

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to highlight the foreclosure crisis and recognize the thousands of distressed families in my district and across the country who continue to battle foreclosure. In Maryland our foreclosures approached nearly 800,000 in the fourth quarter of 2010. This crisis hits particularly hard in my district, where we have about 40 percent of our foreclosures statewide.

The foreclosure prevention and mitigation programs the Republican majority wants to terminate this week have helped thousands of hardworking families to stay in their homes and mitigated the effects of declining property values in neighborhoods across the country. Now, I know they're not perfect, but terminating these programs does not one single thing to spur the economy or protect middle class families in need. In fact, the effect is quite the opposite.

My colleagues claim that the programs haven't delivered on their promises. So what? What about the families who have benefited from the programs? What about the 1.2 million families that will face foreclosure this year?

This is another case of trying to throw the baby out with the bath water. Enough of that already. It's a simple question: Whose side are you on? Families, workers, working families, protecting their homes and communities; or are you on the side of the banks that want to take their homes?

LINCOLN/PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the creativity, effort, and resourcefulness of two local housing authorities in the First Congressional District of Rhode Island.

At a time when Rhode Island and many other States across our country are experiencing unacceptably high foreclosure rates, there are some beacons of light in the housing sector, beacons like the Town of Lincoln Housing Authority and the Housing Authority of the City of Providence, which are both being recognized by the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment officials as Awards of Merit winners for being well-positioned to meet the demand for safe and affordable housing for low- and very low-income families.

The Lincoln Housing Authority has instituted innovative programming for seniors, and the Providence Housing Authority has put in place energy efficiencies and cutting-edge health and fiscal planning programs.

These housing authorities are leaders in the development and maintenance of cost-effective approaches to responding to the variety of today's housing and

community development challenges. Lincoln and Providence Housing Authorities not only effectively address local housing and neighborhood redevelopment challenges and concerns; they have also set a national example for similar organizations to learn from so they can meet the unique needs in their communities.

I congratulate you for your leadership in our State's housing industry, which proves yet again that Rhode Island innovation can combat both our State and national housing challenges.

RECOGNIZING THE NMI CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate American Red Cross Month, I would like to pay particular tribute to the Northern Mariana Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross for the leading role it plays in responding to disasters large and small and in providing vital health and safety services in our islands.

Our small community has been blessed since 1978 with an exceptionally active and effective local Red Cross chapter. With just four staff members and 150 volunteers, the Northern Mariana Islands chapter last year provided financial assistance to 26 families who suffered house fires or localized flooding, facilitated emergency communications between 154 servicemembers and their families, provided community disaster preparedness materials to over 3,700 individuals, and trained over 2,300 students in courses on CPR, first aid, lifeguarding, and swimming.

The Northern Mariana Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross is an integral part of the Commonwealth community, a leader in health and safety training, and an invaluable partner in helping people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. We thank them for their work.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, as the recent job report shows, our economy is steadily improving with 12 straight months of private sector job growth.

Now, I state, now is the time for us to build on this progress and work together in a bipartisan effort to create jobs, not reduce jobs. I state, not to reduce jobs.

But, sadly, my Republican friends are letting the extremists dictate their agenda, protecting special interests at the expense of working families. The Republican budget would destroy 700,000 jobs and turn back the clock, I say, turn back the clock on our recent economic progress. This budget would do critical harm to American families.

Mothers and children would be stripped of nutrition benefits from the WIC program. Thousands of youth would be kicked out of Head Start.

And now the Republicans are ready to continue their assault on the middle class by terminating the mortgage relief program that keeps families in their homes.

We should be helping families, not making them homeless. Let's work together to pass a budget that creates jobs and helps middle class Americans.

NO JOBS PLAN AND ASSAULT ON MIDDLE CLASS HOMEOWNERS

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have been in control of this Chamber for the last 10 weeks now, and we have taken 164 recorded votes. Yet they still have no plan to create jobs and spur economic growth.

Instead of tackling unemployment, my Republican colleagues have now turned their efforts toward eliminating vital programs that are helping families deal with the fallout of the mortgage crisis.

Seven million families have lost their homes with another 3 million foreclosures expected through 2012. And what is the Republicans' response to this crisis? They want to terminate programs designed to help homeowners keep their houses and avoid foreclosures.

This week they will bring a bill to the floor that will abolish a program that makes temporary loans to unemployed homeowners to help cover mortgage payments until they can find a job.

Mr. Speaker, it is bad enough that they have no plan in sight to bring Americans back to work; but to actually put their energy towards ending programs that are helping the unemployed during difficult times is unacceptable.

I urge my colleagues to stop cutting programs that will keep American families in their homes and focus the legislation on creating jobs and move the economy forward.

THE REPUBLICANS' PRIORITIES

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority is indeed focused on jobs. In fact, their H.R. 1 would kill 700,000 jobs under the guise of fiscal responsibility. They'd cut transportation investments. They'd cut investments in education, student loans, and grants. They'd cut the COPS program, keeping our citizens safe with additional police on the street. They'd cut back on nutrition assistance to women, infants, and children.

What's not on the table? Well, corporate welfare. Six billion dollars in