

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 1 p.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

(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. Mr. Speaker, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN and I serve as the cochair for the bipartisan Career and Technical Education, or the CTE, Caucus.

During the two previous Congresses, we worked to raise awareness of the importance of career and technical education. We have also led the charge to ensure that CTE programs receive robust funding.

For nearly a decade, CTE programs were largely marginalized, receiving level funding and even taking sizable reductions. The CTE Caucus, in turn, has advocated for maintaining funding levels for CTE programs. We are pleased that yesterday the House passed modest funding increases for CTE programs. This is a good start.

Mr. Speaker, with so many unemployed or underemployed in this country, it is time for us to take a more strategic approach to helping Americans get back to work. We can no longer afford to undervalue CTE. In fact, we will only succeed if career and technical education is an essential element of our strategy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like, as a point of personal privilege, a valued House staff member, Trudi Terry, is retiring before we return from this coming week's recess. I want to thank her for her service to this country.

Thank you, Trudi.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague, Congressman "GT" THOMPSON from Pennsylvania, as co-chairs of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus in commending House appropriators and my colleagues for the increase in Perkins Act funding for career and technical education funding.

This funding is vitally important for training the next generation of workers who will enter the career and technical education fields. These are good-paying jobs. At a time where Rhode Island—my home State—has one of the highest unemployment rates in the

country, this funding for career and technical education could not come at a more critical time.

It is frustrating to see so many people out of work. Yet when you talk to businesses around our State and around the country, one of the main things that they found a real challenge is finding the people with the right skills to do the jobs that are available right now.

So by focusing on these areas of career and technical education, whether it be in IT or woodworking or culinary or engineering, these are vitally important jobs in our communities, in our country, and they are going to do a lot to get people back to work.

I want to thank my colleagues for their support of Perkins Act funding and career and technical education programs.

I, again, thank my colleague, Congressman "GT" THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, for the bipartisan effort that he and I have put into this vitally important area.

BETTER CARE, LOWER COST ACT

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I along with PETER WELCH, my colleague, and Senators WYDEN and ISAKSON introduced the Better Care, Lower Cost Act, bipartisan legislation to truly bend the cost curve and improve chronic care management in Medicare.

Medicare today, Mr. Speaker, is very different than it was in 1965, as 68 percent of all beneficiaries have two or more chronic conditions, which account now for 93 percent of all Medicare costs.

Our legislation will help seniors like Darlene from my district, who suffers from multiple chronic conditions, including arthritis and diabetes. The complexity involved with gaining input from her many doctors and nurses makes it very difficult for her to manage her own health. This is a difficulty that many seniors typically face today.

But by modernizing the Medicare payment system—paying for results, not just activity; incentivizing people to take care of themselves; and removing the barriers to innovation—we can ensure that seniors get the right care at the right time.

We can also take advantage of health care technology, like telehealth. We can break down the barriers, the geographic barriers, to bring chronic care management skills and experience of institutions like the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota to light.

Mr. Speaker, we can create a better system, and this bipartisan group shows that it can be done with a little cooperation and collaboration.

RECOGNIZING THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I stand here before you to acknowledge, and in remembrance of, the fourth anniversary of the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti in January 2010. I come in honor and in awe of the unmitigated strength, hope, and faith of the Haitian people.

Although there is still significant progress to be made, let us take this time to remember those who have died and those who continue living with the visible and invisible scars of trauma.

We cannot forget those who still remain in IDP camps, subject to forced evictions, and living in squalid and precarious conditions. We must remember those who are victims of sexual and gender-based violence, and we cannot turn a blind eye on those Haitians suffering from cholera, which was introduced to the country through no fault of their own.

Mr. Speaker, the passion of the Haitian people continues to inspire a sense of community, generosity, strength, and drive throughout the Caribbean diaspora.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to draw on the energy, will, and determination of the Haitian people and continue to fight to help Haiti to truly recover from the devastating earthquake of 2010.

CONCEPTION

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I gave a speech on the floor drawing attention to the important pro-life rally that is occurring in Washington next week.

At one point, I misspoke, but today I want to make it crystal clear that life begins at conception.

I am proud of my record fighting and voting to protect the right of the unborn.

Yesterday, we also passed an important appropriations bill to move our Nation in a financially sound way. Four years in a row, we have reduced spending. It is the first time since the Korean war. But equally important, in that bill, it keeps in place laws that protect the life of the unborn. For that, I am very proud of that vote we took yesterday.

URGING CONGRESS TO RENEW UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Dana Haverman from my home State of Florida is frightened.

Despite the fact that she got her first job at age 15, despite the fact that she worked continuously her entire adult life, despite the fact that at age 60 she lost a long-time job because of this country's economic downturn, despite the fact that she has been looking for a job every day and has not found one, despite all these facts, this Congress has failed to extend emergency unemployment insurance that would give her and thousands of Floridians a little bit of help in paying their electricity and water bills until they find their next job.

Mr. Speaker, let us vote today to extend relief deserved by America's job seekers.

Mr. Speaker, Dana Haverman from my home State of Florida is frightened.

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT

(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, yesterday, I and a number of our colleagues in the House asked for unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 3824, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act, for a simple up or down vote. Time and time again, we were denied that simple vote.

Mr. Speaker, poll after poll shows us that Independents, Republicans, and Democrats support at least a 3-month extension of unemployment insurance. We continue to be in dereliction of our duty every day we let this critical lifeline to our long-term jobless friends and neighbors expire.

Last week, I met with two New Yorkers from my district who paid into this program for years, and they are shocked, as am I, Mr. Speaker, that elected officials in Washington continue to sit idly by without supporting them.

A simple up or down vote, that is all we are asking for, Mr. Speaker. Let's pass this critical lifeline; let's do what is fair and just; and let's get back to the business of growing jobs and our economy.

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SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be a part of the Safe Climate Caucus and to speak on the urgent need to take action on climate change.

The effects of climate change are undeniable, and their consequences are unavoidable without action, which means action by Congress.

In my home State of Wisconsin, farmers could face more pests and widespread disease from higher humidity and warmer winter temperatures. Ice fishermen are already noticing fewer days they can be out on our ice-covered lakes. By 2055, winters in Wisconsin are expected to be 7 to 9 degrees warmer, and by the middle of the century, extreme heat in Wisconsin, which is responsible for more deaths in my State than any other natural disaster combined, will be more prevalent, with up to a month more of 90-degree-plus days.

These types of dramatic shifts must be met with equally big changes in our behaviors. We must continue to push for alternatives to fossil fuels like oil and coal. We must reduce our emissions and accurately assess their true costs, and we must boost our energy efficiency by investing in clean energy manufacturing for our environment and for our jobs.

SYRIA

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, as one of two congressional representatives to the United Nations, I rise to recognize and talk about the continued human suffering in Syria.

According to the United Nations, there are over 2 million registered refugees from Syria, including 1.4 million children. Last September, the United Nations Security Council urged Syria to take immediate steps to grant aid organizations full access to conduct relief operations. Yet, today, there are reports that the government continues to block aid to victims desperately in need of relief, causing needless hunger and suffering among Syria's civilian populations. These actions are not just an offense against our conscience; they are also offenses against international law and United Nations' obligations.

As world leaders gather next week in pursuit of a political solution, we must hold all parties to the Syrian conflict accountable and find a negotiated settlement to ending this crisis once and for all through the hard work of diplomacy.

I am proud that the United States is the leading donor of humanitarian aid, and I am pleased that the omnibus bill we passed yesterday included increased funding to support our ongoing humanitarian response.

PASS UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say that we are, in fact, our brothers' and sisters' keeper, and I want to debunk the terrible definition and description of some 1.3—now 1.9—million unemployed Americans.

I reject the theory that they only sit around for unemployment and will not

look for a job unless they are not getting unemployment insurance when everybody knows that the requirements of emergency unemployment insurance require individuals to look for work. For everyone I have spoken to, including learning the story of a woman in New York who is 58 years old and who has looked for work over and over and, likewise, is desperate and devastated because she is not able to provide the bare minimum, I have introduced H.R. 3888.

I ask my colleagues to join me in legislation that will target and train the chronically unemployed, that will provide their unemployment insurance and that will give them a stipend for emerging industry training. I say to my Republican colleagues: if you are interested in jobs, jobs, jobs, join this legislation; but right now, today, let's stay here and vote on unemployment insurance for the millions of Americans who have contributed and shed their blood—many of them veterans, many of them willing to sacrifice. All they need is a helping hand. Pass unemployment insurance.

Where is our heart?

THE CITY OF ALPINE

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I am sure every Member of Congress thinks that his or her district is the most beautiful, the most unique of all, but the 23rd District in Texas is about 24 percent of the land area of Texas—it is a huge, huge area. I would like to highlight in 1 minute parts of the 23rd, take you around the 23rd in 1 minute. I think it is appropriate to start with the city of Alpine, my hometown.

Alpine is the county seat of Brewster County, which is the largest county in Texas. It is the home of Sul Ross State University. Sul Ross has more national rodeo championships than any other college or university in the Nation, and it is the birthplace of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. If you have the opportunity, look up Brewster County. Look up Alpine.

I am thinking about Alpine a lot as I go home this weekend to address the Chamber of Commerce for my first time as a Member of Congress, and I am so looking forward to being home in the highest, tallest peaks of west Texas.

HONORING THE LIVES OF THREE NAVY SAILORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of the Navy sailors who were tragically killed in last