

SMALL BUSINESS JOBS ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5297, the Small Business Jobs Act. Legislation that provides much needed lending to millions of small businesses and offers tax incentives to help small businesses grow, hire, and fuel our economy.

As we all know, small businesses are a key engine of our economy, creating two-thirds of the new jobs over the last 15 years. America's 27 million small businesses continue to face a lack of credit and tight lending standards, with the number of small businesses loans down nearly 5 million since the financial crisis in 2008 under President Bush.

Last month, I went on a tour of small businesses throughout my district. I have also met individually with many small business owners who are struggling to stay open. While visiting these businesses, I saw firsthand the serious challenges they face while the United States struggles to overcome its most significant economic crisis since the Great Depression. It was clear to me that they have all the tools necessary to prosper but need our financial institutions to function properly and provide them the resources to succeed.

H.R. 5297 will provide small businesses with this opportunity by increasing access to capital and spurring investment and growth throughout our country. In fact, it is estimated that this bill alone will create 500,000 new jobs in America.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support this legislation, which will provide our small businesses with the assistance they need to compete in this difficult economic climate. I know it will have a substantial impact on my district and strongly urge my colleagues to support it.

VETERANS BENEFITS AND ECONOMIC WELFARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6132, which improves the social services currently offered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, by reaching out to and providing benefits for many veterans not currently enrolled accounted for under our current federally-funded programs.

I want to thank Chairman FILNER for his leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor. I also thank the Congressman for sponsoring this legislation and for his dedication to ensuring that this nation does everything it can to repay our veterans for the sacrifices they have made to protect us.

Mr. Speaker, as the representative of a district that is home to over 23,000 veterans and the VA Medical Center of Long Beach, I know how important it is to ensure that our veterans have the resources to access affordable health care, housing, and financial security.

H.R. 6132 establishes a transition program for new veterans not eligible for other employment aid programs. With 40 percent of young veterans from who Iraq and Afghanistan more likely to be unemployed than anyone in their age group, it is vital that we continue to demonstrate our support for them through bills such as this.

The bill's provisions are aimed at directly improving the disability claim system by extending the 120-day limit for filing an appeal to the Court of Veterans Appeals after a final decision of the Board of Veterans' Appeals. The bill would also increase the pension amount for Medal of Honor recipients, establish an award program that will allow the VA to recognize businesses for their contributions to veteran employment, and protect veterans from losing their non-service connected pension benefits.

Mr. Speaker, the bold actions taken by Congress and the Administration thus far have been critical in assisting our courageous Veterans. Not only have they provided the vital services that our veterans have earned, but they also equip our former soldiers with the resources they need to lift them out of unemployment and live stable, healthy lives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6132.

HONORING THE KALISHMAN FAMILY

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary St. Louis family dedicated to community service and who embodies the spirit of volunteerism. The Kalishman family is receiving this year's Netzach Award from the St. Louis Chapter of the American Jewish Committee.

The Kalishman legacy of community service began with Nancy and late husband Jerry, and continues today through their children. Nancy has a long record of service but continues to show her dedication and compassion by reading to underserved children as part of the Ready Readers Program. Formerly a teacher, she is a past and lifetime member of the board of the Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis, past president of the Temple Israel Sisterhood, and has served on the boards of many other community organizations.

Daughter, Susan Goldberg, follows in her mother's footsteps by currently serving as board president for Ready Readers and as vice-chair of the Barnes-Jewish Hospital Foundation. She is also a board member of the Scholarship Foundation and the Magic House. Closer to home Susan serves as troop leader for both her daughter's Brownie troops and as president-elect of their school's parents' association.

John Kalishman serves as vice president of finance/treasurer of the Jewish Federation. He previously served six years as chair of the investment committee for the St. Louis Jewish Community Foundation in which he was responsible for managing its endowments.

Jim Kalishman and his family just moved back to the St. Louis area five years ago and did not wait to get involved with the community. He is now vice president of the board of Congregation Shaare Emeth and was selected to participate in an emerging leader program. He also led the launch of the successful campaign to pass Proposition 0 for the Ladue Schools.

The Kalishman family has shown unwavering dedication to the Jewish and St. Louis communities in the past, and there is no doubt that they will continue to serve and provide as examples of how volunteerism is alive and well in this country. Please join me in congratulating the Kalishmans in their much deserved honor in receiving this year's Netzach Award.

IRAQ ELECTED OFFICIALS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution I am introducing today that encourages all elected officials and political leaders in Iraq to redouble their efforts to form a government that is just, representative, and accountable to the people of Iraq.

More than six months ago, on March 7, 2010, the Iraqi people went to the polls and elected 325 members of the Council of Representatives which, pursuant to the constitution of Iraq, must select the new Prime Minister and President. Iraq currently remains without a Prime Minister or President, and negotiations between the elected political parties seem to have reached a stalemate.

This is not good for Iraq or for the region. The vacuum created in the absence of a new government has encouraged violent attacks against government officials and Iraqi civilians by terrorist thugs who are intent on destabilizing the country.

Destabilizing as well is the fact that more than two million citizens of Iraq remain displaced both inside Iraq and in countries in the region and around the world, and the failure of the government of Iraq to enact comprehensive oil and gas sector framework and revenue-sharing legislation to meet development needs.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution that calls on the leaders of Iraq to form, as quickly as possible, a capable and representative government that is accountable to the people, to address the needs of its displaced citizens and to effectively, fairly and transparently develop its oil and gas resources in order to meet its pressing development needs.