

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an irresponsible Republican bill that will soon come to this Floor. This measure is an attack on those who are unemployed at when they need the most assistance. I am not alone in my outrage, I am joined by Members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, to call attention to this repeated attack on workers in this country who find themselves without a job at this time.

When the Great Depression was upon us Congress did not put forth education requirements in order for unemployed men and women to get potential future jobs, Congress along with the President worked together to create jobs. It is my hope that this Congress will work together with the President to put Americans back to work.

This bill proposed by my Republican colleagues is the latest chapter in the Republican scheme to sabotage our recovery. It is a known fact that when Americans have more money in their pockets, they spend it which enhances our economy. When Americans have more money in their pockets then small businesses can hire more workers which creates more American jobs. Unemployment Insurance pays for itself.

Last December, Republicans threatened to terminate the last bit of income received by over one million unemployed Americans by refusing to extend unemployment benefits. Now that our economy is on the road to recovery, Washington Republicans, once again, aim to take money out of the pockets of working Americans. Slashing unemployment benefits would cut off a lifeline that more than 1 million Americans depend on to put food on their tables.

This latest Republican scheme would hit hardest states with the most Americans looking for work. They intend to cut the length of unemployment benefits from 73 weeks to 33 weeks in 22 states.

Under the Republican plan more than 194,000 Texans would lose their Unemployment benefits. Even with the recent good news on job creation, long-term unemployment remains at near record levels.

This is primarily because our economy still has 5.5 million fewer jobs than before the recession, which makes returning to work particularly difficult right now. Rather than acknowledge these facts, Republicans in Congress seem intent on blaming the unemployed for their unemployment.

The Republican proposal on unemployment insurance would result in 40 fewer weeks being provided to many long-term unemployed workers, reducing benefits to nearly 3 million workers compared to an extension of current law.

The draconian cut in the Republican bill is squarely focused on the States with the high-

est rates on unemployment—the same places where finding a new job is the hardest. Consider this fact: under the GOP bill, a worker in the State with the highest level of unemployment would lose nearly three times as many weeks of benefits as a worker in the State with the lowest unemployment.

In addition to drastically cutting Federal unemployment benefits, the House bill proposes a series of new barriers to unemployment benefits that would reduce access to UI for years to come. Many of these provisions are changes to permanent law, not to the temporary federal programs that were established in response to the worst recession since the great depression.

STATE WAIVER OPTION

Creating new barriers to unemployment insurance is not reform. Instead, it amounts to breaking the promise made nearly 80 years ago to help Americans struggling to find a new job. The House Republican bill would allow States to divert UI funds for other purposes if they get a waiver. This waiver authority could lead to jobless Americans being denied unemployment benefits, or to new roadblocks that hinder access to benefits.

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENT

Another very disturbing feature of the House Republican bill is a provision that would require Unemployment Insurance (UI) recipients to have a high school degree or to be working toward one to be eligible for benefits. This means a fifty year old worker who has worked his or her entire life would have to go back to high school to get unemployment benefits. And you might ask who will pay for hundreds of thousands of people to get their GED. The Republican bill has no answer, even when we already have an estimated 160,000 people on waiting lists for adult education classes.

DRUG TESTING REQUIREMENT

A third objectionable provision in the Republican bill would allow States to subject all applicants for UI to drug tests. This provision seems part of a larger agenda to stigmatize unemployment insurance by suggesting that Americans are jobless because of their own failings, rather than because our economy still has over five million fewer jobs than when the recession started.

States already deny benefits to any individual who has been fired from their job because of a substance abuse problem, and States can disqualify a UI recipient if he or she is unwilling to take a drug test if required by a prospective employer.

We don't need to further target unemployment insurance recipients with drug tests. Congress should avoid policies like these that seek to blame the unemployed for unemployment, and instead work on commonsense policies that promote reemployment.

COMMENDATION OF DARRON MCKINNEY

HON. HANSEN CLARKE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Darron McKinney as a law enforcement officer and role model in Detroit, Michigan.

Officer McKinney caught the nation's attention when he gave a riveting performance of his original song, "A Call to Courage," at the National Law Enforcement Officers memorial candlelight vigil on May 13, 2001 in Washington D.C. The song pays tribute to slain police officers and their families.

After the attacks of September 11, 2001, the song became a symbol of American bravery and unity, and is now considered a tribute to the first responders who served in the 9/11 recovery efforts. Many local and national TV stations broadcast the footage of Officer McKinney's performance, and the performance is regularly televised on the Pentagon Network.

Ten years after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Officer McKinney's song reminds us of the love and appreciation we have for our first responders and members of our military. When disaster strikes, first responders like Officer McKinney help keep our families, neighborhoods, and communities safe.

"A Call to Courage" is a fitting tribute to our men and women in uniform. It is with great honor that I recognize Officer McKinney's contributions.

A CALL TO COURAGE

Officer Darron McKinney

Life, the chance to live, the chance to learn, the chance to teach, the chance to give, test you made a choice, you took a stand, you took the oath, you found your voice.

You made the sacrifice, then you took God's advice, you heard your call to courage.

Shield the public trust, protecting lives, respect and pride to serve and honor. Faith, your trust in God, that special path, you must be brave to guard our freedom.

When your life's on the line, in your heart and your mind you have a call to courage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 40, I was unavoidably detained questioning witnesses at the Joint Economic Committee hearing entitled "Bolstering the Economy: Helping American Families by Reauthorizing the Payroll Tax Cut and UI Benefits." Had I been present, I would have voted, "no."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING THE 36TH DOUBLE CHAI
ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE BETH
KODESH

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Temple Beth Kodesh of Boynton Beach, Florida, on the occasion of their 36th Double Chai Anniversary. Temple Beth Kodesh has become an integral part of our vibrant, diverse community in South Florida, and it is truly an honor to represent its congregants here in Washington.

Temple Beth Kodesh comes from humble beginnings. In 1976, a small group of Jewish residents in Boynton Beach began holding services in each other's apartments in Village Royale on the Green. Less than a decade later in 1983, with the help of generous donations from members of the community, construction of Congregation Beth Kodesh was completed.

The story of Temple Beth Kodesh is also one of perseverance in the face of hardship. In 2004, Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne destroyed the temple and much of the surrounding area. Although devastated by the loss, congregants worked tirelessly to restore and reopen the synagogue in time for the 2005 high holidays.

Temple Beth Kodesh has thrived due to the dedication and hard work of its living past Presidents Leo Birdie, George Brindis, Fred Brown, Mike Friedland, Roy Haas, Irwin Hochman and Bob Rosenthal. I am proud to represent constituents who have dedicated the last 36 years to bringing Jewish Americans together to worship. I commend their efforts, and it is my hope that Temple Beth Kodesh continues to serve the South Florida community for years to come.

IN COMMEMORATION OF BLACK
HISTORY MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, this February we recognize and celebrate the 36th commemoration of Black History Month. This month we celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the history of our great Nation, and pay tribute to trailblazers, pioneers, heroes, and leaders like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, U.S. Senator Blanche Kelso Bruce, U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, Astronauts Dr. Guion Stewart Bluford Jr. and Mae C. Jemison, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, James Baldwin, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks just to name a few of the countless number of well-known and unsung heroes whose contributions have helped our Nation become a more perfect union. The history of the United States has been marked by the great contributions of African American activists, leaders, writers, and artists.

As a member of Congress, I know that I stand on the shoulders of giants whose strug-

gles and triumphs made it possible for me to stand here today and continue the fight for equality, justice, and progress for all, regardless of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly wish to acknowledge the contributions of African American women in shaping our Nation's history. As such, this Black History Month we honor groundbreaking "Black Women in American Culture and History" like U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan; activists Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks; all of whom have each in their own way, whether through courageous activism, cultural contributions, or artistic creativity, forged social and political change, and forever changed our great Nation for the better.

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us pay tribute to those who have come before us, and pay forward to future generations by addressing what is the number one issue for African American families, and all American families today: preserving the American promise of economic opportunity for all. Our immediate focus must be job creation, and enacting legislation that will foster and lay the foundation for today's and tomorrow's generation of groundbreaking activists, leaders, scientists, writers and artists to continue contributing to the greatness of America. We must work to get Americans back to work. We must continue to preserve the American Dream for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in celebration of the heroic and historic acts of African Americans and their indispensable contributions to this great Nation. It is through our work in creating possibilities for today and future generations that we best honor the accomplishments and legacy of our predecessors.

RECOGNIZING MR. JASON PIERRE-
PAUL AS A SUPER BOWL CHAMPION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mr. Jason Pierre-Paul, a defensive end for the New York Giants. Known by his family, friends, and fans as JPP, Jason played a pivotal role in the 2011 season for the Giants and helped lead his team to victory over the New England Patriots at this year's Super Bowl.

JPP was born in Deerfield Beach, Florida and attended Deerfield Beach High School, which is located in Florida's 23rd congressional district. Originally a basketball star, after suffering a serious leg injury, he transitioned to football during his junior year of high school. Despite being new to the sport, he went on to play college football at the University of South Florida. After an impressive college career, he was drafted by the Giants in the first round of the 2010 National Football League (NFL) Draft.

Without JPP leading the team with 16.5 sacks this season and being the steadiest defense player throughout the year, the Giants would not have been crowned Super Bowl

champions. One of the lasting images of this game will undoubtedly be JPP's celebration with his father. When he was an infant, his father, Mr. Jean Pierre-Paul, lost his vision and therefore has never been able to watch his son play football. Super Bowl XLVI was the first NFL game that Jean had ever attended. Their celebratory embrace on the field after the game was truly an emotional event to see.

It is these kinds of moments that illustrate the strength and courage that our children admire in athletes. JPP's parents emigrated from Haiti in 1983, and overcame many obstacles to ensure that he had every chance to succeed in life. Learning from his father, JPP overcame injuries and a lack of experience to become a Super Bowl champion.

After his win, JPP said, "It was awesome to experience this in just my second year." "Man, it's a blessing. We just got to stay humble as a team and see what the future holds for us."

Mr. Speaker, Jason Pierre-Paul's personal story highlights the promise of our great Nation. People from all backgrounds have the opportunity to achieve tremendous success in life. It is my distinct honor to commend JPP on all of his accomplishments and for his Super Bowl win.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, due to a previously scheduled doctor's appointment, I was absent from votes in the House yesterday afternoon (Tuesday, February 7th) and missed rollcall votes 40–42. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 40 (the Tonko Amendment to H.R. 3581, the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act) and 41 (motion to recommit H.R. 3581), and "no" on rollcall vote 42 (final passage of H.R. 3581).

COMMENDATION OF ALESCIA
MARABOUSHONTRELL HOLLOWELL

HON. HANSEN CLARKE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alescia Maraboushontrell Hollowell for her scholastic achievement, community service, and being named Miss Black Michigan USA 2012.

Ms. Hollowell, a native Detroit, served as class vice-president and graduated magna cum laude from Cass Technical High School in 2005. While a student at Michigan State University, Ms. Hollowell was a Ronald McNair Scholar, peer mentor, and Dance Team member. Ms. Hollowell made the Dean's List and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science—Health Studies. Currently, Ms. Hollowell is a full-time graduate student at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health.

As Miss Black Michigan USA 2012, Ms. Hollowell works with girls to address issues of body image, self-esteem, and teenage obesity.