

Madam Speaker, I am here today because I woke up this morning with the thought of steelworkers on my mind, some of the 1,500 steelworkers whose jobs are now at risk since the Sun Oil Refinery announced last week that it is getting out of the refining business—in essence, the inability to compete because of the overregulation that we have—and these jobs are going to be shipped overseas.

Good union-paying American jobs that could be here, because of the policies that are coming out of Washington, are being destroyed and sent overseas. It is counterintuitive; it is counterproductive. We must use common sense.

We can't let the rhetoric stand in the way of reality. We must fight for the future of those jobs while we fight for clean air.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, the President has offered a clear path forward to put the country back to work, help small business succeed and hire, provide tax relief for our workers, and rebuild America.

The American Jobs Act will provide an immediate boost to our economy through job creation and tax relief for American workers and businesses. Specifically, this plan will prevent teacher layoffs and keep firefighters and police officers on the job.

It will support the modernization of at least 35,000 public schools across the country to ensure that every student has access to a 21st century education. This plan will create even more jobs by investing in America's crumbling infrastructure by rebuilding our roads, rebuilding our railways, and rebuilding our airports.

Finally, the American Jobs Act will cut payroll taxes in half for at least 160 million workers next year, allow more Americans to refinance their homes at today's near 4 percent interest rates, and provide incentives for employers to hire long-term unemployed workers.

Madam Speaker, Americans across this country are counting on this Congress to swiftly act to create jobs and rebuild our economy.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, when the health care bill known as ObamaCare was being debated in this Congress, Republicans said the bill would bankrupt our country, ration care for seniors, and cost Americans jobs.

Well, that's exactly what will be happening if the new provision of the law goes into effect next week. Unelected

Washington bureaucrats have ignored calls from Congress asking for a delay in Medicare cuts to skilled nursing facilities and rehab centers.

My colleagues know that I have a reputation for being one of the more fiscally conservative Members of Congress. I understand the need for cuts. But as one medical professional recently said: "If I'm told I need an amputation, I'd like to know what limb is being cut off."

The administration is proposing a reckless cut of nearly 13 percent to skilled nursing facilities and rehab centers. Eighty percent of the overhead at these facilities is staffed, meaning the people who take care of our seniors will be the first to lose their jobs. Receiving a lower quality of care at rehab centers means there's a greater chance that patients will spend more time at a costly hospital, resulting in higher overall costs.

Madam Speaker, this isn't common sense. This policy isn't thinking smart. Our seniors deserve better, and I strongly urge the administration to reconsider their position.

□ 1230

ARTIFICIAL PANCREAS TO HELP TREAT DIABETES

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the artificial pancreas, which will transform the way we treat diabetes in our country. Millions of Americans have diabetes. Diabetes accounts for approximately \$174 billion in health care costs in the U.S. each year, 32 percent of our Medicare expenditures.

Studies show that tight control of blood glucose levels significantly reduces or delays the development of diabetic complications. Most patients with diabetes cannot achieve tight glucose control with traditional diabetes tools. Erratic blood glucose levels can cause devastating complications, including kidney failure, blindness, nerve damage, amputations, heart attack, and stroke.

The artificial pancreas can allow individuals suffering from diabetes to regulate their blood glucose levels using an insulin pump and a sensor. The system can prevent low and high glucose levels and help individuals with diabetes avoid the worst and most costly complications while allowing them to remain healthy until a cure is found.

In April of this year, 250 Members of the House, myself included, and 60 Senators sent a letter to the FDA urging them to approve the artificial pancreas. I am encouraged by FDA's response to have a decision by December.

END BURDENSOME REGULATIONS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, since this year began, the United States House has put forth measure after measure to incentivize growth and end burdensome regulations, only to see them stall in the Senate and be ignored by the President.

Two years after passage of the stimulus, unemployment remains at staggering levels, despite billions of dollars still sitting in government coffers. It was my hope that the President would move past his stimulus spending proposals and offer real economic relief. While some of the President's proposals put forward in his Joint Session speech merit consideration, this bill is no substitute for the targeted, long-term policies needed to empower private sector investment by facilitating an economic climate where businesses have the confidence to hire workers and take on new endeavors.

We're not talking about real, pro-growth tax reform and regulatory relief because it sounds good. It's what our economy needs, and badly.

It's time for Congress—both Chambers—and the President to recognize the pressing need for real tax relief and aggressive regulatory reform. It's time for a new direction, and it's time for action.

PASS THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I want to commend the President for the American Jobs Act. This bill gets squarely behind the program of putting our country back to work and rebuilding the Nation.

As you go around and you talk to people, Americans understand implicitly that we have to rebuild this country and make it strong. That means a lot of things, but, first and foremost, it means investing in our infrastructure, rebuilding our bridges, tunnels, and highways; and this bill would put resources towards that task, investing in human capital, education, innovation, technology, entrepreneurship. This bill would make sure that teachers go back to work so they can teach our young people in the classroom, investing in strong communities.

This bill would support resources for our firefighters, put more police officers out there on the beat. That's investing in communities. We have to rebuild this country. The American Jobs Act does that. Let's pass the American Jobs Act, put this country back to work.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MATT BRUNO

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

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, this past weekend, California's central valley lost a great leader, a leader in the dairy construction field, a man that has been a supporter to many community causes, such as the Education Foundation of Stanislaus County, Center for Human Services, and the Memorial Hospital Foundation.

Matt Bruno owned and operated Turlock Dairy & Refrigeration, which employed 65 employees. He played a key role in the expansion of dairy farming in the area. His family grew peaches, almonds, and grapes, and he still continued that tradition on the farm where he was raised.

He graduated from Ripon High School, was very active in real estate investing and commercial properties, and in 1972 he bought Turlock Refrigeration Center. A year later, he bought Turlock-based Miller Dairy Supply, and the two companies were merged in 1974.

Matt Bruno is survived by his wife, Barbara; sons, Tony and Matt; three grandchildren; brother, Ed Bruno of Ripon; and sister, Vickie Maselis of Modesto.

On this day, the House of Representatives will celebrate his life.

WAR ON THE MIDDLE CLASS

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, Republican leaders have made the laughable accusation that the President is engaging in class warfare. What President Obama is actually doing is ending class warfare, the relentless war on the middle class. Since 1983, over 80 percent of the growth in income has gone to the richest 5 percent of Americans, while the bottom 60 percent has lost 7.5 percent in income, of real income. That's the majority of Americans that are doing worse.

When I was growing up, a family could live a middle class life on one good job, often a good union job, public or private sector, with health benefits and a pension. That was the normal. Seems like the new normal in America, the one that I see the Republicans promoting is the rich get richer, the middle class is disappearing, and the poor get even poorer.

We need to enact bold laws like the President's American Jobs Act and common sense and fair budget proposals, both of which would help restore the middle class, protect the poor, and keep America strong.

UNLEASH THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

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

Mr. NUNNELEE. Madam Speaker, our Nation is faced with 10 percent unemployment and rising, out-of-control deficits. And the Obama administration solution: spend more, tax more, and regulate more. This has created an environment that has destroyed confidence and increased unemployment.

Instead, Washington must create an environment favorable to job creation. We must rein in out-of-control spending. This fall, we will vote on a balanced budget amendment that will require Washington to do what families and small businesses already do: live within their means. We must remain focused on relieving the regulations that are choking job creation. And lastly, we must concentrate on tax reform, not tax increases, because increased taxes are the enemy of job creation.

The American people don't want more solutions from the Federal Government; they want the Federal Government to get out of the way. And if we do those things, we will unleash the American economy and give businesses the confidence they need to grow and to create jobs.

WE'RE LOSING OUR MIDDLE CLASS

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

Mr. MORAN. Madam Speaker, corporate profits have now reached historically high levels—\$2 trillion just in the last two quarters. But most of that profit comes from reductions in personnel and benefit costs which are at a 50-year low as a percent of our economy. This is one of the reasons why the richest 1 percent earn as much as the bottom 60 percent and have as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent of Americans. Tax cuts for the richest, as the House majority demands, is only going to widen this historic disparity. The President's Jobs Act, though, will help to close this gap.

Madam Speaker, we're losing our middle class. Our country is becoming divided between the very rich and the rest. That may be good for the financial base of the Republican Party, but it's bad for America. The private sector will start to hire when the public sector shows it has sufficient faith in our future to adequately invest in the physical and the human infrastructure of this country. It takes money, but the future of our middle class is worth it.

JOB CREATION AND GROWTH

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Madam Speaker, the American people want to be in the business of job creation and growth. Unfortunately, Washington is in the business of regulating, spending, and taxing.

This administration has barreled down the road of massive deficits, historic debt, and ridiculous mandates. We all know where that road leads—right off a cliff.

Job creators know that our \$14.6 trillion debt is a tax on the American taxpayer. They know that higher taxes mean fewer jobs. And they know that focusing on compliance rather than innovation is a failing business model.

But in the face of these difficult times, Americans are optimistic. Not even the worst unemployment since the Great Depression can kill the American spirit. Washington can give job creators confidence by living within its means and reining in the regulatory machine. The American drive to succeed will take care of the rest.

Job creators are ready for real growth, not another failed stimulus. Let's pass a balanced budget amendment to require Washington to use common sense, just like Americans do.

□ 1240

WE LOVE OUR CARRIE MEEK

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we love you, Carrie Meek. And I am delighted to rise today to admit that Carrie Meek, Congresswoman Meek, was a mentor to me and someone who drew the admiration of Republicans and Democrats and did some unique and remarkable activities here in this Congress.

One, as a freshman, she pushed enough to become a member of the Appropriations Committee and led graciously during her tenure. And then she worked very closely with Republicans and Democrats to fight to ensure that cigarette packages had warnings about the impact—the negative impact—on groups like African Americans.

Carrie, do you remember the picture that we took with Rosa Parks and some of our colleagues, and how gracious you were? And do you remember the 25,000 people in Florida when they were trying to overturn affirmative action? And yes, you walked as long and as hard as anybody else.

So, Carrie, I think the jobs bill that the President has could be named after you, where it provides some 80 percent compensation to small businesses to hire people. That sounds like Carrie Meek. And I think we can resolve the CR and provide for those who have suffered disasters and do the right thing. That sounds like Carrie Meek. So I'm here to pay tribute to our friend, Carrie Meek, and to thank her for sending her son, Kendrick, who is a great