

This efficiency will better serve program beneficiaries and taxpayers at the same time.

I thank my colleagues for co-sponsoring this important legislation, starting with Mr. DOGGETT, the Ranking Member on the Human Resources Subcommittee, Mr. REICHERT, Chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee, as well as Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Dr. BOSTANY, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. GRIFFIN, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. PAULSEN and Mr. DANNY DAVIS of Illinois.

I invite all Members to join us in supporting this important legislation designed to improve the integrity of the benefit programs millions of Americans access today, and ensure that taxpayer funds are properly spent.

TRIBUTE TO ERICA AXIOTIS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Erica Axiotis for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Erica Axiotis resides in Des Moines, Iowa with her husband Christopher and is currently serving as the Director of Development for the Mercy Foundation, where she works with businesses interested in providing donations to assist the healthcare work done by Mercy Medical Center. Also a board member of the Junior League of Des Moines, the Iowa Shakespeare Experience, and Young Variety, Mrs. Axiotis' commitment and passion for assisting her community and beyond are outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Erica in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mrs. Axiotis for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Erica on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, last month marked 25 years since the people of the

Nagorno Karabakh region took a brave and bold first step in asserting their right to political freedom and national independence. Since the early 20th century the Nagorno Karabakh region and its people have been subject to the territorial squabbling and political gamesmanship of a number of foreign powers. In spite of this fact, the proud people of the Nagorno Karabakh have steadfastly asserted their desire for political autonomy, overwhelmingly approving a popular referendum declaring independence from Azerbaijan in 1991 and thereby affirming a distinct national identity driven by deep ethnic, cultural, and religious bonds. The Nagorno Karabakh Republic's steady advances in the industries of banking, agriculture, and telecommunications, provide further testament to their promise as a viable independent partner in the international community. Coupling this with the United States' longstanding and unambiguous role as a defender of free people's right to self-determination across the globe, I hope that my colleagues will join me in commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh liberation movement as part of the promotion of peace, stability, and prosperity in the South Caucasus.

OPPOSITION TO BUDGET SEQUESTRATION

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today we find ourselves in the midst of yet another manufactured crisis that threatens our economic recovery. Last Friday marked the beginning of \$85 billion in arbitrary, across-the-board cuts to key domestic priorities and defense programs.

How did we get here? The Budget Control Act of 2011 created an automatic sequestration plan that was designed to be so senseless and so painful that Democrats and Republicans would be left with no choice but to come together to craft an alternative. Yet, the sequestration that was never supposed to happen has begun.

The impact of these cuts will be real. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that sequestration will reduce GDP by .6% and cost about 750,000 jobs by the fourth quarter of this year. These alarming figures don't even take into account the impact cuts will have on federal protections and services for American families.

They include:

Reductions in FDA funding that will result in fewer scheduled food safety inspections and delays in new drug approvals.

Reductions in substance abuse and mental health programs that will result in nearly 400,000 adults and children with serious mental illnesses going without treatment.

Reductions in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF), resulting in delayed or halted scientific and medical research. Reductions in funding for the Aids Drug Assistance Program, resulting in thousands fewer patients having access to HIV medications, and reductions in funding for Centers for Disease Control (CDC), resulting in over 400,000 fewer AIDS tests being conducted this year.

Reductions in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), resulting in cuts in public health and environmental protections, including reductions in safe drinking water and wastewater treatment projects, water quality permitting, air quality monitoring, and hazardous waste cleanups.

Nearly 4 million individuals receiving federally funded unemployment benefits will face an 11% cut in their weekly payments. The WIC nutrition program for low-income pregnant women, infants, and young children could be forced to turn away over 700,000 women and children by the end of the year and 100,000 families could lose their housing vouchers.

California will be particularly hard hit by the deep cuts to defense spending. Billions of dollars and an estimated 225,464 jobs related to aerospace and defense are at risk.

We have an obligation to put partisanship aside and make budget decisions that reflect the priorities of the American people. President Obama has offered to work with Congress on a comprehensive plan to reduce the debt, create a fairer tax system, and rebuild the middle class, all of which are necessary to strengthen the economy and maintain our ability to compete. Democrats have introduced legislation that takes such a balanced approach, and I urge the Republican leadership to allow it to come to the floor for a vote.

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN BRENDemuEHL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jonathan Brendemuehl for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Originally from Illinois, Jonathan Brendemuehl is a Drake University alumnus who now resides in Des Moines home with his partner Christopher Diebel. Mr. Brendemuehl, 26, serves as the Marketing Events Coordinator for Bankers Trust Co. In this role, Jonathan manages Bankers Trust's involvement in more than 125 annual events. Outside of his career, Mr. Brendemuehl serves as president of the Downtown Neighborhood Association and is actively involved in the Des Moines Symphony and Des Moines Community Playhouse. Jonathan's passion for his career and his community sets an example that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jonathan in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that