

The Jobs and Growth Tax Act will generate nearly 1 million jobs by the end of next year by putting more money in the hands of consumers and giving businesses incentives to hire and invest.

The naysayers ask how can we afford a tax relief plan at a time when our country faces so many challenges. The real question ought to be how can we expect to meet those challenges while our economy is growing too slowly.

As Rick Wagoner, the chairman of General Motors, said when he endorsed the President's plan, "Growth goes a long way toward addressing what ails you."

Let us take that advice and create economic growth by passing the Jobs and Growth Tax Act. Vote "yes" on H.R. 2.

REJECT EDUCATION FUNDING CUTS

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on this House to reject the administration's education cuts. As a former superintendent of my State's public schools, I worked my entire life to improve education for our children.

Last Congress the administration promised to provide historic new funding to help our schools meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. Because of these promises, I voted with the overwhelming bipartisan majority to pass that legislation.

Now, as our schools struggle to avoid being labeled failing by the Department of Education, the administration has proposed massive cuts in educational funding. For the first 3 years of No Child Left Behind, the administration is proposing to underfund it by nearly \$20 billion. These education cuts will make it virtually impossible for our children and schools to meet the tough new standards imposed by the Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker, my State has led the Nation in raising performance standards in our schools, but tough requirements without real resources will amount to nothing but cruelty for our children and schools. Congress should call time out on the No Child Left Behind Act until the administration provides the funding it has promised to make it work.

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INCREASING BONUS DEPRECIATION PROVIDES IMMEDIATE JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

(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, I rise today to applaud the jobs and growth plan developed by the

gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. He has worked hard to include the best of President George W. Bush's solutions to provide more jobs for Americans and giving our economy an immediate boost. Particularly I am appreciative that bonus depreciation will be increased from 30 to 50 percent for 3 years, an initiative similar to the Business Expensing Act of 2003, which I introduced this year. This proposal was championed by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER), recognizing that when businesses can save money immediately on buying new equipment more money is put into the economy and more jobs are created.

The Heritage Foundation has estimated that this jobs and growth plan will create 1.2 million new jobs by the end of 2004 alone. Americans need jobs and the economy needs a boost right now. This plan is exactly the right plan at the right time.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

VOTE AGAINST WORKFORCE REINVESTMENT AND ADULT EDUCATION ACT

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against H.R. 1261, the Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act. The unemployment rate in this country jumped to 6 percent last month, leaving 8.8 million Americans without a job. The Republican response to this crisis is a very weak bill that does nothing to create jobs for American workers. The bill also eliminates funding to provide job search and job training assistance to dislocated workers and to those affected by these mass layoffs. Moreover, this bill does nothing to restore the \$440 million in cuts already imposed on the job training programs of this Nation, nor does it protect against an additional \$265 million in proposed cuts for fiscal year 2004.

We need to enact legislation that creates jobs. This bill, coupled with another large tax cut, does nothing to help low-income workers who need relief from this struggling economy. What will it take for this administration to realize that their plans are not working? 7 percent unemployment? 10 percent unemployment?

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 1261 and the other legislation that leaves our Nation's unemployed workers behind.

IN SUPPORT OF THE TAX CUT PLAN

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I come from the Great Lakes

State of Michigan, the home to the big three auto industry companies who are, of course, all absolutely outstanding corporate citizens. Following the terrorist attacks on our Nation on September 11, the big three helped keep our economy moving by offering incentives, like zero interest financing. Without, I think, this very innovative idea, I believe we could have seen an even steeper downturn in our economy.

The economy needs stimulus and the President has offered a very strong jobs and economic growth package which I wholeheartedly support. During the President's recent visit to our State of Michigan, the leaders of the big three auto companies all endorsed the President's jobs package as the best idea to keep our economy rolling. They observed that by eliminating the double taxation of dividends that we would bring about a 6 to 15 percent increase in stock prices. Of course this would help employers to meet their responsibilities to retirees living on a pension and bolster the bottom line of every American with a 401(k).

The President's plan is the best way that we can help families and retirees by putting more money back in their pockets and allowing businesses to create more jobs. I support the President's plan, and I urge my colleagues to do so.

CONGRESS UNDERFUNDING NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND BILL

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, a few months ago on a bipartisan basis, we voted for the so-called Leave No Child Behind bill. But in the interim period, we have failed to meet our obligations, obligations that we have under that bill. We are underfunding the No Child Left Behind bill by \$11 billion. Yet the students across this country are going to be subjected to the tests mandated under that bill, the States are going to be required to fund these unfunded mandates and it is estimated that perhaps as many as 60 to 80 percent of our schools will be called failing schools.

Mr. Speaker, our students are not failing, our teachers are not failing, our schools are not failing. I will tell you who is failing: The President and those of us who serve in this Chamber. We are failing our schools, our teachers and our students.

RECOGNIZING UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AND ITS NEW CENTER FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (CART)

(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, I rise today to recognize an institution of

higher learning in my district, the University of North Texas and their Center for Advanced Research and Technology. This university's investment into research provides a unique opportunity to provide an incubator for interdisciplinary research with experimentation in material science, computer science and engineering. The university's goal is to provide the capabilities necessary to satisfy the growing technological and engineering needs of the north Texas region and for the talented faculty to advance research on projects of national importance associated with nanotechnology.

The University of North Texas had the foresight to invest in this facility and has taken the first step to serve as the region's research arm for nanotechnology research and all of the promise that this new branch of science holds. Once the center is fully established, it will serve as a focal point for basic and applied research. It will be the first high-tech entrepreneurial research and development park in Denton County, one of the fastest growing communities in the United States.

I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the University of North Texas in their quest to keep America on the cutting edge of research and development.

THE PRESIDENT'S JOBS AND GROWTH PACKAGE

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

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in his first year in office, President Bush has put his MBA to the test and he has passed with very high marks. Through a recession, a terrorist attack and a war, the President has amply demonstrated leadership, helping businesses and their workers pull through some pretty tough times. The President and House Republicans understand a simple concept: When America works, America prospers. And the best way to foster that prosperity is by giving businesses the tools they need to create jobs and to grow the economy. Government does not tax things. Government taxes people. When workers and business owners are not allowed to keep the money they earn, productivity suffers, wages decline and research and development gets postponed. That is why the President's jobs and growth plan is so vital, because one American out of work is too many. When America works, America grows. When America works, America prospers. And when America works, America is proud.

Let us get to work along with the President, exert some leadership and get this country back to work.

NATO ENLARGEMENT

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, today this Member rises to inform the House that the United States Senate a few minutes ago by a vote of 96-0 voted to give its advice and consent to U.S. ratification of the NATO enlargement protocols. The lines drawn across Europe at Yalta are gone. By its action today on the 58th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, the Senate has approved the membership of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia in the North Atlantic Alliance.

According to the Constitution, it is the Senate that must give its advice and consent to treaty protocols. But, Mr. Speaker, this Member must note the leading role that this Chamber has played in promoting the admission into NATO of the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe. The decision to admit former Communist countries from Central and Eastern Europe into the Atlantic Alliance is one of the great success stories in American foreign policy since the end of the Cold War. It is a bipartisan success, promoted by Republicans and Democrats in the Congress and by both the Clinton and Bush administrations. The seven nations across the face of Eastern and Central Europe that join NATO are democracies that will help build a stronger North Atlantic Alliance. Having fought so long and hard to gain their freedom, these nations know how very precious freedom is.

I ask all the states of the NATO nations to give their approval under their national processes as Canada, Norway and now the United States have done.

AMERICA STANDS WITH ISRAEL

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, America stands with Israel. This weekend as the Secretary of State begins a key phase of negotiations in the road map for peace, I am confident he will remember this core value of the American people. America is not a neutral party in the negotiations in the Middle East. We are not, nor do we aspire to be, an honest broker. America stands with Israel.

In this vein yesterday in the Committee on International Relations, we adopted the Lantos amendment to the State Department authorization bill demanding a Palestinian first approach to concessions. The Palestinian Authority must first recognize Israel's right to exist, hunt down terrorists and dismantle terrorist infrastructure before Israel can be expected to make any concessions on the path to peace.

I pray for the peace of Jerusalem and I pray that Prime Minister Abbas and his Cabinet will defeat the terrorists within their midst and choose life for their people in that war-torn region.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1261, WORKFORCE REINVESTMENT AND ADULT EDUCATION ACT OF 2003

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 221 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 221

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1261) to enhance the workforce investment system of the Nation by strengthening one-stop career centers, providing for more effective governance arrangements, promoting access to a more comprehensive array of employment, training, and related services, establishing a targeted approach to serving youth, and improving performance accountability, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 221 is a structured but fair rule providing for