

back on track, pave the way for sustained recovery, and get Rhode Islanders back to work. And that's why my colleagues and I in the Democratic minority are focused on job creation, economic development and debt reduction.

However, the first actions by the new Republican majority during their first month have not been consistent with these principles.

Unfortunately, my constituents, like Rhonda Taylor, for example, from North Providence, Rhode Island, whom I met with yesterday, do not have months and months to wait for my Republican colleagues to get their priorities straight. She's already been waiting and waiting. And that's because Rhonda lost her job in the information technology field due to outsourcing almost 3 years ago. And her unemployment compensation benefits were exhausted nearly a year ago.

Rhonda is a mother of three. She's liquidated her savings and sold all of her possessions, and now she's afraid she'll become homeless.

Rhonda proves why there is no time to spare. We need to focus on policies that create jobs today. The struggles of our unemployed friends and neighbors are heartbreaking and, unfortunately, all too common. People like Rhonda have no time to wait. The partisan games have to end.

Unfortunately, Rhonda's story is not unique. I've been hearing similar messages for the past year from men and women all across Rhode Island. But instead of working on policies that will help real Americans like Rhonda, my friends on the other side of the aisle are playing politics with the Federal budget and the national debt, a budget that even Republican economists say could lead to double-digit unemployment and reverse the economic growth that is starting to take hold.

Blind budget cuts my colleagues in the majority are pursuing won't help people like Rhonda but would, rather, do more to cut jobs than save or create them. What my friends fail to recognize is that partisan political games will not solve our Nation's unemployment crisis which plagues nearly 14 million of our friends and neighbors.

The fact of the matter is the challenges facing us as a Nation are not Democratic challenges or Republican challenges. They are our challenges, and they require American solutions.

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The work is demanding, yes, and it will test the will of both parties to make difficult choices. But as a Congress, we need to both responsibly reduce the deficit, cut spending, but also make the smart investments that will create jobs now and guarantee the prosperity of our great Nation.

Our Nation must make the investments in education, innovation, infrastructure, science and research that are critical to rebuilding our economy and putting people back to work because we cannot compete in the short

term if we cannot innovate. And we cannot innovate in the long term if we fail to provide our children with access to a high-quality education. We cannot move goods and services throughout the economy if our infrastructure is crumbling. And America cannot make things again if we do not support the research, the entrepreneurs, the small businesses and manufacturers that transform ideas into new products.

People like Rhonda back home in Rhode Island, and hardworking people all across this Nation, have suffered for too long. We must have the courage to set the right priority, cut what doesn't work or isn't needed, live within our means, and make the right investments that ensure our ability to compete in the global economy today and into the future.

I call on my Republican colleagues to join me so we can focus on putting Americans back to work by developing commonsense solutions and focusing on jobs.

INGERSOLL-RAND OF MOCKSVILLE NAMED "BUSINESS OF THE YEAR"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to hear my colleagues start talking about the need for jobs. For the last 4 years, since they have been in control of the Congress, Republicans have been talking about that and how their job-killing policies have worked against the American people.

But, Mr. Speaker, today I want to speak about an outstanding industry in the Fifth District of North Carolina that has gone about creating jobs.

Businesses that create jobs and invest in their communities are our ticket to economic growth and recovery in today's economy. That's why it's impressive that Ingersoll-Rand's manufacturing facility in Mocksville, North Carolina, recently received the Davie County Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year award.

The hardworking people at Ingersoll have brought about 200 jobs to Davie County in recent years, which, during these difficult economic times, is a tangible boost to the community. These are good jobs that are strengthening the local economy.

Ingersoll's major investment in Davie County is a tribute to the fact that the area's skilled workforce is composed of men and women who are dedicated to producing the best products in the world. The hundreds of workers at Ingersoll in Mocksville are the driving force behind this award, and I tip my hat to everyone at Ingersoll-Rand in Mocksville for this important recognition for their hard work and investment in Davie County, North Carolina.

THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, next week President Obama will send his budget to Congress, and news coming from the White House will not be good. But the rumors of a budget war from the Republican leadership promises to make a bad situation much, much worse.

From what we are hearing, all of us can expect the same Republican policies which took an over-\$5 trillion surplus that Democrats and President Clinton sacrificed to create and turned it into the dream-crushing deficit that we are faced with today.

They have made cutting spending sound like a good thing, but it is not when you look at where the cuts will come from. They will not come from the tax cuts for the wealthy and not from the wars we need to end, but they will come from programs that communities and families need now more than ever. This is Bush *deja vu* all over again. And every economist that I have read says that with this economy in such a fragile state, with the country only at the beginning of recovery, and with far too many of our fellow Americans hurting, this is not the time to cut spending.

It is not that I am against making prudent cuts to reduce the deficit, but the cuts I am hearing about so far will hurt those the President said should not be hurt: the most vulnerable, children, the poor, the majority of whom are racial and ethnic minorities, and our disabled and elderly.

We in the Congressional Black Caucus have placed ourselves in the breach on behalf of those who would otherwise remain nameless because no one is willing to name them. They are Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian and Pacific Island Americans, and the poor and rural Americans of every race and ethnicity.

As we do every year, we will develop a budget that treats all Americans fairly, does not leave anyone behind, but gives a helping hand to those who need it, and also reduces the deficit.

We agree with President Obama that his budget must put the country on a firm path to winning the future, and we know that winning the future means creating opportunity for everyone who lives in this country. But the CBC is further committed to making sure that everyone means everyone, to making sure that those who have been most hurt by this recession and those who have long been marginalized even in the good times have the special help they need to be a part of creating that future and benefiting from it.

I cannot believe that there could be one Member of Congress who does not support our country being number one, who does not want to win the future. But we can't win the future without ensuring that every child has access to a quality education and that those schools which have lagged behind because they lack resources and adequate