

SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, and WIC.

We have a hunger crisis in America, and we are not doing enough to prevent this terrible scourge.

During this holiday season, the House and Senate Hunger Caucuses are sponsoring the Hour for Hunger event. Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON and I are encouraging every Member of this House to volunteer 1 hour to highlight efforts in their districts to fight hunger. Visit a food bank or a food pantry, host a food drive. It's not hard, but it's important and effective.

Finally, I want to urge the White House to host a Conference on Food and Nutrition so we can develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated national strategy to end hunger in America once and for all.

Hunger is a political condition. All we need now is the political will to end it.

APPROVE THE KEYSTONE PIPELINE

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Millions of Americans are jobless. In response, the House of Representatives has passed more than 20 jobs bills.

This past July, the North American-Made Energy Security Act urged President Obama to issue a final permitting decision on the Keystone pipeline, which will connect Canada's rich oil sands to the U.S. refineries along the gulf coast.

Our dependence on Middle East oil is a security and economic challenge that we must overcome.

The proposed pipeline would consist of over 1,700 miles capable of delivering more than half a million barrels of crude oil each day. In my home State of Oklahoma, this pipeline project is expected to add \$1.2 billion in economic impact.

This pipeline presents a unique chance for America to truly cull back our precarious dependence on Middle East oil while also adding tremendous economic activity to our stagnant economy.

In early November of this year, the Obama administration made an unacceptable political decision to punt the approval of the Keystone pipeline until after the Presidential election. A few weeks ago, I formally asked the Secretary of State to at least approve the southern route of the pipeline from Cushing, Oklahoma, to the gulf. Our country has waited for Presidential approval for 3 years.

VOTE AGAINST H.R. 3630

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, the Republican plan to extend the payroll tax

is deeply flawed in many ways, but perhaps the most egregious are the fundamental changes it would make to some of our Nation's core institutions without any discussion or debate.

It would cut unemployment insurance benefits for 1 million Americans and impose new restrictive limits on workers who've been laid off. It would require millions of seniors to pay more for health care by slashing funding designed to lower costs. It would roll back essential EPA rules to keep our air clean, and it would actually increase the deficit by almost \$26 billion over 10 years, according to the CBO.

The vast majority of Americans want the wealthiest to pay their fair share so we can get the country back on track and preserve government institutions. We need a reasonable solution to keep middle class tax cuts in place and maintain funding for Social Security.

Republicans are saying, sure, we'll give you a tax cut, but we're going to slash your husband's unemployment benefits in order to pay for it. That's not a way for families to preserve their standard of living.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want a government that is fair and just, not one that promotes economic imbalance and cynicism.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 3630.

FARMERS CONFRONTED BY OUT-OF-CONTROL REGULATION

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, last week the Illinois Farm Bureau Federation polled its members about the long-term challenges confronting them. It shouldn't surprise anyone that the number one thing that they named is government regulation. After all, Washington bureaucrats too often know nothing about rural America and challenges confronting our farming families. They've sought to burden them with new regulations on everything from spilt milk to dust.

But while those bureaucrats are trying to generate more regulations, here in the House we're working hard to cut it back. This year, we have passed numerous pieces of legislation to roll back the most egregious rules proposed by the EPA and others to ensure that America's family farmers have the regulatory certainty they need to survive and thrive over the next decade and beyond.

Now it's time for the Senate to act.

WE DON'T LEARN FROM HISTORY

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I don't know what's the matter with us when we don't learn from history.

After the Great Depression, we passed the Social Security Act. Two

major components: One is to keep our seniors safe in their years of retirement, and the second, to provide for those who may become unemployed through no fault of their own.

The bill that we're being asked to vote on today is going to cut unemployment, cut unemployment, the extended portion, which people have come to rely on for those who are looking for work and can't get it, and we're cutting the emergency portion of it as well by eliminating tiers.

But, Mr. Speaker, more than anything else, the part that just bothers me and forces me to speak is that we are going to make people qualify for unemployment. They've got to have a high school diploma or a GED equivalent.

Mr. Speaker, my father went to the ninth grade. He worked through his whole life. Imagine someone like him, and there are many people like my father, that will not qualify for unemployment, will not qualify because they didn't have a high school diploma.

□ 1230

LEFT TURN, BY TIM GROSECLOSE

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Professor Tim Groseclose of UCLA has recently published a book, "Left Turn, How Liberal Media Bias Distorts the American Mind." He uses clearly defined quantitative measures to evaluate the bias of media outlets.

In "Left Turn," he scientifically measures the political content of media outlets and converts that content into a slant quotient of an outlet. To measure the bias, he compares slant quotients of news outlets to the political quotients of the typical American voter and political leaders.

Groseclose concludes that the great majority of all national media outlets have a liberal bias. He also points out the conservative bias of a very few outlets, but he determined their conservative bias is less than the liberal bias of most national media.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Groseclose also cites evidence that the media has shifted the political views of Americans and caused them to be more liberal. So media bias is both real and unfortunate.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud recent actions taken by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to better inform American consumers. Created last year by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform law, the