred to in such paragraph is for a term of not less than 10 years,

“(B) such fixed amounts, when determined on an annual basis, do not decrease relative to any prior year during the first 10 years of the term referred to in subparagraph (A), and

“(C) the remainder interest has a value greater than zero determined as of the time of the transfer.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to transfers made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 532. CRUDE TALL OIL INELIGIBLE FOR CELLULOSIC BIOFUEL PRODUCER CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Clause (iii) of section 40(b)(6)(E) is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of subclause (I),

(2) by striking the period at the end of subclause (II) and inserting “, or”.

(3) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(III) such fuel has an acid number greater than 25.”, and

(4) by striking “UNPROCESSED” in the heading and inserting “CERTAIN”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to fuels sold or used on or after January 1, 2010.

SEC. 533. TIME FOR PAYMENT OF CORPORATE ESTIMATED TAXES.

The percentage under paragraph (2) of section 561 of the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act is increased by 7.75 percentage points.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill, H.R. 5486, the Small Business Jobs Tax Relief Act of 2010, is, in a few words, a continuation of our work to spur job creation and to really improve the quality of life in all of our communities. Since the beginning of this year, our economy has created 982,000 jobs. That is a reversal of 22 straight months of job losses, a very long stretch indeed. But we all know that far too many people today are out of work and the unemployment rate remains at a very unacceptably high 9.7 percent. So something considerable has been done, but we have to do more.

According to the SBA—and I think we all know this—small firms created 64 percent of the net new jobs between

1993 and the third quarter of 2008. So small businesses help lead job creation in a recovery, but today, small firms are having difficulty accessing capital.

So what does this bill do? It provides a total of \$3.588 billion in tax cuts to help American small businesses. It is part of the partnership between the public and the private sector, relying on the private sector to do the job creation. And I want to emphasize, this bill does not add a dime to our deficit. It doesn't even add a penny to our deficit.

So let me explain the provisions in H.R. 5486. First of all, relating to business stock, small business stock, and capital gains, presently there's an exclusion of 75 percent because of the Recovery Act, and I emphasize that. This would increase the exclusion to 100 percent. It provides relief for small businesses from tax penalties when that is indeed appropriate. It also increases the deduction for startup costs for expenses not related to capital or equipment. It increases it from \$5,000 to \$20,000. So these are important stimuli for small business to help them create more jobs.

As I said earlier, this is offset. It will not add a dime or, indeed, a penny to the Federal deficit. It includes two provisions that have already passed this House. One relates to what is sometimes called a grandchild of black liquor. It relates to essentially a byproduct. What this does, building on the work that we did in earlier bills, is to prevent people from receiving a windfall from unintended application of renewable fuel credits.

The second part relates to what are called grantor retained annuity trusts, and I want to just say a quick word about this. This is clearly a loophole. This is clearly an abuse. Here's what happens, to try to put it in the simplest terms: A short-term trust usually is created by someone for a child. Then the person who created the trust takes back the value, let's say, in a few annual payments. So there's no gift tax for the grantor. The way it works today, all of the increase in the value of the stock is also outside of the gift tax.

So, essentially, what is happening here is a paper transaction that leads to escape of taxation, and this provides in our bill that there has to be a 10-year term for the trust to be sure that the trust has actual substance. This change raises \$5.297 billion over 10 years. So what this means, breaking it down in simple terms, is that about \$500 million per year from taxpayers is lost today through paper transactions, and we close the loophole. So, again, because of this, there is not any added cost.

We also, if I might say so and will be discussing this I guess tomorrow, it provides money for the small business lending package, H.R. 5297. So that is also budget neutral, and that provides some additional important small business loan help so badly needed. It's

hard to understand why people would vote against this. Plus, a provision that is \$2 billion worth, and it goes to States and local governments, and they have written us, urging that we provide some assistance so that they can increase the flow of loans to small businesses in their States.

So, in a word, we have a bill that is essentially a two-fer. It provides needed assistance for job creation by small business, and it's paid for. So I urge very much that somehow the other side can cross the bridge and join together instead of creating obstacles and vote for this bill and then its partner bill tomorrow.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. CAMP asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, this bill contains many positive features but also some negative ones, and thus, I reluctantly plan to oppose it.

Like my friend on the other side of the aisle, I'm pleased to see that it does include some tax relief, albeit limited, for small businesses, including provisions championed by both Republicans and Democrats. I'm also pleased, unlike earlier versions of this legislation, the most objectionable revenue raiser, a provision that could provoke retaliation by other countries and that even the Obama administration officials warned would violate our international treaty obligations, has been dropped from this bill. But despite those positive features, I will be voting against this bill for several important reasons.

First, while the tax relief in here is welcome, it's not enough and won't actually help small businesses create the jobs we need to reduce our stubbornly high unemployment rate. While I would certainly support further lowering taxes on small businesses, the last thing they need is higher taxes, which is exactly what they are facing from this Congress.

Just last month, the majority pushed through an \$11.2 billion tax hike on certain small businesses that would subject their profits to employment taxes, and at the end of 2010, all individual income tax rates, as well as taxes on dividends and capital gains, are scheduled to rise dramatically. Because so many small businesses pay taxes at the individual level, the fear of these increases is chilling expansion and hiring and, therefore, job creation. So the majority's record on tax policy affecting small businesses is spotty at best.

Second, this bill, like others before it, provides a stark reminder of the majority's view of the Ways and Means Committee as an ATM machine to fund other spending. Here, the majority is seeking to generate \$7.1 billion in additional tax revenue but would only provide \$3.6 billion in tax relief over the next decade. The rest of the money

raised will be used to offset the cost of another bill, H.R. 4297, which was reported by the Financial Services Committee, that creates another TARP-like program. Some might call it TARP III.

While I'm glad the majority found offsets that are less economically damaging than some that have previously passed the House, the practice of using permanent changes in tax receipts to fund temporary spending is disappointing and portends further and larger tax hikes in the future, perhaps as soon as the end of this month when the majority hopes to complete action on a financial system reform bill.

Mr. Speaker, especially with the unemployment rate continuing to hover near 10 percent, our small businesses, the engine of economic growth and job creation, need help, but this bill isn't enough, and it takes us further down the dangerous road of higher spending our Nation cannot afford.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Before I yield, I just want to say to Mr. CAMP, I listened intently, and I can't understand your opposition. You like the provisions. You don't like what we once passed. If you don't like what we passed before—and I disagree with you—it's even more of a reason to vote for this bill.

You complain about permanent changes. We're closing a loophole permanently. You want us to close it temporarily? And we're preventing a provision coming into effect that should never come into effect.

So I just urge people to listen to the quality of this discussion, and I think, so far, it all points to everybody on both sides of the aisle voting for this bill. It helps small business. That's been acknowledged, and you don't challenge the tax cuts in terms of their merits. You talk about another tax cut in another bill you didn't like. I think you find it hard to find anything you like.

I now yield 2 minutes to another member of our committee, our distinguished colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL).

Mr. NEAL. I thank Mr. LEVIN for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of this small business bill before us today. In addition to the several tax breaks that Mr. LEVIN has pointed out, the bill will create a lending fund for our community banks to crop into. That's perhaps the most salient part of this proposal, to get capital flowing, to get capital back into the marketplace so that there's an opportunity for small businesses across the country to take advantage of what heretofore has become a dried up resource, and that is the availability of capital.

□ 1600

While the data tells us the economy is improving, our small businesses back home are still struggling, and much of that is due to the fact that lines of credit have tightened up or in many in-

stances simply gone away. Now, those businesses are doing their best to keep everyone on the payroll even though sales are slow in an attempt to climb back, but the regulators have kept a strong hand and hold on banks that otherwise might be lending.

Now, conceptually, I don't know how you can be opposed to this legislation. Community banks provide more than half of the small business loans in America that are less than \$100,000. In Massachusetts alone, commercial bank lending to small businesses through the SBA guarantee program has doubled over the last year. This legislation will help even more.

If you really care about small businesses and entrepreneurship and growing the economy, the essential argument here is how do we get these small business people back on their feet. The proposal here is to provide some tax relief. Greater lending possibilities with the prospect of encouraging small businesses to grow and invest is a very important part of what's incorporated in this very piece of legislation.

Now, always we would find amongst the 435 of us in this institution a different way to do it, but that's not the proposal in front of us.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to respond to my friend from Michigan, the chairman, and say it's really about the reality of this legislation, not just the rhetoric. And while excluding capital gains on the sale of small business stock is a great provision, the problem is this is drafted so narrowly that the small businesses have to be C corporations. And as we know, only a fraction of small businesses will be considered qualified small businesses to take advantage of this provision. This is the largest piece of this so-called "small business relief" bill. And while it's great to talk about, the reality of it is going to be very limited.

As I said in my statement, there are some positive things in this bill. Obviously, closing the Black Liquor 3 loophole is something I support, but on balance, because the bill isn't really going to do anything to create jobs, A, and, B, because there are, again, going to be temporary provisions that are paid for with permanent tax increases, and, third, the revenue raiser on the estate tax area on the Grantor Retained Annuity Trust is really one that ought to be reserved for when we have to deal with estate tax reform. As you know, the law has expired. There are bills moving through the Congress to reinstate the estate tax. This really is appropriate to that area.

I think it is absolutely unconscionable that we've gone all this time with no estate tax, with everyone understanding that the majority is going to create a retroactive death tax bill that's going to try to come back through the beginning of the year. This is where that provision should be.

So, again, I reluctantly oppose this bill. I think there are some good things

in it; unfortunately, they don't go far enough.

I now yield 2 minutes to the distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM).

Mr. ROSKAM. I thank Mr. CAMP for yielding.

Chairman LEVIN said a minute ago that it's hard to find anything that the minority likes. I'll tell you a few things, Mr. Speaker, that we would like. We would have liked a stimulus that worked. We would have liked a stimulus where unemployment actually peaked at 8 percent as long as our children and grandchildren were being foisted with a \$1 trillion obligation. We would have liked it if last month's unemployment numbers weren't goosed up by simply census employees joining the ranks. We would have liked it, Mr. Speaker, if during the health care debate a thoughtful approach had been put forward that wasn't going to cost employers like Caterpillar in my home State \$100 million in the first year or John Deere \$150 million in the first year. We would have like those things, Mr. Speaker.

I think what the majority is laying out is kind of a happy life of low expectations. That's not a bad way to go through life, but I think that we can do so much more than this. And to Mr. CAMP's point, there are some things that are here that are decent and that are marginally okay and slightly better, but is that how dim the lights are in this Chamber that that's our expectation, that something is just sort of okay? I mean, this is an increase in government spending, after all, so I think we can do so much better. Why is it, Mr. Speaker, that we are halfway through the tax year and the research and development tax credit isn't resolved by this majority in this Congress? Why is it that the death tax is a complete ambiguity?

So in answer to the chairman, I have a lot of respect for him and for his work and his sincerity, but I think I want to echo Mr. CAMP's observation, that this is so narrowly crafted and so de minimus and being proclaimed by the same folks that promised us great things in the stimulus that I think we can do better.

Mr. LEVIN. You say do better; you won't vote for anything.

I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) to explain why this is more than de minimus, a bill that needs to be voted on on a bipartisan basis.

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, sometimes when life gets rough for me, I try to put myself in the shoes of the other guy. What a rough time to be in the minority. We have so many people whose hopes and dreams have been shattered, they're out of work, they're angry, the economy has been blown wide open, and we find that the order

of the day with the opposition is that they just have to say no. It must be awkward to say what I would do if this bill was defeated. It must be terrible to talk about the past things that haven't worked when someone has just lost their home or can't pay their rent or put food on the table or get clothes for their kids.

It's a rough time for all Americans, and anybody who believes that Democrats always get it right, well, it's difficult to do, but for crying out loud, we have to do something. The \$787 billion we voted on trying to get us out of this economic mess, and all the money just floated on the top for the big banks. Now we're trying to see what really works. Listening to the calls of small business people, trying to make certain they have capital to get the inventory, to provide the goods and services, to hire people, and as everyone admits, this is where the major jobs come.

For crying out loud, sometimes the late John Kennedy said, The party just asks too much of you. These people are out of work. They're not Democrats and Republicans; they're American people. They work hard for their dignity. They're the ones that supported our country during good times. And now that times are rough, they've got to listen to debates between Republicans and Democrats as to, gee, this is what I would do if I was in charge? I don't think that's fair. And I really believe that the voters are not going to believe that all we can do is come up with ideas, have them ridiculed, and then just say no.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. RANGEL. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

I know from time to time when my party asked me to carry too much weight that morally I don't believe I can do it, that somehow there are people on our side of the aisle that take the risk and being able to say I did it not because my party asked me to do it, I did it not to be opposed, I did it because it's the right thing to do.

Now you have to find the issue; if it's not health care, if it's not education, if it's not national security, how about the opportunity to work, to make a living, to have the dignity, to have the pride, to raise your family, and indeed to pay taxes?

This is going to be our last opportunity for this year. Maybe next year there will be a change in the philosophy—if you want to call it that—of the minority and they will work together; but I do hope this idea that on everything we come up with to improve the quality of life for the people of this great Nation, that the opposition can come up with something except “just say no.”

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill is going to spend taxpayers' money. I believe we have an obligation,

if we're going to spend taxpayers' money, that we do it effectively. On Friday night, the Treasury released a report that in 2015 our debt will exceed the gross domestic product of this country. We've had expert testimony before the Debt Commission that said when your debt gets to 90 percent of GDP, you lose 1 percent off economic growth, which translates into 1 million jobs.

This bill, because of how narrowly focused it is, how narrowly drafted it is, virtually no small businesses will take advantage of the exclusion of capital gains because they have to be C corporations. And if there is one trend we've seen, it's that businesses are being organized as passed-through entities now. That's how America, particularly small business America, is being organized. So while this is great rhetoric, this bill isn't going to be effective in doing anything.

And let me just say, I heard the former chairman say that Republicans just say no. On the health care bill, we had a viable alternative. In fact, I will say the vote on the health care bill was bipartisan opposition, only majority partisanship support for that legislation. Whether it's been stimulus or health care or energy, we have had viable alternatives on the floor that we have brought forward. On this particular bill, I think that better work could have been done, more effective work could have been done. And, frankly, in this era of the highest debt ever this country has seen, I think we have an obligation that if we're going to spend taxpayers' dollars, it's done in an effective way and a way that gets results, and this bill falls short.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is personal for me. We've watched our country come back from the brink in the fall of 2008. In my State of Oregon, helped by Recovery Act funds of about \$6 billion, we've been able to stabilize and make some progress. Is it enough? Absolutely not. But I've had a steady parade of people coming to my office thanking me for the investment that was made in terms of infrastructure, in terms of health care, in terms of making sure that we didn't have layoffs of public employees.

Now we have a provision here that is an opportunity to focus on small business. It is a package, as the chairman mentioned, with two pieces. It's ironic that our friends are telling us that it's just not enough. These are small pieces, yet they were saying, on the other hand, the legislation we had that CBO has scored over 1.2 million jobs to as much as 2.8 million saved or created was too big. Well, we ought to be chipping away as we can on this. Having \$30 billion for a small business lending fund, being able to provide a couple billion dollars of tax exclusion for small

business capital formation are positive items.

□ 1615

You know, one of the things that strikes me as ironic is that our friends on the other side of the aisle ignore the fact that the Recovery Act legislation that we had previously, 42 percent of it, was for tax cuts and for preventing the impact of the alternative minimum tax from hitting middle and upper middle-income families. Every family in America which made under \$250,000 a year got tax cuts last year, and they are getting tax cuts this year. We have tried tax cuts to help move things forward. Now, this is small business lending.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. This is part of an ongoing effort which is making a difference. The job losses peaked the month that President Obama took office—not his fault. They had been building for 22 months. Now we are making some progress. Is it enough? All of us agree that it is not, but I would suggest that dismissing this because they think it doesn't solve everything would be, I'm afraid, disingenuous. I don't think it's helpful.

I strongly urge the support of this legislation and then for us to continue with the task of rebuilding and renewing America, of reforming the Tax Code, and of coaxing the most out of these investments.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, I yield the customary 1 minute to the distinguished minority leader, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

Mr. BOEHNER. I want to thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today is supposed to be about helping small businesses. We do need to help small businesses as they are the engines of economic growth in our country. When you look at the jobs report that came out last month, there were only 41,000 private-sector jobs created.

Yet, if we really want this bill to work and if we really want small businesses to be able to begin hiring once again, what we really need to do is to repeal the job-killing health care law that was passed in this Chamber on March 21. The heart of that law is something that is called the "individual mandate." The individual mandate forces Americans to buy health insurance whether they want to or not, whether they can afford it or not. For small businesses, if they don't provide health insurance, guess what? The government is going to tax you. This is preventing small businesses from hiring additional people.

Twenty States and the Nation's leading small business organization agree that this law is unconstitutional, and they are fighting to overturn it. The Federal Government shouldn't be in

the business of forcing you to buy health insurance and of taxing you if you don't.

If we really want to help small businesses get back to creating jobs, we should repeal the job-killing health care law, and we should replace it with reforms that will lower the cost of health insurance and that will help protect American jobs.

My colleague from Michigan will be offering a proposal tonight to repeal the unconstitutional individual mandate, which is at the heart of this new law. His idea is posted right now on AmericaSpeakingOut.com. Americans are speaking out on it, and I hope my colleagues will get engaged and will see what the American people have to say about this individual mandate and about the taxes associated with it, but it is pretty clear.

When we get to the motion to recommend, we will offer a motion that will eliminate the individual mandate, and every Member of this House will have an opportunity to stand up for their constituents or to look the other way.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a member of our committee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5486.

That is exactly correct. We should stop looking away. Let's focus on what the subject really is.

The gentleman just left the floor, but in the final months of the last administration, on average, we had a loss of 725,000 jobs. This is the first increase that we have had in the private sector in over 2 years. So you are the party of "no." There are no two ways about it. Ever since we hit 750,000 in January of 2009, we have had an improvement every month, and now we are finally in the plus area. It took us 8 years to get into the mess. It is going to take us more than a year and a half to get out of it.

This legislation is incredibly important because it will help this country's small businesses, both new and already existing, by making the Tax Code work for them. After years of misguided tax policies from the previous administration, which only helped extraordinarily wealthy individuals, the Ways and Means Committee is focusing its efforts on the real engine of the American economy: one-third tax cuts in the stimulus, one-third investment in the infrastructure, one-third investment in informational technology, energy jobs, and tax credits. That record is unparalleled. The tax cuts of this year and last year are the largest in the history of this country for any 2-year period because we help the middle class. That is what our party is all about.

According to the Small Business Administration, small businesses have generated 64 percent of the new jobs over the past 15 years, and they must be at the forefront of the economic recovery today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield an additional 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman.

Mr. PASCRELL. How dare someone come before this body and talk about their alternative to the health bill. Their alternative to our health bill would have started the dismantling of Medicare. Read the language of their alternative.

While our economy is growing stronger, unemployment is still too high, which is why we are directing aid to our small businesses. The bill assists already established small businesses by building on the Recovery Act's exclusion of 75 percent of business capital gains to now temporarily exclude 100 percent of capital gains from qualifying stocks, thereby encouraging investment in small businesses, which create jobs but which are encountering problems with restricted access to credit. The bill also helps people who want to start new businesses by quadrupling deductions and by increasing the cap for start-up expenses.

This legislation is imperative in recovery. I ask that we all vote for it.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Pennsylvania, ALLYSON SCHWARTZ.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. I thank the chairman for his good work on small business and on the economic recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Small Business Jobs Tax Relief Act, which, when merged with the Small Business Jobs Credit Act, will increase lending to small businesses, will expand entrepreneurship, and will put Americans to work.

The bill offers small businesses additional capital through capital gains tax cuts, relief from onerous tax penalties, and expanded deductions for start-up costs. It provides funding to create a small business lending pool which will make loans available to small businesses through our smaller community banks. This pool will provide small business access to much needed capital to acquire new equipment, to renovate, to make energy-efficiency improvements or for other business growth opportunities. It is hard to overstate how important access to capital is for small business, so this action is critically important.

Last week, during a Budget Committee hearing, Ben Bernanke responded to me when I outlined our actions to help our small businesses. He said he was "glad the Congress is exploring these different programs for making credit available to small businesses." He talked additionally about the need to be particularly attentive to new and start-up companies, all critical to our economic recovery and job growth.

All of these comments demonstrate the wisdom of the action that we are taking today to support small business growth. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this latest initiative to work with business owners in the private

sector to strengthen our economy, to spur innovation, and to create jobs.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the very distinguished Member from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is axiomatic in American politics and on this floor that Members come to the floor and praise small business to the heights. People frequently cite statistics which state that small businesses create most of the new private-sector jobs. They're right. They praise small business men and business women, and they are right to praise them. Though, I think, after all the words, it is time that we took some action that actually benefits small business people in the country. This bill provides such action.

It provides access to credit for small businesses which desperately need it. I think Americans are frustrated—and small business people share in the frustration—that, after advancing hundreds of billions of dollars to banks, many of those dollars haven't seemed to find their way into loans to small businesses. The underlying bill begins to address that problem in a very significant way. It extends a practice that this chairman and his predecessor began of extending tax cuts to small businesses. A small business that buys a laptop or a truck or some other piece of equipment can expense that. Businesses can, in effect, cut their taxes by investing their businesses in the economy.

Then we have the ironic statement by the minority leader that, in order to help small businesses, he wants to repeal a law that helps small businesses, for the first time, buy health care. What the new health care law says is that a person running a small software company or a restaurant or a delicatessen should be able to buy health insurance with the same volume discount that Lockheed Martin or General Electric gets. Small business people have been asking for that opportunity for a very long time. The law the President signed provides that.

It is very important to understand that, with all due respect, the minority leader did not correctly state the impact of the bill on small business, so let the record correctly reflect the state of the new law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. ANDREWS. If a small business person has 50 or fewer full-time employees, there is no mandate on that business to do anything. Businesses which choose to provide health insurance to their employees will have the same abilities that huge companies

have to buy health insurance at a discount if they choose. Companies with fewer than 50 full-time employees don't have to do anything. Many of the small businesses which do choose to insure their employees will get significant tax cuts to help them do that.

After all of these words, isn't it time we had some loans for small business? Isn't it time we had some tax cuts for small business and some affordable health care for small business? If you want words, take the minority's approach. If you want action, support this bill.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will note the gentleman from Michigan has 10 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Michigan has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

□ 1630

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman for his leadership, and I thank the full Committee on Ways and Means for being a lifeline for small businesses. And I ask my colleagues on the floor of the House to join them.

Without this effort, small business doors across America will close. And, frankly, I believe it is important. As my colleague just said, let us walk the walk and talk the talk. For it is now time to invest in small businesses, which, in actuality, create the backbone of the economy of America and provide for employment in our rural and urban areas across this Nation. In fact, I think it is important to note this bill is paid for. By closing the black liquor loophole and the gift loophole, it will create \$8 billion to ensure that we can do the right thing for our small businesses.

I come from an area that is now being impacted by a major oil spill. I visit businesses whose doors are closing for lack of assistance. And I'm glad that we have a President who realizes who is important and is ready to sign this bill.

Small businesses are in need. And so what we have here is an opportunity for banks to refocus their lending policies and give startup credit and access to dollars to help build these small businesses.

Many of us heard of the redirection of the moneys that we lent to big banks in order to help them help America. Well, unfortunately, they couldn't find the doors of small businesses, many of my constituents. And so I am eager to have this legislation passed that's paid for to provide startup costs for small businesses that always have had a major impediment in getting in the door of these banks. Therefore, any relief for small startups is a plus by increasing the amount allowed to be deducted from the bottom line. And the capital gains issues as well that will be very important.

I believe, finally, we need to hold these banks accountable by asking them to provide a plan to ensure that they are providing lending to these businesses. I ask for support of this legislation.

I rise in support of the Small Business Jobs Tax Relief Act of 2010, H.R. 5486. I also want to thank Chairman SANDY LEVIN and the members of the Committee on Ways and Means for their hard work on this legislation. The bill amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes.

This bill provides targeted relief for the Nation's small businesses. Without this relief, many small businesses will close, adding to the U.S. unemployment rate, still historically high at 9.7 percent. The tax relief in this bill will begin to address a number of issues confronting the owners of small businesses:

(1) Start-up costs for small businesses have always been a major impediment to their success. Therefore, any relief for small businesses start-ups is a plus. By increasing the amount allowed to be deducted from the bottom line, a small business can then use the additional resources to grow and to expand his or her business. The bill would increase the deductible amount for start-up costs from the current \$5000.00 to \$20,000.00 for 2010 and 2011.

(2) The bill also eases restrictions on real estate holdings where qualified Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) loans are involved.

(3) This bill will increase, from 50 percent to 100 percent, the exclusion from gross income of the gain from the sale or exchange of qualified small business stock acquired after March 15, 2010, and before January 1, 2012. By reducing the tax liability related to gains on the sale of small business stock, this will free resources to be used for other business purposes in this tight economy.

(4) Another important provision in the bill will exclude from gross income any amount paid under the small business borrower assistance program. Again, tax relief in any shape or form for small businesses is critical to sustained economic growth and economic recovery.

In addition to these tax reliefs, the bill also requires the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue to provide annual reports to Congress on penalties relating to tax shelters and other transactions. Any additional measure designed to promote transparency and accountability must be supported. Again, this bill is a timely measure that will grant relief to a major segment of the Nation's business sector, suffering from the lasting effects of the worst recession in our history. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5486.

Mr. CAMP. I yield myself such time as I may consume, Mr. Speaker.

I agree with much of what some of the speakers have said today about the importance of small business and the job creation that small business has been responsible for. You can see statistics where 80 percent of the job creation in recent years has been because of small business. Certainly, if we're going to recover as an economy, small business will lead the way, and needs to recover. And we've seen over the past few years the way small business has been organized. Increasingly,

they're pass-through entities. The vast majority of small businesses are pass-through entities.

So what does the majority do? They pass a small business bill that doesn't apply to the majority of small businesses. This provision here, which is the bulk of the bill that excludes capital gains on the sale of certain small business stocks, only applies to qualified small businesses. Well, what is a qualified small business? A C corporation. That's how most large businesses are organized. So this bill won't do anything.

Again, while we have record debt, the largest in the history of this country, well over \$13 trillion and an estimate from the Treasury Department that, in 2015, the debt will exceed the size of the entire economy of the United States for the first time in history—before we spend taxpayer dollars, we ought to do it in a way that's effective.

There are things that we could do for small business. I will say the majority has made this bill better than it was the first time by dropping some of the controversial provisions that would have potentially caused our trading partners to retaliate against us. Obviously, closing the black liquor provision is something that I think every Republican supports as well. That's a good thing. But the fact that this legislation is not where it should be doesn't mean that we should just look the other way and pass it, because it doesn't meet the standard that this Congress should be meeting in this difficult economic time.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I know that our leader was just down here speaking a moment ago with regard to what is going to be coming shortly, which is the MTR, and I just want to take a moment in regard to that as well, a motion to recommit that will reduce the uncertainty and reduce the regulatory burdens facing who? The small businesses, by repealing the so-called individual mandate from the recently passed health care bill.

Why do we talk about that now? Well, I have a bill that basically does the exact same thing. I introduced H.R. 4999, the Reclaiming Individual Liberty Act, which would also repeal that mandate. Because as we come to the floor right now, it's granted the authority to regulate various aspects of our economy is broad but is not that broad to be able to impose an individual mandate on what we know is, by doing so, we will hurt not only the individual and the family but also the economy of this country as well.

So I commend the gentleman for his work in this regard. I commend the gentleman for the MTR that we're about to see in a few moments. Because in that MTR, just as in the Reclaiming Individual Liberty Act, we recognize that the Constitution prohibits the ex-

pansion of government authority in those areas. If we had that ability to do that here, wouldn't we have already done that last year with regard to the auto industry and said, we can mandate people to buy automobiles in that area? We can't do it in that area. We can't do it in this area. And I commend the gentleman for it.

Mr. CAMP. I thank the gentleman for those comments. He makes a very important point.

In closing, I just want to say that we look at the costs that the individual mandate particularly is going to hit hard on small businesses and how difficult that's going to make it for them to continue to be able to expand and hire workers. And we know that the small business health care tax credit is virtually a fraud; that 90 percent of small businesses won't be able to qualify for that because, again, that's so narrowly drafted that there's the rhetoric of being able to say, Aren't we doing all these great things? But the reality is there's nothing there.

Let me just say that at the end of 2010, when all the individual income tax rates increase, as well as on dividends and capital gains, that's going to hit small business particularly hard because most small businesses file as individuals. And that's going to make it much more difficult for them to expand. It's going to make it much more difficult for them to hire and much more difficult for job creation to occur.

Also, I would say that another difficult problem is that this bill, while it generates \$7 billion in tax revenue, it only provides about \$3.5 billion in tax relief. So, again, taxes are being raised permanently for temporary spending in other parts of our economy, and it's my understanding that most of that extra revenue will be used to help pay for another TARP-like program—TARP III as some call it—that's going to be coming our way.

So, again, with our unemployment rate continuing to be at a lingering 10 percent, the difficulty our small business, the engines of economic growth and job creation are facing, the help they need, this bill is not enough. Again, it takes us down a road of higher spending that our Nation cannot afford at this time.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I think anybody who has listened to this debate, if they're at all objective, will be completely puzzled by the arguments of the minority. They say this bill won't do anything. But then they say there are tax increases to pay for it that are permanent. That's worse than a lame argument. It's completely without merit and is vacuous. The bill is scored for small business in terms of the exclusion from capital gains tax over 10 years at almost \$2 billion. That's nothing. It provides relief from penalties. Over \$175 million to small business. That's nothing. It provides an increased deduction for startup expendi-

tures that provides over half a billion dollars, as scored. That's nothing.

Now what's nothing are your arguments. And so you come here, I think, afraid to vote "yes" because it will blur your political message. You say you agree with these provisions, but then you're going to vote "no." You just don't apparently want to be caught being bipartisan. It's going to blur a political message.

I don't understand your argument that the tax provisions are permanent. You don't argue these aren't loopholes. They're loopholes. And you criticize us for closing a loophole permanently, and then you say it's for spending, but you don't really challenge the validity of the spending. We do pay for some monies for the second bill that's coming up because it provides loans to small businesses, and it also provides States that have written us supporting this bill, including your State, Mr. CAMP, saying that they will use this money well to help collateral support for small businesses.

So it's worse than puzzling. I think it's a pathetic effort to find an excuse to vote "no." So then you come up with the argument you have a motion to recommit.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair and not to other Members.

Mr. LEVIN. I'll be glad to do that, Mr. Speaker.

So then there's a motion to recommit to repeal an individual mandate. All I can say is that the individual mandate was the basis of the Republican health care proposal in 1993 and 1994. And now you come up and say you want to eliminate it. This is another entangled position of yours. You're tying yourselves into knots trying to oppose a bill that will provide help for small business. Maybe it's useless to appeal for bipartisanship to the other side.

I close asking for support.

Mr. Speaker, in conjunction with today's consideration in the U.S. House of Representatives of H.R. 5486, the "Small Business Jobs Tax Relief Act of 2010," I have asked the non-partisan Joint Committee on Taxation to make available to the public a technical explanation of the provisions included H.R. 5486. This technical explanation reflects the Ways and Means Committee's understanding and legislative intent behind those provisions. It is available on the Joint Committee on Taxation website at www.jct.gov and is listed under document number JCX-31-10.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we rebound from the greatest recession that has ever plagued this nation, it is important that we continue to support legislation that creates jobs and refurbishes the economic stability of American families—supporting small businesses, taxpayers and building a solid foundation for economic recovery.

Small businesses are the life blood of American communities, creating two-thirds of the new jobs over the last 15 years. However, these entrepreneurs are stifled in their efforts

to boost the American economy in that they are frequently denied loans and face tight lending standards. Some of the most impoverished citizens in this nation live in the 7th Congressional District of IL. While the national unemployment rate in October 2009 rose to 9.8 percent, these communities experienced unemployment rates of up to 40 percent. We must do all that we can to provide jobs for American citizens and boost the economic stability of this nation. For this reason, I strongly support H.R. 5486—spurring investment in small business, providing for small business penalty relief, and increasing the deduction for business start-up expenses.

These provisions are critical. They provide performance-based incentives to make sure that banks lend to small businesses and avoid what happened in 2009 when 45 percent of small businesses seeking loans were denied credit. Most importantly, as the nation continues its effort to create jobs and overcome high rates of unemployment, these provisions increase the deduction for start-up expenditures and allow entrepreneurs to focus on hiring workers and strengthening the economic stability of their businesses.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5486, Small Business Jobs Tax Relief Act. Small businesses form the backbone of our economy, and this bill helps them grow and create jobs.

H.R. 5486 incentivizes people to invest in small business by increasing the capital gains tax cut. In addition, this bill would make it easier for entrepreneurs looking to start their own small business. H.R. 5486 would quadruple the tax deduction for your start-up and allow more businesses to qualify for the maximum deduction. These entrepreneurs can recover more startup expenses, and then work towards growing, expanding, and hiring new workers.

I have always been a supporter of budget discipline, and the investments we make in this bill are fully paid for. These small business tax measures are paid for by tightening rules for claiming the biofuels tax credit and the estate and gift tax rules. I am pleased that we are able to help grow our economy and reduce the national budget deficit.

While there is solid evidence that the economy is beginning to rebound, the recovery is on shaky footing. Across North Carolina, unemployment is still in the double digits and some counties in the Second District still have unemployment rates of up to 13 percent. Helping private industry create jobs needs to be our top priority, and small businesses are responsible for as many as two out of every three jobs created in our country. This bill provides tax relief to help small businesses create the jobs that we desperately need, and helps them help Main Street America.

As a Member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, I support tax cuts that help small businesses contribute to our economic recovery. This should be a bipartisan effort, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, for every American seeking a job, and every small business trying to expand so they can hire them, I rise in strong support of the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act of 2010 and the Small Business Jobs Tax Relief Act of 2010. These two pro-growth initiatives illustrate very clearly that jobs continue to be job one in the 111th Congress.

Small businesses are the engines of our economy, and timely, affordable credit is very often the fuel that helps them grow. Since 45 percent of small businesses currently report inadequate credit to support their needs, the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act establishes a new \$30 billion fund for community banks, which will leverage up to \$300 billion in new private sector lending to small businesses. Importantly, this new lending facility includes performance-based incentives to encourage near term lending by reducing borrowing costs to participating banks that increase their lending over 2009 levels and increasing borrowing costs when lending activity is reduced. The result will be a timely infusion of fresh credit to cash-strapped small businesses looking to create jobs in our growing economy.

To make it easier for entrepreneurs to attract capital and launch new companies, today's legislation also provides a zero capital gains rate on equity investments in qualifying small businesses made between March 15, 2010 and the end of the year—and it quadruples from \$5,000 to \$20,000 the deduction small businesses can take for start-up expenditures in their first year of operation.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is broadly supported by the National Small Business Association, the Small Business Majority, the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, the Independent Community Bankers of America, the American Bankers Association and the National Bankers Association. It is fully paid for and deserves my colleagues' support.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5486, the Small Business Jobs Tax Relief Act and H.R. 5297, the Small Business Lending Fund Act of 2010. These bills will help small businesses grow, create wealth in our communities, and create new jobs. As we often hear, small businesses drive our economy and create the most jobs.

I have heard from businesses across my district that have had trouble accessing capital to expand their businesses, to weather this economic storm that Oregon faces, and to add to their workforces. Thousands of jobs have been lost, millions of dollars of savings have evaporated, and dreams have been cast aside or deferred for far too many Oregon families.

The legislation that we will pass today will ease these challenges. The legislation establishes a \$30 billion fund to boost lending to small businesses by community banks. To ensure that the additional funding is deployed, the recipient community banks will owe the US Treasury a variable dividend. The more they lend to small businesses, the less they will owe to the Treasury. If they fail to lend, then the dividend obligation increases.

The legislation also makes important tax changes that will benefit the small business community.

The legislation reduces capital gains taxes on the small business community. Under the Recovery Act, Congress excluded seventy-five percent of capital gains tax on the sale of small business stock during 2009 and 2010. This legislation continues and expands that policy by increasing the exclusion to one hundred percent for 2010 to 2012.

The legislation also improves the ability of small businesses to deduct start up costs. Under current law, a start up may deduct \$5,000 of start up costs; this legislation will expand that deduction to \$20,000. These costs

include market surveys, initial advertisements, training costs and other costs associated with starting up a business.

Oregon is still struggling with a near record unemployment rate of 10.6 percent, a percentage point above the national average. In April 2010, over two hundred thousand Oregonians remained unemployed. It is imperative that we do all that we can to improve the economy and to put Oregonians back to work.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1436, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 5486 is postponed.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF FATHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on a motion to suspend the rules previously postponed.

The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1389) recognizing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 0, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 361]

YEAS—416

Ackerman	Blumenauer	Capps
Aderholt	Blunt	Capuano
Adler (NJ)	Boccheri	Cardoza
Akin	Boehner	Carnahan
Alexander	Bonner	Carney
Altmire	Bono Mack	Carson (IN)
Andrews	Boozman	Carter
Arcuri	Boren	Cassidy
Austria	Boswell	Castle
Baca	Boucher	Castor (FL)
Bachmann	Boustany	Chaffetz
Bachus	Boyd	Chandler
Baird	Brady (PA)	Childers
Baldwin	Brady (TX)	Chu
Barrow	Braley (IA)	Clarke
Bartlett	Bright	Clay
Barton (TX)	Brown (GA)	Cleaver
Bean	Brown-Waite,	Clyburn
Becerra	Ginny	Coble
Berkley	Buchanan	Coffman (CO)
Berman	Burgess	Cohen
Berry	Burton (IN)	Cole
Biggert	Butterfield	Conaway
Bilbray	Buyer	Connolly (VA)
Bilirakis	Calvert	Conyers
Bishop (GA)	Camp	Cooper
Bishop (NY)	Campbell	Costa
Bishop (UT)	Cao	Costello
Blackburn	Capito	Courtney

Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Djou
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxo
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hersteth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchev
Hinojosa
Hirono
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Insee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)

Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer

Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schradler
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague

Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, with the unemployment rate stuck at nearly 10 percent, far too many Americans and small businesses are struggling to get by. While the bill before us contains some very limited benefits, it does little to help small businesses create the jobs so many Americans desperately need.

The motion to recommit the underlying bill keeps the underlying bill intact and provides real help to Americans by repealing one of the most onerous provisions of the new health care law, the individual mandate that, while exempting illegal immigrants, forces Americans to buy government-approved health insurance or pay a tax if they don't.

The Federal Government has never required its citizens to purchase a particular product before, and doing so with health insurance violates the basic principles of freedom and individual choice. No American should be forced to buy or purchase health insurance they don't want or can't afford.

This provision is so controversial that 20 States and the Nation's leading small business organization, the National Federation of Independent Business, have filed a lawsuit questioning its constitutionality. While legal experts will soon start arguing that case, we already know that the individual mandate tax penalty will fall hardest on middle- and low-income Americans.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, in 2016, nearly 75 percent of the Americans who pay this tax will have household incomes below 500 percent of the Federal poverty level. That's roughly \$73,000 for a married couple with no children. CBO also tells us that the Democrats' health care law will increase premiums for millions of Americans by up to 13 percent. That's a premium increase of about \$2,100.

As the Democrats' health care bill drives up the costs of health care premiums even higher, it will become more and more unaffordable for American families to comply with the mandate. Repealing this mandate will directly benefit millions of Americans and uphold the freedoms upon which this Nation was founded. It has the added benefit of eliminating the need for the IRS to hire thousands of additional employees, possibly as many as 16,000, just to enforce the new health care law.

The recently enacted health care law is bad for workers, bad for employers, and bad for America. Clearly, we need to repeal and replace this law with commonsense reforms that will actually lower health care costs and let Americans keep the plan they have and like.

And let me remind my colleagues of a quote from then-Presidential candidate Barack Obama. And I quote, "A mandate means that in some fashion everybody will be forced to buy health insurance. . . . But I believe the problem is not that folks are trying to

NOT VOTING—16

Barrett (SC)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Cantor
Deutch
Fallin
Gohmert
Hodes
Hoekstra
Inglis
Linder
Lynch

□ 1714

Messrs. KRATOVIL and HUNTER changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1715

SMALL BUSINESS JOBS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, proceedings will now resume on the bill (H.R. 5486) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. CAMP. I am, in its present form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Camp moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5486 to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end, add the following:

Subtitle C—Health Provisions

SEC. 541. REPEAL OF INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE MANDATE.

Section 5000A is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(h) TERMINATION.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply with respect to any month beginning after the date of the enactment of this subsection."

Mr. CAMP (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

Mr. LEVIN. I reserve a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

avoid getting health care. The problem is they can't afford it."

This health care law increases premiums by \$2,100 for millions of American families and requires them to buy this government-approved insurance that they cannot afford.

I urge my colleagues to stand with the American people and vote for the motion to recommit.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of the point of order, and I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan withdraws his reservation.

The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEVIN. Colleagues, individual responsibility is a cornerstone of health reform to ensure that every American has affordable health insurance coverage, and that's why it was included in the GOP 1994 reform. So this is nothing more, nothing more than a disingenuous political stunt to undermine health reform.

Without individual responsibility, it would mean that we could not eliminate exclusions for preexisting conditions. We could not prohibit insurers from refusing to cover someone when they apply. We could not prohibit insurance companies from charging more when you get sick. And according to the CBO, if this were to pass, it would result in the loss of coverage for more than 16 million Americans: 6 million of the most needy among us, 5 million who would lose their insurance from their employers, 5 million who would lose individual insurance. It would raise health insurance premiums for every American buying coverage through the exchange by nearly 20 percent.

This is a small business bill, and it would hurt small business. It would reduce assistance to them to provide health care to their workers, and it would increase taxes on individuals and employers who failed to cover their workers. This is misguided, period. We should defeat this in a round fashion.

Now I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, this amendment, this motion is a guaranteed increase in middle class health insurance premiums for all Americans. If that's what you want, you should vote for it. But you know, when a person goes to the emergency room and is uninsured, doesn't have health insurance, they get health care. The question is who pays the bill.

The provision that is before us from the minority party says that insured middle class Americans should pay the bill. The law the President signed in March says something very different. It says that everyone has the responsibility to earn and pay for, at a reasonable price, their own health insurance.

The question is not whether uninsured people get care; the question is whether insured middle class people

pay for it or not. The question is whether when someone has breast cancer or asthma and is turned away because of a preexisting condition that we will be able to insure that person at regular premiums. If you don't have nearly everyone insured, you can't do that.

So if you think that middle class people paying other people's bills is the right way to go, this is your motion. If you think that we should no longer provide health insurance coverage for those with a preexisting condition, then "yes" is your vote.

Our opponents talk of freedom. I think it's time that middle class Americans were free from paying other people's bills and paying for the insurance company mandates. So if that's your version of health care reform, and I believe that's the majority of Americans, then your vote is "no."

Mr. LEVIN. I urge a resounding "no" vote, and therefore I happily yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of H.R. 5486, if ordered, and suspension of the rules with regard to House Resolution 1322.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 187, noes 230, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 362]

AYES—187

Aderholt	Capito	Gerlach	LoBiondo	Paulsen	Shimkus
Akin	Carter	Gingrey (GA)	Lucas	Pence	Shuler
Alexander	Cassidy	Goodlatte	Luetkemeyer	Peterson	Shuster
Altmire	Castle	Granger	Lummis	Petri	Simpson
Austria	Chaffetz	Graves (GA)	Lungren, Daniel E.	Pitts	Skelton
Bachmann	Chandler	Graves (MO)	Mack	Platts	Smith (NE)
Bachus	Childers	Griffith	Manzullo	Poe (TX)	Smith (NJ)
Bartlett	Coble	Guthrie	Marchant	Posey	Smith (TX)
Barton (TX)	Coffman (CO)	Hall (TX)	Marshall	Price (GA)	Stearns
Biggart	Cole	Harper	McCarthy (CA)	Putnam	Sullivan
Bilbray	Conaway	Hastings (WA)	McCaul	Radanovich	Tanner
Bilirakis	Crenshaw	Heller	McClintock	Rehberg	Taylor
Bishop (UT)	Critz	Hensarling	McCotter	Reichert	Teague
Blackburn	Culberson	Herger	McHenry	Roe (TN)	Terry
Blunt	Davis (KY)	Holden	McIntyre	Rogers (AL)	Thompson (PA)
Boehner	Davis (TN)	Hunter	McKeon	Rogers (KY)	Thornberry
Bonner	Dent	Issa	McMorris	Rogers (MI)	Tiahrt
Bono Mack	Diaz-Balart, L.	Jenkins	Rodgers	Rohrabacher	Tiberi
Boozman	Diaz-Balart, M.	Johnson (IL)	Mica	Rooney	Turner
Boren	Djou	Johnson, Sam	Miller (MI)	Ros-Lehtinen	Turner
Boucher	Dreier	Jones	Miller (MI)	Roskam	Upton
Boustany	Duncan	Jordan (OH)	Miller, Gary	Ross	Walden
Brady (TX)	Edwards (TX)	King (IA)	Minnick	Royce	Westmoreland
Bright	Ehlers	King (NY)	Moran (KS)	Ryan (WI)	Whitfield
Broun (GA)	Emerson	Kingston	Murphy, Tim	Scalise	Wilson (SC)
Brown-Waite,	Flake	Kirk	Neugebauer	Schmidt	Wittman
Ginny	Fleming	Kline (MN)	Nunes	Schock	Wolf
Buchanan	Forbes	Lamborn	Nye	Sensenbrenner	Young (AK)
Burgess	Fortenberry	Lance	Olson	Sessions	Young (FL)
Burton (IN)	Fox	Latham	Paul	Shadegg	
Buyer	Franks (AZ)	LaTourrette			
Calvert	Frelinghuysen	Latta			
Camp	Gallely	Lee (NY)			
Campbell	Garrett (NJ)	Lewis (CA)			
			Ackerman	Filner	Matsui
			Adler (NJ)	Foster	McCarthy (NY)
			Andrews	Frank (MA)	McCollum
			Arcuri	Fudge	McDermott
			Baca	Garamendi	McGovern
			Baird	Giffords	McMahon
			Baldwin	Gonzalez	McNerney
			Barrow	Gordon (TN)	Meek (FL)
			Bean	Grayson	Meeks (NY)
			Becerra	Green, Al	Melancon
			Berkley	Green, Gene	Michaud
			Berman	Grijalva	Miller (NC)
			Berry	Gutierrez	Miller, George
			Bishop (GA)	Hall (NY)	Mitchell
			Bishop (NY)	Halvorson	Mollohan
			Blumenauer	Hare	Moore (KS)
			Bocciari	Harman	Moore (WI)
			Boswell	Hastings (FL)	Moran (VA)
			Boyd	Heinrich	Murphy (CT)
			Brady (PA)	Herseht Sandlin	Murphy (NY)
			Braley (IA)	Higgins	Murphy, Patrick
			Butterfield	Hill	Nadler (NY)
			Cao	Himes	Napolitano
			Capps	Hinchev	Neal (MA)
			Capuano	Hinojosa	Oberstar
			Cardoza	Hirono	Obey
			Carnahan	Holt	Olver
			Carney	Honda	Ortiz
			Carson (IN)	Hoyer	Owens
			Castor (FL)	Inslee	Pascarell
			Chu	Israel	Pastor (AZ)
			Clarke	Jackson (IL)	Payne
			Clay	Jackson Lee	Perlmutter
			Cleaver	(TX)	Perriello
			Clyburn	Johnson (GA)	Peters
			Cohen	Johnson, E. B.	Pingree (ME)
			Connolly (VA)	Kagen	Polis (CO)
			Conyers	Kanjorski	Pomeroy
			Cooper	Price	Prime (NC)
			Costa	Kennedy	Quigley
			Costello	Kildee	Rahall
			Courtney	Kilpatrick (MI)	Rangel
			Crowley	Kilroy	Reyes
			Cuellar	Kind	Richardson
			Cummings	Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Rodriguez
			Dahlkemper	Kissell	Rothman (NJ)
			Davis (AL)	Klein (FL)	Roybal-Allard
			Davis (CA)	Kosmas	Ruppersberger
			Davis (IL)	Kratovil	Rush
			DeFazio	Kucinich	Ryan (OH)
			DeGette	Langevin	Salazar
			Delahunt	Larsen (WA)	Sánchez, Linda T.
			DeLauro	Larson (CT)	
			Dicks	Lee (CA)	Sanchez, Loretta
			Dingell	Levin	Sarbanes
			Doggett	Lewis (GA)	Schakowsky
			Donnelly (IN)	Lipinski	Schauer
			Doyle	Loeb sack	Schiff
			Driehaus	Lofgren, Zoe	Schrader
			Edwards (MD)	Lujan	Schwartz
			Ellison	Lynch	Scott (GA)
			Ellsworth	Maffei	Scott (VA)
			Engel	Maloney	Serrano
			Eshoo	Markey (CO)	Sestak
			Etheridge	Markey (MA)	Shea-Porter
			Farr	Matheson	Sherman
			Fattah		Sires

NOES—230

Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)

Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz

NOT VOTING—15

Barrett (SC)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Cantor
Deutch

Fallin
Gohmert
Hodes
Hoekstra
Inglis

Linder
Miller (FL)
Myrick
Pallone
Wamp

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1744

Messrs. SHERMAN and OBEY changed their vote from “aye” to “no.” So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 247, noes 170, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 363]

AYES—247

Ackerman
Adler (NJ)
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bocchieri
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Butterfield
Cao
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Costello

Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Ellison
Ellsworth
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Giffords
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hall (NY)
Halvorson

Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslie
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack

Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lujan
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McMahon
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Minnick
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz

Owens
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Payne
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodríguez
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman

NOES—170

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Boyd
Hergeth Sandlin
Hunter
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack
Manullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCauley
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon

Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Rehberg
Reichert
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schmidt
Schock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stearns
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden
Westmoreland

Whitfield
Wilson (SC)

Wittman
Wolf

Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—15

Barrett (SC)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Cantor
Deutch

Fallin
Gohmert
Hodes
Hoekstra
Inglis

Miller (FL)
Myrick
Pallone
Putnam
Wamp

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1751

So the bill was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CELEBRATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALBERT EINSTEIN DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1322) celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program and recognizing the significant contributions of Albert Einstein Fellows, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 5, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 364]

YEAS—405

Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Bocchieri
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany

Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cao
Capito
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen

Cole
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dingell
Djou
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers

Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxo
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
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Herseth Sandlin
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(TX)
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King (IA)
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McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
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McGovern
McHenry
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Miller, Gary
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Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg

Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
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Sánchez, Linda
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Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
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Skelton
Slaughter
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Snyder
Space
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Stearns
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Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
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Tsongas
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Upton
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NAYS—5

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NOT VOTING—22

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Bilbray
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Gohmert
Hodes
Hoekstra
Inglis
Kingston

Miller (FL)
Myrick
Pallone
Putnam
Waters

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are less than 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1759

Mr. POE of Texas changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 364, had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed the following votes. I would have voted the following ways: For rollcall vote 361 I would have voted “yea.” For rollcall vote 362 I would have voted “yea.” For rollcall vote 363 I would have voted “nay.” For rollcall vote 364 I would have voted “yea.”

□ 1800

HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my congratulations to Cobb County, Georgia's Harrison High School baseball team, managed by Mark Elkins, who defeated Lassiter in the Class AAAAA State championship series. Harrison triumphed over Lassiter with a 3-1 victory in the title-clinching game of a very exciting and well-played series. Harrison's remarkable defense was on display throughout the entire series, with their fielding skills pacing them to the title.

A few highlights included a diving catch by outfielder Michael Hodorowski to save a run in the opening game. In game two, outfielders Preston Neely and Matthew Allen gunned down runners at home, preventing Lassiter from scoring go-ahead runs. Harrison also pulled off three double plays in the last game, ensuring their pivotal victory.

This is Harrison's first State title since 1998, making this a very special achievement. They are one of two schools from Georgia's 11th Congress-

sional District to win State baseball championships this year, and I am very proud of their accomplishments.

Congratulations, Harrison.

ROLL BACK THE SIZE OF GOVERNMENT NOW

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

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this administration has borrowed more money than all other administrations in the Nation's history combined, and they've only been at this for just over a year. The change we were promised has not turned out to be what all had hoped for.

The unemployment rate is nearly 2 percent higher than what the Democrats promised with their first stimulus package. America's debt is at \$13 trillion now. Now we learn that the administration wants another \$50 billion bailout. When will it end? Washington cannot create jobs no matter how much money is thrown out there. We know that jobs can only be created when you expand the private sector and not expand the government.

So, as we look forward to getting Americans back to work, I stand here today to say it is time for Washington to get about the business of expanding the private sector and of promoting sustainable job creation, which will come from that, and not of expanding government.

I know Georgians are tired of what is going on here in Washington, and I know most Americans are, too. Let's end the bailouts, the buyouts, and the stimulus bills.

□ 1145

COMMEMORATING TROOPER FIRST CLASS WESLEY BROWN

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to commemorate the life of Maryland State Trooper First Class Wesley Brown. Just 24 years old, Trooper Brown of Seat Pleasant, Maryland, was fatally shot last Friday. Trooper Brown was a brave Maryland State police officer, and a rising leader in our community.

The youngest of nine children, Trooper Brown overcame a challenging childhood to serve Maryland and better the lives of the youth in Prince George's County through a mentoring program he founded, Young Men Enlightening Younger Men. In his own words, Trooper Brown wrote that he founded the program to “show the young men in the community that there is a bigger and brighter future ahead of them with unlimited potential.”

Indeed, he had unlimited potential. A son of Prince George's County, a graduate of Crossland High School and an

accomplished student of criminal justice, he was a testament to his own words, and a shining light to all whom he encountered.

I join the Maryland State Police family and all those with whom he served in grieving the loss of Trooper Brown. He exemplified the best in our communities and, having spoken with his family, I know he was a wonderful son, brother and soon-to-be husband. His death is a tragic reminder of the perils our law enforcement officers face every day, and the bravery they show to ensure our safety.

I honor the life and memory of Trooper First Class Brown, and our thought and prayers are with his family and friends.

YOUNG MEN ENLIGHTENING YOUNGER MEN
ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

Welcome,

My name is Wesley Brown and I am the founder of Young Men Enlightening Younger Men (YMEYM). In September, 2007, my friends and family and I came together to show the young men in the community that there is a bigger and brighter future ahead of them with unlimited possibilities. YMEYM meets together as a group at least once a month to take a field trip somewhere outside of our community and spend time bonding and mentoring. Between field trips, the mentors stay in touch with the young men and encourage them to stay in school, do the best they can in school and in extracurricular activities, respect themselves and each other, and to talk out any conflicts instead of resorting to violence.

All of the mentors have committed much of their personal time and finances during this formation period. YMEYM's meeting location was my residence, where we would sit back and talk about whatever was on the boys' mind. Our goal is to listen and understand their problems and issues. Then we talk together to reach positive solutions to solve the problems. This way, the young men can think before they act, which sometimes results in unjustified punishment.

So, what we created is more than a mentoring program, a tutoring program, or a community service program. This is now a brotherhood of more than 20 young males with distinct personalities and different goals in life who are coming together to be a part of something positive. After researching some of these issues, we found that the majority of today's young men just want to be a part of something and that is why gang violence in the neighborhood is growing so rapidly.

The school system requires that students have a 2.0 GPA in order to play sports. What happens to those who try, but who just don't make it because of poor school systems or a lack of support from home? Where does he go? Who can he turn to? We believe that if a young man is trying to make himself a better man and a productive member of society, then we are PROUD of him—and we tell our young men that. We are proud of them and are here to push them to reach their full potential.

As a young man myself, some may wonder why I am trying so hard to reach these young men, as if I am their parent. Well, I believe that if the community is not encouraging our youth to stand tall and become someone special, what makes us think that the outside world will? After they are exposed to the world outside of their immediate community, reality hits them. They must be prepared and they must be shown the importance of responsibility and accountability and then they will go far in life.

During these teenage stages is when young men develop different characteristics which will continue to live within him during his entire adult life. Too often young men underestimate their own capabilities and greatness. It is our responsibility to step up to the plate and make a positive change. One young man at a time.

WESLEY BROWN,
Founder Young Men
Enlightening Younger
Men, Inc.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOCCIERI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL
ETHICS AND THE DIGNITY OF
THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, recent press reports indicate that the House leadership is considering a rules change which would diminish the scope and authority of the Office of Congressional Ethics, or OCE. This is an apparent response to the OCE's decision to forward information gathered during its investigation of the PMA Group to the Justice Department, bypassing the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct in the process. The narrative seems to be that this is just another example of the OCE's succumbing to mission creep or of its growing beyond its intended purpose.

In the interest of full disclosure, I voted against the creation of the OCE in 2007. I felt at the time that the House should be able to establish appropriate standards and to police its behavior through the Standards Committee. I still believe that we should be able to do so, but this controversy over the OCE has effectively shown that, when it comes to removing the cloud that hangs over this body relating to earmarks and to campaign contributions, this body is unwilling, through the Standards Committee, to take the necessary action to uphold the dignity of the institution.

After an investigation lasting more than a year, during which some 200,000 pages of documentation were accumulated, the OCE concluded "there is evidence that some of the commercial entities seeking earmarks from Members of Congress believe that a political donation to the Member has an impact on the Member's decision to author an earmark for that donor."

This information was forwarded to the Standards Committee, which agreed with the conclusion drawn by the OCE. The Standards Committee summarized the OCE's findings as follows: "There is a widespread perception among corporations and lobbyists that campaign contributions provided enhanced access to Members or a greater chance of obtaining earmarks."

Then, quite inexplicably, the Standards Committee dropped the matter, stating that to address the problem is "not within the jurisdiction of the committee." Let me state that again. The Standards Committee said that it lacks the authority to establish a standard that will address what they conclude is a widespread perception of a link between earmarks and campaign contributions. This defies reason.

At the beginning of the 110th Congress, the House adopted rules requiring Members of Congress to certify that they have no "financial interest" in an earmark's being sponsored. "Financial interest" has been defined by the Standards Committee to include a direct or a foreseeable effect on the pecuniary interest for the Member or his or her spouse. The relevant section of the House Ethics Manual then states, "Campaign contributions do not necessarily constitute financial interest."

How can the Standards Committee lack the authority to set standards or to interpret rules? This is particularly confusing when one considers that the Standards Committee can address the issue by simply amending the interpretation of "financial interest" it has already promulgated in the House Ethics Manual.

One need not read very far into the Standards Committee's summary of the OCE's PMA investigation before realizing that Members, through their campaign committees, derive significant benefit from the "widespread perception" of a link between earmarks and campaign contributions. To pretend that this benefit does not constitute "financial interest" is no longer a viable option. We are no longer acting in ignorance. The "wink-wink-nod-nod" game, which we have all known to exist with regard to earmarks and campaign contributions, is now well documented, and the Standards Committee's definition of "financial interest" needs to be updated to reflect these findings.

So where do we go from here?

We can shoot the messenger, as press reports indicate many Members are inclined to do, but the problem with this approach is that the message about the link between earmarks and campaign

contributions has already been delivered.

What we do with the OCE at this point is very much beside the point. It's little more than a sideshow. We need to concern ourselves with the dignity of the House. That is our collective responsibility. It does not fall outside of our jurisdiction.

As I have said many times before, Mr. Speaker, the PMA cloud that hangs over this body rains on Democrats and Republicans alike. We are in this swamp together, but we can't grab a shovel while we are covering our eyes and plugging our ears.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS FUNDING FOR FEMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring the voices of my constituents in Jefferson County, Wisconsin, to the floor of the people's House.

In 2008, homes along the northern shore of Lake Koshkonong and within the surrounding community were absolutely devastated by a record-setting flood. This was a 500-year flood event. It is the same one that ravaged much of the upper Midwest and, in particular, Wisconsin and Iowa.

During that storm, I knew that the damage was going to be devastating and that many of the houses in our community would be beyond repair. What I didn't know was that, almost 2 years after the floods, the agency upon which they relied would be leaving these hardworking Americans behind. You see, in February of this year, FEMA instituted what it calls "immediate needs funding." Basically, they are freezing already approved funds to folks in Wisconsin and in other disaster areas across the country.

A couple of weekends ago, I had the chance to visit with property owners from my district, of whom I have the privilege of representing, who have been affected. They are survivors of the 2008 floods. I wanted to hear their stories. Many brought photos and letters. They brought their own unique stories. They brought their anger and their frustrations.

I met with Gene and Marie Harris at their home on Lamp Road, one of the most extensively damaged neighborhoods in this flood. The damage was so extensive that their house was absolutely uninhabitable and has been since the flood. They showed me photos of before, during, and after, and we talked about the tangle of bureaucratic red tape that they waded through in order to get approved for the FEMA dollars. They were approved for the FEMA money, but they haven't received a penny because of the funding freeze. When I asked Marie to recall what they had gone through back in June of 2008, not surprisingly, she welled up with tears.

Mr. Speaker, our hearts go out to the victims of the recent floods and of natural disasters. Yet I fear we suffer from that old adage, "Out of sight, out of mind." Once the cameras are packed away and the news crews leave for the next breaking story, what happens to the victims and survivors of these natural disasters? Will the families in Tennessee or in Arkansas suffer the same fate as Wisconsinites and Iowans? Will they see their funding from FEMA freeze even after it has been approved?

One would hope that the system of emergency response would keep on plugging away, assisting the families in need across this country, but we have seen that system completely break down. This is unacceptable.

It has been 2 years since their homes were devastated, and my neighbors are still living in temporary housing, and they are enduring financial chaos. One man is homeless. Another family is on the verge of bankruptcy because of the situation that FEMA has left them in.

I know this is wrong. My constituents know this is wrong. The Federal Government has to do better.

□ 1815

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, this Nation has sent millions of good jobs to other countries over the last 30 or 40 years because of environmental rules, regulations, and red tape. This has hurt millions of poor and lower-income and working people by destroying jobs and driving up prices on everything.

The BP oil spill in the Gulf is a terrible thing, and we need to do all we reasonably can to see that something like this does not happen again. However, some extremists want us to stop offshore oil production entirely. Talk about wrecking our economy. Talk about killing countless numbers of jobs. And all this at a time when our unemployment is far too high and underemployment is even higher.

John Engler, the former Governor of Michigan, wrote a column 5 days ago in the Washington Times under the headline, "Drilling Moratorium is a Jobs Moratorium." Governor Engler wrote, "Our country cannot afford to use this accident as an excuse for an overbroad moratorium that stops progress to the detriment of our economic and national security. We do not need to choose between energy security and environmental safety. We need to continue to strive for both."

Charles Krauthammer, the TV commentator and columnist, is respected even by people with whom he disagrees as one of the smartest men in this city. He recently wrote a column asking why we were drilling in 5,000 feet of water in the first place. He wrote, "Environmental chic has driven us out there. Environmentalists have succeeded in rendering the Pacific and nearly all the Atlantic Coast off limits to oil production. And, of course, in the safest of all places, on land, we've had a 30-year ban on drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

Mr. Krauthammer is right. For many years, we have tried to allow drilling on about 2,000 or 3,000 acres of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. ANWR is 19.8 million acres, some 35 times the size of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Smokies get over 9 million visitors a year, and people think it is huge. They cannot humanly comprehend how big ANWR is, yet it is home to only a couple hundred people in the village of Kaktovik and gets a couple of hundred visitors each year. Yet radical environmentalists, who almost always come from very wealthy or upper-income families, oppose oil production almost everywhere. They want gas to double or triple in cost so people will drive less. They can't relate to people who cannot afford gas that costs \$7 or \$8 or \$10 a gallon like it does in some other countries.

Not only would shooting the cost of gas way up cause the loss of huge numbers of jobs, it would put the final nail in the coffins of many small towns and rural areas. People in rural areas generally have to drive longer distances to get to their jobs. Already, two-thirds of the counties in the U.S. are losing population. Yet, once again, radical environmentalists see nothing wrong with this. Most of them are city people, anyway. They probably think it would be good if everyone was forced to live in 25 or 30 urban areas, with the rest of the country left totally empty and people could be bused to a national park or wilderness area every couple of months, under government supervision, of course, so they would not harm the land.

Everyone pays lip service to energy independence, but we already had 84 percent of our U.S. oil off limits even before the President imposed this latest moratorium. Environmental radicals will say they, too, want energy independence. But, then, environmental groups oppose drilling for oil, cutting any trees, digging for any coal, or producing any natural gas because of the pipelines and the refineries. And, heaven forbid, they certainly don't want more nuclear power.

The opposition varies from group to group and geographic location, but the environmentalists are always there to fight any kind of energy production except for solar and wind. But then some oppose the windmills, too. And solar energy, despite mega billions in government subsidies over the last 30

years, only produces one-seventh of 1 percent of our energy, and adding wind power only brings it up about 1 percent more.

If we limit this Nation to wind and solar, we might as well just shut the country down economically. And all these young people with degrees who are working as waiters and waitresses or in other low-paying jobs can thank the environmentalists. I told my wife as we were eating out last Saturday night, the American people used to work in factories and eat out just occasionally. Now, most of the factories have gone to other countries and restaurants have replaced the factories as our biggest employers other than government.

Now, a slight majority of our people get most of their income from Federal, State, or local government. When a country passes that threshold, it is on the way down. We need to wake up and realize that the worst polluters in the world have been the socialist and communist countries. And we need to realize that only a free market, free enterprise system can generate the money to do the good things for the environment that everybody wants done.

Charles Krauthammer wrote in another column a few months ago that, "socialism having failed so spectacularly, the left was adrift until it struck on a brilliant gambit: metamorphosis from red to green. The cultural elites went straight from the memorial service for socialism to the altar of the environment. The objective is the same: highly centralized power."

Once again, Mr. Krauthammer is right.

We certainly need to clean up the BP oil spill, but we should not let misguided radicals shut down our economy and hurt many lower- and middle-income people in the process.

PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I was going to speak on a subject, and I will, but after listening to the previous speaker, I think a few comments are in order.

I think it was that great socialist, Richard Nixon, that happened to sign the Environmental Protection Act and the Clean Air Act. So maybe that's what you're talking about.

But to make the argument that somehow the environmental movement is responsible for the demise of American industries is just fallacious. It's a stretch of the imagination. In fact, there are many, many things involved, including free trade acts and international competition that's coming our way.

And if my colleague on the Republican side was so interested in this, he would have voted on the bill last week

that would have brought back foreign earnings and closed the tax loopholes on those American corporations that have gone offshore—instead, bringing those back. I think, if I recall correctly, we didn't get one Republican vote on closing those loopholes that have allowed American corporations to offshore jobs. But I really wanted to take up another issue, and I will do so now.

I rise today to express my support for the right that all nations have to secure their borders in self-defense. Our close ally, Israel, shares a border with Gaza, a region controlled by the terrorist organization Hamas. Since 2001, thousands of rockets have been launched from Gaza into Israel, killing more than a dozen Israelis and wounding hundreds and terrifying that nation. We also know that Hamas receives material support from Iran, an international pariah that oppresses its own citizens while funding terrorist organizations throughout the region. For all these reasons, Israel has chosen to restrict imports to the Gaza Strip, insisting that all deliveries must be inspected to make sure that weapons are not smuggled into the territory.

Today, I call on Hamas leadership to reject their past support for terrorism, renounce violence, and embrace the two-state solution so that Israelis and Palestinians can live their lives freely, in peace, and security.

I also call on all powers in the Middle East to value human life and to do everything to avoid bloodshed. The loss of life in the flotilla incident was tragic, and I look forward to the findings of the recently formed Independent Public Commission, which will examine such issues as the naval blockade of Gaza, actions taken by the commandos during the flotilla incident, and the identities and conduct of the organizers and participants in the flotilla.

In the meantime, we must focus on avoiding escalation, preventing more violence, and continuing the peace process. The greatest tragedy would be to allow the flotilla incident to end the region's prospects for peace.

SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in Genesis, chapter 12, verses 1 through 3, God tells Abraham that he will bless the nation that blesses his people, and curse the nation who curses his people.

God says in that verse, starting at verse 1, The Lord had said to Abraham, "Leave your country, your people, and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you. I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you, I will curse. And all people's on Earth will be blessed through you."

Mr. Speaker, God gave the land in Israel to the Israelites, to the Jewish people. They're a sovereign nation. They have a sovereign right to protect their borders, to protect their lives, to protect their country, to protect their valid claim to the land that God gave them.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation has supported Israel since it was reestablished in 1947 by an act of the United Nations. This country has supported Israel ever since then. We've been blessed as a Nation since then. But I'm very fearful that this administration is turning its back upon Israel. I'm very fearful that God's blessing that has been on this land, as promised in Genesis, chapter 12, verses 1 through 3, will cease if we cease supporting the nation of Israel.

Israel is a sovereign nation that's protecting itself. It has an absolute right to do so. Mr. Speaker, if we turn our back upon Israel, as I'm fearful that we're doing as a Nation through this administration, not only will we cease to have God's blessings, but we will also start receiving the curses from God that he promised in Genesis, chapter 12.

Mr. Speaker, if we don't support Israel, and just by being silent, just by turning our back upon Israel, then we're supporting Hamas. We're supporting Hezbollah. We're supporting Iran. President Ahmadinejad has stressed over and over again that he wants to annihilate Israel from the face of the Earth. We have to support Israel, Mr. Speaker. The consequences for our Nation are too dire not to.

God has put his blessings upon this country. And I think a big part of that is because this country was founded on the Judeo-Christian principles that have made this country so powerful, so rich, and so successful as a political experiment. But that blessing will cease if we ever turn our back upon Israel. We must not. We cannot. America must support Israel. Our administration must support Israel. And I call upon our country to continue to do so.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

A TRIBUTE TO GOOD BREAD AND A FAMILY OF ENTREPRENEURS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SABLAN. The people of the Northern Mariana Islands love rice. Pre-contact with the West, the Marianas were the easternmost extent of the cultivation of rice. For us, a meal without rice is no meal.

Yet, ironically, one of our most cherished local businesses processes that

great competitor of rice: Wheat bread. Pan mamis and Pan toasta. These baked goods bring back mouthwatering memories for all of us in the Marianas. And the source of this goodness we most recall is Herman's Modern Bakery.

Perhaps, our devotion to Herman's has to do with the roots of that business in the ashes of war. Like the people of Israel beset by the Babylonians, as the people of the Marianas emerged from the trauma of World War II, "the famine was sore, so that there was no bread." We were starving and stored together in an internment camp in the days and months following the U.S. victory over the Japanese in 1944.

But the U.S. forces quickly began reorganizing society and reestablishing the ability of our community to care for itself. The occupying forces tapped the young Herman Reyes Guerrero to bake. Herman had previously apprenticed as a baker during the Japanese administration of the Northern Marianas, and he quickly agreed to return to this calling. He began baking bread for the U.S. troops, for Japanese prisoners of war, and for the Chamorro and Carolinian people of Saipan housed by the military in Camp Susupe.

As often happens after war, much materiel is left behind, cheaper to abandon than to return home. So it was at the close of World War II in the Pacific that the United States Navy simply gave Herman Guerrero the baking equipment the military had supplied for him to use.

□ 1830

With those ovens and mixers and the customer base he had already established, Herman opened Herman's Bakery. Not only was this the first bakery, this was the very first company founded in our postwar economy.

As the years went by, from that base of bread and baked goods, Herman's business grew. He opened the first hotel on the island of Saipan, a retail store, a laundromat, and a travel agency. In the early 1980s, following extensive expansion and upgrading, the bakery became known as Herman's Modern Bakery, and its products became ubiquitous throughout Micronesia. Today, the company's distribution chain includes several international franchises. You can even find Herman's cookies for sale on the Internet.

One of Herman Guerrero's fondest memories of his early baking career was a visit to the shop by Admiral Chester Nimitz, and throughout the following 65-plus years of growth, the close relationship between the United States military and the bakery continued. Today, as the U.S. build-up commences on Guam, Herman's has contracted as an authorized supplier, opening up a distribution facility and considering a bakery there. Herman's also regularly supplies the U.S. naval vessels that dock in Saipan for R&R. For just as many residents like to make Herman's our last stop on the drive to

the airport—to take pan mamis, guzuria and crocks of cookies away as gifts and comfort foods from home—so, too, the sailors of the U.S. fleet enjoy pulling away from the dock with Herman's sweets stocked in the galley.

From a humble one-man beginning, today, Herman provides jobs for over 110 individuals. A leading corporate citizen, Herman's is a strong supporter of civic, charitable, educational, and religious organizations, including the American Red Cross, the Commonwealth Health Center, the Rotary Club, the Northern Marianas College Foundation, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and nearly every school, church, and village fiesta on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The company piloted our school lunch program and has provided technical expertise to individuals on other islands in Micronesia who are opening or improving their own bakeries. With the recent establishment of the distribution center on Guam, the company has begun to expand its charitable support to that island, too.

Always, the bakery remains the heart of the family of companies and of the family of Herman Guerrero himself. All of the surviving children of Herman and his wife, Maria Tenorio Guerrero—Jesus, Agnes, Herman Jr., Juan, Florencio, Margarita, Anna, Rudolfo, Joseph, and Leonora—have worked at the bakery during significant portions of their adult lives. Herman was so identified with the bakery business that he came to be called by the nickname "Pan," which in the Chamorro language means "bread." Indeed, to this day, many of his children carry the "Pan" honorific as part of their own everyday names. For most of us in the Northern Mariana Islands, when we hear the word "pan," it's a tossup which comes first to mind: Herman Reyes Guerrero—Herman "Pan"—and his wonderful bakery, or just the wonderful baked goods that "Pan" produced.

Dangkulo na si yu'us ma'ase.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PLEADING THE 10TH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to plead the Tenth. Earlier today, this body voted on H.R. 4855 that would establish in the Department of Labor an annual work/life balance award for employers that have developed and implemented work/life balance policies. The bill would also es-

tablish an advisory board to administer the award. Now although I oppose this legislation, I want to make clear that I actually think that the ultimate goals of this bill are good ones. The sponsors had the best intentions. I want to repeat that. The goals and objectives of this bill are respectable, even noble ideas. No one questions that a proper work/life balance is extremely important. But just because something is important doesn't mean Washington has to write a law to protect it, or create a bureau to encourage it, or really have anything else to do with it. In fact, it's simply not the job of the Federal Government to promote good work/life balance.

Now there will be many more egregious bills in the future that will mandate by the Federal Government to States and locals and to the people behavior in certain circumstances, but not the incredibly worse bills that are out there withstanding. This Constitution makes the principle very clear: the Constitution gives Congress here in Washington certain powers that are limited. And in case we weren't clear on the concept or we didn't get it, it includes the Tenth Amendment which states: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." In other words, if a power is not assigned to the Federal Government in the Constitution, then it must be automatically assumed to be assigned to States, localities or to no government entity at all.

So just imagine that, Mr. Speaker. A problem in America not being solved with the involvement of the Federal Government. Some in this Chamber cannot envision such a world, but it can exist.

So I rise today to say that I do believe in the Constitution and the Tenth Amendment. I remain hopeful that the Congress will remember our limitations, begin to return the consideration of life's most important elements back to the States and local governments and churches and private groups and families where they really should be handled. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, on this particular issue, I plead the Tenth.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BOOZMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE BILLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, tonight's discussion will be about bills that Members of the Republican Conference have sponsored that have not yet gotten a hearing that we still think are very good ideas for our country at this time of high debt, high deficits, and when regulation is being heaped on businesses that actually need the chains to be broken so they can pursue the American Dream of hiring people, creating jobs and fulfilling our role in the country and the world, which is to feed people, clothe people, create jobs, create wealth, create opportunity and so that all Americans have the opportunity to do so without being shackled by the Federal Government.

With me this evening is BOB LATTA, who is from one of the most diverse districts in the entire United States. It has everything from agriculture to manufacturing, and it has experienced every up and down that is possible for one district to experience. During the course of this evening, Mr. LATTA and I hope that we will have the opportunity to refer you frequently to www.americanroadmap.org, which is a draft of the Budget Committee on which we both serve, an opportunity that provides Americans the chance to get out of debt and to eliminate the deficit, and to comprehensively do so without raising taxes.

It takes a long time, but it creates a very smooth landing for our country. And we also want to refer you to www.americaspeakingout.com.

Americaspeakingout.com is an official function of the Republican Conference here in the U.S. House which allows you to weigh in on ideas that you have for our country that will make it stronger, safer, more efficient, more cost effective and will unshackle this Nation's economy in a way that will allow us to once again pursue our role as a global leader in terms of innovation and jobs.

So at this time I would like to yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlelady for yielding. This is a very important issue that we are talking about: jobs, small businesses, and how we can get this country moving. I rise tonight to discuss a bill that I have sponsored, H.R. 1763, which is the Responsible Reinvestment Act of 2009. But before I do, I would just like to make a couple of comments, as the gentlelady just said, about the uniqueness of my district.

I have the number one manufacturing district in the State of Ohio. I also have the number one agricultural district in the State of Ohio. And about 2 years of this time, according to the National Manufacturers Association, I had the ninth largest number of manufacturing jobs in the United States House of Representatives. But because of the recession that we've seen happen across the country, I have dropped to about 20th, which is totally unacceptable because last summer we had unemployment rates raging across our district and across the State and the country. Two of my counties had over 18 percent unemployment. I had four others over 16 percent. So we have to do something in this country to get this country moving.

It's kind of interesting. We talk about having a district that's number one in manufacturing and also a district that's number one in agriculture. So how did that work? Well, I have so many of my farmers that work full time off the farm, but they work full time on the farm. So like my relatives who also live in my district, you know, they're working a lot more than 40-hour weeks, and they are making sure that the American economy keeps moving, they are making sure that Americans are fed, but they are also making sure that we don't have to rely on foreign countries for our food, like we have to do when it comes to oil, relying on foreign countries for our needs.

So we need jobs. We need jobs that are created by the private sector. We don't need any government jobs that are really just make-work jobs out there. Small businesses continue to bear the burden of this economic slowdown, and they need relief to be able to survive and continue to remain in business. Currently, small businesses employ over half the private sector workers in America. To assist small business owners, I introduced the Responsible Reinvestment Act. Specifically, this bill focuses on the following areas that I believe will not only help small businesses grow throughout the country but also help put our neighbors back to work.

The bill does the following: a 20 percent tax cut for small business is equal to 20 percent of the total income of the business. It permanently repeals the estate tax, or the death tax. You know, we have to do something in this Congress because if we do not act by the end of this session, the death tax will revert to where it was 10 years ago

without any adjustment to inflation, and that will hit small businesses and farmers alike. So, again, this bill repeals the death tax; it increases the expensing for small businesses to \$500,000; a full first-year expensing for farm and manufacturing equipment; and the full deductibility for the self-employment tax in relation to health premiums, which is extremely important for small businesses across this country.

The items in this bill will also be very beneficial to small business owners by freeing up capital for them to use to reinvest in their business. And through doing that, it will bring stability back to the communities in which they exist.

The future of our country depends on a proactive approach to creating viable solutions for small business owners to exceed and remain profitable. Small businesses are the lifeline and the heartbeat of our Nation's economy, as these are the companies that we rely on for products and services. As a Congress, we must absolutely stop passing legislation that contains massive spending and, instead, pass legislation like H.R. 1763 that will help small businesses rather than hurt them.

President Obama submitted his administration's fiscal year 2011 budget proposal with a record-breaking cost of \$3.8 trillion. This budget proposal includes a \$2 trillion tax increase over the next 10 years and projected record deficits. This proposal will double our Nation's debt in 5 years and triple it in 10 years from fiscal year 2008 levels.

The Congressional Budget Office has stated that under current spending levels, by 2020 American taxpayers will be paying \$2 billion a day in interest on the national debt alone. And, again, let me reiterate that—\$2 billion a day. I think we have to understand what this is going to do. It hasn't been all that long ago that we look back to the late seventies and early eighties when we had 21.5 percent interest rates in this country. And it wasn't very long ago I was talking with some small business owners in my district, and they said, Well, we even had problems getting a loan at over 26 percent interest.

Now, if the Federal Government is borrowing over \$2 billion a day—and you know, when you are talking about that, you are looking at the Federal deficit or, I should say, the debt going to \$20.3 trillion by the year 2020, and now the U.S. Treasury is coming out and saying that that could be at least \$26 trillion, that \$2 billion a day is going to be much higher, and businesses out there are going to have to do one thing—compete against government to borrow. That means the interest rates are going to skyrocket again, and how are we going to get small businesses moving again in this country?

Mrs. LUMMIS. Will the gentleman yield briefly?

Mr. LATTA. Absolutely. I yield to the lady.

Mrs. LUMMIS. That \$2 billion a day you just mentioned, that would only

take either 3 or 4 days for the entire budget of the State of Wyoming for 2 years. That covers our whole budget. It's a stunning number. That's how much money we're talking about.

And I yield back.

Mr. LATTA. I thank the lady for yielding back. Because again, you know, when you are looking at these staggering numbers—I'm sure Wyoming, like the State of Ohio, in our Constitution we have to balance our budget. I was a county commissioner for 6 years when I was first elected to public service. We went through the '91-'92 downturn at that time. And what did we have to do? Well, we had to cut back. We didn't just say we have to spend more. We had to cut.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LATTA. I yield to the lady.

□ 1845

Mr. LATTA. Well, what we had to do was when we did our budget for the year, there are certain things in Ohio that the commissioners are responsible for. You looked at things. You thought, we have to budget for things like bad weather because you have to have more overtime.

One of the things that we always hoped we never have happen was a capital murder case because we know how much that would cost. We had to sit down with all of the other elected officials and say, We have to make cuts across the board and scale back. If we didn't, we were going to be in trouble. Again, our Constitution says you shall balance your budget.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Are you aware of any circumstance since you have been in Congress where the Members of Congress in the leadership have been called to the White House to sit down and talk about how we are going to cut spending?

Mr. LATTA. Again, this is a problem we are facing. Instead of saying we are going to increase certain budgets by 12 percent over the year before, we have to go back maybe a budget before that and say that is where we need to start the cuts. One of the things that is happening with small businesses across the country, or large businesses, when I go across my district and when I have the opportunity, I try to go to as many factories and businesses as I can. And when I am talking to these individuals, I like to find out what is happening to them.

But they like to ask this one question: We have cut way back to keep our doors open; what have you done in the Federal Government to help along these lines?

I think one of the interesting trips I was in was at a factory in my district. I went into the plant and they had to scale back. They had to unfortunately cut employees. But at the same time they were in there saying we had to reduce the number of hours people were working. So maybe it was not 40-plus hours, but it was a 32-hour work week.

Then they said we have to make sure that management does their share. They were cut 10–20 percent in their salary. And management was cleaning the restrooms in the factory to try to help do anything to scale back on costs that they would pay someone else to do.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Is there any instance where the Federal Government has done the same thing? Has the Federal Government gone to its employees and said, We need to cut you back to 32-hour weeks so we can keep you employed, keep you on your benefits so you don't lose your health care, but we need to save some money. Are you aware of that?

Mr. LATTA. Again, I think we would have heard it if something like that would have happened. But at this stage of the game, the Federal Government has a trump card some people think, and that we control the printing presses for putting out money. The big problem is we watch dollars being put out, but at the same time the United States Treasury is out there at an auction, and at that auction you have the Federal Reserve buying it, and all of a sudden we are monetizing our debt. We are moving one IOU from one pocket to the other. We are not accomplishing anything. We are not cutting anything. And we watch expenses keep rolling up.

The American people understand that what we do at home when we sit around our kitchen tables and you get out the family budget and say these are the things that we are going to have to pay for. It is the question of wants and needs. There is a big difference between what I want and what I absolutely need. I think the Federal Government has got to go to what is needed, and we are going to have to start scaling back immediately.

I am sure you have students and constituents who come here. When I had a group of students here today on the Capitol steps, and I look at these kids, juniors or seniors in high school, I look at what their future is for the next 10 years, and I don't care if it is \$20.3 trillion in debt or \$26 trillion in debt, according to the Treasury, we are in trouble.

Mrs. LUMMIS. What do you hear from your constituents? Do they believe that they are ready for the kind of reforms that you believe are necessary to save our country?

Mr. LATTA. I thank the gentlelady. I think what you are looking at is from the small business owners. They understand right off the bat that something has to be done. They understand that they have had to make deep, deep cuts.

Until recently, I served on the Budget Committee, and you are still a member. Sitting through those hearings with the Congressional Budget Office director or the Office of Management and Budget director or Secretary Geithner or when we heard from Mr. Bernanke, we heard the same thing: we are on an unsustainable growth of spending in this country. It has got to

be stopped. They don't offer a solution, but it is a very simple solution: you don't spend what you don't have.

I was one of 19 grandkids on my maternal side. I will never forget my grandmother, the good German farm woman she was, she had a simple saying, that he who goes a borrowing goes a sorrowing. She pretty much made sure that all 19 of us understood that. Again, you don't spend what you don't have because we cannot spend our way out of this mess. If we are going to be doing that, all we are doing right now, and have been doing, is mortgaging the future of the next generation of Americans.

You know, the question when you talk to parents out there and say are your kids going to be better off than you are, most parents don't believe it. They think that their kids are going to have a harder time of it than they have, and that is a bad sign for America's future.

Mrs. LUMMIS. The chart I have to my left, the viewer's right, is exactly illustrating what the gentleman has just been discussing. If you look at the spread between spending and taxes that occurs on the far side of the dotted line, that shows you what is projected into the future. That spread between spending and taxes going into the future is enormous and consistent. And if you look at what that produces in terms of deficits, look at the bottom line, the red line again on the far side away from me from the dotted line, and you can see that deficits are projected into the future. When we say unsustainable, that's what we mean. The long-term consequences to this country is that our children and grandchildren will inherit the consequences of our reckless behavior. How do we resolve this?

Mr. LATTA. Well, when you look at these budget projections, you have to have people working. When we are looking at an unemployment rate of 9.7 percent in this country and a little under 11 percent unemployment in the State of Ohio, and we all know what is going to happen later this summer when all of those people who were hired to be census takers, working for the census are going to be back on unemployment, these numbers are going to go right back up because it kind of is a false data time that we are in right now when we are looking at these numbers.

Of course we saw what happened when the unemployment numbers came out and only 41,000 jobs had been created in the private sector, what Wall Street thought of that. They are looking at things are not going well for this economy.

I know you heard these same statements that were projections from the Congressional Budget Office director when he was before the Budget Committee. We are looking at probably 2014 or 2015 before we get back to, and I don't care if you want to say normal employment or normal unemployment

in this country. The question is for areas that are hard hit like a lot of parts of Ohio and a lot of parts of the Midwest where manufacturing takes place, what are we going to do in our areas for the next 4 or 5 years with these high unemployment rates? Where are people going to go?

Mrs. LUMMIS. This chart illustrates exactly what the gentleman is discussing. If you look at the blue line, that is private sector employment. That is employment in the entrepreneurial economy. This is employment that comes from the employer class of Americans. If you look at the red line, the skyrocketing government employment, that is just that. It is the Federal Government attempting to replace the private sector with public sector jobs. The only problem is a public sector employee pays the same taxes that a private sector employee does. However, the public sector employee's salary comes entirely from private sector employment and the taxes generated by it. There is no way that we can sustain an economy of totally government employees when we have lost the private sector jobs, the kinds of jobs that Mr. LATTA has been referring to this evening in his district.

Mr. LATTA. One of the things that we are talking about, those jobs, and it goes back years ago when I was a county commissioner. You wanted to make sure you had as broad a tax base as possible in your county or State or country. It is like a pyramid. You want as big a base on that as possible. But the thing we were worried about, what happens if? We were losing jobs and we had fewer and fewer people. All of a sudden that starts shifting that base, and pretty soon you have a very small tax base out there of individuals, and you have a lot of other people up on top. It doesn't work.

What we can't have in this country is killing the entrepreneurs. When you look at all of these different scenarios out there, the bills that have come before this Congress, and these are the same people that I talk to in my district. And again, when you are dealing with the largest manufacturing district in the State, 20th largest in the Nation, they are concerned. I hear all the time about the issues out there that will help bring them down, is about the best way to say it.

You know, we have the second highest corporate tax rate in the world. What are we doing about that here? When we talk about the health care costs, a lot of them are saying when they hit that certain magical number, when they get above it, they are asking why do I want to expand if I will be paying more. It won't work. Folks in business understand it. It gets to the point of economics 101 from your first year of college which is the law of diminishing returns. It is the more I work, the more I get taxed, and the less I have; why do it? People aren't going to do that. It is against human nature to do something like that.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Would you recommend reducing the corporate tax rate?

Mr. LATTA. We have to go across the board. If we are going to compete against our foreign competitors, and that is who is out there today. Because when we look at a lot of these regulations that are coming down on businesses, you look at the corporate tax rate and you look at what has happened here with health care, we have seen these numbers coming out today of what is going to happen on the health care side. They are saying you get to keep what you want; well, that is not going to happen for a lot of individuals.

When you look at the regulations, companies are saying we don't have to worry about that if we are someplace else. I have had companies that are located in a village or city, and when the EPA puts a mandate in for water or sewer, but the parent company is some place outside the State, and they are told if their rates go up to a certain amount and they are no longer profitable in their area, well that company is going to be moved. When you are looking at losing 300 jobs or 400 jobs or 600 jobs, that is totally unacceptable.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Are you aware of any employers in your manufacturing district that have pulled up stakes and moved their businesses elsewhere?

Mr. LATTA. That happens all of the time, unfortunately. We have situations where we are competing. I know years ago when I was a county commissioner, we were competing against many other parts of the State of Ohio or maybe someplace in southern Michigan or eastern Indiana. In a short 20-year period, now we are competing with somebody 8,000, 12,000 miles away. If they are in a situation where they have lower labor cost, and if they have lower cost for their electricity or other fuel costs, and we are all for clean air and clean water, but if they are in certain areas where there is no concern for that, and we have heard under the cap-and-trade legislation, if we did everything that was asked for under this piece of legislation that passed out of the House, in 8 years there would be absolutely no difference in CO₂ emissions. Why, because China and India would be making that amount up. But at the same time, we would have lost all of those jobs in this country. Those jobs would have moved someplace else.

□ 1900

Mrs. LUMMIS. Are you aware of any manufacturer that has moved into your district from a foreign country, saying this is a better place to do business? It's more economical here? I can make a better profit here?

Mr. LATTA. I thank the lady for yielding.

This is the problem you run into. In my opinion, I truly believe that the United States has the greatest workforce in the world. We have the best trained workforce. We have the best

educated workforce, but we just need to be put on an equal footing. And when companies understand that—you know, it's just like with that small entrepreneur.

If they toil day after day—I knew somebody that, to get their company started, they had a small bed that could roll up in their office. And his wife would come in and help work, and she slept on the couch. But, you know, they put hours and hours and hours into that business, first of all, to get it off the ground, to grow it, and then to make it successful.

But if you put the roadblocks in front of these people, you know, some folks aren't going to be as steadfast as they were, and they are going to say, You know what? It's just not worth it. Why kill myself? And I think that, again, it's the spirit of entrepreneurship in this country that makes this country work.

It's like when I talk to these kids on the Capitol steps. You know, why did a lot of our relatives ever get on—some people's relatives came on the Mayflower. Most of ours came on the Poorflower. And when people got off that boat, and my relatives came down by barge on the Ohio River, and they came up the canal system, and they cleared the land, and they started farming in Putnam County in Ohio. They had a desire. They wanted land. They wanted to grow that land. They wanted to make sure that they had something not only for themselves but for their kids. They wanted a future. And I think that's what we are losing track of in this body and in this Congress, that what's happened is that it's no longer about the future, but too many are thinking, "It's about me." And the problem with "me" is we are not growing it. And we have to grow the "we" and the "us" to make this country successful.

Mrs. LUMMIS. My daughter did a study for an economics professor about externalities, meaning decisions you don't necessarily see in black and white on a business plan, that might affect a Wyoming rancher's decision to stay in agriculture or leave agriculture. Because we know that in Wyoming agriculture, especially beef production agriculture—of course, there are no subsidies in beef production agriculture in Wyoming, and other States as well.

So the largest group in Wyoming are those that make from 0 to 4 percent profit. The second largest group are those that make from 0 to minus 4 percent profit. And after looking at many factors of what would motivate a person to stay in a business where the profit margin is that low, the answer for especially second, third, and fourth generation ranchers was the ability to pass it on to my children, to give my children a better life, to give my kids the ranch.

Now, Mr. LATTA has mentioned two things that are of concern if a person's motivation is to give their children a

better standard of living, a better life, an opportunity, a shot that maybe they didn't have or that they have enjoyed and they just want their children to have as well. You mentioned that next year the estate tax is going to go back up to a maximum amount of 55 percent of the value of the estate, with only a \$1 million exemption; whereas, this year there is no estate tax whatsoever.

Think about that and how that will affect you if you have spent your entire life building something with the one motivation of giving that to your children or your grandchildren. That is going to be devastating. Many people I know would accept a smaller estate tax with a higher exemption, but no one I know is going to be satisfied that a 55 percent tax on your life's work that you wish to pass on to your children is anything but a taking. And takings are unconstitutional under our Fifth Amendment. I mean, that's how people look at it.

And, you know, if you worked your whole life for something 7 days a week, not 5 days a week, not 40-hour weeks, but every minute of every day that you are awake, growing your family, growing your business, growing their opportunities, creating a community, creating the kind of American Dream that so many people came here with nothing and then built over their lifetimes or their parents built over their lifetimes and want to pass on to their children.

The other point you made that I think is going to affect that American Dream is our debt, is these running deficits that are unsustainable over time. Because if we mount our children and our grandchildren with debt, it will crowd out private investment. If we are spending the entire Federal budget, all of our tax dollars on the combination of entitlement programs and interest on the national debt, we have crowded out the opportunity for private investment as well as for discretionary spending within our economy.

I yield back to the gentleman to tell us more about the consequences of these bad policies and the kinds of bills that he has proposed to change all that.

Mr. LATTA. Well, you have touched on something when you are talking about the death tax, the estate tax. And, you know, when you are talking about something going from having zero death tax this year, which won't ever happen because, you know, there will be a retroactive clause put in somewhere saying that they are never going to let people off the hook, and they are going to say anybody that passed away this year, somehow they will try to bring them back up, and I am sure the lawsuits will begin.

But you are right about a couple things right off the bat. You know, family businesses, family farms, I know it's difficult for some folks when you are only looking at a very small percentage of about less than 2 percent of Americans now that make their livelihoods from the farm. And when you

go to your local county fairs and you go to look at these implements and the costs, and when you are talking about a \$425,000 combine with one head, or you are looking at a couple hundred thousand dollars for a tractor, and you start adding all these pieces of machinery up. People say, well, if you have got a couple million dollars you are rich. Well, most farmers that I know are land rich and cash poor.

And what happens in a lot of cases or a small business, what do they have to do? Well, number one, okay, they have to start doing estate planning early on. And I am an attorney by trade. But when you start talking about that we have to tell the American people they have to expend millions and billions of dollars when it comes to estate planning or doing the taxes every year, we should simplify this. But, also, we shouldn't be taking what they have worked hard for. And when people are out there thinking, Is it going to be worth it in the end?

Because this will be—you know, if we get to a point in this country, people are going to say, You know what? If the government's going to take it in the end and I can't pass it on, what are they going to do? Either, A, I am not going to work that hard, or, B, I am just going to spend it. And if they spend it, what's going to be the result of that? They are going to say, Government, you take care of me now. I am not going to worry about my livelihood or I am not going to worry about down the road when it's time for me to retire. Just have the government take care of me. And that's not going to work.

So, you know, we have got to keep this entrepreneurship. We have got to make sure that people in this country have the ability and the thought that they can succeed. You know, a lot of people sometimes are jealous of people that come here as new immigrants to this country, but the thing that they know is they come to this country like a lot of our ancestors did. They want to make something of themselves. They want to make something of their future. They want to have something for their kids. But when you kill that entrepreneurial spirit, that's when the beginning of the end becomes.

And you know, it's kind of interesting. There used to be a saying years ago before the fall of the Soviet Union that the people pretended to work and the government pretended to pay them. And we never want to have that happen in this country, where people get to the thought that there is this hopelessness, that there is no reason to do it. We want to make sure that the people have the ability in this country to get ahead.

And I yield to the lady.

Mrs. LUMMIS. The gentleman has mentioned a couple of things that are important to recreating a vibrant economy and to taking the shackles off of American business, and tax policy is high on the list. The fact that we could

have an estate tax that is much smaller in terms of its impact on a family, and the American people would accept that is in fact the case. I hear it over and over in this country. We have also heard that it would be helpful in terms of American competitiveness for us to reduce our corporate tax so we are more globally competitive.

Among the provisions that anyone can read about is in americanroadmap.org, and that is the proposal to create a flat income tax. That would be a rate, such as 10 or 11 percent, that you would pay on all of your income, regardless of source, regardless of whether it's active or passive, whether it is capital or income from a job, whether it is rental income, royalty income, or, again, active income. All sources of income would be taxed at 10 or 11 percent.

So you take all your income annually times 10 percent or 11 percent. Maybe you have a deduction of \$20,000, so your first \$20,000 worth of income isn't taxed. And then whatever that amounts to, you just write a check and send it in to the IRS. You don't need to have CPAs help you fill out your tax returns. And I can tell you, if we did that, it would save the American people a lot of money. We would garner a lot of tax revenue that we aren't collecting now because of the efforts and machinations that people go through to try to protect as much of their income as they can from being taxable because, A, there is no way to avoid it, whether you are rich or poor; and, B, it's predictable. You know that the person across the aisle from you at work or at church is also paying 10 or 11 percent, whatever it is, of their paycheck.

That sounds so fair to me. It sounds so logical. And yet that is something that is so hard to change with all of the interest groups that affect the appearance and shape of our Tax Code.

I do want to encourage, as we go along, everyone to go into AmericaSpeakingOut.com and weigh in on ideas that we have proposed to reduce the Federal debt and deficit and stimulate the economy and take the shackles off the American entrepreneur. And also to just weigh in and give your own thoughts about how we might do it.

I would like to talk about one of the bills that I have sponsored, and it's a way to reduce the number of Federal employees without firing anybody. It is a bill that would provide that if you look at the curve off here to my left, your right, you will see Federal employment in the year 2010, which is the farthest bar away from me, has absolutely skyrocketed. And this is Federal Government employment full-time equivalents excluding the Postal Service. So it has just grown leaps and bounds.

Now, how do we soften the landing for those people that were hired in a way that will allow our economy to return to normal so we can begin to reduce all this deficit spending? And the

answer is for every person who retires or voluntarily vacates a position, that vacated position, that vacant position would be moved into a position pool, and only half of the positions would be moved in the position pool. Then the executive branch of government, run out of the President's office, would have to determine whether that position was essential to that agency and needed to be placed back in that agency and then filled with an employee, or whether that position should be moved to another agency that had a more impactful mission on our American economy and on our government regulatory needs.

So it's a way over a 10-year period to reduce the number of Federal employees through attrition. They leave. Their position becomes vacant. Half of those positions go away. That saves about \$70 billion. Not a small amount of money.

Some of the other ideas that Republicans have filed go way back to the stimulus package. We sponsored a bill that would have stimulated economic growth; in fact, it would have created twice as many jobs at half the cost of the majority party's \$787 billion stimulus package. How did we do it? We did it by investing in infrastructure instead of earmarks and by cutting taxes. This is something I believe, Mr. LATTI, that you and I both supported.

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Mr. LATTI. Thank you very much for yielding, and again, you go back to the Responsibility Investment Act again, you were talking about cutting taxes here and what we can do to really get things moving. Again, if you get rid of and make permanent the repeal of the death tax, well, what happens? People are going to say, now I can invest that money back into the business instead of going out saying, how am I going to try to soften the blow when the taxes finally come, you know, through buying insurance or, you know, going to multiple years of tax planning on how you're going to get this thing done?

And I'm sure everybody this year is going crazy with the thought that the death tax comes screaming back at the \$1 million level at the end of this year, and you have a lot of folks with their A and their B trusts already funded where they're supposed to be, and they're going to say, now what am I supposed to do? So it's right back doing what? You know, it's not just the money that people invest, it is also the time. If you think how much time is invested by businesses to try to figure out how they have to cope with all these taxes and regulations out there, I think that that's one of the important things out there.

Again, in a piece of legislation that I have on the Responsibility Investment Act, again, repealing that death tax, we're talking about what we can do on the small business side. You know, if we're doing a 20 percent cut for small

businesses and 20 percent tax cut for businesses, that's going to allow those businesses to take up to a 20 percent deduction equal to their income. And it's regardless of whether they're paying corporate or personal income tax.

So those are things we have to do to try to make sure that we get businesses back moving in this country again, and again, we just can't expect folks out there to say, you know what, I'm going to work like a dog 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for X number of years to try to get this off the ground and then have to watch it all be taken away from me.

Mrs. LUMMIS. You know, among the other pieces of legislation that Republicans have sponsored includes reducing our salaries or freezing our salaries, freezing government salaries, reducing spending across the board. There have been Republican proposals, anything from 1 percent to 5 percent to 10 percent. There have been Republican proposals that would take spending, as Mr. LATTI referred to earlier, back to 2008 levels or even 2006 levels. You know, we had enough government then. There were not a lot of complaints that, my gosh, we don't have enough government; we need to spend more on government.

So we could take spending back to 2006 or 2008 levels, and I don't believe the American people, other than those who have benefited specifically by being employed by those Federal agencies and Federal programs, would notice the absence of that money, and in fact, they'd probably benefit mightily because it would save so much money that interest payments on the debt and the deficit would be reduced, and we would not have to borrow so much money.

A couple weeks ago here in Washington, some U.S. Treasuries were issued. They are issued every day that we are working, Monday through Friday. There's a sale of U.S. Treasury bonds because we are going into debt so much we have to sell Treasuries every day. This particular issue was under-subscribed. That means there were not enough buyers for the money that we attempted to sell, and the reason is that for the risk that the buyers were taking, they wanted a higher rate of interest. They wanted a better return. When you take more risk on an investment you're purchasing, you want a higher rate of return.

As soon as we have to start paying higher interest in order to attract buyers to our debt, we are ensuring that our children and grandchildren are going to be saddled with higher interest payments once again, crowding out other investments in our economy. These are the kinds of things that absolutely stifle economic growth in our country and encourage some businesspeople, as was mentioned by Mr. LATTI, to move their businesses elsewhere.

We do know that, for example, in the Gulf of Mexico right now, with the

moratorium on drilling and no end in sight to when it might be lifted, that there are drill rigs that are considering moving to that tremendous oil and gas find off the coast of Brazil. If one of those enormous rigs is moved off to the coast of Brazil, it will be 5 years before it comes back. It's not going to move back at a moment's notice. That takes so many thousands of jobs away from workers in Louisiana. So they're doubly punished. They're punished because their shores are polluted by oil from the Deepwater Horizon rig which exploded, destroying the fishing industry and retarding the tourism industry. And then they're adding insult to injury; the oil and gas employees lose their jobs in areas where you could drill at a shallower depth or a medium depth in a much more safe and well-understood manner. This is the wrong reaction.

You know, the President is speaking later this evening about the situation in the Gulf, and what I would note about that is, we can't legislate our way out of the damage and the devastation to the Gulf. We have to clean it up, and we have to make BP pay for it. Those are our alternatives: Clean it up; make BP pay for it.

The President, if he had had executive experience, would likely have called the head of BP within 48 or 72 hours of that oil spill and said, I want you on a conversation with me every single day at a specific time. I want you and me and the Coast Guard and the Governors of the affected States and anyone else who is able to help us clean up this mess, and they could get on the call every day at the same time. The President could have opened a call, and he could have said, I'm not going to stay on this call for more than a minute, but I'm going to tell you that the people on this call are responsible to the people of this Nation to make sure that that oil does not get to our shores, and I want you to do everything possible. BP has said they will pay for it. BP is on this call, and are you assuring us you will pay for it? I mean, under which circumstances, they would have said, yes. And it could have proceeded that way every day with the President's full support for the Governors' requests, for the Coast Guard's requests, for repealing the effects of the Jones Law, which inhibited our ability of getting other countries to help us in the response. All of that could have been handled if it would have begun earlier enough.

But the fact that there was an effort to run away and avoid the problem and deal with it not until it was just completely out of control is, I believe, an indication of someone who had legislative skills and not executive skills. There is such a difference. We cannot legislate our way out of the situation, and we should not have a cap-and-tax bill as a response to a devastating accident that may be the worst ecological disaster we've ever had, because taxes are not going to change it.

BP has said they're going to pay the bill. To do otherwise would be to impose taxation on the people in this country who can least afford it, those of low and moderate income who are trying to make ends meet at a time when unemployment is still 9.7 percent, at a time when we should be helping them find jobs, not imposing a moratorium on safe drilling, that takes jobs away from them. The Gulf is just one example of where that's true.

And I yield back.

Mr. LATTI. I thank the gentlelady for yielding and a couple of your earlier points, you know, you were talking about pay here in Washington. I've got a bill that hasn't had any hearings, and what that bill says is that there are no COLAs anymore for Congress. If you think you deserve a pay raise, then you should introduce a piece of legislation saying that, and what this bill would do is say no more COLAs, period. We wouldn't have a 1-year freeze or a 2-year freeze; this bill would say no more COLAs.

Again, going back to what you said on that interest on that debt, and I mentioned a little bit earlier about going back to the early 1980s, with that 21.5 percent interest rate that people experienced. I was first starting to practice law that year, and I'll never forget, we had to do land contracts. And what a land contract, of course, is, say you want to buy my house, well, you couldn't go to the bank and get a loan because you couldn't borrow any money. So I would have to, as the owner of the home, would sell you the house. We would have a contract that you pay me the principal and interest over about a 3-year period of time, and hopefully, at the end of that 3 years, then you would find a bank that you could go out to and get a loan from.

We don't want to see this go back, like I said, to where we had 21.5 percent interest. We don't want to go back to have some businesses out there at over 26 percent. When the Federal Government is out there, as you said, you know, if they have to start raising the interest rates to make it more profitable or for either the country—of course, right now, we know \$3.7 trillion of our debt is owned by foreign countries, and you know, we're only seeing that only grow, where they will control more of our public debt than anybody else.

So it's important that we get this under control because we cannot have interest rates that high into future. Businesses will stagnate. Businesses will not have the ability to go out and borrow money. And that's what we're going to be looking at. We'll be staring that in the face in a very short period of time, and what we need to make sure is that businesses can go down to that local bank on the corner, that people can go down to that bank on the corner and draw money and also loan money from that bank because, again, if we're in a situation that we were, you know, having learned that a life-

time ago already, not too many years, but back in a situation that we would be in where we were before, we can't compete.

And something else I guess we're kind of forgetting, when you look back on some of these statistics, maybe 10, 20, or 30 years ago, the United States was pretty much at the top of the heap. We could make some odd, dumb mistakes along the line, but we could correct them pretty quick because we controlled about everything. Not anymore. When you're looking where the Chinese want to be in the next 10 to 15 years and where other global competitors are, we're not going to be there. So that's why the United States and this Congress cannot misstep at any time, from now or into the future, because our future, not only for this generation but the generations to follow, are at stake.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. LATTI has announced a call to action for all Americans, and we are attempting as a Republican Conference to solicit ideas and priorities from all Americans, regardless of party affiliation.

Please visit americaspeakingout.com.

This will provide an innovative online forum for policy debate and idea generation. It gets us outside of Washington to talk about policy solutions at town hall meetings across the Nation. It allows us to discuss how our principles of freedom and smaller government could be applied to the priorities of the American people.

In time, we will produce a new governing agenda for America guided by this open process and built on our conservative principles, and we want to demonstrate that Congress should pursue different policies and operate this House more responsibly than both Democrats and previous Republican majorities. And if I hear something all the time on the Republican side of this room, it is that we don't want to treat the Democrats the way we used to treat them, and we don't want to be treated the way the Democrats have treated us.

I really believe that the 112th Congress that begins in January could be a new beginning for our country. It will only be so if the American people say it will be so because the American people are the ultimate governors of this country, and they govern with their vote, and they will have an opportunity in November to vote.

So please visit americaspeakingout.com. Give us your ideas. We want to know. We want to build a working, bipartisan majority with the American people so we are legislating what the American people want, not what liberals want, not what conservatives want, what the American people want.

So americaspeakingout.com is a state-of-the-art Web site that allows individuals to suggest ideas of their own or weigh in on ideas offered by others. Everyone can see the ideas that

are on the table, make comments on them, and register their approval or disapproval.

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This Web site brings the Halls of Congress into American homes and uses the best of social media to allow America's many voices to be heard.

And we would conclude by saying, to change the way Washington works and the policies it pursues, it will require Washington to listen when America speaks out, and we hope all Americans will join us in this unprecedented process of engagement.

For concluding remarks, I yield back to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. LATTI. I would just like to conclude on a statement that was made as you talk about Americans getting reinvolved.

Again, when I speak to the students on our steps here at the United States Capitol, I can't think of a better place to tell kids what they have to do. But one of the interesting things, especially when I have seniors in high school and I say, how many of you are registered to vote, I remember one day we had about 100 students out there, and I probably had maybe 20 percent of the kids sheepishly start trying to raise their hands. They were going to put them down and I said, wait a minute, leave your hands up. I said, I want everyone to look at who has their hands up because they're going to be making the decisions for you. I said, if you want to participate in this great experiment, you have got to be registered, you have got to be involved.

It kind of goes back to what Benjamin Franklin said. It was reported when he left the Constitutional Convention—it was very contentious—a lot of people think it was just fine and dandy. They showed up in Philadelphia starting in May of 1787 and they wrote this great document. But it was hard-pressed, hard work, and they got it done. And when Franklin left, a woman asked him as he left, she said, Mr. Franklin, what have you given us? And he said, "A republic if you can keep it."

I yield back.

Mrs. LUMMIS. I thank the gentleman from Ohio for joining me this evening.

I look forward to hearing the remarks of the next group. They are our Democratic colleagues from across the aisle. This group will be led by Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, who I had the privilege of visiting Israel with earlier this year. She led a congressional delegation to Israel. And for this neophyte in international policy, it was a fabulous experience. We had the opportunity to meet Israeli President Shimon Peres. We visited with Benjamin Netanyahu, with the minority leader, Tzipi Livni, and also with Palestinian Authority leaders. We visited Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and some of the fabulous farming communities near the Sea of Galilee.

For someone who had never visited Israel—in fact, I had never seen the Mediterranean Sea in my entire life, and to get to visit it with people who are steeped in the history, the politics, and the worldwide consequences of our relationship with Israel, it was a tremendous experience. So I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for including me on the congressional delegation that she led to Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, first, before she departs the Chamber, let me just say what an absolute pleasure it was to travel to the Middle East with the gentlelady from Wyoming. Mrs. LUMMIS was a pleasure to have as a companion. She was inquisitive. The purpose of that trip was particularly to bring Members who had not been to Israel before so that we could learn about the importance, not just strategically, the importance of Israel in terms of its relative location to its neighbors so that Members like Mrs. LUMMIS could see and understand just how important it is that we continue to be supportive of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

Everyone I know that travels to Israel comes back a stronger supporter and a stronger pro-Israel advocate; and I commend you, Mrs. LUMMIS, for doing just that. It was an absolute pleasure. We began a friendship that I know will continue many years into the future, so thank you very much.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to be joined by my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), this evening. We're going to spend some time talking about our economy and talking about the evolution of our economy. There certainly has been some ebb and flow in that regard, but we are here tonight to talk about the success that we have had in turning the economy around and beginning to see progress. Inch by inch, month after month, there is more and more progress as we move forward.

This evening I want to highlight, Mr. TONKO, the fact that if you look back—and I know we have a chart on this which I would love to go get in a minute—but if you look back to just before President Obama took office in January, at that point, for the months leading up to his inauguration, we were bleeding, the United States was bleeding 700,000-plus jobs a month, and we weren't able to stanch those losses. The Bush administration handed President Obama the largest deficit in history, and one which they created after being handed a significant surplus from President Clinton.

And to have to deal with the amount of problems that our economy was facing when President Obama was inaugurated was astonishing and appalling, Mr. TONKO, because to have been left a mess and to have the economy driven off a cliff as it was just absolutely irresponsible and it was avoidable.

It was avoidable because during the Bush administration, instead of focusing exclusively on the wealthy and having a tax-cutting policy that was focused exclusively and irresponsibly on the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans, instead what should have been done is there should have been a focus like there has been every single month since President Obama took office; there should have been a focus on broadening that tax-cutting policy and focusing on targeting tax cuts for the middle class. That wasn't done, and so the economy essentially was careening out of control.

Now you fast forward to a year and a half after he first took office, you fast forward to a little more than a year after we passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which invested \$787 billion into our economy to jumpstart the economy, to create jobs, to provide 98 percent of taxpayers in this country a tax cut. Where you had the wealthiest 1 percent get tax cuts under the previous administration, 98 percent of Americans got a tax cut last year. And we actually have the lowest tax rate now that we've ever had. It is just really amazing the way things have been turned around, and we should be very proud of that.

Today, in terms of job creation, from bleeding 700,000-plus jobs, we are now adding an average of 200,000 jobs a month since the beginning of this year. That is a really incredible accomplishment. I'm going to toss it to you in a second and go get those charts so we can have an illustration of what we're talking about, but we have a lot to be proud of. We have a long way to go. I mean, granted, we certainly aren't out of the woods yet, but we have turned things around and are beginning to see that in the economic indicators that I know we will talk about tonight. So it is a pleasure to be with you this evening.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And thank you for bringing us together for this Special Order which obviously will speak to the wisdom of sound policy that breaks from the failed policies of the past.

What is startling is that we should have learned from decades ago that the trickle-down theory simply does not work. It does not work because there wasn't a benefit felt by the working middle class, a large group of people across this country who in many situations live paycheck to paycheck, putting aside money for their mortgage payment, putting aside savings for college for their children, putting aside some reserves for unexpected expenses. That kind of situation must be re-

sponded to. And I think the fact that you talk about 98 percent of Americans getting what was now recorded to be historically the largest middle income tax cut in this Nation's history was a big part of the Recovery Act. It is what started to circulate the dollars.

When we look at the economic advice that we got, not only as the House of Representatives, but the United States Senate and the White House, with President Obama and Congress being advised by a team of economists that ranged over the broad spectrum of philosophy in the world of economics, and from the far-right thinking to the far-left thinking, from more conservative viewpoints to the more liberal viewpoints, there were recommendations made by this panel of economists who spoke to the priorities that needed to be embraced by this Nation. The time had more than passed to invest in the recovery for America, and the results are astounding.

When we look at the Recovery Act, we can witness that the bleeding has stopped. The telltale indicators suggest in many cases that there is slow and steady progress, that the bleeding has stopped, and the Recovery Act can be credited for that.

The investments that were made were in three categories: tax cuts, as the representative, the gentlewoman from Florida indicated, a historically large impact, a historic largest middle income tax cut for this Nation. That was shared with the middle income community, the working families of this country.

Next, an effort made for issues like FMAP and education aid that went to States. I know that my home State of New York did extremely well with the Medicaid relief monies, did extremely well with the education investments so that we are able to keep some of the public sector employment situations, from educators to public safety, alive and well, and to allow for those families who were in need of assistance to receive some of the Recovery Act monies. And the unanimity with which the economists spoke in this situation simply was driven by the very forceful thinking that these entitlement situations—the need for food and clothing and shelter in tough times where people were finding themselves without a job through no fault of their own were allowed then to, with dignity, continue forward in these tough times; and they reinvested in the local regional economies. That got the local economies circulating and began the work, the progress of pulling ourselves out of this recession, which was, again, a historic situation as was witnessed by the previous speaker.

And then finally, investments, investments in a way that went to projects that were back-burnered, investments in technology, technology and education, in energy situations, in health care, in all sorts of activities, in transportation and infrastructure, utilizing technology in a way that could

take those issues that were displaced, put onto the back burners were now brought forward by the Obama administration and by the leadership of this House with Speaker PELOSI and others leading us in the votes for recovery. And what happened was that, for instance, in the area of energy, we're creating jobs.

Now, the Representative from Florida, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, told us that we're now seeing hundreds of thousands of jobs this year added to the recovery, 84 percent of which, I would point out, are private sector. So that's the way we want to grow the jobs. But how is it happening? It's happening with investment in technology, investment in smart meters, smart thermostats, smart grids that enable to us have more control over our destiny as energy consumers.

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That is not only job growth, private-sector job growth, but it is also investing in a way that allows us to be cutting-edge competitive and to provide for a stronger quality of life and for a more competitive edge for our business community.

We also invest in health care with technology, making certain that duplication and mistakes and inefficiencies in the health care system are avoided, and we can go forward with a stronger outcome—a savings, again, for consumers who would have to pay for this duplication and for these mistakes.

Then there is the investment in education so that students are now able to have a stretching of the education resources in the classroom and where they can have a first-class opportunity to think outside their neighborhoods in which they live, where they can be more worldly in the classroom, through technology, in order to witness some of the great things that are happening out there.

This is a great opportunity for us to, this evening, talk about the differences, to contrast the differences out there—the failed policies of the past, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, that brought about 8 million jobs lost in a recession. That outdoes the Great Depression. Many of my constituents out there will tell me that they recall the Great Depression, and 8 million jobs surpass that situation.

So we started out in a very difficult situation, and I know that, with the Recovery Act, we are beginning to make progress. We are going to continue to stay on this slow and steady course that will enable us to come back from what was a very deep hole.

Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, I know that we are joined now by our friend and colleague from the State of Pennsylvania, Representative KATHY DAHLKEMPER, who, like me, is a member of the freshman class here in this great House of Representatives, who is one of those great additions to the House and who is an enjoyable force with whom to work.

So, Representative DAHLKEMPER, I know that you wanted to jump in and share your thoughts on our recovery here.

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Well, thank you. I thank the gentleman from New York, a fellow freshman who has been a good friend of mine since I came to this House.

I also want to thank Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for bringing us all together tonight. It is a great opportunity to talk about the progress we have made and about the progress that we are continuing to make. We know we are in a recession, that we are digging out of a very, very deep recession, but the signs are positive.

You know, as is Mr. TONKO, I am very much from a manufacturing-based economy, and I look at those manufacturing numbers always with great interest to see exactly where we are going from my district. What I find, actually, to be very encouraging is that our American manufacturing base has grown not just in the last month, not just in the last 3 months, not just in the last 5 months, but for 10 straight months the manufacturing base has grown in this country, and that pretty well correlates with the passing of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We have created more than 125,000 manufacturing jobs over the last 5 months.

Now, I know people back home talk to me about how we can move our country forward. They say we've got to get back to making things, and I completely agree with that. For so many years, our economy has become an economy of paper, and we have been more concerned about what has gone on with Wall Street than what has gone on in the factories throughout our great Nation. As I say, particularly for those of us in the Northeast, we've seen many manufacturing jobs go. So what I find very encouraging is that we are getting back to making things in this country.

With that, we have seen a couple of things. One is consumer confidence, which is another great indicator. It rose in June to the highest level in more than 2 years. That is from the University of Michigan, a consumer confidence survey. That's not from us here in the House. That comes from an outside source, which was just on the 11th of this month, just a few days ago. Consumer confidence is rising for the third straight month and to its highest level in more than 2 years. This was way before Mr. TONKO and I were in Congress, so that is very, very encouraging news, along with retail sales rising for the seventh straight increase and the 12th gain in 13 months. So there are a lot of very encouraging signs.

Now, I know this is still a problem for those who are out of jobs, and obviously we are still very, very concerned about that, but we have some signs that this economy is recovering. It really has had to do with what we have

done here in the House, with so many of the good policies that we have passed here which have helped move this economy forward.

Here we will show you retail sales, which are on the rebound. When people start buying again, they have confidence, confidence that we are recovering. So here is what happened in the red during the Bush administration:

As you can see, we were going along pretty well until the recession began, which was going into 2008. Then, of course, it takes a very big dip right before I and Mr. TONKO took office. That was in November–December of 2008. Then you can see what happened after we passed the Recovery Act back here in March of 2009, and the numbers continued to steadily go up. Here we are in April of 2010, and we are getting almost back up to where we were, well, about 4 years ago, actually. So great news in terms of the retail sales on the rebound. Great news on consumer confidence going up. Great news on the manufacturing.

Of course, we want even better news. We want to continue to work on this economy and to help businesses create jobs. We are providing, as Mr. TONKO said, so many of the, I think, road maps that need to be there to create those new jobs. Whether we're talking clean energy, whether we're talking broadband, whether we're talking health care, you know, we need to move into this new century. We're doing that, and we did many of those investments through the American and Recovery Act, and I always like to talk about the recovery and reinvestment side. The reinvestment is what we don't talk enough about, and I know Mr. TONKO loves to talk about that, too. We are talking about where we are today, and so these are just some of the numbers that, I think, need to be brought out, and the American people are feeling that confidence level going up.

I now yield back to the gentlelady from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you very much.

First of all, let me just say that it has been such a breath of fresh air. I know Speaker PELOSI likes to say that each new Congress breathes in new life from the trenches, new people who have just come from having their fingers on the pulses of their communities. Both of you, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER and Mr. TONKO, reflect that statement really to a T. I know that you're in your districts, constantly working hard to make sure you can come up here and can fight for the things that the people in your districts care about.

Particularly, I know I never tire of hearing you talk over and over about how important it is that we restore that manufacturing base and that we be supportive of an economy that makes sure that we can make things again. I have heard that refrain from you and from your industrial, you know, rust belt colleagues for many

months now, and now we are seeing the fruits of that effort with the increase in manufacturing.

Also, it is really exciting that you can actually point back, Mr. TONKO, to a point in time and to a policy decision that we made, to a vote that we cast, which made a difference. I mean it's hard, you know, to gauge sometimes whether or not what we are doing is working, you know, whether a policy decision has had the desired outcome, but you can see. I mean the proof is in the pudding. I mean here are retail sales that Mrs. DAHLKEMPER just talked about. Now let's just look at consumer confidence in general, because the consumer confidence numbers did just come out, as you talked about.

Every month for, I think, the last 7 months, we have had consumer confidence on the rise. We have had another jump in consumer confidence. This is a chart that talks about the increase in household wealth and how American household wealth is beginning to recover. \$17.5 trillion of household wealth was wiped out under President Bush. Under President Obama, we have already recovered \$5 trillion of that household wealth.

When people have their wealth restored, when they have resources again, they start spending money. That's why those retail sale numbers are going up. When you have your wealth restored, you gain more confidence in your ability to make some spending decisions that you might not have made. So, ultimately, we are going in the right direction.

Really, I have to laugh at some of our friends on the other side of the aisle. You know, with the expression "your glass is half full or your glass is half empty," that's sort of the determining factor of whether someone is an optimist or a pessimist. I don't even think it's half. I think their glass is just empty. I think they broke the glass, because, to be honest with you, it's really shocking how they can see only gloom and doom with positive economic numbers like this. I mean what is so sad is sometimes I think they wish that this were not the direction that our economy was moving in because, sadly, for so many of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, it's about regaining power rather than about seeing the American people regain some power, some power in the purse. So I just thought I would point that out.

Before I flip it to you, Mr. TONKO, some really exciting and interesting poll numbers came out this week. In these hours, we like to make sure that we don't just have people taking it from us. I mean, you know, obviously, I'm a Democrat. I'm, you know, supportive of my party's agenda, of our leadership's agenda and of moving the country in a new direction, so we try to talk about third party validators on the House floor.

The ABC News/Washington Post poll was released just this past week, and it

showed that Democrats are favored over Republicans to handle the Nation's biggest problems. Six in 10 who were polled are dissatisfied with congressional Republicans' ideas. In terms of the individuals polled, we were supported by a 12-point margin. By a 12-point margin, Americans trust Democrats over Republicans to handle our Nation's biggest problems 44 to 32 percent. That is a pretty significant indicator that Americans are happy with the direction that we are going.

I think no matter what district you go to, whether it's to a progressive district like mine or to a moderate district like Mrs. DAHLKEMPER's—and you're probably halfway in between Mrs. DAHLKEMPER's and mine, Mr. TONKO, as far as the philosophical spectrum in your district—our constituents would tell us we are cautiously optimistic, that things are moving in the right direction but that we're not out of the woods yet. You need to keep pushing. You need to keep innovating. You need to keep passing legislation that is going to jump-start and spark this economy and be an engine of job creation. That's what we're keeping our nose to the grindstone on.

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Will the gentleman yield?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I'd be happy to yield.

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. You talked about other people weighing in with some of these surveys, and I just wanted to mention a few things that have been in the news just in the last week.

We have Melanie Holmes, the vice president of Manpower, Incorporated, who knows a lot about whether people are working or not. A very interesting thing about this result is that the positive trend is very broad-based. That was out of CNNMoney, again, just a few days ago.

Mark Zandi, the chief economist for Moody's, just a few days ago, said that nearly two-thirds of metro areas are flashing signs of growth. He said a tracking tool that is forecasting firms is showing this upturn, and it is the best showing since mid-2008.

Then we have from CNNMoney.com the title of "Bosses More Bullish on Hiring." For the third straight quarter, more U.S. employers said that they will add jobs instead of cut them, according to a survey released Tuesday. The survey found that 18 percent of employers intend to increase staff, up from 16 percent the previous quarter.

These are people who are not associated with us here in the House of Representatives. These are independent groups out there, media outlets, who are seeing what we're seeing in these numbers here, and they're telling the American people the true story of what is going on in the economy.

I yield back.

Mr. TONKO. If the gentlewomen will yield, it's interesting. You know, you talk about these observations that have been shared in publications, but as early as April 16, I believe, Fortune

Magazine talked about the Recovery Act's working, that the President's policies were having their presence felt. They talked about it as a sharp turn.

Interestingly, if we see the pattern of the retail sales that you presented in chart format, the household wealth recovery chart and this GDP scaling, they all had that same graphic. It's this sharp V formation, that precipitous dive, straight-line dive, from early 2008 into the beginning of 2009. Here is another one on the path to economic recovery and then that slow and steady straight line of recovery.

So, to me, it's blatantly obvious there was this continuation of decline, and you can't help but wonder what would have happened if we had allowed the failed policies of the past to continue or if this President and if this Congress had not stepped up to the plate.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Since you asked the question rhetorically, I'll actually jump in and answer it with an answer from Mark Zandi, Moody's economist who Mrs. DAHLKEMPER just referred to.

As to what would have happened without the Recovery Act, without the TARP legislation, and without making sure that we grabbed a hold of the tiller of this economy, what he says would have happened is we absolutely would have sunk into a depression, that literally the policies of President Obama and of the Democratic leadership in the House and the Senate steered our ship of fate away from a depression.

□ 2000

Mr. TONKO. So we can see these V formations; that downward straight line impact that could have kept going, but we changed directions. And now, we're told by our colleagues in the House on the other side, It's not quick enough. We've made a wonderful recovery here. We have stopped the bleeding, and we're climbing upward. The analogy used by the President, where they drove the car into the ditch, and then it took a tough bit of effort to pull that car out of the ditch, and they're saying, Give us back the keys.

Well, I think the public is now understanding that very failed policies were governing our economy. It brought America to her knees. And we saw the lack of regulation with big business, big banks, Wall Street, credit card companies, big oil. Gosh, we see what is happening in the Gulf. All sorts of big special interests that had a heyday. No regulation. No watchdog in the equation. Let us run free. Let us be in a situation of laissez-faire. Government is bad. No restriction. Let it just run free.

Well, capitalism works, but you also need guidance. You need some sort of measurement, some sort of discipline that errs on the side of the consumer,

the taxpayer, whomever, the small business. And the recovery here is about smart policy. It's about progressive policy. It's about taking what was broken and fixing it.

And, you know, don't stand on the sidelines and say, We're watching you mop; you're not mopping quick enough.

No. Pick up a mop and help us clean up what has been messed up here.

I think the public now is understanding. They're seeing this big oil company that got us into trouble now, is harming the environment, is impacting the economy of the Gulf States. They're understanding now that regulation for certain big groups out there is essential. Regulation for Wall Street was essential. Our work, to make certain that we help the small business community by assisting them with loan opportunities, working with community banks to open up the credit lines; the backbone of our economy, the springboard to our recovery is through small business.

And this was an era that preceded us that was about special interest, big companies, big industries getting all sorts of favorable review and treatment while small business and middle-income America struggled. Struggled to live paycheck to paycheck while greed—greed—predominated on the scene and really brought this economy to its knees and caused undue hardship, unnecessary hardship to folks, ranging from those in their senior years, who had retirement accounts destroyed.

And what do our folks say here on the other side? Privatize Medicare. Privatize the situation for Social Security.

This is a choice here. It's a contrast. It's a difference. Big oil companies, big banks, Wall Street, special interests, give them free rein; or assist the small business community, work for incentives and relief, tax relief for middle-income Americans. There's a contrast here. And it's that V formation. Just as that line went precipitously south, we're now going north. So is the contrast. Sharp and clear. And I think, more and more, the general public is saying, No, you don't get back the keys. You don't deserve to get back the keys to the car.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. You're absolutely right. And I want to jump off what you just talked about, related to the choice that Americans will have. Over the next few months, we are going to get closer and closer to an election, and in November, I think Americans will have a very clear choice. They can go back to the failed policies of the past. They can backslide toward the Bush era, in which we will be in a situation where we will be led by people who think that we should exclusively focus on big business, big corporations, the wealthiest Americans, and that tax-cutting policies should only be targeted towards that group of people and use the whole trickle-down notion that has been proven time and again not to

be effective, in fact, proven to be detrimental to the economy.

Or we can continue to move in the direction that the Obama administration and Democratic leaders in the House and Senate have been taking us, which is slow and steady progress so that we can reestablish the balance that we need in our economy, particularly, as you mentioned, the balance in terms of regulation. We allowed the fox to guard the henhouse for 8 long years in industry, particularly in the financial services area, which we're debating and discussing this week. And it's high time that we reestablish some order and balance.

Mr. TONKO. Well, I don't get to watch TV too much. All of us know we're out in the districts working all the time. But I do understand the concept of a show called, "Are You Smarter than a Fifth-Grader?" So we will put it out to the fifth-graders and say, Would you prefer 8 million jobs lost, or would you prefer over a half million, over perhaps three-quarters of a million jobs returned, 84 percent in the private sector category? I think the fifth-grader would say, Give me the job growth, not the job loss. And you go down that list, and I think the fifth-grader is going to tell us that this is pretty clear. It's a contrast that I understand. And it's important. I think it's about choices.

Is it fast enough? We would all love instant response. We would love millions of jobs in one quarter. But after we witnessed \$18.5 trillion lost to household incomes over an 18-month span during the Bush recession—that's about a trillion dollars per month lost to household income—to now recover \$6 trillion, a 30 percent recovery of that loss, is a move in the right direction. Again, a fifth-grader would say, I'd rather take a \$6 trillion gain than an \$18.5 trillion loss for households.

So it becomes more and more apparent that the Recovery Act isn't working; that it's about small business incentives, tax relief for small businesses investing in basic research, research and development, embracing science and technology, building a clean energy economy, growing an innovation economy, supporting emerging technologies. These are all dynamics of strength. And the confluence of these dynamics of strength mean a growing economy and one that can base itself on cutting edge in design and format. I think it's a strong comeback, and we need to maintain the course of recovery.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. TONKO, as the parent of twin fifth-graders, I can tell you that my fifth-graders often scratch their heads and wonder, Mom, what the heck are your colleagues on the other side of the aisle doing? They wonder why they only focus on the most narrow view.

Mr. TONKO. I, by the way, had lunch with one of those.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Yes, you did. You did, as a matter of fact.

And my fifth-graders and first-grader will be back tomorrow. I'm looking forward to that. Maybe we can send them over to the other side of the Chamber, and they can shake things up a little bit.

With that, we've been joined by our colleague from Ohio (Mr. BOCCIERI) who is doing a fantastic job representing his community and is a real fighter for the values of the Midwest.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Well, thank you, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida and PAUL TONKO, for setting up the challenge of setting the record straight.

Just as an aside, a few years ago, as a State legislator, I remember sitting in my room watching C-SPAN, and you and Congressman RYAN were speaking a few years ago. And I thought, Wow, how neat would it be to stand next to them and talk about the same things we're talking about today.

Well, here we are. So it's an honor to share this stage with you to talk about how we get our country back on track and we get our economy moving again.

I agree with so much that has been said here tonight; that America has to be the producers of wealth, not just the movers of wealth. We have to build things here in this country. We have to invest in our workforce. We have to invest in things that are going to make us different than the rest of the world. And we have that here.

You look at the computer. You look at our space program. You look at things that have been invented here. Things don't happen by accident in America. Things happen because we have some of the greatest entrepreneurs. We have the great entrepreneurial spirit, we have great mind, great thinkers. We also have a great form of government that works on behalf of the American people.

However, what we hear from the other side, Mr. Speaker, what we hear from our colleagues on the Republican side, is that "no" has been the standard answer here for the last year and a half. The party of "no." The "just say no" crowd. Say, No ideas. No solutions. No interest in helping America move back and move to higher places.

Look, we're elected to do things, not just to win elections but to do things and put the country back on track. When you run for office, you make all these promises. But when you govern, it's about choices. And we have to a choice to make. Do we work together as Democrats and Republicans to put America first, to put America back on track, and to put our country moving forward? Or do we participate in this partisan exercise here where all we get is stiff arms?

We have worked very hard to try to bring our colleagues on the other side, Mr. Speaker, to the middle and to govern from the middle and to work hard to make sure that we incorporate some of their ideas. In fact, in the health care debate, there were over 150 Republican amendments. The final version of

the bill reflected the version that was introduced in 1993 by Senator Bob Dole. So while it had a lot of Republican ideas, it had zero Republican votes.

And that is not leadership, Mr. Speaker. Because leadership is about action, not just position. Not just position.

And what we hear is this constant drumbeat about how they want the keys back, as you said, Congressman TONKO. They want the keys back.

Well, the American people remember that they drove us into this ditch by bending over to Big Oil, by bending over for credit card companies and big Wall Street banks and the big insurance companies.

Our political philosophy is this—I know all of us share this—that the government should set the out-of-bounds markers. They should set the goal posts, and let the free market operate in between. But be a good referee. When someone goes out of bounds, you throw the flag. When big oil companies don't have redundancy built into their systems, the referee should be throwing the flag. When private insurance companies are dumping people because they paid their insurance but committed the sin of getting sick, we should throw the flag. Now we could have a debate all day about where those markers and where those out-of-bounds markers are set and where those goal posts are set. But make no question, the government should be the referee.

Mr. TONKO. If the gentleman from Ohio would yield.

Mr. BOCCIERI, you struck something in me when you talked about the party of "no." Even the party of "no," it was not good enough to say "no" to an issue like America COMPETES. On this very floor, we had the opportunity to create millions of jobs through an investment in manufacturing; an investment in STEM, science, technology, engineering and math, for our students out there to train the workforce of the future; to invest in basic research; R&D; to do all sorts of incentives for business. Not only was it not enough to say "no," because we had the votes with the "no" votes from the other side. We still had many more votes favorable. But then it was a game of politics to just drop the progress, kill the progress of America COMPETES to the point where the issue had to be resolved through all sorts of negotiations over a couple of weeks. So it held back progress.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Would the gentleman yield on that example? Because let's tell them how they slowed that process down. It's not only that they were not voting for the America COMPETES Act, which by any measure will create literally millions, potentially, of new jobs and definitely tens of thousands of jobs. They added an unrelated, irrelevant pornography amendment to that legislation to try to catch Members on our side of the aisle in a vote for or against por-

nography. And what they did was they ran an amendment that said that we would vote on whether or not Federal employees would be able to be paid if they viewed pornography on work hours.

Mr. TONKO. It was an intentional game of "gotcha." Here sat in the balcony representatives of labor and representatives from the United States Chamber of Commerce, a broad spectrum of support for a bill that takes America to the cutting edge, allows her to invest in smart manufacturing, and to compete effectively in a global marketplace, to invest in science and technology, to make certain that we're state-of-the-art, that we're investing in research and development, which translates into jobs. All of that activity thwarted by a game of politics on this floor.

It didn't matter—it didn't matter—that nearly 2 million jobs could be created; that we could become a more competitive Nation. That didn't matter. And "no" wasn't enough of a force to stop it. So we resort to political games. That's the sort of record that the public will scrutinize, and they will say, Look, we see the slow and steady progress. We believe in this.

To your point, Representative BOCCIERI, about setting up the goalposts, setting up the parameters for this program, yes, allowing the capitalist model to work but making certain that there's discipline, discipline in the situation and the scenario, so that we go forward and invest and know that we recover with lucrative dividends.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Well, what do we invest in, Congressman TONKO? We invest in our greatest asset in America, and that's our people. We want to invest in our people, workforce retraining, investing in jobs in our economy, putting people back to work.

Putting the private interests of our citizens over public interests is what we see, Mr. Speaker, from the other side. They want to put private interests ahead of our good public interest.

We've seen the unregulated greed. We've seen what happens when things go unchecked on Wall Street. What we've seen when we've taken office just in the 111th Congress, I mean you and I are both freshmen, and we were handed a \$3.5 trillion deficit. The record is very clear.

Look at this chart here, Congressman TONKO and Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I mean, the last three Republican Presidents have given us tremendous debt to our Nation. And what we have heard, Mr. Speaker, from the previous speakers on the other side just a short time ago was how the government is out of control and we're spending. Well, look, it was Republican Presidents who were doing the spending.

□ 2015

The last surplus that America had was a \$5.6 trillion surplus handed over

to us by President Clinton. So, you know, for them to come over here and lecture Democrats about spending is pretty ironic, considering the facts here that this chart shows.

Now look, we have got to get our spending under control in Washington. Democrats and Republicans both agree on that point. We've got to make sure that we can pay for the wars that we're paying for, these two undeclared wars that we find ourselves in. We need to make sure that we live within our means like working people have to. But let's be clear, a \$3.5 trillion deficit handed to us day one when Congressman TONKO and Congressman BOCCIERI walked through the doors is almost insurmountable in an economy that was on such downward spirals, as you had talked about.

So let's get this straight. This is the deficit that was handed over to us with a trillion-dollar tax cut to the wealthiest Americans, another trillion-dollar tax cut to the top 1 percent of our country, a prescription drug plan that left a huge doughnut hole for our seniors that was \$500 billion, and two undeclared, unfunded wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Those are the facts.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And add to that, on top of that, the Republicans allowing the PAYGO statute and the PAYGO rules to expire. A big part of the reason—under the budget that was passed by President Clinton, we adopted under a Democratic administration, Democratic leadership a pay-as-you-go rule that said that we're not going to spend more than we take in. I mean, just like people have to do in their own households. And when we came back into the majority, we re-adopted those rules. And now we have the PAYGO statutes reestablished. And what we need to make sure we continue to do—except for emergency spending, which in an economy that's as dire as this one, we've had a number of different emergency situations.

But making sure that other than emergency situations, we pay for the legislation that we're passing, whether it's including the war costs in the budget and actually having it be real numbers instead of pretending that we don't have an ongoing obligation when it comes to war funding. We included the costs of the Iraq war in the Appropriations Act, in the budget, unlike the Republicans who just pretended year to year that we weren't going to actually have that expense.

So we have been trying to be responsible. We have been trying to make sure that we can get things back on track, and that, like you said, we can establish some parameters. Unfortunately, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle think that government is always an obstacle; government can never be a solution. I don't think government is the be all and end all solution to all of our world's problems either. But government certainly can be part of the solution. Governments can help make sure that we can establish

some fairness and some balance and also make sure that there is someone minding the store, that there is not an unchecked industry. We have about 60,000 barrels a day gushing out of the ocean floor right now because no one was paying attention.

Mr. TONKO. I think mismanagement and bad government are totally unacceptable.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Absolutely.

Mr. TONKO. But effective government, sound government where you're investing in a way that will grow back the economy, where you're creating the discipline that was so essential. Just looking at the gulf today, understanding that all of this heartache could have been avoided had there been some sort of discipline where you weren't taking shortcuts to perhaps grow that profit column, where you weren't—as the 97 percent report required, you weren't investing in technology.

And so all across the board we see these situations where it was just, like, run on your own. Don't let anybody control you or discipline you. We will be there. We'll be your friend. You are a big special interest. Now it's like bringing it back, reining it in, and saying, My gosh, look at that \$11.5 trillion deficit. That red bar goes so deep on that chart. When we look at that chart, it's so obvious to the naked eye that something had to be done differently. You couldn't continue the failed policies of the past. We would have been in such a deep hole. Again, it was tough pulling that car out of the ditch, but we got it out of that ditch, and I think the contrast now is, Do you give back the keys to the people who drove the car in the ditch? Or do you allow them to go forward and continue the progress? I think that it's a very stark contrast.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Instead of giving the keys back, we should revoke the license, quite frankly, because these numbers are stark. And I have children who are going to have to pay for this. You have children who are going to have to pay for this. Let's revisit this, a \$1.4 trillion deficit under President Reagan, a \$3.3 trillion deficit under President H.W. Bush, a \$5.6 trillion surplus under President Clinton, an \$11.5 trillion deficit under George W. Bush.

I mean, the numbers are stark, and every answer or every solution that they tried to come up with is about giving more tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans and taking the stripes off the referee. This is not the answer. We need to come together as a country to address this. But certainly the facts are presented here, and that is why it is so important that we have got to invest in the greatest asset in our country, and that's our people. And you know, by doing that with the Recovery Act, investing in workforce investment, retraining workers—because some of these trade deals have been good for the Ports of Galveston and

California and the Port of New York, but they haven't been good for the Midwest. Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and I understand that by reinvesting in our workforce, helping those workers transition from manufacturing jobs that have left is very important to me.

And while I'm encouraged that we've seen now 10 consecutive months of manufacturing increase in our country, we have got to be the producers of wealth in this Nation, not just the movers of wealth.

I'm happy to report that small businesses in my community are beginning to grow again. The NuEarth Corporation in Alliance, they have just created 60 new jobs in our small town. Medline Industries, a manufacturer and distributor of medical products, has just created dozens of jobs and will be adding jobs over the next 3 years, they have announced. Nationwide Insurance just announced another 600 new jobs in Ohio. They have a facility in my district, an office building in my district. One of the best news reports that we have heard was that Rolls-Royce, who has invested in fuel cell technology, an alternative energy source that even our military is beginning to use, just announced that they're moving their research headquarters from Singapore to Stark County, Ohio, in the 16th Congressional District. They're going to invest \$3 million in equipment and are creating up to 60 new jobs and are retaining 32 that are there already. And it goes on and on.

The statistics are showing that we are improving this economy. We're growing—certainly not fast enough for the million of jobs that have been lost under the previous administration and what we were handed day one when we walked in the office, but we are doing our best to turn this economy around and invest in our people.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And we're doing it without our friends on the other side of the aisle, which is really just so incredibly disappointing. I mean, I have seen our leadership reach across the aisle time and again and ask our Republican colleagues to come to the table, sit down. We're not going to agree on everything, but let's sit down and try to hammer out areas of agreement where we can find some common ground. Let's try to pass bipartisan legislation. As you said, we passed health care reform with over 150 amendments that were offered by Republicans, accepted and included into the bill. We had a bipartisan bill without a bipartisan outcome, and that's been their choice repeatedly. They have made a choice, whether to either sit with us and try to work something out—and you know there's times where you have to—look, politics can be a contact sport.

This is a situation where they have different ideas than we do, but I've been in office for 18 years. I spent 12 years in my legislative body. You were in your legislature as well. I have never

been in a situation—and I come from a State that is controlled by Republicans for the majority of the time that I have served in office. But I was always able to reach across the aisle and find some common ground. And we were always able to, on many things, pass bipartisan legislation. They have no interest in that.

So the choices that they are making are, I think, going to result in the American people being presented with a choice to either embrace hyperpartisanship, embrace individuals who are bent on power and bent on controlling the direction that this country moves, and only doing it their way, or Members like our Members who have their fingers on the pulse of their communities, who understand intuitively what the needs are in their district, and who aren't reflexively just voting with their party.

I mean, just look at the diversity of our caucus. We have been able to pass some significant legislation: the Recovery Act, the health care reform legislation. We've passed the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights. We have some significant pro-consumer economic recovery legislation, and we haven't passed it unanimously out of our caucus. We have a diversity of ideas, but our ideas and our diversity reflect America because some Members are able to be supportive and some Members aren't.

You would think that there would have to be some people on the other side of the aisle that would have the nerve, that would have the backbone to step up and say, You know, I'm going to put aside my quest for power, and I'm going to sit down, and I know we can work something out. And each of us has had private conversations with other colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and they whisper, Debbie, I really wish we could be with you on this. I really agree with you, but you know, my hands are tied. Really? Your hands are tied? I don't see any rope actually binding your hands or a gag binding your mouth. It's sad.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Well, leadership is about action, not just political position, as I have said before. And we can win elections by taking comfortable votes and maneuver, but that's not real leadership. We come here to get things done. The American people want leadership. They want us to do things. They don't want us to just have a career. They want us to invest in the country. They want us to serve. They want us to do the right thing, do what we think is right, and move the country forward.

You know, I think that at least our Democratic majority has attempted to reach across the aisle and pull people in and say, Give us some ideas. I have sponsored legislation with Members. CHRIS LEE from New York and I have sponsored an investment tax credit so that we can keep our research and development here in America instead of outsourcing it and giving folks an

extra bonus if they manufacture their products in America. This is the type of leadership we're asking for. The HIRE Act that I reached across the aisle and worked on with Congressman ROONEY from Florida, this just became a law.

So we have good ideas, and we can share them together; but on the big issues that confound our Nation, we need their leadership as well as ours. A stiff arm is not the solution to any of these big problems our Nation is facing. So the question becomes, Are we going to invest in America? Are we going to invest in the working middle class and champion the values of the middle class here in legislation that we pass? You know, in just simple votes that we have taken for people who have lost their jobs under no fault of their own, to give them an unemployment check, to make sure that they have COBRA insurance so that they can keep their family going to the dentist or the doctor, keep bread on their table. I mean, these are simple things. Investing in the future of our kids, like the COMPETES Act.

I mean, I just don't understand. I share the collective value with you and others, and I know that there are some of my Republican colleagues over there who want to invest in small families and strong communities, but their hands are tied because of partisan politics. And the American people are watching, and I think the poll numbers that you read earlier are very true.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. That is the choice they are making.

Mr. BOCCIERI. The choice that they are making is not to lead. So I think that when it comes to the matter of the economy, we are trying to put our country back on track, and I think we have passed some very good measures here. So setting the fair rules of the road, making sure that we understand that we are going to invest and expand our economy, grow our economy by manufacturing, and becoming the producers of wealth is very important.

You know, nearly 87 percent of the world's economic growth over the next 5 years is going to take place out of the United States. We have a tremendous opportunity with Ohio to export our goods, to invest in our workforce and our manufacturing sector to export some of not just our jobs, but export our goods. We don't want to see any more jobs exported out of this country. And that's what we've seen with some of these trade deals that have been championed by previous administrations.

But certainly when we invest in our economy, and we invest in a big opportunity for us like energy, when you build a new nuclear reactor, you can't outsource it. When you build a new solar array, you can't outsource those jobs. When you build a wind turbine that has 8,000 manufactured parts, 200 tons of steel, the roller bearings are made of Timken, a manufacturer in my congressional district. Those are real

jobs. You can't outsource that wind turbine. So we can invest in our future and help us become energy independent in the long run. And that's what we've done with taking these big steps and investing in energy policy that makes sense.

Now, you will hear from my friends on the other side of the aisle who want to identify our legislation, our national energy policy and our legislation that's going to end our dependence on foreign oil in the Middle East, make our economy more secure in the long run because \$1 billion leaves America every day and goes over to the Middle East where we are funding Ahmadinejad and so many others. We're funding both sides of this war just by our consumption habits.

□ 2030

So investing in our workforce, creating jobs that can't be outsourced, ending our dependence on foreign oil, these are traditional values, American values that we should all champion. But what are they talking about? Cap-and-trade. Well, come up with a better free market idea, because it was a Republican idea. JOHN MCCAIN has three times introduced a cap-and-trade bill.

Because in 2007, AEP and Connecticut were in this court battle, and the Supreme Court said that the EPA was allowed to curb pollution under the Clean Air Act. Well, we decided to have a free market approach, one that's proven. Because cap-and-trade's been in existence since the 1990s. It curbed acid rain, reduced sulfuric acid, and drove innovation and creativity in that market. So it's a free market approach, a proven one. So if you have a better idea, let's hear one. But it was your idea. So by championing your idea, now they are demagoguing our energy policy as cap-and-trade.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And using that free market base for innovation and investment in alternative energy is going to take us right through the 21st century. We are risking, without passing that legislation and making sure that we can spark those significant corporate investments in those technologies, we are risking giving over our leadership in this area to China and India. I mean, because that's what's going to happen. They are certainly not sitting around waiting for us to decide whether or not to pass alternative energy and climate change legislation. They are focused on making sure that they can be leaders in innovation and technology in the area of alternative energy.

We have so many opportunities to create tax incentives and to help create jobs through that legislation. Again, it would be nice if we weren't being stiff-armed.

And, Mr. Speaker, I see you rising and wanted to thank my colleague from Ohio for joining me tonight. Mr. Speaker, we among House Democrats really spend quite a bit of time interacting with our constituents. We do it

in many ways. We do it in live town hall meetings, in telephone town hall meetings, as well as through social media networking and interaction. And I know that I really encourage people who are listening to this and encourage our colleagues to reach out to me and provide me with feedback on my Facebook page, which is RepDebbieWassermanSchultz. So anyone interested in giving us some feedback on our Facebook page, that's welcome.

And Mr. BOCCIERI, I don't know if you want to promote your own. We do have a contest going on in the House Democratic Caucus, and so we are all interested in adding folks to our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Absolutely. And our Web site is Bocchieri.house.gov. That's B-o-c-c-i-e-r-i.house.gov. Please join our Facebook there and leave us your comments as well.

I enjoyed this conversation and dialogue we had. Let's work together to put America back on track. We can do this. America has played second place to no one. And we can invest in our future, invest in our greatest asset, our workforce, and we can do it together.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. That's exactly right. We look forward to repeatedly inviting our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us in moving this country in a new direction, continuing to jump-start the economy, create jobs, and aggressively restoring the prosperity that Americans have enjoyed for our entire history.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

NATIONALIZING THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAFFEI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the privilege of being recognized to address you here on the floor of the House, and I have only a short privilege to look at some of the data that's been presented by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in the previous hour.

I did look at the poster that says here's the economy as we know it in a very short snapshot in billions of chain GDP dollars. I don't know what chain dollars is. I have never discussed an economy within chain dollars. But I have also not discussed it within trends that are compressed down within the very few quarters that are presented in this graph that's been presented here before us on the floor of the House tonight, Mr. Speaker.

Here is what I would present. Let's just back up a little bit. Let's back up all the way to October of 1929 and think about what's really happened. This Nation has been challenged over and over again to come forward and determine where we are with our economy.

What kind of an economy are we? Are we the managed economy proposed by the Democrats on the other side of the aisle that believe that the President of the United States, the Cabinet, and the Pelosi Congress and the Harry Reid Senate should be the ones to make these economic decisions to manage the nationalized economy? Are we the kind of people that should be nationalizing even more of our economy? And I have gone through this list so many times I can almost recite it by rote in my sleep.

This Federal Government, albeit started under President Bush, with the support of Barack Obama all the way through and most of it picked up by him, has nationalized—and when I say “nationalized,” I mean owned, managed, or controlled—sectors of the economy that have to do with three large investment banks, and that’s Citigroup, Bank of America, and Bear Stearns. Those three have been taken over by the Federal Government. AIG nationalized by the Federal Government, the insurance company. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The entities that the chairman of the Financial Services Committee, BARNEY FRANK, said he would never support a Federal bailout of Fannie and Freddie. No, he supported the takeover, the Federal takeover of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

We have also watched General Motors and Chrysler be taken over by the Federal Government, and a bankruptcy proposal pitched by the administration to the chapter 11 bankruptcy court that dictated the terms of bankruptcy, and among those terms were: Hand over shares of the automakers to the automakers union. And while that was going on, the only bidder before the chapter 11 bankruptcy court with the case of Chrysler, where I actually have the data and probably have it in my hand here, the only bidder was the Federal Government. The structure of it going into chapter 11 was the Federal Government, set up for a bidder. The only bidder was the Federal Government. It was the Federal Government on both sides of that equation. Unprecedented.

A Federal takeover dictating to the bankruptcy court the terms of the resolution of Chrysler and handing over, in the case of General Motors, 17.5 percent of the shares in General Motors over to the automakers union, to the United Auto Workers. That’s all taken place, including the takeover of the student loan program in the United States by the Federal Government.

Now, if we add this up, three large investment banks, AIG, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, General Motors, and Chrysler, according to Professor Boyle of Arizona State University, that’s one-third of the private-sector activity of America swallowed up over the ownership, management, or control of the Federal Government.

Then you add to that the student loan program, and then you add to that the financial services that are being

regulated right now that are being negotiated in the conference committee that’s been named between the House and the Senate, that would put the Federal Government in the position to regulate every single credit transaction in America.

Now, I don’t just mean one of the large bailed out, federally owned investment banks is doing business with one of the other large federally owned investment banks, that the Federal Government regulates that. I don’t just mean that when a small community bank is doing transactions with people that are coming in to borrow money for operating capital or for a mortgage that the Federal Government regulates that. I will take it right on down to this question that was posed by the dentists. Would their transactions that are set up where they set up monthly payments for the parents to pay for the braces on the teeth of their children be regulated by the Federal Government and by the White House? Answer, yes.

Under this bill that’s coming at us under the language we are dealing with, yes, the Federal Government would regulate the transaction, the credit transaction between the dentist and the parents who would want to finance the braces on their children’s teeth. Uncle Sam injects himself into that equation.

Do you think that’s to the point, Mr. Speaker, where we can’t tolerate Federal intrusion any deeper? I think it’s gone beyond where we can tolerate Federal intrusion any deeper. But it goes deeper yet. Not just into the cavities into our children’s teeth or the braces on them, but right down into a neighborhood, friendly poker game.

And I had them analyze the language for this purpose. I just asked the question: Where does this stop? What are the restraints? What are the constraints on the legislation that would give the Federal Government the authority to regulate every credit transaction in America? And I asked specifically: Will you analyze the language in the bill and tell me could the Federal Government, if they chose to do so, regulate the credit transaction that’s embodied in an IOU that could be put in the middle of the pot in a poker game in a neighborhood or a friendly or a family poker game? It might even be an IOU for toothpicks. Yes, the language allows the Federal Government to inject themselves into every credit transaction in America.

So we have the nationalization of one-third of the private-sector activity in the form of three large investment banks taken over by the Federal Government, AIG, the insurance company taken over by the Federal Government, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and General Motors and Chrysler. That’s eight. That’s one-third of the private sector activity according to the Arizona State professor, Boyle. One-third. And you add to that student loans, which I don’t know what percentage of the overall economy that that is, and I don’t want

to speculate without some basis of knowledge on that.

But we have got 33 percent of the former private sector activity nationalized, taken over by the Federal Government, by the Obama administration now in control and the management or ownership or control of these private sector entities. And now we are at 33 percent. ObamaCare has passed. That’s, by a consensus of accounts, right at 17.5 percent of the overall economy that goes into health care under the ownership, management, or control of the Federal Government; 17.5 percent. Where do you round that to, anybody in sixth grade math? Up to 18. Eighteen percent plus 33 percent is 51 percent of the former private sector activity under the ownership, management, or control of the Federal Government; 51 percent.

And what did Alexander Tytler tell us out of Scotland back as a contemporary of Adam Smith? And in summary terms, when the public understands that they can vote themselves benefits from the public treasury, on that day democracy ceases to exist. That was Alexander Tytler in about the year 1776, a long time back.

Here we are. We are seeing data that shows that only 47 percent of the households don’t pay taxes; 47 percent. We don’t have a number that shows us the percentage of individuals. But if 47 percent of the households don’t pay income tax, and that means Federal income tax, that tells us that we are only 3.0001 percent away from the majority of American households that don’t pay income tax. Now, we are within the margin of error.

Who could think that the public hasn’t figured out, with the tutelage of President Obama, that they should game the system? Because if you are a marginal employee individual, are you better off to game the system and put yourself on the public dole and tap into a myriad of the 72 different Federal welfare programs that are out there or are you better off to go to work every day?

If we default back to the statement made by Jimmy Carter back in 1976 in Iowa as he campaigned for President of the United States, impressed me—I didn’t support him, Mr. Speaker; I want that to be clear in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—but he did impress me with a statement that he made. He said the people that work should live better than those that don’t. I don’t think Jimmy Carter lived by that, but he said that. And that impressed me that it was a simple, clear logic, the logic of clarity that should be delivered in this floor more often than it actually is.

Of course the people that work should live better than those that don’t. But Jimmy Carter had a lot of trouble following through on that. But by today’s standards, no, he wasn’t. He was a piker by today’s standards. Anybody that doesn’t live up to an average standard of living can go to the public welfare rolls and expect that they are

going to have their rent subsidized, their heat subsidized. They are going to have food stamps. They are going to have 69 other Federal programs that they can have access to.

We have become a welfare state. And that works pretty good for the people that want to create a dependency class in America. And that is clearly what's going on with the Obama administration, establishing and expanding the dependency class in America, because they understand that people who are dependent want to make sure that they go vote for the people who require them to be dependent before they will send more benefits their way.

Independent people say, I want less government. I want less taxes. I want a smaller role in our Federal Government. I want the States to have their constitutional right to all the powers that are not enumerated to the Federal Government devolve back to the States or the people, respectively. That's what I want.

Because I know that when people are responsible for their own activities and they are rewarded for positive behavior and the markets and the conditions of a just society provide disincentives for people who are lazy, who are not industrious, who don't take care of their families, who are dishonest, who might be indulging in substance abuse, those negative indicators for a society are punished in a just society, and positive behavior is rewarded in a just society.

□ 2045

You don't have to rule or regulate a just society if you have the financial structures in place, the moral foundation in place and if you're not afraid to stigmatize negative behavior.

But this administration has capped off the effort so far of previous, shall I be nice and call them progressives, their effort, their effort to expand the dependency class in America. And whenever that happens, if this Congress expands the dependency class, it is the equivalent of taking a jackhammer and chiseling away at those beautiful marble pillars of American exceptionalism, chiseling them away, breaking down the very foundation that created American exceptionalism.

We're not a Nation that's created for greatness built upon dependency. The dependency class is anathema to the American people and the American spirit.

Independence is our spirit. Self-reliance is our spirit. Our vigor, our unique vigor is our spirit. Our liberty, our freedom is our spirit. That's who we are.

And how do we get to be in this great Nation? What are these pillars of American exceptionalism that are under assault by the active left in this Congress every single day, jackhammering away at those beautiful marble pillars of American exceptionalism? What are they?

Well, they're easy to find. You look in the Constitution of the United

States, take a look into the Bill of Rights. Go right down through the list: freedom of speech, religion, and the press; the freedom of assembly; to petition the government for redress of grievances. Boy, that is beautiful.

Are those marble pillars, Mr. Speaker? Of course, they are.

Freedom of speech, to speak outward and openly of the things that we believe in without restraint or punishment, knowing that the State can't come in and crush us for our opinions, the freedom with a full-throated objection to our government if they're going down a path that we object to or a full-throated support for a President or a Congress or a judiciary branch of government or any of the agencies within the government that's serving our people in a Constitution and a just fashion. That's freedom of speech.

Freedom of religion. Freedom of religion, to worship in the church of our choice or not to worship or worship in our home or under a tree or out in the pasture or while we're in the traffic jam and any way we choose. Freedom of religion. Freedom for a pastor or anyone in the congregation whom he might accept to come up and step behind the podium to preach to the Word and preach the law of God and do so without fear, without fear that the IRS might come in and rule that these words were somehow political or partisan and to take away the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status that exists for our churches within this country.

The IRS has intimidated pastor after pastor, congregation after congregation. The core of our faith in this country has been eroded because of IRS intimidation of our preaches and our pastors. Even though that speech is guaranteed in the Constitution, it doesn't guarantee that you get a tax deduction if you speak out too openly. So I tell my pastors, preach the Word, preach the law, preach your convictions and your faith to your congregation in a full-throated way, and if the IRS comes in and threatens to take away your 501(c)(3) status, tell them STEVE KING stands with you. I stand with you figuratively. If you need me to stand next to you literally, I will do so, and if you still don't have the courage to preach the Word and stand next to me, then I will come and I will preach the Word.

And if that doesn't give you enough conviction, remember this: Not in the history of this country has any church lost its 501(c)(3) status because a pastor spoke from his faithful religious heart and preached the Word, the gospel of the Lord to the congregation that has gathered together to hear that message. Not once, not ever, not in the history of America has a church lost its 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status because of preaching the Word from the pulpit.

The threat goes out continually, and when a conservative Christian takes a position that has impact, then you hear from the people like, well, let me see—to avoid controversy, let me just say liberal United States Senators who

would like to use the IRS to intimidate their opposition. They aren't all alive today, but there's a history of these liberal United States Senators who have done so. None have been successful in removing the 501(c)(3) status. But the truth needs to be preached.

That's just the First Amendment. Freedom of speech, religion, and the press; freedom to peaceably assemble; and petition the government for redress of grievances, first amendment.

Second Amendment, the right to keep and bear arms, the right to own and control our guns and not have the Federal Government take them away or confiscate our guns. Now, I've been a Second Amendment defender for a long time, and I will be for as long as the Lord grants me breath in this life, but Mr. Speaker, many of the people that defend the Second Amendment seem to think that it's about owning and keeping firearms so we can target shoot, recreational shooting, hunt, or for self-defense. And I will take the position here, Mr. Speaker, that those three things that I've talked about, hunting, self-defense, target shooting, are all residual benefits, kind of like extra benefits that come with the Second Amendment.

We would have the Second Amendment whether or not there was target shooting, whether or not there ever was hunting, and whether or not there was self-defense because our Founding Fathers understood that we needed to have an armed populace to defend against tyranny. They understood that a tyrant would come and confiscate our guns and subjugate us to his armed forces, and we would have to knuckle under, and thereby would go our freedom. That was understood by our Founding Fathers, and they put the Second Amendment in so we could defend our freedom and our liberty and be an armed populace to defend against the tyrant.

And the good stuff that comes from that is we get to also hunt, target shoot and defend ourselves. Pretty simple concept. But you look around the world, I don't know of a country or a civilization that has registered firearms that has not confiscated them. When a Nation has confiscated firearms, that suppresses our freedom of speech, that suppresses our freedom of religion, that suppresses our ability to assemble and peaceably petition our government for redress of grievances because we would be intimidated by an all-powerful state. We need a state intimidated by the people.

That's what this country is about. The power in our government comes from God. Our rights come from God. They're vested in the people, and the people confer that authority into their elected Representatives. That is the very definition of a constitutional republic.

And so we have these rights: freedom of speech, religion, and the press; freedom of assembly; and Second Amendment, right to keep and bear arms, because that is a deterrent for tyrants

that might want to subjugate us as a people, that might want to take away our God-given rights that we have vested in our elected Representatives. That's just the First and Second Amendment.

Those are all pillars of American exceptionalism. No other country has these kind of rights. They have politically correct laws in places like Canada and Great Britain, and those places are freer than many other places in the world, but we provide a full-throated defense of whatever our particular position happens to be.

We're American. We aren't people that cower. We don't shrink from conflict. We don't shrink from disagreement. I had a lady approach me on the street a couple of months ago, about the time when ObamaCare passed, and she said to me, you have to find a way to get along. It's kind of a Rodney King statement: Can't we all get along? Can't we compromise? Can't we get away from all of this friction and this tension that's going on here over ObamaCare?

And I listened to her. I'd seen the lady on the Hill for several years, actually, and I'd never had a conversation with her. And she impressed me with her deep conviction and commitment to following what was honest, especially in Judiciary Committee. I don't know her name. Only time I ever talked to her.

But I said to her, you know, we have these arguments here, we have this tension, we have this disagreement, and I think we do so because we're called to come to Washington to have these debates, to have these arguments, to have the disagreements so we don't have to come to blows in the streets of America, so we don't have to clash with each other. All the way across from sea to sea, we bring our conflict here. We have these debates here. We test each other in this battle of ideas here, and it's even more effective, and I will say significantly more effective, than it was in the era of the Founding Fathers because we have real-time communications.

Mr. Speaker, we have C-SPAN. We have live radio. We have Internet. We have podcasts. We can have real-time interactive town hall meetings that interact all the way across America. We can carry this message all across this country. This constitutional republic is more effective today from a communications standpoint than it was in the era of our Founding Fathers, and we should be grateful for that. It's our job to use it and utilize it and to continue to build upon this.

So let's have the debate. Let's have a nationwide debate. Let's get after this, and we're doing it, and come November, the American people will decide whether this path of the Federal takeover of first one-third of the former private sector activity of our economy; then adding ObamaCare to this, another 18 percent of our economy going to 51 percent; then, sitting in con-

ference committee right now being deliberated and debated by the conferee, another 15 percent of our economy, the financial sector of our economy, roughly 15 percent by some estimates, you add that onto the 51 percent, and we get up there to 66 percent of our economy; and then we have the cap-and-trade argument, roughly around 8 or 9 percent of our economy.

Now, if cap-and-trade is 8 percent of our economy, then that means, in case anybody wonders, cap-and-trade is about this: It's about capping carbon emissions and trading the carbon credits that you get. So if you are an electrical generating plant and you're burning coal like crazy in 2005, that's the measure, capping at 2005 levels of CO₂ emission, and you're burning all kinds of coal and you're belching this CO₂ out into the atmosphere, which doesn't alarm me, by the way, Mr. Speaker—I still don't think there's a scientific foundation for their hypothesis—but that's going on; the measurement of the emissions of the CO₂ will be capped at 2005.

Now, let's presume that that same electrical generator takes half of his coal consumption down, replaces it with a nuclear generating plant—actually a new plant that will come online in 2017 in South Carolina. It will be the first one in probably 30 years by then. So you get carbon credits for taking the coal generation, the burning of the coal off line, that CO₂ that's not emitted, and replaced it with the nuclear, just the tool that reduced the CO₂ emissions. Now that coal-fired generating operation, which might be an entire utility network, will have half their CO₂ emissions that have been cut now because of the replacement of nuclear become their carbon credits. Carbon credits that, what do they have now? They have something that has value.

They can take their carbon credits, and they can sell them through an exchange on the board in Chicago—there are two exchanges that exist as far as I know right now—and any organization, any entity, any utility that has to burn let's say more coal or more natural gas or more diesel fuel and emit more CO₂ than they did before to supply more demand for electricity would have to buy the carbon credits from the entity that had created them by replacing the CO₂ emissions with say nuclear or wind or solar or some other source. So these exchanges go on.

Carbon credits are expensive when they start, and as they dial this down, the idea is to reduce the CO₂ emissions from the standard, the cap, that's the cap at 2005 emission levels, and trade the carbon credits, dial them down by 17 percent by a certain year, which seems to me is 2013, way too soon. And then from two thousand and whatever that year is, a 17 percent reduction, on out to 2050, reduce the CO₂ emissions by 83 percent.

The vision is, by the time we get to 2050, we'd only be emitting 17 percent

of the CO₂ that we're doing today. I'm going to expect we're going to use the same amount of energy, and do you expect, Mr. Speaker, that these carbon credits are going to be worth more or less as the cap gets dialed down year by year, until the year 2050, where 83 percent of the CO₂ emissions are shut down by the economics of this?

□ 2100

Now, it doesn't just shut down the CO₂ emissions and give us the same amount of kilowatt hours, or some other type of energy for that matter, or consumption, that could be diesel fuel or gas or anything. No, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't do that. What it does is it shuts down some of the emissions, but the economics of it require that the cost of power goes up. As the cost of power goes up, the consumption of power goes down. That means we use less energy between now and 2013 or 2017 and 2050.

If we use less energy, why? Do we turn the air conditioner, set it on 80 degrees—reminds me of Jimmy Carter when he said set your thermostat at 60. Remember? Dial the thermostat down to 60, buy a cardigan sweater, button that sweater up and sit in your living room and put a shawl over yourself and sit there and shiver because, after all, we have an American malaise, and we will never be the Nation that we were before, and we will never be the Nation again that we are today. That was Jimmy Carter's message. It also fits pretty close to Barack Obama's message, who, Mr. Speaker, has said that electricity costs would 'necessarily skyrocket' under his plan of cap-and-trade.

So what are we doing? We have an administration, and the opportunists in the Senate and the House that are looking at the oil slick over the gulf coast, which is an environmental tragedy, and seeking to capitalize on that environmental tragedy by pushing cap-and-trade legislation which will cripple American industry. For example—and I don't think, Mr. Speaker, that I can give the data on this, but I would just suggest that those that are interested should take a look at the American kiln industry and understand that where we have kilns, it might be a really simple thing, it might be like a dryer where you heat up asphalt and you crank it through a barrel that's got heat in it and it brings it through the other side, kind of like a cement truck cylinder, and comes out the other side hot mix asphalt. It takes a lot of heat to do that, takes a lot of energy; there's a lot of CO₂ emissions.

There are a number of other processes that are far more energy-intensive, including the production of aluminum. We have a lot of aluminum in America, but it takes a lot of energy and emits a lot of CO₂. This would about take the aluminum industry out of America to look at the cap-and-trade proposals that are out there.

Industry after industry in America would be crippled by cap-and-trade legislation. The cost of our electricity would “necessarily skyrocket,” to quote the President. The cost of our gas would go up, our diesel fuel, our kerosene, our jet fuel; I said our electricity. All energy gets more expensive. It just changes the proportionality of the cost per Btu from energy source to energy source. So we would, as a Nation, then make our energy more costly.

Now, what the cap-and-trade legislation does is it taxes everything that moves. It takes energy to move anything. Just moving my hand back and forth, you can count that in calories how much energy is consumed by that—not a lot, but it’s some. If you would take a 200-pound man and run him up the stairs to the top of the dome in the Capitol and back down again—we have people that could calculate how many calories would be consumed by that effort to go up and down—you could turn that into and calculate it back down through Btus of energy. How could you replace that energy with gasoline or electricity with a motor that would take them up and down? This is energy. Anything that moves takes energy. You can’t get something done without energy.

So this administration is for taxing everything that moves and a cap-and-trade scheme that would cripple America’s economy and put us at a significant disadvantage from the developing countries in the world, in particular India and China—other developing countries, but India and China in particular—it chases our industry over there. And then what would we do? They produce things in countries where they have cheaper energy and cheaper labor. They ship it back to us and we buy it. Well, what do we buy it with? Right now we’re buying it with credit, and we are running up the debt against the Chinese. Their holdings of U.S. currency—or U.S. debt, excuse me—are approaching \$1 trillion in U.S. debt today.

We lament the cost when a young person finishes their college education, receiving their degree—and there’s a number out there, this is not a survey number, it’s a general ballpark number that has a consensus to it—roughly a \$40,000 debt for a young adult that receives a college degree, \$40,000 to move into adulthood to pay off that student loan. Now, whatever that real number is, I’m working with 40, which I think is in the ballpark, and we worry about that student loan being paid off by that young person that has a college degree and is entering into the job market.

I’m not so worried about that \$40,000 student loan, Mr. Speaker, because the baby born in America today owes Uncle Sam, the Federal Government, their share of the national debt, \$44,000. You can go into the nursery and be there when they bring a new little baby out and put them in the nursery in the hospital. There might be one or two or six

or 10 of these new little miracles laying there wrapped up in blue or pink, with their parents proudly looking through the glass or going in to hold their babies. These little babies, every one of them laying in the nursery today, their share of the national debt—not their student loan, which when they get a degree that helps them earn the money to retire that debt, but these little babies’ share of the national debt, \$44,000, \$44,000, Mr. Speaker, for the privilege of being born in the United States of America.

Well, I guess it’s probably not the case for an anchor baby that gets citizenship along with it, at least that’s an extra bargain that goes along—and I disagree with that. But that same little baby that’s born today and owes the Federal Government \$44,000, by the time that little baby goes on and learns to tie their shoes and goes off to kindergarten, works their way up through elementary school and walks into their fifth grade class—now, I pick that because that’s 10 years, we have 10-year budgets here and we have 10-year budget windows and we calculate our costs over a 10-year period of time.

\$44,000 in debt, welcome to America. This is the gift of life for being born in America, and you owe \$44,000. A lot of them aren’t going to pay their share, so if it’s half of them, those other babies are going to owe \$88,000. But the share for everyone who walks into fifth grade, according to this President’s budget, by the time those \$44,000 indebted children start fifth grade, they will owe Uncle Sam \$88,000. That’s the number, Mr. Speaker.

We should be very worried about a country that can’t pass a budget, that for the first time since there have been budget requirements put into the rules here in the Congress itself, since 1974 when this began, this Congress doesn’t have the will or the conviction to pass a budget because it is so abysmal, because the overspending is so atrocious, because the spending that they are conducting cannot be defended and they can’t defend and vote against the amendments that would surely be attempted to be brought against a budget.

Now, there is a legitimate debate going on in this Congress and there is a legitimate amendment process going on in this Congress, but we don’t have a budget and we’re not going to have a budget. This Congress doesn’t want to take responsibility for a budget.

We’re going to see them package up a continuing resolution of some kind, a modified continuing resolution that pays off the political favoritism that they will need in order to go on in November, and we’re going to get to the other side of the elections in November, kick the can down the road, and we’ll be here on the floor of Congress sometime after election day in November; and this Congress will, by order of the Speaker, bring a huge omnibus spending bill to the floor.

If it’s like the last one, 3,600 pages, several hundred billion dollars issued

the night before, dropped on the floor with roughly 60 minutes to debate the issue, no amendments, voted up or down, and the government shuts down if we voted down. I will vote “no.” I would love to shut the government down for that kind of irresponsibility. It’s unlikely that that will happen, however, because the Speaker has the votes and can do what she will.

So here we are, Mr. Speaker. This is a country that is built upon the rights that come from God, our liberty and our freedom. It’s built upon this foundation that I declare to be the pillars of American exceptionalism. We are the unchallenged greatest Nation in the world, and we derive our strength from these pillars of exceptionalism, from free enterprise capitalism, from the rights that come from God, from our religious faith and foundation, this core of Judeo-Christianity that is America, and yet we’re afraid to say so. We shy away and we shrink away from basic, simple utter truths.

I happen to have just heard a speech from, in town, the president of the NRA, Wayne LaPierre. He doesn’t know I’m coming here to say this, but I was listening as he delivered his speech, and I wrote this down. He said, If you know the truth is on your side, say it and shout it as long as you can—excuse me. It might be say it and shout it as loud as you can. Stand up, shout them down, and don’t you back down. Wayne LaPierre, president of the NRA, a man who has for a lifetime defended our Second Amendment and many of our other rights and freedoms, impressed me with the depth of his conviction and the clarity of his delivery tonight.

And now I take us to a subject matter that is on my mind to some degree, Mr. Speaker, and it has to do with what’s going on from the White House and the Presidency through the Justice Department.

Now, the Attorney General, Eric Holder, came before the Judiciary Committee sometime in late May, right before we broke for the Memorial Day period of time, and he testified under oath that the Justice Department is not a partisan agency, that they don’t operate on a partisan basis, that they are driven by the law. Well, I look at the President and the Attorney General and a number of the other representatives of this administration, it’s hard for me to accept that statement on face value as being truthful because here’s what I see and what I know: the President of the United States spoke out openly and plainly about the Arizona immigration law and made a case that in his view there was a built-in prejudice or bias or profile in the Arizona law because he said that if a mother were taking her daughter out to get some ice cream, they could find themselves having to produce their papers because of, presumably, their race. Arizona law forbids such a thing, but the President alleged such a thing.

Now, either the President misinformed the American people knowingly and willfully, or, Mr. Speaker, he hadn't read the bill. I'll opt to the side of he hadn't read the bill. I hope that's the case, and actually I believe that's the case.

Then we had Eric Holder, the Attorney General, who also alleged that there could be a profile take place under Arizona's immigration law that would bring about discrimination against people. It turns out that even though I asked Eric Holder before the Judiciary Committee, you have been charged by the President of the United States to use the force of the Justice Department to go against the Arizona law and seek to invalidate Arizona's immigration law, S. 1070, that bill that was drafted and put together by the fine and stellar State Senator, Russell Pearce of Arizona, that legislation—that has been signed into law and was enacted on the last day of July of this year—Eric Holder contends could bring about profiling.

Now, when someone says profiling in American Society today, they don't mean profiling according to, oh, let me say, whether you're a member of MENSA or whether you're a member of the Sierra Club. This is racial profiling whenever they say—when I say “they,” I mean the administration, people on the left, the self-professed progressives. They mean racial profiling. So the President implies, if not alleges, racial profiling, empowered by Arizona's immigration law, S. 1070. The Attorney General does the same thing. The Attorney General concedes that the President has ordered the Justice Department to seek to invalidate Arizona's immigration law.

□ 2115

When I asked the Attorney General, under oath, before the Judiciary Committee, Point to me in the Constitution where you believe Arizona's immigration law has violated the United States Constitution, the Attorney General could not do so. In the alternative, I said, Then point to me to a Federal statute that you believe preempts Arizona's immigration law. The Attorney General could not do so. So, when I said, Point out then for me a case precedent, case law, that you believe is controlling, which would indicate that Arizona's immigration law might be unconstitutional or could be invalidated by a Federal court, the Attorney General could not point to a single case precedent either.

So he failed to be able to point to the Constitution, to a Federal statute that could preempt or to case law that controls, the Attorney General of the United States, but he is still using the resources and the authority of the Attorney General's office and the entire Justice Department of the United States to seek to invalidate Arizona's immigration law, which, for the record, Mr. Speaker, mirrors Federal law and is at least as constitutional as Federal

immigration law. The Attorney General can't point to any place where that might violate, but he is still willing to pour in the resources and testify that his department is not political, and he admits that the President ordered him to use the department for what I believe to be political purposes.

For each of them to essentially imply or to confess that they didn't bother to read the Arizona law—but they wanted to tell the American people what to think about it—is political. It is unjust, and it is not consistent with the Constitution, with Federal statute, or with case law. That, Mr. Speaker, is what is going on.

In addition to this, on Arizona's law, we have other people who have weighed in on this. We have other people who have similar levels of, let me say, information to work with. The President doesn't read the bill, and he speaks out against it, and he seeks to drive a wedge based on race. The Attorney General is the one who is on the record saying the American people are cowards when it comes to race. Well, I'm not, but some are, and I understand why—because they turn their PC minyans against people who would speak out openly on these issues.

I think we should talk about race. I think we should talk about people who use race for political benefit—people like the President of the United States when he was informed of the incident of Professor Gates and Officer Crowley, in Cambridge, when Officer Crowley conducted himself consistent with, let me say, the rules of engagement for a peace officer in that community. When there was a call for him to come because someone was breaking into a residence in the neighborhood, Officer Crowley came and applied himself to that task as he had, I'm sure, a dozen times before, but Professor Gates objected to having law enforcement there to help protect his property. That message got to the President, and what does the President do? He sides with Professor Gates.

Barack Obama was wrong on the Gates issue, and all of the American people know it, and he could not bring himself to apologize to Officer Crowley or to clarify the issue. He was looking for a way out. That's why the President had the beer summit on the South Lawn. That's why Professor Gates and Officer Crowley came and sat down out on the South Lawn. It seemed odd to me that they brought one beer alone, on a single tray. They delivered it and went back and got another one. That seemed a little odd to me. That's what happened.

But, in a just world, the person who conducts himself in a just fashion is the one who receives the apology from the people who did not conduct themselves in a just fashion. I will argue, Mr. Speaker, that the President and Professor Gates had an obligation to apologize to Officer Crowley because, first, the President had prejudged that situation. His knee-jerk reaction de-

faulted in favor of the African American professor and against the Irish cop. That's what happened. I don't think anybody who watched this incident could think otherwise.

We have the President of the United States who defaulted in favor of alleging that there would be racial profiling taking place in Arizona because of their immigration law, and he perpetuated a flat-out misinterpretation, and it may well have been willful, of Arizona's immigration law to the rest of America.

Now, we should be able to look up to the President of the United States and to trust that he is properly briefed and that he is factual when he presents a position to the American people. That is American executive branch policy. We should be able to trust the President for that. The President should have people around him whom he trusts, who would go back and read the law and would brief the President.

Well, it's obvious to all of us who have watched this and who have read the law that the President spoke about Arizona's law and had not read it. If he were briefed, it was off of the MoveOn.org Web site. He is surrounded by people who read those Web sites, who believe them, and I'm not sure that the President has access to the objective truth given the people around him and given the way he has responded.

So you have two cases where the President's default reaction falls in the favor of an individual because of skin color as opposed to individuals because of the rule of law—or let me just say truth, justice, and the American way. There is a default mechanism in place. He has an Attorney General who follows that same path, who lectures the American people and who says that the American people are cowards when it comes to race. Well, he has not been a coward when it comes to race.

His administration, his agency—the Justice Department—has cancelled the most open-and-shut voter intimidation case in the history of America, which is the case of the New Black Panthers in Philadelphia, who much of America has seen on videotape—let me say YouTube. They are paramilitary uniformed individuals, the members of the New Black Panthers, who were standing there in berets, with big, old billy clubs, smacking them in their hands as white people came to vote, calling those people crackers and telling them, We're taking over this country. We're going to be in power after that.

That's a generalization of their statements, but the accuracy of that record is out there on YouTube for all the world to see. That case was open and shut. The case was made by the Justice Department under President Bush. As the handoff took place and went over to the Eric Holder Justice Department under President Obama, what happened, Mr. Speaker? Loretta King, in the Justice Department, cancelled the most open-and-shut voter intimidation

case in the history of America because it would have brought about convictions on those New Black Panther party members. Assistant Attorney General Thomas Perez came before the Judiciary Committee and testified that they got the highest punishment allowed under the law—negotiated.

Mr. Speaker, it was not true. It's not true today. The statement that he made to the Judiciary Committee was false—he knew it the day he said it—and it was to misinform because he was under some pressure and needed to get off the hook. That's a matter of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. He was under oath. It is something that we should pursue. It's unlikely that we can get anywhere with it. That's Tom Perez. So the administration has cancelled the most open-and-shut voter intimidation case in the history of America. It was a done deal. They cancelled it.

The administration and Loretta King in the Justice Department cancelled also the will of the people in Kinston, North Carolina. That's K-I-N-S-T-O-N. They dropped the "G" because they didn't want to be another Kingston, North Carolina. They voted by referendum the will of the people. The number that I remember—and it's generally memorized but not specifically accurate—is 70-30, a significant landslide majority. They voted to end the partisan local elections in Kinston, North Carolina, and to no longer label the candidates with an "R" or a "D" for "Republican" or "Democrat" by their names. That was the will of the people.

Though, because Kinston is a covered district, controlled by the Voting Rights Act, if they are going to move a voting booth 10 feet down the hallway, they have to get the permission of the Justice Department under Federal law. So, under the Justice Department, Loretta King, apparently, is the one who speaks for the Justice Department, who speaks for Eric Holder. She issued a letter that cancelled the election results of Kinston, North Carolina, and she declared that they would have partisan elections—and the city council and the mayor of Kinston, North Carolina—because African Americans wouldn't know who to vote for if a candidate didn't have a "D" beside his name.

Mr. Speaker, that is fact. That is the letter that was written and issued by our Justice Department under the pen and the signature of Loretta King, under the guidance and control of Attorney General Holder. Now, when we talk about things that have a racist flavor to them, when presuming that African Americans can't figure out who to vote for unless they have a "D" beside their names, I guess you could make the argument that you would want to profile all the African Americans and declare that they're all Democrats. Therefore, it makes it simple if you just label the people they want to vote for with a "D."

I think that has all kinds of racial implications. I don't think those impli-

cations have any place in the application of the laws or in the application of the Constitution of the United States. There should be equal justice before the law. This Lady Justice needs to be blindfolded and needs to stay blindfolded. Everybody should be subjected to the same level of law and enforcement without regard to race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, and a number of other indicators, but I've listed most of them that are in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act right now.

Now, this goes on. This is a Justice Department that can't find a dollar or an individual to commit a minute, let alone a career or a team and a few million dollars, to investigate ACORN—ACORN, the corrupt, criminal enterprise that everybody knows today is a corrupt, criminal enterprise. It has been undermining the very foundation that sits underneath our Constitution, itself, which is, Mr. Speaker, legitimate elections. Legitimate elections, the faith in the legitimacy of our elections, is what keeps this constitutional Republic functioning and alive and gets us back to well. ACORN has damaged all of that. ACORN has threatened all of that. ACORN has diminished our liberty and our freedom, and it has undermined the very foundation for our Constitution.

Any Justice Department worth its salt would investigate ACORN, but Eric Holder can't touch that—whether it's an order of the President, who used to work for ACORN, I don't know. We should remember that the President of the United States worked for ACORN. He represented them in court. He represented them pro bono in court. Can you imagine being an attorney and representing somebody in court pro bono and not agreeing to their agenda? He also worked for them in the form of Project Vote, which was when President Barack Obama made his reputation for organizing communities and politics in Chicago. Project Vote is, part and parcel, ACORN.

The President of the United States is ACORN. He is identified with ACORN. He made his reputation with ACORN. He has worked for and with ACORN, and he has trained ACORN workers. When he said during the campaign to his supporters to "get in their face," it is pretty consistent with the message that they train ACORN activists, which is to "get in their face." Go intimidate some bankers while you're at it and see if you can get them to make more bad loans in bad neighborhoods. Let ACORN be positioned to judge whether lenders are making enough bad loans in bad neighborhoods.

This became a big component of what has undermined our economy and what has caused this downward spiral. The President was involved and complicit in the effort that brought about the undermining of our financial institutions in America by his involvement of working with, for, and in promoting and representing ACORN.

Then, when he was elected President of the United States, he sought to

move the United States census from the Commerce Department into the White House. He could manage the census, the counting of the people—real or imagined—from the White House. The public uproar over ACORN caused him to back away from that and to sever the relationship that he had that ACORN was to be working as a contractor with the Census Department. Now, it doesn't mean because they decided not to have a formal contract with ACORN that ACORN wasn't going to be involved in the census. We know that people are policy. We know that there are a lot of ACORN people involved in the census. How could there not be with nearly a half a million people working to count the 306 or so million people who we are?

When we follow the money, when we track ACORN, the path leads us to the White House. ACORN should be investigated by any legitimate Justice Department. Kinston, North Carolina, didn't need to take place. The voice of the people said, We don't want partisan elections. We want to vote for the candidate. We don't want to vote for their political party. This was cancelled by Loretta King and the Justice Department.

□ 2130

We don't need to have voter intimidation with new Black Panthers out there with billy clubs and a Justice Department that would cancel the prosecution that was open and shut. We need no voter intimidation in America.

And where could you better send the message than putting those people that are the new Black Panthers, that are clearly wide open guilty, under the heaviest penalty allowed by law?

This is all part of the character and the makeup of this administration; this administration, who plays the race card; this administration, who defaults in favor of whichever minority they think might be the one that would most likely support their political party and their agenda. And I point to the new Black Panthers. I point to the President's remarks on the mother and the daughter going to get ice cream in Arizona. I point to the Justice Department canceling the prosecution, the open-and-shut case, by then almost closed case, of the new Black Panthers in Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia; of the city and their municipal referendum on no partisan elections in Kinston, North Carolina; the failure of the Justice Department to investigate ACORN; and the fact that the President spoke out—now this moves into a little bit different subject area, but it also ties, in my view, together—and the President demagoguing Arizona's immigration law, not having read it; the Attorney General doing the same thing, and finally admitting that he'd not read the bill. Janet Napolitano, the Secretary of Homeland Security, demagoguing Arizona's immigration law, not having read it, and having admitted that to Senator JOHN MCCAIN.

And, let me see, the Assistant Secretary of State Michael Posner taking Arizona's immigration law all the way to the Chinese and saying, Well, we brought it up early and often.

Apparently, we're a sinful Nation because we believe in the rule of law, Mr. Speaker.

And let me see, who's left out of this? Oh, yes. John Morton, the Assistant Secretary, who is the head of ICE, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, who remarked that he wasn't committed to handling all the people that might be picked up by Arizona immigration or by Arizona's law enforcement officers in enforcement of Federal immigration law.

So this whole picture of this administration paints something that makes it really hard for government teachers to get this message down to their students. We have students that are juniors or seniors in high school, and you're teaching them government. They might be younger than that, but juniors and seniors in high school. They might read the paper and watch the news, and they sit in the classroom, and the teacher will say, We have a separation of powers. We have the legislative. We have the executive. And we have the judicial branches of government. These are three separate powers. Some teachers will teach they're separate but equal. That's another hour to talk about it. I don't believe they're equal. But they are separate.

To argue that they're separate and having students watch the news and hear that the President doesn't want to enforce immigration law because he doesn't agree with it; that he wants to hold law enforcement hostage until the American people accept his form of amnesty. The President doesn't get that kind of discretion. The President's job is to enforce the law. The Attorney General's job is to enforce the law. John Morton's job as head of ICE is to enforce the law. And the Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano's job is to enforce the law. Because you disagree with the law means nothing. You enforce that law whether you agree with it or not because you're not a policy maker. You're a law enforcer.

That's how our Constitution is set up. That's the power that's invested in them. If our Founding Fathers had wanted them to be legislators, they would have written it into the Constitution. If the people of this country wanted them to be legislators, I can tell you what they would have done. They would have amended the Constitution and had the power to change Federal law over to John Morton, Janet Napolitano, Eric Holder, for the President of the United States, or maybe even Michael Posner, the Assistant Secretary of State. Who knows.

That's not who we are. That's not the way it is. We must defend the rule of law. It is an essential pillar of American exceptionalism. We cannot sustain our greatness as a Nation if we're going

to allow the discretionary—discretionary—enforcement of the law to come from executive branch people. And for a President of the United States, who taught constitutional law, albeit as an adjunct professor at the stellar University of Chicago School of Law, to think that that's the case, that he doesn't understand this any better, he thinks he can get away with it.

Well, I am here to say, no, the American people know better. We can read the Constitution. We can read our history. And we have access to the information necessary to keep an educated populace, coupled with an armed populace, coupled with the people that have enough self-confidence to be in a full-throated way to stand up and defend our liberty and defend our freedom. That's who we are, Mr. Speaker. That's who we must remain. That's the character that we must maintain. And we cannot allow ourselves to be diminished by a people who happen to find themselves right now sitting in controlling positions within this government that don't understand or willfully defy our values as a Nation or our Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't have picked a better moment to yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for June 14 and today on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. BALDWIN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BALDWIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GARAMENDI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SABLAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BISHOP of Utah) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BOOZMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, June 22.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, June 22.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 16, 2010, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7886. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Tomatoes From Souss-Massa-Draa, Morocco; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: APHIS-2008-0017] (RIN: 0579-AC77) received May 21, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7887. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Coat Protein of Plum Pox Virus; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0763; FRL-8826-9] received May 21, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7888. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Navy, Case Number 09-01, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

7889. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Capacity Building Program for Traditionally Underserved Populations—Technical Assistance for American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services Projects Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.406 received May 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

7890. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)—Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program—Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)—Employer Practices Related to Employment Outcomes Among Individuals with Disabilities Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.133B-3 received May 21, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

7891. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Acquisition Regulation: Subchapter E—General Contracting Requirements, Subchapter F—Special Categories of Contracting, and Subchapter G—Contract Management (RIN: 1991-AB88) received May 27, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7892. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revocation of Significant New Use Rule on a Certain Chemical Substance [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2009-0668; FRL-8819-3] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received May 21, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7893. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Nonprocurement Debarment and

Suspension [NRC-2010-0005] (RIN: 3150-AI76) received May 21, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7894. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting various reports in accordance with Sections 36(a) and 26(b) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7895. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting Periodic Report on the National Emergency Caused by the Lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979 for August 26, 2009 — February 26, 2010; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7896. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7897. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, transmitting proposed amendments to the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7898. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting the Corporation's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2010 through March 31, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7899. A letter from the Principal Director, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's annual report for FY 2009 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7900. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Teledyne Continental Motors (TCM) 240, 346, 360, 470, 520, and 550 Series and Rolls-Royce Motors, Ltd. (R-RM) IO-240-A Reciprocating Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1156; Directorate Identifier 2009-NE-38-AD; Amendment 39-160309 AD 2010-11-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7901. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France (ECF) Model AS332L1 and AS332L2 Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0489; Directorate Identifier 2009-SW-78-AD; Amendment 39-16294; AD 2010-10-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7902. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model AS332L2 Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0419; Directorate Identifier 2009-SW-64-AD; Amendment 39-16293; AD 2010-10-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7903. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron (Bell) Model 205A, 205A-1, 205B, 212, 412, 412EP, and 412CF and Agusta S.p.A. (Agusta) Model AB412, AB412EP Helicopters [Docket No.:

FAA-2009-0294; Directorate Identifier 2010-SW-032-AD; Amendment 39-16295; AD 2009-10-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7904. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company CF34-1A, -3A, -3A1, -3A2, -3B, and -3B1 Turbofan Engines; Correction [Docket No.: FAA-2007-27687; Directorate Identifier 2000-NE-42-AD; Amendment 39-16144; AD 2009-26-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7905. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; CFM International, S.A. CFM56-5B1/P, -5B2/P, -5B3/P, -5B3/P1, -5B4/P, -5B5/P, -5B6/P, -5B7/P, -5B8/P, -5B9/P, -5B12/P, -5B22/P, -5B32/P, -5B32/P1, -5B42/P, -5B4/P1, -5B62/P, -5B42/P1, and -5B92/P, Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1353; Directorate Identifier 2008-NE-46-AD; Amendment 39-16279; AD 2010-09-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 24, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7906. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Corporation Model DC-10-10, DC10-10F, DC-10-15, DC-10-30, DC-10-30F, (KC-10A and KDC-10) DC-10-40, DC-10-40F, MD-10-10F, MD-10-30F, MD-11, and MD-11F Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0032; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-213-AD; Amendment 39-16277; AD 2010-09-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 24, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7907. A letter from the Branch Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2011 inflation adjusted amounts for Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) as determined under Section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code [Rev. Proc. 2010-22] received May 27, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7908. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Phase-out of Credit for New Qualified Hybrid Motor Vehicles and New Advanced Lean Burn Technology Motor Vehicles [Notice 2010-42] received May 27, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7909. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting legislative proposal to amend chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, to permit certain General Schedule (GS) Department of the Navy (Navy) employees to earn an overtime rate that exceeds the overtime hourly rate cap; jointly to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and Armed Services.

7910. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting results of a study required by Section 6206 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246); jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Agriculture.

7911. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting a legislative proposal to be a part of the National Defense Authorization Bill for Fiscal Year 2011; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform, Foreign Affairs, and the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WAXMAN: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3993. A bill to require accurate and reasonable disclosure of the terms and conditions of prepaid telephone calling cards and services; with an amendment (Rept. 111-507). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. REHBERG (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia):

H.R. 5523. A bill to protect the right of individuals to bear arms on Federal lands administered by the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. AKIN:

H.R. 5524. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to prohibit the importation into the United States of plastinated human remains from the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. OLSON (for himself, Mr. PENCE, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. HARPER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. SHADEGG, and Mr. CASSIDY):

H.R. 5525. A bill to terminate the moratorium on deepwater drilling issued by the Secretary of the Interior; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. WU):

H.R. 5526. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to make technical corrections to the segment designations for the Chetco River, Oregon; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. CAPPs (for herself, Mr. LATOURETTE, and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida):

H.R. 5527. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for patient protection by establishing safe nurse staffing levels at certain Medicare providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARNEY (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 5528. A bill to enhance the integrity of the United States against the threat of terrorism; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTER (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. GRANGER, Mrs.

McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. OLSON, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky):

H.R. 5529. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt survivor benefit annuity plan payments from the individual alternative minimum tax; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FALCOMA VAEGA:

H.R. 5530. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to ensure that the flags of the several States, the District of Columbia, and the territories of the United States encircle the Washington Monument; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HERGER:

H.R. 5531. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to enable Federal agencies responsible for the preservation of threatened species and endangered species to rescue and relocate members of any of those species that would be taken in the course of certain reconstruction, maintenance, or repair of Federal or non-Federal manmade flood control levees; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California:

H.R. 5532. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to adopted alien children; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 5533. A bill to strengthen the partnership between nonprofit organizations and the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Science and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MEEKS of New York (for himself, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, and Mr. TEAGUE):

H.R. 5534. A bill to authorize the Science, Engineering, Math, and Aerospace Academy Program in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. BERMAN (for himself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) (both by request):

H.J. Res. 88. A joint resolution providing for the approval of the Congress of the proposed agreement for cooperation between the United States and Australia pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H. Res. 1441. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to curtail the growth of Government programs; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. DUNCAN:

H. Res. 1442. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of United States Military History Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MEEKS of New York (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. GRJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. DRIEHAUS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SHULER, Mr. WU, Mr. LEWIS

of Georgia, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. WEINER, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. WATT, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. SIREs, and Mr. GUTIERREZ):

H. Res. 1443. A resolution recognizing the achievements of the Nation's high school graduating class of 2010, promoting the importance of encouraging intellectual growth, and rewarding academic excellence of all United States high school students; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Mr. SHIMKUS):

H. Res. 1444. A resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ROONEY:

H. Res. 1445. A resolution expressing support for designation of July 17, 2010, as "National Bladder Cancer Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

309. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 220 memorializing Congress to reauthorize the funding for the TANF Emergency Fund program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

310. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, relative to House Concurrent Memorial 2005 urging the Congress to reauthorize Section 1011 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 21: Mr. MEEKS of New York.
 H.R. 45: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
 H.R. 197: Mr. GRAYSON.
 H.R. 442: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
 H.R. 634: Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana and Mr. CAMP.
 H.R. 708: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 1034: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
 H.R. 1074: Mr. GRAYSON.
 H.R. 1126: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin and Mr. SIREs.
 H.R. 1272: Mr. DJOU.
 H.R. 1362: Mr. HEINRICH.
 H.R. 1409: Mr. DEUTCH.
 H.R. 1443: Mr. WATT.
 H.R. 1751: Mr. CUELLAR and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 1806: Mr. OLVER and Ms. KOSMAS.
 H.R. 1990: Mr. RAHALL and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 2103: Mr. HIMES.
 H.R. 2189: Mr. AKIN.
 H.R. 2240: Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 2296: Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 2381: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN and Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
 H.R. 2412: Mr. DJOU.
 H.R. 2413: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
 H.R. 2455: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 2603: Mr. DJOU.
 H.R. 2890: Ms. HIRONO.
 H.R. 3024: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
 H.R. 3053: Mr. KUCINICH.
 H.R. 3077: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. CARNAHAN.
 H.R. 3108: Mr. WEINER.
 H.R. 3181: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Ms. FUDGE.
 H.R. 3328: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
 H.R. 3359: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. BERRY, and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 3421: Ms. BALDWIN.
 H.R. 3670: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
 H.R. 3924: Mr. CULBERSON and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.
 H.R. 3943: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.
 H.R. 4024: Mr. DJOU.
 H.R. 4037: Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Ms. RICHARDSON.
 H.R. 4116: Mr. CLAY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 4150: Mr. EDWARDS of Texas.
 H.R. 4175: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 4223: Mr. KIRK, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 4241: Mr. MINNICK.
 H.R. 4278: Mr. PETERS.
 H.R. 4306: Mr. ROONEY.
 H.R. 4347: Mr. HONDA and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
 H.R. 4371: Ms. TITUS.
 H.R. 4386: Mr. MAFFEI.
 H.R. 4420: Mr. JONES.
 H.R. 4443: Mr. EDWARDS of Texas.
 H.R. 4477: Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 4505: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
 H.R. 4645: Mr. ELLISON.
 H.R. 4662: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
 H.R. 4733: Mr. ROYCE and Mr. HINCHEY.
 H.R. 4787: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 4788: Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 4836: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 4888: Ms. WOOLSEY.
 H.R. 4919: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
 H.R. 4925: Mr. RAHALL.
 H.R. 4926: Mr. FILNER.
 H.R. 4943: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
 H.R. 4947: Ms. BALDWIN.
 H.R. 4958: Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 4959: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
 H.R. 4993: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
 H.R. 5000: Mr. GONZALEZ.
 H.R. 5012: Ms. NORTON and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
 H.R. 5016: Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. AKIN, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. BACHUS.
 H.R. 5034: Mr. MINNICK.
 H.R. 5037: Mr. FOSTER.
 H.R. 5081: Mrs. MALONEY.
 H.R. 5096: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 5121: Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 5141: Mr. EDWARDS of Texas and Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 5143: Mr. HILL.
 H.R. 5177: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
 H.R. 5189: Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. MICA.
 H.R. 5214: Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. GIFFORDS.
 H.R. 5243: Mr. BURGESS.
 H.R. 5255: Mr. COOPER.
 H.R. 5268: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Mr. SIREs.
 H.R. 5276: Mr. TURNER, Mr. McCLINTOCK, and Mr. SCHOCK.
 H.R. 5312: Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 5318: Mr. EDWARDS of Texas.
 H.R. 5319: Mr. INGLIS.
 H.R. 5324: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
 H.R. 5354: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 5371: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 5409: Mr. MCINTYRE and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 5425: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 5429: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. RICHARDSON, and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 5430: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 5431: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 5434: Mr. LoBIONDO and Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5441: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 5447: Mr. BERRY.

H.R. 5462: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 5467: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 5477: Mr. HINCHAY.

H.R. 5478: Mr. EDWARDS of Texas.

H.R. 5487: Mr. SALAZAR, Ms. NORTON, Mr. Luján, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. OBERSTAR.

H.R. 5501: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. DJOU, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. AKIN, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. MICA, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. MCHENRY, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. WALDEN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LANCE, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. GERLACH.

H.R. 5513: Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 5515: Mr. PETRI.

H.R. 5519: Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Ms. JENKINS, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 5520: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. HINCHAY, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. QUIGLEY Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. ELLISON.

H.J. Res. 86: Mr. CAO, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. HINCHAY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. BERRY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr.

LARSEN of Washington, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. KISSELL, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SKELTON, Mrs. DAHKEMPER, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. MCMAHON, and Ms. KOSMAS.

H. Con. Res. 279: Mr. MCCLINTOCK and Mr. WITTMAN.

H. Con. Res. 284: Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. WALDEN, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. ORTIZ.

H. Con. Res. 286: Mr. NUNES, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. SPACE, Mr. DJOU, Mr. WOLF, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. GOODLATTE.

H. Res. 111: Mr. TOWNS.

H. Res. 173: Mr. POSEY, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, and Mr. DEUTCH.

H. Res. 203: Mr. CRITZ.

H. Res. 252: Mr. HELLER.

H. Res. 308: Mr. RUSH, Ms. WATERS, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FILNER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. RICHARDSON, and Ms. CLARKE.

H. Res. 771: Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. SHULER, and Mr. HONDA.

H. Res. 1035: Mrs. MYRICK.

H. Res. 1219: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. ROHR-ABACHER.

H. Res. 1241: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. LATOURETTE.

H. Res. 1350: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MANZULLO, and Mr. ISSA.

H. Res. 1393: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H. Res. 1394: Mr. PASCRELL and Mr. OLSON.

H. Res. 1395: Mr. MCINTYRE.

H. Res. 1401: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. MCMAHON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WALZ, Mr. SIREN, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. PERRIELLO, and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.

H. Res. 1405: Mr. HONDA and Ms. RICHARDSON.

H. Res. 1406: Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. HERGER, and Mrs. LUMMIS.

H. Res. 1412: Mr. CARNAHAN and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H. Res. 1419: Ms. FUDGE, Mr. Austria, Ms. KILROY, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. SPACE, and Mr. TIBERI.

H. Res. 1426: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H. Res. 1429: Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. WOLF, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. DJOU, Mr. AKIN, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. JONES, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, and Mr. BOUSTANY.

H. Res. 1439: Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. FARR, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. SHULER, Mr. BACA, Ms. WATSON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POLIS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MURPHY of New York, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. Linda T. SÁNCHEZ of CALIFORNIA, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. WALZ, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. TEAGUE.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

146. The SPEAKER presented a petition of American Bar Association, Illinois, relative to Recommendation 102C urging federal, state, territorial and local governments to undertake a comprehensive review of the misdemeanor provisions of their criminal laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

147. Also, a petition of American Bar Association, Illinois, relative to Recommendation 102B urging federal, state, territorial and local legislative bodies and agencies to support the development of simplified Miranda warning language for use with juvenile arrestees; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

148. Also, a petition of California State Lands Commission, California, relative to Resolution supporting the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2010; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources, and Agriculture.