

Instead, my Republican colleagues have sought to terminate every step taken by the Federal Government to help homeowners like my constituent, leaving them at the mercy of unscrupulous lenders such as these.

□ 1210

JAPAN

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, in the past few weeks we have seen the devastating images of the massive earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

As someone who lived in Japan, it is hard to believe entire towns and cities in this beautiful country have been destroyed, and I am heartsick for the more than 9,800 lives that have been lost. I can only imagine the grief and shock felt by the families and friends of the victims, and my heart goes out to them.

I am grateful that San Diego's own USS *Reagan* departed for Japan on March 11 to help with relief efforts. With the more than 17,500 people still missing and more than 245,000 people in evacuation centers, daunting challenges lie ahead.

Madam Speaker, I urge this body to stand in solidarity with the Japanese people and reassure our ally that America is ready and committed to giving our partner the support needed to cope with this horrible disaster.

IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, America's broken immigration system continues to wreak havoc in communities across the country.

Real families with real children live in fear that someone they love may be torn away from them. No child deserves to grow up without the love of their parents. We must bring an end to the separation of families. We must all remember that immigrants are not our enemies. They are our neighbors, our classmates, our fellow churchgoers. They are part of the American fabric.

Over the coming month, I look forward to working with CHC and advocates across the Nation to speak on the human impact of our broken immigration system.

Immigration is not just a Latino issue. It is an American issue that impacts all of us. Let's work together to stop this hateful rhetoric and pass real immigration reform.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

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

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to promote early childhood pro-

grams, which are an investment not only in our children, but in our country's future.

In 1990, the Child Care and Development Block Grant was created for low-income parents who are either working or in school. If the proposed cuts to Child Care and Development Block Grants are signed into law, 150,000 families nationwide will lose child care subsidies. In my home State, the annual cost for child care for an infant can be nearly \$12,000 a year and the annual cost for a toddler can be as much as \$9,000.

Head Start is another vital service that has provided education, health, nutritional and social services for 3- and 4-year-olds since 1965. If the cuts proposed in H.R. 1 become reality, 218,220 children nationwide will lose access to Head Start, and approximately 55,000 Head Start employees will lose their jobs; 3,719 children in New Jersey would be left without access to Head Start, and we already have 9,500 children on the waiting list.

I ask Congress to continue debate in support of the bill.

CUTS TO JOBS AND SERVICES

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the loss of jobs and services in America.

So far, this Republican-controlled Congress has had nearly 100 hearings, but not a single one has addressed the real issue in this country, which is jobs. Republican attempts to cut more than 50 percent—50 percent—of funding for Head Start, which will affect more than 200,000 children, and their proposal to cut 62 percent from Community Development Block Grants have hurt our communities. They are depriving hardworking Americans of services they need.

According to the latest Bloomberg national poll, when given five choices of the most important issues facing this Nation, 43 percent of all Americans picked unemployment and jobs as number one. Reducing the deficit and spending came in a distant second at 29 percent.

Madam Speaker, the American people want leadership that will create jobs and jump-start our Nation's economy.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF SAN RAMON VALLEY

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of Soroptimist International of San Ramon Valley for their work to improve the lives of women in our community.

This is the final week of the Women's History Month; and, as such, it is fit-

ting that we recognize an organization that is helping the next generation of women to succeed and make history.

The Soroptimists of San Ramon Valley recently held a conference for the 7th year in a row to help young women gain self-confidence and develop important life skills. The event included presentations from speakers and interactive workshops that promote leadership and help the participants to pursue their life's goals.

The Soroptimists of San Ramon Valley, which is one of many chapters of the Soroptimists International throughout the world, also issue awards to girls who are involved in community service and provides grants to women so they can participate in job training and education programs.

The Soroptimists of San Ramon Valley have made a difference for many in our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the members of this organization for their hard work to improve the lives of women.

SUPPORT MORE DIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, this week I plan to introduce a bill that will allow States to submit three statues for display in the United States Capitol.

This bill seeks to include more diversity among the honored in our Capitol by increasing that number of statues to include more notable women, minorities, and other ethnic groups that have contributed significantly to our history.

Currently, there are 100 statues on display given by the States, and only 16 are women or minority groups. Ten are women with three Native-Americans; three statues are Native-American males, two are Hispanic, and one is a Pacific Islander. Although there have been many noteworthy African Americans and Asian Americans in our history, no State has submitted a statue honoring one of them. This disparity must be rectified.

If you walked through the Capitol and looked at the statues, you would think all the heroes and leaders were granite white men. This bill is to express that equal representation of all Americans is essential in our historical perspectives and the educational value that the Capitol offers its thousands of visitors.

I urge my colleagues to look at the bill, to support it, and to have more diverse representation among the statuary in the United States Capitol.

GROW THE ECONOMY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask the American people to