

RED TAPE REDUCTION AND  
SMALL BUSINESS JOB CREATION  
ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4078) to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 6.0 percent:

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4078, which would cut critical regulations not with a scalpel but, like many have said, with a nuclear bomb. The transportation authorization bill, MAP-21, which this body passed with a widely bipartisan vote, included many important safety and efficiency regulations, but my amendment to exempt them was not made in order.

If signed into law, this bill would pull the emergency brake and stop safety regulations which were just enacted. One important regulation this bill would block is the installation of seatbelts in motorcoaches. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration believes these seatbelts could reduce the risk of fatalities in rollover crashes by 77 percent. Safety improvements like these will help prevent all too common transportation disasters, like the motorcoach crash in 2007 which killed 7 members of the Bluffton University baseball team in Ohio.

This is just a single example of the critical regulations that H.R. 4078 would halt indiscriminately. I urge the House to reject this bill.

RECOGNIZING MARION COUNTY  
HIGH SCHOOLS

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2012*

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Marion County Public Schools on having some of America's best high schools. In their inaugural High School Challenge, a ranking of the nation's 19,000 best high schools, the Washington Post named four Marion County high schools—Bellevue High School, Vanguard High School, North Marion High School, and Lake Weir High School—among America's top ten percent of high schools.

In rating high schools, the High School Challenge considers the ratio of college-level tests administered to graduating seniors at a particular high school. The survey looks at the total number of Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) exams given at a school in a single academic year. This rating is intended to indicate the level of a high school's commitment to preparing their students for college, noting that students who face AP, IB, and AICE exams are better prepared for the rigors of college reading lists and examinations.

This is not the first time that Marion County Public Schools have been recognized for their

quality high schools. The U.S. News and World Report rankings of high schools has ranked nationally two Marion County high schools—Vanguard High School and Lake Weir High School—and recognized nationally three others: Bellevue High School, Marion Technical Institute, and West Port High School.

Marion County's dedication to quality high school education is evident from these recognitions. I applaud their commitment to their students and their community. May their example inspire many to follow in their footsteps.

HONORING ALEXANDER TEVES,  
HERO AND VICTIM OF THE AU-  
RORA, COLORADO SHOOTINGS ON  
JULY 29, 2012

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2012*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Alex Teves, who was killed in the terrible shooting in Aurora, Colorado, not long ago. He died saving his girlfriend's life, pushing her out of the way and covering her with his body as bullets flew around the theater. He was only 24 years old.

At his young age, he was already the kind of person many of us hope to be. Friends, family and everyone who knew him describe him as an extraordinarily warm, generous and sincere man. Beyond the goodness he showed his close friends, he was enthusiastic to meet and get to know everyone, whether they were older, younger, shared his interests or had never spoken with him before. People felt his optimism, his honesty and his genuine kindness as soon as they met him. He made the most of his natural gifts and abilities and made time to help others. He was more than a good example—he was a rare and very good human being.

Every day in high school he wore a white t-shirt and blue jeans, and was so well-known and well-liked that the entire student body held a "Teves Day" each year for everyone else to wear the same. He graduated from the University of Arizona in 2010 and earned his Master's in Counseling Psychology from the University of Denver just this June. He was preparing to dedicate his life to helping those who could benefit from his warmth, his compassion and his wisdom. To anyone tempted to become cynical about our country, our future or our way of life, I say Alex Teves proves them wrong.

Our nation loses someone special to gun violence far too often. In Alex, we lost someone who was not afraid to befriend strangers, not afraid to push himself in the service of others who needed help, and not afraid to give his life for someone he loved. He lived a quiet, everyday kind of heroism that never gets the recognition it deserves and never seeks it. I humbly offer my voice to the many, many others who are grieving for his death today, and offer them as much comfort and support as I can. He was a truly extraordinary person, and those who knew him best will miss him for a very long time. I believe his name will live on as a good, even a great, example for others. He felt a natural instinct to love, help and be good to the people around him, and he

passed it on simply by being himself. He deserves a greater tribute than I can pay him today.

TOM BROWN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2012*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Mr. Tom Brown of Kansas City, Missouri. Mr. Brown has been awarded the Phoenix Community Achievement Leader Award. His years of service to his community make Mr. Brown well qualified and deserving of this honor.

Tom is currently serving as my Chief of Staff, and to see him receive this award for his dedicated service to the community gives me extreme pride. One of Tom's strongest contributions to the area is his work for St. Luke's Hospital, where he is currently a board member. He also serves on the board for St. Luke's Northland Hospital, St. Luke's College and The American Hospital Association's Committee on Governance. He has previously served on the Tri-County Mental Health Services Board and as Clay County Commissioner from 2000–2004.

Tom has been active in many other civic, social, and political groups in Kansas City. He has served as Chairman of the Missouri Lottery Commission and of Safe Haven, Inc., and was a former member of the Missouri Port Authority Commission. Furthermore, Mr. Brown was the secretary of the Clay County Economic Development Corporation and Vice President of Clay/Platte Development Corporation. Mr. Brown's commitment to his community has affected more lives than he may ever know.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in applauding Mr. Tom Brown for his continued commitment to bettering his community. I know Mr. Brown's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking him for his commitment to others and wishing him happiness and good health in his future endeavors.

NORTHERN NEVADA'S OLYMPIAN

**HON. MARK E. AMODEI**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2012*

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jacob "Jake" Dalton of Reno, Nevada as he represents his country in the 2012 Olympic Games in London as a member of the U.S. men's gymnastics team.

Jake, a 2009 graduate of Spanish Springs High School and scholarship recipient at the University of Oklahoma, has the reputation of a fierce and proven competitor. Only 20 years old, Jake is already a champion, winning two NCAA titles in 2011 and the all-around gold in the Winter Cup Challenge in 2011.

To earn his place on the team, Dalton excelled in the U.S. Olympic trials in San Jose, California, winning both the vault and the floor exercise. His teammates are Jonathan Horton, Danell Leyva, Sam Mikulak, John Orozco, and