

The fact is, even the industry lobbyist said in Oregon last year that credit checks have no correlation to fraud in the workplace or a person's ability to perform a job. Yet because of the credit industry, credit checks are still required.

We have a bill in Congress, the Equal Employment for All bill, that would outlaw such a practice. Five States have outlawed such a practice and 20 States are considering it. We need to create jobs and give everybody a chance. Many people have bad credit because of this economy, because of the recession, because of health care costs that almost forced them into bankruptcy or have, or divorces. They should not be denied the chance to have a job, a second chance.

We should pass the Equal Employment for All bill and give all Americans a chance for employment.

AMERICANS AT RISK

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

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, Americans are at risk. They are at risk of having their homes and their businesses demolished, of being injured and even killed, either by a natural disaster such as the tornados that have hit us recently or through a terrorist attack that will more likely come from within the United States.

This is not the time to cut the Homeland Security budget, and that's why today I propose taking military aid to Afghanistan and redirecting it to better equip and to hire more firefighters, more police officers, more emergency medical providers. State and local governments don't have the money to provide these resources because our home values have plummeted due to the foreclosure crisis, which this Congress has failed to address effectively.

There is one responsibility, though, that this Congress must honor, our duty to protect the American people. We, who live in this country, deserve to be safe.

Restore the cuts to the Homeland Security budget, and redirect the money from Afghanistan to protect Americans.

CONDEMNING GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn, yes, condemn, the Government of Vietnam for continuing its appalling human rights record by conducting unjust trials, sham trials of seven citizens who asked for land reform.

This past week, the people's court of Ben Tre unfairly convicted seven land

rights activists to years of imprisonment and probation.

Ms. Tran Thi Thuy was sentenced to 8 years, Pastor Duong Kim Khai was imprisoned for 6 years, and Mr. Pham Van Thong received a 7-year sentence simply for asking for their land back from the Communist Government of Vietnam. This recent trial was no different than Vietnam's past trials where there is no due process.

I hope that my colleagues will look at the record of human rights with respect to Vietnam and join me in urging the Government of Vietnam to drop these false charges.

COMMENDING MINNEAPOLIS EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I represent Minneapolis, Minnesota. Recently, my district was hit by a tornado. That tornado caused damage to well over 535 houses and took the lives of two of my constituents.

I just want to commend all those people who stepped forward to do the right thing for the people who were victims. Whether you were serving meals for people who were put out of their homes; whether you were making games for the children of the displaced to be able to have some joy in their lives after such a difficult period; or whether you were an emergency responder, police, fire, emergency, medical; or whether you were a member of our local government, I want everyone in my district to know, everyone in the Fifth Congressional District to know, that I am so proud of the work that you did.

I want folks to know that it is times of crisis like this tornado in which the best of us comes out, when we find our charitable spirit, when we find our courage, when we find all those things that sometimes are lacking in everyday life. I want to let you know that on the faces of the children who have had a warm place to stay after their own homes were knocked to the ground and trees went through people's roofs, that I want to thank all those first responders, all those public servants, all those volunteers who stepped up and made a very difficult situation just a little bit better for everyone who was involved.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, we could never forget those two citizens who lost their lives when they were hit by this tornado. It was a tragedy for them and their families, and we will keep them in our thoughts and in our hearts and in our minds as we move forward.

DEBT RESOLUTION

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, the partisan debt resolution was dead on ar-

rival yesterday. But what really should have been DOA is the Republican plan to end Medicare and turn seniors over to private insurance companies.

Today, despite the outright rejection of this plan from south Florida to western New York and all across America, Republicans will try to deem and pass the reckless Ryan budget. That's right: those who decried "deem and pass" during the health care reform debate now seek to use it to end Medicare.

In fact, it was the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee who, in an effort to stoke fear over the Affordable Care Act, derisively labeled deem and pass the Slaughter Solution. Apparently using deem and pass to help insure 150 million Americans is an abomination but using it to end Medicare, that's courageous.

What would truly be courageous is if my Republican colleagues abandoned their plan to gut Medicare and Medicaid and instead supported deficit reduction that ends giveaways to Big Oil and more \$100,000 tax cuts for millionaires.

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RAISING THE DEBT CEILING

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Last night's vote on raising the debt ceiling is further proof that the Republican majority plans to hold the full faith and credit of the United States hostage while they demand as ransom extreme cuts to Medicare and Medicaid.

News flash: The American people simply won't sacrifice Medicare and Medicaid and the guaranteed benefits they provide.

Seniors across the country are speaking out: Hands off Medicare, and, Don't slash Medicaid's health and long-term care benefits to pay for tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires, Big Oil and companies that offshore jobs.

Unlike the Republicans, Democrats are serious about responsible and real deficit reduction.

The Republican plan actually increases unemployment and the deficits, ends Medicare, further erodes our middle class and hurts poor children, all to increase the fortunes of oil companies, millionaires and billionaires. This is a plan that goes against the majority of Americans, and we won't have it.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2017, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 287 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 287

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the