

work hard and make difficult choices, entrusting us to represent them with integrity and to set aside partisanship and pettiness to do what is best for the American people. And I, for one, look forward to showing them that their trust was not misplaced.

#### HEALTH CARE COSTS IN A DISMAL ECONOMY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this week it was announced that the unemployment rate in my home State reached a tragic new high of 12.6 percent. Statewide, 172,400 people have lost their jobs since the end of 2007.

In this crisis, the administration has irresponsibly announced that March 18 is their deadline to pass a job-killing health care takeover that imposes 100 new mandates on private individuals and businesses; includes billions of dollars in new taxes, and trillions in new government spending, squeezing Medicare; forces employers to cancel health care coverage, and forces people into a government-run health care plan.

More taxes, borrowing, and spending is not the way to reform health care in America. NFIB warns 1.6 million jobs will be killed. We should first consider job-creation policies, and then work on a step-by-step approach to lowering health care costs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### HEALTH CARE COSTS

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, Republicans have talked so much about the need for tort reform, you would think that lawyers single-handedly were responsible for America's skyrocketing health care costs. But a new report from Public Citizen found that the value of malpractice settlements is actually the lowest it has been since 1999, and that for 5 consecutive years the number of malpractice settlements has actually dropped.

And, of course, the health care costs have gone down; right? No, absolutely not.

Health care spending increased 83 percent between 2000 and 2009, while malpractice payments fell 8 percent during the same period.

Blaming our health care crisis on litigation costs is simply baloney. I hope my Republican friends can find another theme song for their attempt to derail what the American people want, and that is health care that is guaranteed and will not bankrupt America.

#### CONGRATULATING KANSAS JAYHAWKS

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

Ms. JENKINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Kansas men's basketball program and to congratulate them on a tremendous accomplishment. Yesterday, the Jayhawks defeated Texas Tech to pick up their 2,000th victory. The only other schools to reach this milestone are the University of Kentucky and North Carolina, and it should be noted that the basketball arenas at both of those schools are named after native Kansans and former Kansas basketball players. From James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, to the legendary Forrest "Phog" Allen, to current coach Bill Self, KU is a proven perennial power in college basketball.

This year, the Jayhawks will compete for their sixth national championship. In commemoration of this impressive accomplishment, I ask my congressional colleagues in the Congress to join me in a hearty, Rock Chalk Jayhawk, go KU.

#### JOBS—OUR TIME TO LEAD

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

Mr. HALL of New York. I rise today to talk about the Nation's unemployment problem. There are people in my district who are struggling. They want to work; they know how to work. Many of them are highly skilled and have great ideas, but they cannot find a job. It is our job, Madam Speaker, to help them.

In the 19th District of New York last Saturday, I sponsored two job fairs that helped hundreds of people connect with resources and people who can help them. Among them was 65-year-old George Myrnyj of Sparrow Bush. George retired last year from a career in manufacturing, but he still wants and needs to work. He has an idea for packaging do-it-yourself solar panel kits. Last Saturday, he was able to connect with people he thinks can help him.

Madam Speaker, I submit that it is our job to help George find a way to realize his dream and find a job or create one. This is not a time to do nothing. It is our time to lead.

#### OCS DELAY

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, offshore energy development is an important step toward reducing our dependence on foreign oil, creating new jobs, and putting our economy back on track.

In 2008, by ending the decades-long ban on offshore exploration, we opened

500 million acres containing an estimated 14 billion barrels of oil and 55 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration immediately instituted an extended public comment period, delaying progress.

Despite public support for increased offshore drilling, Secretary of the Interior Salazar recently stated the Obama administration will now wait until 2012 to put a new plan in place. This means the administration's initial 6-month delay has turned into a 3-year moratorium on new offshore exploration.

With the potential to create 1.2 million jobs and add \$8 trillion to our economy, it is irresponsible to continue to ignore the economic potential these areas hold.

#### HEALTH REFORM NOW

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, we need health care reform now, and failure to act is not an option. Doing nothing on health care reform doesn't mean that nothing happens. People will continue to lose coverage, to pay more in premiums, to be banned for preexisting conditions, to have caps on coverage, and other discriminatory practices.

By doing nothing for 8 years, the Republicans essentially endorsed these things. It isn't a choice, Madam Speaker, between the reform plan we have or nothing. The real option is how everything will continue to get worse.

#### INCURSION BY MEXICAN MILITARY HELICOPTER

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, yesterday an armed Mexican military helicopter was spotted and photographed over a residential area a mile inside the territorial boundary of the United States.

Texas Sheriff Sigi Gonzalez of Zapata County said the Mexican Navy helicopter was not the first incursion by the Mexican military onto the U.S. side of the Rio Grande River.

There is a violent border war raging in this area between the Los Zetas and Gulf drug cartels for territory. Eight Mexican journalists have been kidnapped, numerous individuals killed in old west style shoot-outs, and the violence and corruption has even spilled over to the U.S. side. The cartels have even infiltrated U.S. law enforcement agencies on the border, resulting in 400 corruption cases being filed.

The border has become a corrupt, violent area, and now the Mexican military crosses our border with unknown intentions. The United States cannot allow the border to be a war zone for murder, mayhem, violence, drugs, and corruption.

And that's just the way it is.