

the passengers and an individual in his home. Out of that devastation, there was a spirit that actually united this Congress in enacting flight safety and pilot training rules that would have prevented the crash. The families never gave up and are eagerly awaiting the final implementation of those potentially life-saving rules.

Sounds like a happy ending, doesn't it? And yet this week, because the House Rules Committee refused to allow my amendment to protect those specific rules, we are at risk of losing all those hard-fought, bipartisan safety reforms.

With the so-called "Regulatory Freeze Act," these reforms would simply die. Some who voted for them in the past now call them job killing. I call them people saving.

Listen, I know we need to end overburdensome regulations on small business and farmers—I get it. But there's a commonsense way to do it. But to freeze all government regulations—all of them—regardless of the health and safety of our citizens is over the top even for this town. This only proves that Washington is broken and we need to fix it. This country deserves a better Congress.

MOUNTAIN HOME BOMB SQUAD GLOBAL WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Mountain Home AAA 11-year-old baseball team for winning the Global World Series Championship earlier this year.

During the 4-day, 24-team tournament, the Mountain Home Bomb Squad suffered a first round loss, but went on to win six straight games. In the championship game, they defeated the Missouri Wildcats 10-1. This championship is a great source of pride for the entire Mountain Home, Arkansas, community.

I'd like to commend the team manager, Dr. Eric Arp, and Coaches Tony Dibble and George Sitkowski for their leadership on the 11-and-under Global World Series Championship. Additionally, I would like to recognize players Garrett Steelman, Austin Mize, Clayton McManess, Luke Dibble, Sam Arp, Bradley Ludwig, Austin Helms, Luke Jackson, Jordan Anderson, Will Sitkowski and Luke Kruse for their leadership as well.

Now that the Bomb Squad has brought a Global World Series trophy home to Mountain Home, I have no doubt that the players will set new, even higher goals to achieve.

Congratulations once again to the Mountain Home Bomb Squad and the entire Mountain Home community for their Global World Series victory.

□ 1210

PROTECT THE RIGHT TO VOTE

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

Ms. CHU. Few things are as sacred as the right to vote. Generations have fought, bled, and died so that you and I can have a voice in our democracy. This is why we must guard against measures that take this away, like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which prohibited all Chinese immigrants from becoming naturalized citizens so that they would not be able to vote. It lasted 60 years, until 1943, preventing people who'd lived in this country for decades from exercising their voices.

Laws like this, poll taxes, or literacy tests, should be a thing of the past in America. Every U.S. citizen, no matter what their background, should have access to the polls. But today, State governments across the country are enacting laws making it much harder for as many as 5 million Americans to vote, requiring, for instance, photo IDs for grandmothers who voted for years but no longer drive.

When barely half of Americans vote, we should not be erecting more barriers to democracy. We should be removing obstacles. We must protect the right to vote.

WHY FOCUS ON RED TAPE?

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, on Monday I hosted a jobs fair in the western suburbs of Chicago with several of my colleagues. Over 1,500 jobseekers showed up.

I've visited with more than 100 northern Illinois business owners since I entered Congress. In each factory tour and office visit I ask: What would it take for you to create one more job, just to hire one more person? The answer is always the same: Cut red tape.

The reality is 60 to 80 percent of all new jobs come from small businesses. Red tape throws an unfair burden on small businesses and paralyzes job creators. It has led to the least number of business start-ups in decades.

There's a reason we focus so much on rolling back red tape here in the House. It's jobs.

GROUP A STREP INFECTIONS

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of group A strep infection. A series of tragic events within my district have brought this pressing health situation to my attention. One of my constituents, Stephen Sweetman, a dedicated fireman, contacted my office after the deaths of his mother and his 2-year-old son.

Sean died just days after originally presenting with invasive strep A symptoms last February. After flying to New York for Sean's wake, Mr. Sweetman's mother died of group A strep infection just 14 days after her grandson. Both were originally misdiagnosed with a stomach bug.

While medical diagnosis presents enormous challenges, especially for rare diseases, I am deeply concerned with the medical misidentifications which led to these terrible deaths. Recently, several of my colleagues and I sent a letter to the Appropriations Committee asking that we focus on this issue.

I hope that we can come together to raise awareness for group A strep infections.

OBAMACARE COSTS—CBO CONFIRMS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, the Congressional Budget Office came out with its report yesterday, their latest analysis of the President's health bill, and what it confirms is there are flaws in the law.

CBO reports that this \$1.6 trillion program will cost individuals and businesses \$5 billion more than was initially estimated. CBO says that the health premiums that they already predicted would increase by \$2,100 now will increase even more. CBO estimates that 11 million people who currently have employer-based coverage will simply lose their health plan.

The President said we could keep our coverage, but under the law, employers are dropping coverage, and premiums are simply increasing, which drives up the cost of health care for everyone. And remember, historically, the CBO greatly underestimates their analyses.

We need to repeal this law and replace it with commonsense solutions that simply increase competition in the marketplace and places the consumer, not the government, in charge of health care.

GRANT AFFECTED STEEL WORKERS ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPENSATION

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, an alarming number of former employees at Bethlehem Steel in western New York are now suffering from cancer and other diseases due to radiation exposure as a result of having unknowingly worked with and around uranium during the Cold War.

After a multiyear fight, and thanks to the determination of workers and their families, those who were employed at the site from 1949 to 1952 are eligible for \$150,000 in compensation for

their injuries. However, the cutoff at 1952 is arbitrary because no serious mitigation was undertaken until 1976.

Madam Speaker, those workers should also be eligible for just compensation. I am working with our Senators to urge the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to meet with these workers, hear their stories, and finally grant them eligibility for just compensation.

LEAD, FOLLOW, OR GET OUT OF
THE WAY

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, President Obama's failed economic policies have brought us more than 41 months of consecutive record unemployment. My State of Mississippi and the Nation are starving for jobs. In Mississippi, we like jobs and we want more jobs, not less.

However, this President has been AWOL, absent without leadership, when it comes to protecting and providing for our economic and national security, both of which are under assault by this President and the "do nothing" Democrats in the Senate.

What keeps me up at night is the fear of sequestration. Sequestration, if allowed to go into effect, is irreversible, irresponsible, and will cost America 1 to 2 million jobs. Sequestration will affect every community in every State in the Nation for the worst.

Our economic and national security are symbiotic of one another. We must have a strong economy to provide for our national defense, and a strong military to protect our economy. The American people do not want this administration to harm our economic and national security any more than it already has. Stop sequestration now.

I say to the President, it is time to lead, follow, or get out of the way.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
DONNA OTTAVIANO

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a superb public servant, Dr. Donna Ottaviano, who has served as the Superintendent of Schools for the Town of North Providence since 1981.

Families in North Providence have benefited greatly from Dr. Ottaviano's experience, dedication and leadership. The entire school district, including faculty, staff, students, and parents, are sad to see her leave.

Access to a quality public education is a cornerstone of ensuring that our

country and my home State of Rhode Island will succeed in the years ahead. Making sure our young people have access to the best education possible is critical.

I know that Dr. Ottaviano's vast experience, extraordinary dedication, and professionalism will serve her well in her new position with the East Bay Educational Collaborative and benefit Rhode Island schools from Newport to Woonsocket.

I congratulate Dr. Ottaviano on her new appointment, wish her well, and thank her for her dedicated service.

SOUNDING THE ALARM ON
SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. RIGELL. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues this morning to sound the alarm of a serious threat facing our country, one that has been addressed by this body and now awaits action by the Senate and the President. It is not an external threat, but one that is totally within our control. Known as sequestration, this sharp severe cut to our defense budget can and must be stopped.

The warnings from the Secretary of Defense and each of our service chiefs must be heeded. The Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Greenert, described it this way. He said the cuts would do "severe and irreversible damage" to our Navy.

Madam Speaker, where is the President's outrage at this prospect? Where is his leadership in his role as Commander in Chief?

The House passed legislation which would stop the cuts. My amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act requires the Senate to address it head-on.

Madam Speaker, we've led. I truly believe that we've taken action to stop the cuts. The irrefutable truth is that the same is not true of the Senate and the administration.

Now, we have time to do what is right, but that time is short. I call on the President and the Senate to do what is right: to lead, to lead by example, to bring us together as a nation to stop the cuts. We must look to the future and shape the future, not look behind us.

□ 1220

JOBS AND TAXES

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, the American people need a tax plan that will help grow the middle class and create jobs right here in the United States.

The American people want jobs to take care of their families. Sadly, the

Republicans are holding the tax breaks for 98 percent of Americans hostage so that they can prevent millionaires and billionaires from paying their fair share of taxes. The Bush tax cuts for the ultra rich have failed to create any new jobs. They must be allowed to expire. Instead of working together on a bipartisan tax plan to strengthen our economy, Republicans are pushing for a plan to balance the budget on the backs of seniors and the middle class and to end Medicare as we know it by turning it into a private voucher system.

Congress must stop protecting billionaires at the expense of Medicare and the middle class. Let's work together. Let's work together on a bipartisan plan that will cut taxes for 98 percent of Americans, that will protect Medicare and that will create jobs right here in the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF CARSON
BAIRD

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as cochair of the Career and Technical Education Caucus, I rise to recognize Mr. Carson Baird on his retirement from Penn State University's Learning Factory.

Carson Baird's background in motorsports started in racing while he proudly served in the United States Army. Following his service, he went on to hold the International Motor Sports Association Championship, three manufacturer championships, and three driver championships, having raced in classics such as the 24 hours of Daytona and the 24 hours at LeMans.

Since 1994, Carson Baird has served as supervisor of the Learning Factory, supporting the mission to bring the real world into the classroom by providing engineering students with hands-on experience through industry-sponsored projects. Carson Baird helped oversee an expansion of the Learning Factory that doubled its size, and in 2006, he was part of a team honored with the National Academy of Engineering's Gordon Prize for "Innovations in Engineering Education."

Carson Baird has applied his motorsports background to assist nearly 700 students on 150 projects that span 13 majors and engage students in five colleges.

I commend Mr. Carson Baird on his vision and dedication to tomorrow's engineers, and I wish him the best in his retirement.

NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS WEEK

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, as founder of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, I rise to commemorate