

chase for near-term gain. This feeds a dysfunctional interdependence that is further aggravated by fundamental disagreements stemming from different world views and perspectives on the individual and the state.

We need to look closely at our notions of self-interest in this relationship, which vividly illustrates some of the challenges associated with global interdependence. But there are also opportunities that we need to grasp, Mr. Speaker. The President recently changed the way in which we talk about the concept of national interest in his State of the Union address, and I agree with him. We should talk about our national conscience in concert with our national interest. The two are inseparable. In conscience, we cannot say that all is well with the U.S.-China relationship.

We can hope for a better day. Hopefully, this meeting between the President and the new President of China will bear lasting fruit which transcends discussions about defense and economics, and looks to that which is fundamentally just and good for all peoples of the world.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Thomas Elliott, Jr., Cannon United Methodist Church, Snellville, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, You are the hope and end of all creation. Through Your love and mercy, You give us life and freedom. You bless us with an abundance of resources. You invite us to faith.

We thank You for Your presence and pray that You will guide us in the work You seek to accomplish.

Forgive us our indulgences and selfishness. Remove the prejudice, hatred, and contempt that divide us. Govern our thoughts with liberty and justice for all. Make us mindful of the needs of all peoples. Transform our economic woes. Influence our decisions. Free us from terrorism and war. Reveal Your will to us.

Today, we pray for our Nation, our President, and this Congress, the military and citizens, the less fortunate and peoples of the Earth.

Turn our hearts to You that we may serve this day with compassion, justice, courage, and peace.

In Jesus' name.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. THOMAS ELLIOTT, JR.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, it's my great pleasure this morning to introduce my colleagues to Dr. Tom Elliott. Not only is he our guest chaplain today and the senior pastor at Cannon United Methodist Church in Snellville, in my district, he was also my youth minister growing up in Decatur, Georgia. For over 30 years, I've known Tom.

He's here today with his wife, Kelly. He is surrounded in love by his daughter, Lucy, and his son, Thomas. He has a love of the Lord, and that's a love that he shares in the pulpit on Sunday morning, and a love that you can find expressed in music at coffeehouses around the district in his Wild at Heart band nights during the week.

It's my great pleasure to have Tom with us today. I thank you for your service to our community, Tom, and I thank you for your service to the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIBBLE). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE RECENT SUPREME COURT DECISION ON DNA COLLECTION

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

Mr. MASSIE. I rise today in strong opposition to the recent Supreme Court decision in Maryland v. King. As Justice Scalia warned in his brilliant dissent, a consequence of this week's ruling is that your DNA can now "be taken and entered into a national DNA

database if you are ever arrested, rightly or wrongly, or for whatever reason."

On the day I was sworn in, I pledged that I would be a staunch defender of individual liberties and of our Constitution, an unwavering advocate for freedom. This includes upholding the Fourth Amendment to our Constitution that protects us against unreasonable searches and seizures.

I strongly disagree with the five Justices in this case who held that DNA collection is just "another metric of identification," like "a name or a fingerprint." It is not. It's an intrusive invasion of privacy and property that should never be allowed before a person has even been tried, convicted, or served a warrant.

As my Senate colleague TED CRUZ warned, "unchecked government power and intrusive personal databases . . . pose real risks to our liberty."

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, we are nearing the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act, yet too many women continue to struggle. Too many women still don't receive equal pay for equal work.

Fifty years after President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act, women still earn only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. That is not only wrong, it's bad for our economy.

Working families often rely on two incomes, and more and more households have women as the primary source of income. That means women's take-home pay must cover the rent, the groceries, the doctor's visits. And when women succeed, our families succeed; so does our economy.

I was proud to cast my first vote in Congress for the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which restored women's right to challenge unfair pay in court, but there's more work to do. Over the past 50 years, the Equal Pay Act has never been updated or strengthened. That's where the Paycheck Fairness Act comes in. It strengthens and closes loopholes in the law.

So let's get this done and send an important message that work is work, no matter who is doing it. Let's pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent the great State of Utah and Salt Lake City. Forbes Magazine recently rated Utah as the best State in the Nation for business and careers. Salt Lake City was recently ranked as the best city in the country for new graduates.

But while the State of Utah is doing very well, the rest of our Nation is not. As a small business owner, I know that government does not create jobs; the private sector creates jobs. And businessmen all over this Nation are asking—no, they're even begging—for one thing: Get government out of the way. Allow our economy to grow. Create new American jobs. Expand opportunity; don't expand government.

There are, right now, 4.4 million Americans that have been jobless for more than 6 months, and this is completely unacceptable.

We must simplify our Tax Code. We need to become energy independent. We need to move forward with projects such as the Keystone pipeline. We need to reform health care and entitlement programs, which account for the vast majority of our deficit and debt spending.

Americans deserve better. We can do better.

□ 1210

PASS THE JOBS ACT NOW

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it's now been 885 days since I arrived in Congress, and the Republican leadership has still not allowed a single vote on serious legislation to address our unemployment crisis. This Congress is pretending our unemployment crisis is completely over. This Congress is acting as though surface scandals and a now rapidly shrinking budget deficit are the only issues that matter to this country. Try telling that to any of the 12 million unemployed Americans, who are today struggling to keep their homes and to pay for their food and health care. Try telling that to any of the 3 million Americans who have been unemployed for more than a year and are facing the indescribably painful possibility that they will never work again.

Mr. Speaker, unemployment is the Nation's true deficit. Let's pass the Jobs Now Act and the President's American Jobs Act to end it. The mantra of this Congress should be: jobs, jobs, jobs.

CONSCIENCE PROTECTIONS

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

Mr. MESSER. The First Amendment is under attack in Madison, Indiana. One of my constituents, Bill Grote, is a profile in courage as he litigates against the government's attempt to force him to violate his First Amendment rights and comply with ObamaCare's contraceptive mandate. Churches deserve protection from this mandate, but private businesses and business owners deserve protection, too.

Mr. Grote is not alone. Some businesses may choose to close their doors instead of complying. Others may be fined out of business. Ask yourself: If the Federal Government can make Mr. Grote purchase products in violation of his religious beliefs, what can it do to you?

I applaud Mr. Grote's courage and urge the House to pass the Health Care Conscience Rights Act to stop this attack on religious liberty.

WE NEED A COMPREHENSIVE EMPLOYEE NONDISCRIMINATION ACT

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

Mr. POCAN. This June, as we celebrate LGBT Pride Month, LGBT Americans have much to celebrate. Every day this country moves closer and closer towards embracing full equality for all of its citizens. And yet the path to equality and justice saw a setback last week when one of our Nation's largest companies chose to deny fundamental workplace protections for its employees.

For the 14th year in a row, ExxonMobil's shareholders voted to strike down a proposal that would specifically prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. This is a company that has received more than \$1 billion in government contracts over the last decade. Simply put, the government should not be in business with companies that discriminate.

Exxon's decision makes it part of a shrinking minority: 88 percent of Fortune 500 companies specifically ban employee discrimination based on sexual orientation. BP doesn't discriminate, Chevron doesn't discriminate, Shell Oil doesn't discriminate. But ExxonMobil does. Their anti-equality policies should start to hurt their bottom line.

Unfortunately, it is still legal to fire someone in 29 States based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. ExxonMobil's backwards decision highlights why we need to pass a comprehensive employee nondiscrimination act.

PASS THE FAIR TAX

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

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, all Americans are aware how our current Tax Code is too complex and punishes people who save, invest, and achieve economic success. However, the recent news coming from the IRS illustrates another pressing reason for tax reform. Our current Tax Code puts too much power and potential for abuse into the hands of unaccountable, unelected bureaucrats.

The American people deserve a tax system that cannot be a political weapon to be used against them. That is why I'm a proud cosponsor of the Fair Tax. The Fair Tax would eliminate the IRS by replacing the current Tax Code with a simple consumption-based tax. The Fair Tax would be collected equally from all Americans, with no opportunity for the government to attack or discriminate against innocent citizens.

The Fair Tax is a reform measure that offers a rare chance to unleash economic growth, create good jobs, and at the same time protect the rights of American people. I urge this body to swiftly pass the Fair Tax.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago, the Equal Pay Act passed in Congress with strong bipartisan support. That should be no surprise. It makes sense.

Back in 1963, 201 Democrats joined with 160 Republicans to support equal pay for equal work. Only 9 Members voted "no." Back then, women earned just 59 cents for every dollar men earned. And today, we're still 23 cents short on the promise of equal pay. Half a century later, women earn 77 cents for every dollar men make for the same work. The Paycheck Fairness Act would strengthen the Equal Pay Act, giving women the paychecks they deserve and have earned. It would eliminate the loopholes and carve-outs that have denied women basic fairness for decades.

As we celebrate the passage of the Equal Pay Act, let's hope for a return to bipartisanship and common sense. Let's make sure that women are paid what they deserve and pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. Equal pay was bipartisan 50 years ago. It should be bipartisan today.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, our top priority in Congress should be to promote job creation and a healthy economy. Too many Americans are struggling. The unemployment rate remains too high, the labor force participation rate continues to drop, and the national debt still is nearly \$17 trillion. This is due to the administration's failed economic and overreaching regulatory policies. Wasteful government spending and higher taxes are not the answers the American people are looking for. America needs real solutions for economic recovery.

In order for all Americans to thrive, we need jobs. Over 60 percent of new jobs are generated by small businesses,