

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I have come to this floor repeatedly. In fact, I have come to the floor over 300 times to discuss the human costs of war. Our brave men and women in uniform have given their lives in service to our Nation, and tens of thousands have returned home with physical and mental scars. And it isn't over yet.

The costs in treasure and blood will be felt for generations. The National Priority Project has done a comprehensive review of the costs, and they are actually staggering.

Since 2001, 675 U.S. troops have been killed in Afghanistan and more than 2,600 soldiers have been wounded in action. The trend is not encouraging: The U.S. death toll has escalated each year, from 12 in 2001 to 99 in 2005, 117 in 2004, and 155 in 2008. And it's not over.

The war in Afghanistan has cost taxpayers \$171 billion. With the supplemental that was passed today, we have just added \$77 billion to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan through the year 2009. Obviously, it's not over. An additional \$130 billion will fund both wars anticipated in the 2010 budget.

It appears from today's vote that many here in the House of Representatives haven't learned the lesson from our occupation of Iraq. And according to policy experts, Iraq is going to look like a cakewalk compared to the battles that we will be seeing in Afghanistan.

Let's look at what the occupation of Iraq has actually brought: The occupation of Iraq has cost \$656 billion so far, with another \$52 billion voted on today as part of the fiscal year 2009 war supplemental. At least \$2 trillion in future budgetary costs, including veterans' benefits, will be spent in the very near future. Almost 4,300 U.S. servicemembers have died in Iraq so far. And hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians have been maimed and killed.

Madam Speaker, the costs are too great. We don't have a defined mission in Afghanistan. We do not have a development plan. Our endless military presence will only serve to fuel anti-Americanism throughout the region. But it continues to go on.

So what's the cost here at home? As we experience one of the worst economic recessions in our Nation's history, every taxpayer dollar becomes more valuable. Today the majority in the House decided that funding an endless occupation of two countries is more important than education, health care, and renewable energy right here at home.

For my State of California, the war in Afghanistan has already cost us \$21 billion. That means 2.6 million new Head Start places for children that need to go to school. It means 9 million individuals could have been provided with health care, 38.7 million homes could have been provided with renewable electricity.

We make choices every day on the House floor. Today that choice reflects a decision to keep our troops in Iraq

until the end of 2011 and in Afghanistan indefinitely. This vote does not invest in SMART Security. It does not take us into the 21st century, because for every dollar in the supplemental dedicated for smart humanitarian investment, \$8 will be spent on the military. And it keeps going on.

I want to say we either change the way we meet our obligations and have a different way of coming together with nations that we don't agree with or we're going to be in a lot of trouble as human beings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TROUBLES IN THE AUTO INDUSTRY ARE NOT JUST A MICHIGAN PROBLEM; TODAY WE SEE THEY ARE AN AMERICAN PROBLEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I represent a district in southeast Michigan. We are a part of the very heart and soul of our domestic auto industry, an industry that has served our country very well. It's built the weapons that America needed in times of war when our freedom itself was at risk. It's provided millions of Americans an opportunity for a good job with good benefits and a secure retirement.

We all understand that the American auto industry has fallen on very, very hard times. Those of us in southeast Michigan understand it well. It's not a new development. We are painfully aware of it. We've dealt with plant closings and thousands of jobs lost. We've dealt with families torn apart, home foreclosures, and communities devastated. And we've endured massive new unfunded Federal mandates placed upon our industry, which have made it very difficult to compete. We've watched as Federal and State incentives have been offered to foreign competitors to come into our home market on equal terms, even though similar access to foreign markets has not been offered to our domestic companies. We've seen this government negligent in not formulating a manufacturing policy that protects vital American interests and good-paying American jobs. And for years we never asked for help.

But when Wall Street melted down last year, our problems were made even worse because 80 percent of the people who are going to buy an automobile require credit and not enough credit was available, and, of course, auto sales have just fallen through the floor. And when the auto companies came to Cap-

itol Hill to ask for similar assistance that's been given to the Wall Street banks, those whose actions made their problems even worse, the auto industry was treated with disdain and their pleas for help were rejected by this Congress, which seemed indifferent to the problem and to the desire to protect American jobs.

This was a Michigan problem we were told, not an American problem. We tried to remind our colleagues of everything that this industry has meant to our great Nation, and again we received indifference and we were told, Just let them go into bankruptcy.

We were told that these companies needed to shed their legacy costs. Well, guess what. Legacy costs have names. They are people. And we're told that this has to be done because these foreign competitors who were given free access to our market do not have such legacy costs. Or imports which are built by low-wage workers overseas do not have these legacy costs. We are told we need to drive American wages down to match Third World competitors in order to compete.

Well, today we see that this is not just a Michigan problem anymore; today it is an American problem. Today Chrysler is in bankruptcy court, exactly what many in this Congress advocated for. And today Chrysler filed a list of 789 dealerships whose franchise agreements it is asking the bankruptcy court to sever. That means the closure of 789 dealerships in communities all across our great Nation.

These businesses represent not just a place to buy a car, but they represent community leaders, the sponsors of the Little League teams or the chairman of the Rotary. In many cases the biggest job provider in the town. The average dealer in this Nation, Madam Speaker, employs over 50 people. So this move means the loss of over 40,000 more jobs. Now 789 communities across this Nation will feel the pain of a contracting domestic auto industry. The pain of a business shutting down, the pain of jobs lost, the pain of families who will be devastated.

And tomorrow that pain will only get worse as General Motors is also set to release a list of dealers it hopes to shed and a list that will be much, much larger than 789 dealers.

Madam Speaker, this list was submitted as a part of that bankruptcy filing, a bankruptcy that many Members were advocating for when they believed it was just a Michigan problem. And now we see Members lamenting the fact that dealerships in their districts are closing. And they fail to realize that if this bankruptcy had happened last December, when they voted against bridge loans for the auto industry, it would have included every Chrysler dealer, because a disorderly bankruptcy would have led to the liquidation of Chrysler. So some Members got what they advocated for, Chrysler in bankruptcy, which today has led to the loss of 40,000 jobs. And tomorrow it will get worse.