



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014

No. 46

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC.

March 24, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRED UPTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

THE STATESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, JOB FAIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week it was my pleasure to attend a job fair at Mitchell Community College in Statesville, North Carolina. The job fair was cohosted by the Statesville Chamber of Commerce; and both Mitchell Community College president Dr. Tim Brewer and Chamber president David Bradley and their staffs are to be commended for making this important event hap-

pen and making these job opportunities available to jobseekers in the local community.

As a former community college president, I am aware of the important role these institutions play in providing workers with the opportunity to improve their skills in order to meet the demands of employers.

Mitchell Community College and the Statesville Chamber of Commerce both played large roles in ensuring that Statesville remains a dynamic economic center within the Fifth District of North Carolina.

More than 40 companies were represented at last week's job fair. About 500 jobs were available, spanning a broad range of skills, abilities, and compensation levels. The organizers offered a resume workshop to help applicants make a first good impression.

I would like to take a few minutes to recognize just a few of those who helped make this event a success and who spend every day making the economy and community of Statesville run.

Gina Shumaker is a graduate of the Mitchell Community College Back to Work program, and now she is giving back to her work with Workforce Carolina. Gina spends every day matching jobseekers with opportunities. She was at the job fair looking to fill 197 positions, and I commend her efforts to help individuals get back on their feet.

Goodyear; I also had the opportunity to talk with Joe Wegmiller, who is the plant manager for the Goodyear manufacturing plant in Statesville. This facility has been manufacturing tire molds in Statesville since 1995. I have had the opportunity to tour the facility, and it is a key employer in the Fifth District.

Doosan; Doosan Portable Power specializes in making generators, air compressors, and other light construction equipment. This company is headquartered in Statesville and brings more than 100 years of manufacturing

experience to bear on the task of providing quality equipment for construction and other industrial uses. We are proud that they call Statesville home and grateful for the opportunities they provide to members of our community.

ASMO in North Carolina employs more than 350 people in Statesville. This company produces blower motors, power seat motors, power window motors, electric power steering motors, and other assemblies for auto manufacturers.

Mr. Speaker, at last week's job fair, a common refrain among employers is that they have had a hard time finding individuals with the skills needed to fill available positions. This reminded me of H.R. 803, the SKILLS Act. This bill would reform and reorganize our broken Federal workforce development system.

There is bipartisan agreement that the current Federal workforce development programs are not meeting the needs of America's jobseekers, many of whom were in attendance at the Statesville job fair last week.

In his 2012 State of the Union address, the President asked that these programs be reformed, and Republicans in the House went to work and passed the SKILLS Act, which would streamline 35 ineffective and duplicative programs, including 26 identified as being ineffective in a 2011 GAO report.

The SKILLS Act empowers job creators, such as Goodyear, Doosan, ASMO, and many others that were looking to hire in Statesville last week. The SKILLS Act would allow local businesses to help steer workforce development resources toward fields that are in demand right now. This bill passed the House over a year ago. I call on our colleagues over in the Senate to act on this vital piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this House will maintain its focus on creating an environment conducive to economic growth and job creation. We have passed more

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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than 30 pieces of legislation designed to decrease the bureaucracy, increase opportunity, and restore vitality to our economy. Unfortunately, the majority of this legislation is languishing in the Senate. The employers, jobseekers, and community members I spoke with last week in Statesville want to move forward with their businesses and lives. There are House-passed bills that will help solve some of the problems they are facing. The Senate and the President need to act to turn these bills into law.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In this Chamber, where the people's House gathers, we pause to offer You gratitude for the gift of this good land on which we live, and for this great Nation which You have inspired in developing over so many years. Continue to inspire the American people, that through the difficulties of these days we might keep liberty and justice alive in our Nation and in the world.

Give to us and all people a vivid sense of Your presence, that we may learn to understand each other, to respect each other, to work with each other, to live with each other, and to do good to each other. So shall we make our Nation great in goodness and good in its greatness.

As the Members of this House return from a week of constituent visits, grant them wisdom and goodwill as they address the issues of days to come.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr.

WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

FOUR YEARS AFTER OBAMACARE, AMERICANS ARE WORSE OFF

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this is the Affordable Care Act. Yesterday marks the 4-year anniversary of when it was signed into law. We all knew, at least on the Republican side of this House, how this thing was troubled when it was passed 4 years ago, but what no one could have predicted was the aggressive incompetence of the administration and the agencies during the implementation.

It is hurting average Americans. I get comments from people back home on my Facebook page literally every day. People tell me their stories of their health care plans being canceled, their premiums and deductibles going up, and trusted access to family doctors being lost.

Rosie told me her premiums went up 62 percent last year. Heidi's husband lost his job because his company was forced to downsize because of the law. Kim told me her family's premium has gone up, resulting in over \$9,000 a year now out-of-pocket, in addition to what they paid last year.

One person put it best, saying: This Affordable Care Act is simply not affordable. Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve better.

FOUR YEARS LATER AND OBAMACARE IS STILL FAILING

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for the last 4 years, American families have watched as ObamaCare has destroyed jobs, increased insurance premiums, and denied access to trusted medical professionals. You can't keep your doctor.

From day one, the administration has not been honest with the law's effectiveness or its implementation. This unworkable, irresponsible law continues to plague families. We must work together to repeal and replace ObamaCare.

House Republicans know that commonsense solutions exist which will provide relief to those who have fallen victims to the President's countless broken promises. Unfortunately, the administration and Senate Democrats have refused to work with us to make changes and restore health care decisions back to the American people, not to Big Government.

As the open enrollment period deadline approaches leading to more hardship for families, medical professionals, and small businesses, it is our duty to work together to change ObamaCare, which destroys jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

GET THE GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE WAY OF JOB CREATORS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, tonight the Statesville Chamber of Commerce will host its annual dinner and recognize the individuals, businesses, and nonprofits that help make Statesville, North Carolina, thrive.

Unfortunately, our work here will keep me from joining them. As we recognize the great work local organizations like the Statesville Chamber do to help local businesses compete, we should remain focused on the task of keeping Washington out of their way.

We have passed numerous bills in the House to cut through bureaucracy and get the government out of the way of job creators.

In the last week of February, the House passed one such bill: the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act. UMITA would require new Federal rules and regulations to undergo more complete and accurate cost analyses.

With regulations estimated to impose over 87 million hours of paperwork on American businesses, I hope this bill passes the Senate with the same bipartisan support it received in the House.

HONORING JIM SPEARS, DANIEL LETOURNEAU, AND DWAYNE DAVIDSON

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of heroes in society. They include moms and dads, doctors, nurses, and teachers, and those who go above and beyond to help others at great risk to themselves.

I want to recognize three examples of such bravery today: Jim Spears, Daniel Letourneau, and Dwayne Davidson—all UPS employees—who risked their lives to help a stranger whose van had flipped multiple times on an icy highway outside of Indianapolis.

The victim was stuck in her vehicle, and their selfless actions kept her from further harm. The beneficiary of their selfless acts said: "The goodness of people in this world is so great . . . and there are truly great people out there who we should appreciate." Well said.

Last week I had the opportunity to meet Jim, David, and Dwayne. Today, I want to commend them for their bravery and thank them for reminding us what it truly means to be a hero.