

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPRO- PRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition of H.R. 2847, "Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment." Though this bill aims to create and save many jobs this year, it does not go nearly far enough to get jobs to those communities that are suffering the most. We need to get jobs in the hands of the most vulnerable Americans.

Last Thursday, the House passed emergency legislation that would extend a range of programs that unfortunately expired last weekend. These programs included: unemployment benefits; help with health insurance for the unemployed (COBRA); the highway bill; satellite TV; delay in the cut in Medicare physician payments; flood insurance; and small business loan guarantees. We passed this emergency legislation in the House, but Republican Senator JIM BUNNING is single-handedly blocking passage of this emergency measure, despite the critical needs of millions of families across the United States during this economic downturn.

H.R. 2847 proposes to provide:

\$77.155 billion of investments in surface transportation projects that will create and save good-paying jobs in our communities;

More than \$39 billion in transportation and infrastructure which is projected to create 1,158,204 jobs;

Incentives for hiring and retaining new employees, and extension of these benefits to businesses in U.S. territories and possessions; and

A direct payment option for certain tax credit bond programs enabling State and local governments to increase school construction, complete clean and renewable energy projects, and create green jobs.

Madam Speaker, although this bill proposes to spend billions of dollars for job creation, there is nothing that would create jobs for those who are chronically unemployed and those such as ex-felons, who want to work but are not being afforded the chance. Advocates say there are good reasons for employers and communities to help former felons re-enter the work force. With an estimated 650,000 people released from prison each year nationwide, helping them get jobs can reduce the chances that they will be jailed again or need welfare.

U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald tells businesses in Chicago that hiring ex-felons is one of the best ways to reduce violent crime because it erases the reason behind many offenses. It can also provide an economic boost to some of the nation's poorest neighborhoods.

Though there is funding in this bill to improve infrastructures in this country, there is

nothing in this bill that will provide for the rehabilitation of housing projects in the most vulnerable communities. It is not only a good idea to rebuild certain parts of this country, but it is also necessary to rebuild the areas that have been neglected for so long. Unfortunately, we are missing the perfect opportunity to create jobs in communities of those who need them most.

We need to put jobs in the hands of Americans. Unemployment in the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown region climbed to 5.4 percent in October, according to a recent report from the Texas Workforce Commission. There were 152,300 people without jobs during the month out of a total civilian labor force of about 2.8 million, compared with 144,200 people, or 5.1 percent, unemployed out of a civilian labor force of 2.8 million in September, according to the TWC. The unemployment rate in October was up from 4 percent a year ago.

Madam Speaker, getting all Americans back to work is, and should be, our number one priority. I am happy to know that this bill will provide employers with incentives to hire and retain new employees. I am also pleased to know that in order to encourage employers to hire new employees, the bill would exempt employers from paying the employer share of Social Security employment taxes (6.2 percent of the first \$106,800 of wages) for wages paid in 2010 for any new employee hired after February 3, 2010, and before January 1, 2011, if the new employee (1) was previously unemployed and (2) does not replace another employee of the employer.

Madam Speaker, I believe we could have made this bill much better and more effective in attacking the joblessness among the most vulnerable communities, if it had included targeted funding to areas that create jobs for the chronically unemployed and those ex-felons who want to work and are trying to get back on the right path. Without such funding, I cannot support this bill.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO AS THE NEW OFFICIAL SITE OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES MEMORIAL SERVICE AND THE NATIONAL EMS MEMORIAL

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 5, 2010

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the City of Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the new official site of the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Service and the National EMS Memorial.

To recognize the selfless contributions of emergency medical service (EMS) personnel nationwide, the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads, Inc., and the Julian

Stanley Wise Foundation, in conjunction with To The Rescue, in 1993 organized the first annual National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Service at Greene Memorial United Methodist Church in Roanoke, Virginia, to honor EMS personnel from across the country who have died in the line of duty. This Memorial is inclusive of all EMS providers, ground and air: first responders, search and rescue, EMTs, paramedics, nurses and pilots.

The National EMS Memorial Service Board recently selected the City of Colorado Springs, Colorado to be the new city to host the annual National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Service and the National EMS Memorial beginning in June 2010.

I consider it a great privilege to represent the district that will serve as the host site for honoring the uniquely skilled and dedicated efforts of EMS personnel who work bravely and tirelessly to preserve America's greatest resource—her people.

CONGRATULATING UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 747, "Congratulating the United States Military Academy at West Point on being named by Forbes magazine as America's Best College for 2009," brought forth by my esteemed colleague, Representative JOHN HALL of New York.

Forbes Magazine describes the Academy as, "Marked by an intense work ethic and drive to succeed on all fronts." This approach to learning is the representation of what these great United States was founded on and, in the present day, what we make every effort to maintain. The belief system of the United States Military Academy doesn't just prepare a group of students to become soldiers, but it prepares individuals for life and molds them into the moralistic citizens that will help reshape and reform the United States as we embark upon a new era in history. This academy is a leader in development and engineering with the mission to educate, train, and inspire future leaders.

I have always been an advocate for our troops and it just gives me such pride and joy to see that the origins and belief system, upon which all our troops are grounded, are on display as being the prime elements of success in these pressing times. Texas, as many may know, deploys the most soldiers to various parts of the world. So it does my heart a great service to know that the U.S. Military Academy at West Point equips our soldiers with the skills needed to protect and advance our nation's interest.

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