

SOCIAL SECURITY IDENTITY
THEFT

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, since 1980 Social Security has been required to publicly put deceased Americans' personal information into a so-called death master file which was meant to help prevent payment and benefit fraud. Nearly anyone can get this information, including identity thieves.

Identity theft affects not only swindled businesses and American taxpayers, but grieving families whose suffering is made worse when they learn that someone has been preying on the death of their loved ones. Criminals are exploiting this information in order to profit off deceased children by applying for tax refunds. That's just wrong.

Every year, Social Security puts about 14,000 Americans in this death file who aren't even dead. Any of us could be put on that list by mistake—a mistake that can result in severe financial hardship and emotional heartache.

Americans deserve better. So today I'm introducing the Keeping IDs Safe Act to stop the sale of the death master file immediately. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING ROBERT "SHANE"
WILSON

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in great sadness to recognize fallen Doraville police detective, Corporal Robert "Shane" Wilson, a citizen of great distinction in my district, who gave his life on behalf of the people who live there.

Responding to a home invasion on November 14, he was tragically involved in a head-on collision with a drunk driver. He was off duty at the time, responding.

An 8-year veteran, Officer Wilson was just 27 years old. He was a member of the SWAT team. He served his community courageously and honorably and was very well liked and respected by his colleagues and fellow officers.

He was a loving husband, father, brother, and son from a family steeped in law enforcement. In his off hours he loved to play drums and piano, and he composed music and always had a smile on his face.

All Georgians are affected by this tragedy, but our thoughts and prayers go out especially to his family, friends, and colleagues. Robert "Shane" Wilson was one of the best, and he'll be greatly missed.

JOBS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, when the liberal Democrat extremists took control of the Congress in 2007, the unemployment rate was 4.6 percent, and when Republicans took back control of the House in January of 2011, the unemployment rate had jumped to 9 percent. Under liberal Democrat control, 6.9 million Americans became unemployed. So now we have 13.9 million unemployed Americans who have been ignored by the liberals in Washington.

Higher taxes, record spending, and bigger government have failed to create jobs or boost economic growth. Put simply, this economy is growing too slowly to replace the millions of jobs lost. GDP growth in the first quarter of 2011 fell to 1.8 percent; in the second quarter it was 1.3 percent.

The failure of the President's run-away spending, deficits and debt is being felt by every family struggling to put food on the table and pay their mortgage.

Instead of expanding the size of government, Republicans in Washington are committed to a pro-growth economic agenda that will put America back to work. And I urge people to go to America's job creators, jobs.gov, to see the plan Republicans have to create jobs. We've passed over 20 bills that have gone to the Senate, and no action is being taken on them.

□ 0910

KENYAN INCURSION INTO
SOMALIA

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to support and urge us to support the Kenyan military that has gone into Somalia to set up a corridor of safety for the Somali people and to help push back and fight against Al-Shabaab.

Al-Shabaab is a terrorist organization in Somalia. And because of the general chaos in Somalia, Mr. Speaker, Al-Shabaab has been able to do two very bad things. One is, because of the instability they create, they have caused massive refugee problems into Kenya, which is why the Kenyan military had to go into Somalia to try to stop that bleeding. But they also have created chaos in the Red Sea through piracy, and have sponsored terrorism in other African nations like Uganda. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, they are an attractive nuisance to every bad guy who wants to come and have a safe haven for terrorism. And they attract international terrorists to Somalia, which further destabilizes that nation.

After 20 years of chaos, the Somali people deserve some stability, and the Kenyan troops that are there are helping to bring that. The United States

and the intelligence community need to step up and help offer sustenance and support for those Kenyan troops, Mr. Speaker.

Let me say that this is the time to step up and help the Kenyan community help our country and the rest of the world.

MIDDLE CLASS CHALLENGES
CONGRESS

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, America's middle class, her determined, hard-working middle class, is challenging Congress. Will Congress respond to our middle class?

We in the middle class are growing increasingly aware of the statistics that the wealth concentrated in the top 1 percent has grown exponentially—275 percent. Over the same timeframe, America's middle class has seen its wealth flatline, and if it's grown, something diminished like 15 to 20 percent. That is unsustainable. America's middle class knows it.

They know that we need to invest in our middle class, empower the purchasing power, raise our children, invest in their education and higher education, invest in health care, invest in public safety, invest in job creation and job retention, invest in research that equals jobs. That is the commitment that they're asking for.

They know it's within the grasp of Congress to fix it. They know increasingly the American Dream is growing outside their grasp. We need to go to work, provide jobs, the dignity of work for our middle class. We need to solve the problems of America through the eyes of our middle class.

WHO WILL CARE FOR THE
CAREGIVERS?

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

Ms. RICHARDSON. November is National Caregivers Month. All across America, there are thousands of Americans who need help. They need help to stand, to sit, to put on their shoes, to go to the rest room, and even some to take their last breath. And there are those who are sitting by the bedside of those people, we call them in-home health care workers, who oftentimes in this country barely make even a minimum wage themselves, and if they needed the very care that they were providing, they could probably not afford it.

As this Congress decides and looks at the joint committee's decisions and proposals before us, let's not go against those working people, thousands of people who don't even have enough to take care of their own families.

The decisions can be done better, but they certainly should not be on the

backs of working people and those who care for our Americans.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3094, WORKFORCE DEMOCRACY AND FAIRNESS ACT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 470 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 470

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3094) to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to representation hearings and the timing of elections of labor organizations under that Act. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

□ 0920

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 470 provides for a structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3094, the Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in opposition to the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, with this rule and underlying bill, Congress continues months of inaction on job growth, months of ignoring real solutions, choosing instead to use our economic struggles as an excuse to push partisan and ideological legislation.

The American people deserve jobs now rather than bills aimed only at stoking the rhetorical fires and antagonizing political opponents. It's time to stop the games and seek compromise for the betterment of our Nation.

A middle class tax increase is looming. With the extension of the payroll tax, many middle class families earning \$70,000 to \$80,000 a year will be forced to pay over a \$1,000 a year more in taxes. Apparently, the Republicans believe that the government knows how to spend their money better than American families.

As a businessman and an entrepreneur, I'm proud to have created many jobs and many businesses. I meet with the businesses in my district on a regular basis. Not a single business has raised this issue as any kind of impediment to job growth, any kind of impediment to getting the economy growing again. This is simply a non-related subject that pursues a longtime agenda to destroy the ability of workers to organize.

This bill represents the Ohio-ization of America. Just as Republicans attempted in the State of Ohio, House Republicans are simply union busting. But we saw what happened in Ohio, where Ohioans across the ideological spectrum overwhelmingly said "no" to this kind of anti-worker agenda. And the American people reject it as well.

This bill's singular goal is to shut down workplace elections. It would overturn the proposed National Labor Relations Board rule, it would modernize the union election process and avoid delays. But instead of creating efficiency in government, the workplace election prevention actually mandates inefficiency; it makes inefficiency the norm rather than the exception. The bill puts in place 35-day delays in holding elections after filing petitions. The bill includes no limit on how long the elections can be delayed.

In the case of workplace elections, delay is a critical issue. The intent of delaying an election is to give anti-union employers a chance to prevent workers from organizing. Despite Republicans' professed outrage over frivolous lawsuits and tort reform and many other areas, H.R. 3094 incentivizes a mountain of litigation for the sole purpose of stalling workplace elections. This creates a massive backlog of cases, including frivolous ones, all on the taxpayers' dime. Republicans don't seem to have a problem with trial lawyers as long as they're suing unions.

This bill even allows managers to stuff the ballot boxes of employer elections.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure many of us in this body here are following our State redistricting processes to see how various districts across the country are gerrymandered. What this bill would allow employers to do is effectively gerrymander what the negotiating unit is at the company. If there's a group of employees that's interested in forming a union, it would give the employer the ability to say, no, that's actually not a valid group; it needs to include this other group or this other group, and decide on what the electoral body is, what is the electorate, choosing their own electorate, as too many Members of Congress attempt to do through the redistricting process, choosing their electorate to try to rig the election against the workers.

This bill is just the latest assault on workers' rights and it's, again, typical of this do-nothing Congress. The Republicans have been fixated on attacking the National Labor Relations Board, the board that is in place to strike a balance between labor and employers by cutting the agency's funding, by holding up new appointments and, now, by reversing a rule on notice-posting to inform employees of their rights.

Mr. Speaker, the people are wise to see what's going on here in Congress. Every week we're in session, we see a parade of special interest bills paraded on the House floor, while taxes for middle class families risk going up because the Republicans believe that government knows how to spend their money better than the American people. The big energy companies have got numerous exemptions from the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. The rest of us got pollution, asthma, and other illness.

Look, is it possible to create jobs by lowering standards? It is. If you want to remove workplace safety standards you can create jobs, unsafe jobs. If you want to reduce the minimum wage to \$2 an hour, you can create jobs, \$2-an-hour jobs.

Is that the America we want? Is that the America we want for our children and grandchildren? We can do better, and we must do better.