

those teachings and my core beliefs in humanity.

We can all do better. Some of us may need a hand up in order to get by, but that doesn't mean that they are lesser people for it. They deserve our respect, and they deserve our help while they are struggling.

It is hard to be poor, and because of many of the actions that have been taken by this Congress, it is even harder to get out of poverty.

Dr. Bosworth should apologize to the 46 million of her fellow Americans who need SNAP to put food on their tables. She should apologize to the nearly 50 million of her fellow Americans who struggle with hunger and don't know where their next meal will come from, and Republicans should repudiate her disgusting remarks.

I am an optimist. I believe we can end hunger, and I believe we can end poverty in America, if we just make the commitment to do so, but hurtful rhetoric like this simply divides us and does nothing to help us achieve the worthy goal of ending hunger now.

Hunger is a political condition. We have the food, and we have the ability to make certain that nobody in this country goes hungry, but we lack the political will; and demonizing the poor, as so many in this Chamber have done and continue to do so, is a sad commentary on this Congress.

Our government has a special obligation to the most vulnerable. It is time we lived up to that obligation. The war against the poor must stop.

IN SUPPORT OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Charter Schools Week. In preparation for National Charter Schools Week, I visited a lot of charter schools that are in my district that I had not yet visited, and I took some time to understand what exactly they do that is unique and different from other charter schools.

What I found is that a school, a curriculum, and a student body that was fitting in one place was very different in another charter. What I learned is that diversity actually delivers a better result for those student populations.

There was Pinnacle Classical Academy in Shelby, North Carolina, a charter that utilizes a classical learning model focused on providing their students with the skills they need to succeed in the 21st Century.

Then there was Evergreen Community Charter School in Asheville. Evergreen employs a holistic education model with a goal of teaching their students the importance of environmental stewardship and community service.

Finally, this past week, I visited Mountain Island Charter School in

Mount Holly. Mountain Island has a traditional curriculum focused on building the character of students and instilling a spirit for community within them.

Each one of those three charter schools, as well as the others that are in my district and, I think, across America, have a unique learning environment. What I have found in these schools is that these students flourish in that right environment, and there is a unique environment for every student to find success. One student's successful environment is so different than another.

While each school was different, their similarities highlight the benefits of charters. Each school utilizes a challenging curriculum that encourages not just the students, but their parents as well, to stay involved. That parental involvement is such an important part of the educational process.

After each of these visits, it is clear that our educational system would hugely benefit by expanding access to charter schools. I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 10.

I look forward to voting for it this week, in the hopes of giving all American children greater access to quality charter schools and educational opportunities of their choice and their parents' choice, so that we have a better-educated workforce and a stronger America.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NEED A VOTE ON EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it has been 1 month since the Senate acted in a bipartisan fashion to pass emergency unemployment extension.

Just hours after the Senate acted, I introduced a bill, H.R. 4415, the same language passed by the Senate. It is fully paid for, would not increase the deficit, unlike the hundreds of billions of dollars in permanent tax breaks that the Republican leadership intends to bring to the floor this week.

A month later, we still have no vote scheduled for extending unemployment insurance for millions of Americans—no vote, despite the fact that over 150 Members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans, have cosponsored H.R. 4415; no vote, despite the fact that 2.6 million Americans have already lost this important benefit and 2.8 million will have lost that benefit by the end of the month, almost 3 million Americans; no vote, with 72,000 individuals, hardworking Americans, every week at risk of losing their unemployment insurance if we don't act.

Helping jobless Americans who are actively looking for work is not only the right thing to do, but we have done this before. We have done this under Democratic administrations and Republican administrations. It is not a

handout. It is simply a lifeline to help those folks who have lost their job stay above ground, above water, before they get their next job.

This should not be a partisan issue; yet, yesterday, the Republican leadership said no to letting some of these jobless Americans testify at a Capitol Hill hearing. We were locked out of the room that we had requested.

2.8 million jobless Americans, they may be invisible to the House Republican leadership, but they will not be silenced.

While they were locked out of the hearing room at the Rayburn House Office Building, I and other Members joined these unemployed Americans yesterday, went to the steps of the Capitol, and listened to them as they told their stories. This is their Capitol; it is not ours. It belongs to them, and their voices deserve to be heard.

I also asked hardworking Americans who are unemployed to tweet and email me their stories. My newsfeed and inbox was flooded with stories of people just trying to get by, struggling to pay their rent, struggling to feed their families as they continue to be denied a vote in the House of Representatives to renew unemployment insurance.

They have continued to be denied their voice in the House of Representatives, and this is the people's House. So what I would like to do with my remaining time is just tell a few of the stories that have come in. Lynette B. says:

We just received our foreclosure letter on our home. I am 49 years old, and this is certainly not where I see myself at this age. I am educated, and I have been applying to no less than three jobs per day, only to not get a reply to most of them, or else I am overqualified.

Jennifer S., this is Jennifer and her family:

I never thought I would be in this position, unemployed and worrying about feeding my two growing boys, 14 and 9. I have had to go to food pantries to keep food on the table. I am behind in my car payment and the utilities since my unemployment benefits stopped December 28.

Laura B. writes:

I need the extension, so I can afford to keep the Internet on to look for jobs and afford the gas to go to interviews. It's very hard out there, and there are so many unemployed people looking for each job, that the chances are slim.

Angela M. writes:

Please help with UI. I have lost almost everything, sold my car, pawned my wedding rings, selling furniture to keep a rented roof over my kids' heads.

Elaine G. writes:

I live with my 27-year-old daughter and sleep on an air mattress. I have no phone. I complete job applications now and ask employers to contact me through email. I expect, any day, that my car will be repossessed, as soon as the finance company is able to locate the car.

Carol C. writes:

Come June 1, I will have to leave my apartment. My car, phone, Internet will be gone.