

policies from this administration. They are hurting America.

PAYROLL TAX CUT EXTENSION

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, we are now in the month of February. In less than 4 weeks, the 2-week payroll tax cut extension, which House Republicans begrudgingly agreed to, will expire.

To avoid the same dramatic standoff that threatened a \$1,400 tax increase for the average Massachusetts family, we must work together and adopt a yearlong extension of this vital tax credit rather than waiting till the last minute yet again.

Failure to extend the payroll tax cut to the end of the year would not only severely impact already overstretched households around the country, but would also dramatically undermine our still fragile economic recovery.

Families have already made their budgets for this year. They are counting on this extension to pay their bills, heat their homes, and meet other needs. Let's not let them down.

PBGC SHOULD RESTORE DELPHI SALARIED RETIREES PENSIONS

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

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today our colleagues at the Education and Workforce Committee held a subcommittee hearing looking into the challenges facing the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

Perhaps one of the greatest challenges facing the PBGC is transparency. The PBGC will not release even the most basic documents explaining the denial of the full earned pension benefits of the Delphi salaried retirees. Perhaps it is because of the many conflicts of interest that existed between the Treasury Department and the PBGC.

When these pensions were turned over to the PBGC, approximately 20,000 current and future salaried retirees were subjected to benefit cuts of up to 70 percent. The hardworking taxpayers whose tax dollars were used to pay for the auto bailouts deserve to know who made these decisions to cut these pensions and why they are made.

NFL BLACKOUT UNACCEPTABLE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, tens of millions of Americans will gather with family and friends to watch the Super Bowl. Many from my western New York community will be among them. Unfortunately, western

New York families do not always have the opportunity to watch their hometown team, the Buffalo Bills.

The NFL's blackout rule prohibits the broadcast of a game in a team's home market if the game has not been sold out within 72 hours of the kickoff. In Buffalo, this meant that this past season almost half of the Bills games were blacked out. This is unacceptable. We have a strong and enthusiastic fan base; but with one of the largest football stadiums in the National Football League, Buffalo must sell 6,000 more tickets than the league's average to avoid a blackout.

I have sent a letter to NFL Commissioner Goodell, along with my colleagues Congresswoman KATHY HOCHUL, Congressman ROSS, and Congresswoman BROWN, asking for an end to this unfair policy. It is time for the league to update this regulation, taking into account factors like stadium and media market size and, most importantly, the tough financial situation millions of families across the Nation find themselves in.

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STOCK ACT

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, Washington is failing the American people. Our leaders need to be held to the highest standard, and that means obeying the same laws that everyone else has to live under.

I'm pleased to report progress on an important bill that I cosponsored; it's called the STOCK Act. It would prohibit inside trading by any Member of Congress.

This bill is now starting to move in the Senate, and I intend to fight to ensure its swift passage. No one in government should profit from private information obtained through their position. Serving the people is a privilege and it's an honor, not an opportunity for personal gain.

SUSAN G. KOMEN HALTS PARTNERSHIP WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, today is a sad day. In an effort to strip women of the right to choose, anti-choice groups have blocked access to life-saving cancer screenings.

The Nation's leading breast cancer charity, Susan G. Komen, announced it will no longer partner with Planned Parenthood, the Nation's leading women's health care provider. This fight has pitted two of our Nation's premier and important women's health care groups wrongly against each other.

We on either side of the Capitol and in these Chambers must remember that

rhetoric has real-world consequences. For the health of all women across America, this issue must be resolved quickly and the collaborative relationship between these two great institutions restored. Until then, lives are at stake, sadly, for political gain.

CONSCIENCE RIGHTS

(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, institutions across the country are facing an impossible choice: Do they continue in their mission to provide for their employees, or do they violate their conscience?

When the Affordable Care Act passed, there was no thought in the minds of many Catholics that the law would eventually force them into such a terrible choice. In fact, my former colleague from Pennsylvania, Kathy Dahlkemper, recently came out and said, I would have never voted for the final version of the bill if I expected the Obama administration to force Catholic hospitals and Catholic colleges and universities to pay for contraception.

I might add, this rule that will go into effect on August 12 includes not only contraceptives, but abortifacients, drugs like Ella and Plan B, as well as sterilization services.

Catholic and other religious organizations have cared for the sick and educated Americans of all religions since the founding of our Republic, and they've done this because their conscience compels them to show their love to all mankind. Never before has the Federal Government compelled them to violate their conscience in such a terrible way. There are fundamental questions about life and morality that the government has no business forcing on organizations and individuals. To force them to violate their conscience is wrong.

PROMPT SHORT SALE DECISION ACT

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to advocate an aggressive response to the housing crisis.

Last year, 30 percent of California homeowners with mortgages were underwater. That's one of the highest rates in the country. To improve our economy, we must fix the broken housing market. Large banks simply wait out short-sale offers, which kills the process.

Back home, I hear from people who are trying to secure short sales and have to wait for months or longer to get a decision from their lender. That's absolutely unacceptable. Banks need to treat people fairly, which is why I'm a cosponsor of H.R. 1498, the Prompt Decision for Qualification of Short Sale Act. This is a bipartisan bill that requires lenders to make a decision within 45 days to approve or disapprove a