driving innovation, driving job creation, leading to entirely new multi-million-dollar industries, and transforming how we live and work for the better.

Computer science education prepares students for the jobs of the future by engaging and preparing them for careers in high-paying occupations. But our education system is not currently producing enough graduates in computing and IT fields to meet the growing needs of the industry. In fact, the current pipeline of computing graduates will only fill 52 percent of the projected jobs. The other 48 percent will either have to be filled elsewhere in the workforce or go unfilled.

If the U.S. is to continue to discover and develop the innovations that have created new industries and transformed others, we need to ensure a healthy computer science workforce that’s skilled to the extent necessary to meet our growing needs. Women and many minority groups are currently underrepresented among computing and IT professionals as well as students, depriving the Nation of a potential skilled workforce and of the innovation that results from diverse teams.

If we don’t address the issues causing too few students to take computer science education classes in kindergarten through 12th grade, as well as college, our pipeline and our Nation’s future will be compromised. That’s why I’ve introduced the Computer Science Education Act, which will help ensure that American students not only learn to code, but also learn the computing skills to invent technology needed to grow and drive our economy.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to include this piece of legislation in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization.

Computer Science Education Week was established in 2009 by the Computing in the Core Coalition to honor Grace Murray Hopper, a pioneer in computer science who engineered a new programming language and developed standards for computer systems to lay the foundation for many advances in computer science from the late 1940s through the 1970s. The U.S. House of Representatives has recognized Computer Science Education Week in the second week of December over the past 2 years.

Computer Science Education Week is a collaborative activity of Computing in the Core and the bipartisan advocacy coalition. Its core partners are: the Association for Computing Machinery, Microsoft, Google, Computer Science Teachers Association, the National Center for Women and Information Technology which is based in my district in Colorado—IEEE Computer Society, the Computing Research Association, the College Board, and many, many others.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the importance of computer science for our future by recognizing Computer Science Education Week this week.

SQUARING SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE PAYROLL TAX CUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, topping the list of unfinished business this year is the collision of two closely related crises: the expiration of the payroll tax and the acceleration of Social Security’s bankruptcy.

Last year, Congress voted for a payroll tax cut that averages roughly $1,000 for every working family in America. As warned, it failed to stimulate economic growth and it accelerated the collapse of the Social Security system; but, as promised, it threw every working family a vital lifeline in every tough economic times.

We need to meet three conflicting objectives: We need to continue the payroll tax cut; we need to stimulate real economic growth; and we need to avoid doing further damage to the Social Security system.

First, we need to understand that not all tax cuts stimulate lasting economic growth. Cutting marginal tax rates does so because it changes the incentives that individuals respond to; cutting inframarginal tax rates, such as the payroll tax, does not. But that payroll tax cut did make a huge difference in the ability of working families to make ends meet in a time of declining family income and rising prices. To restore that payroll tax rate today, given the economic pressures on working families, is simply unthinkable.

Yet at the same time, the payroll tax cut is what supports the Social Security system. Last year, that system entered a state of permanent deficit, and this condition will end the Social Security system bankrupts in 2036. At that moment, every retiree will suffer a sudden and permanent drop in benefits of roughly 25 percent.

Further reducing the revenues into that system will hasten this day of reckoning. Just as bad, in the intervening time the expanding Social Security deficit will heap growing burdens on the Nation’s already staggering public debt. Now, some have proposed paying for the payroll tax cut that doesn’t help the economy with a marginal tax hike that actually harms the economy. Surely we can do better than that. Actually, Congressman LANDRY of Louisiana has done better, and I commend his proposal to the attention of the House. It avoids damaging the Social Security fund while at the same time giving every American the choice that links the tax they pay to the benefits they receive. And it’s an option they can exercise every year without fear that a future congressional act or failure to act might switch them with them they can’t afford or hasten the collapse of a retirement system that many depend upon for their economic survival.

CUBS GREAT RON SANTO ELECTED TO HALL OF FAME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIKLEY) for 5 minutes.

Now, most people knew Ronnie as the nine-time All-Star and the five-time Golden Glove winner, one of the top hitters of his era, and the third baseman on the Top 10 list in every statistical category. And many people knew Ronnie as the lovable voice of the Chicago Cubs, with whom we cheered every home run, moaned every dropped fly ball, and laughed at life’s most