must not leave Washington for the holidays without extending the payroll tax cut and unemployment benefits that put money into the economy and promote jobs.

GOP is risking tax relief for 160 million Americans while protecting massive tax cuts for 300,000 people making more than a million dollars a year. That is not fair and balanced taxation.

Extending and expanding the payroll tax cut would put $1,500 into the pockets of the typical middle class family. This may not seem like a lot to many, but to some, $1,500 is make-or break money.

GOP JOBS BILL SLASHES BENEFITS, ALLOWS STATES TO DRUG-TEST THE UNEMPLOYED

WASHINGTON—Republican leaders in the House of Representatives unveiled legislation Friday would cut 40 weeks from the duration of federal unemployment compensation and allow states to require the unemployed to pass drug tests in order to receive benefits.

Republicans have not cited any data suggesting that drug use contributes to joblessness or that there is an elevated rate of drug abuse among the unemployed. Michael Steel, a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), said the measure is inspired by lawmakers’ conversations with businesses in their districts.


“There was just one problem: Half the people who applied could not even pass a drug test. But his office declined to name the employer or provide any information supporting the claim. When Gov. Nikki Haley (R-S.C.) made a nearly identical claim earlier this year, it turned out to be completely untrue.

Under current law, states are not allowed to deny workers unemployment insurance for reasons other than on-the-job misconduct, fraud or earning too much money from part-time work. The new bills would expand that list to include failing a drug test. Kingston’s office declined to name the employer or provide any information supporting the claim.

The House drug testing scheme is part of a broader bill, which also calls on the Department of Labor to require drug testing for reasons other than on-the-job misconduct, fraud or earning too much money from part-time work. The new bills would expand that list to include failing a drug test.

Mr. OBIE (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of attending the funeral of Virginia Tech Police Officer Derek W. Crouse.

Mr. MARINO (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of a family medical emergency.

Mr. BERMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in district office.

Mr. CICILLINE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. GUTIERREZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. HEINRICH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and December 13 until 5 p.m.

Ms. SELLWAL (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were therewith signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 470. An act to further allocate and expand the availability of hydroelectric power generated at Hoover Dam, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2561. An act to authorize the presentation of a United States flag on behalf of Federal civilian employees who die of injuries incurred in connection with their employment.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. COBLE (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

Mr. BICKERSTAFF of Missouri (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. GUITERREZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. GUTIERREZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. HEINRICH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and December 13 until 5 p.m.

Ms. SELLWAL (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Mr. McKEEON submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. Rept. 112-329)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1540), to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

The House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.”

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF ACT INTO DIVISIONS; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Divisions.—This Act is organized into five divisions as follows:

(1) Division A—Department of Defense Authorizations.

(2) Division B—Military Construction Authorizations.

(3) Division C—Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.

(4) Division D—Funding Tables.

(5) Division E—SBIR and STTR Reauthorization.

(b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Organization of Act into divisions; table of contents.
Sec. 3. Congressional defense committees.