

PASS U.S.-KOREA TRADE AGREEMENT

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if we want good jobs for our families, it is no longer enough to buy American; we have to sell American, sell our products and services throughout the world. The good news is that, since January, what we are selling overseas is growing faster than what America is buying from overseas.

The way to sustain that positive trend is to keep finding new customers like Peru and Panama, Colombia and South Korea. If we are serious about creating better jobs, Congress should pass the U.S.-Korea free trade agreement this year. Korea is one of the top ten economies in the world. They are our seventh largest customer, and an even bigger customer for America's agricultural community.

This agreement will give us access to nearly 50 million new customers and open the door to competing better in the entire Asian market, including against China. This agreement will lower border taxes and barriers to America's manufacturers, technology, insurance and financial services companies, our farmers and ranchers.

This fall, Congress needs to spend less time settling old political scores and more time opening up markets for good old American products in Korea.

WAIT FOR PETRAEUS REPORT

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, we are all anticipating the report David Petraeus will bring us in mid-September. But between now and then, there is hard work, dangerous work, and important work that has to be done.

For Members on the other side of the aisle to begin to anticipate what David may say to us and to plan political spinning of that is irresponsible.

Mr. Speaker, that is the "ready, fire, aim" approach to taking a position. That works well in a target-rich environment like the Alamo or Little Bighorn, but it is unworthy of Members of this body.

Let's don't anticipate what David might say. Let's don't undermine that work that is going on in Iraq. Let's take the responsible position and listen to what he has to say before we try to spin it.

ELIMINATE TRADE BARRIERS

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is a fundamental freedom of the Amer-

ican people to purchase products in an open, competitive market. International trade is the key to opening more markets for more American consumers. More trade means more competition, and competition means families can buy more using less of their paychecks. More trade also means expanded opportunities for American exporters and job creation.

Many Democrats claim that trade, for some reason, is a bad thing for our economy. They are wrong. The facts show that trade has had a very good impact on our economy. Approximately 12 million, or 10 percent, of all U.S. jobs depend on exports. One in five factory jobs depend on international Federal trade.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has emphasized that because of increased trade since World War II, U.S. annual incomes have been boosted over \$10,000 per household. And if we would just eliminate all remaining trade barriers, U.S. incomes would rise anywhere from \$4,000 to \$12,000.

We in Congress may have the power, but do we have the right to deny Americans better incomes and better opportunities by preventing them from buying cheaper products overseas? I say "no."

PASS PENDING TRADE AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass several pending trade agreements. I believe in the benefits of free and fair trade. I support efforts to open foreign markets to American goods and services whenever possible because such efforts lead to increased economic growth for the Nation as a whole.

With approximately one in every four jobs in my congressional district being tied to trade, the expansion of trade means a healthy future for a number of local businesses, and in turn, new jobs for my district and the Nation.

It is disappointing that the Democratic majority has not embraced these trade agreements, as they would mean new jobs for citizens across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I remain committed to the benefits of free and fair trade, and I urge this House to take action on these agreements.

PROMOTING HEALTH CARE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, according to Medicare trustees, that program requires an immediate 51 percent cut, a payroll tax increase of 122 percent, or a blend of both to keep the program running during the next 75 years.

Worse yet, the trustees assume that a separate 41 percent cut in payments for Medicare physician services will happen during the next 9 years. The American Academy of Actuaries reports, without congressional action, Medicare and Social Security will consume up to 80 percent of the Federal budget by 2040.

How, then, does a key member of Ways and Means Committee contend that Medicare is already "solvent and sustainable"?

Washington needs to pull its head out of the sand. Ignoring Medicare's financial problems will only make the solutions more painful for generations of taxpayers and retirees.

And now, the Democrats want to expand SCHIP with questionable means to pay for it. Short of comprehensive reform, Congress should at least make it easier for our shrinking workforce to save for future health care needs, including the rising cost of Medicare premiums.

I urge my colleagues to support the Promoting Health for Future Generations Act of 2007, H.R. 2639. Doing so will help the middle class to build a nest egg, while protecting access to affordable health care.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for enacting the free trade agreements with our allies, democracies in Latin America like Colombia, Peru and Panama.

I am disappointed, frankly, that the Democratic leadership has broken the agreement they made with the administration in May to bring these vital trade agreements to the floor. We have not seen them yet.

Enactment of these important agreements will strengthen the economies of our democratic allies in the region, as well as our own.

I am a strong supporter of free trade with these free nations, and I will continue to work with my colleagues to enact free trade agreements this year and to hold the Democratic leadership's feet to the fire to make sure that they do not break their agreement that they entered into in May.

KILL CONGRESSIONAL PENSIONS FOR FELONS

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, Congress should kill the pension for Members of Congress convicted of a felony. In January, I offered legislation, H.R. 14, that killed a pension on the conviction of any one of 21 public integrity felonies. Both Speaker PELOSI and Hastert voted for this reform.

But the bill we consider today leaves congressional pensions intact for violating 17 of these felonies, including income tax evasion, wire fraud, intimidation to secure contributions, and making fraudulent claims.

In January, we passed a limited reform bill that killed a pension for conviction of only four felonies. But shockingly, this bill has now been gutted.

In January we voted to kill the pension for a Member of Congress convicted of acting as a foreign agent, but this felony has now been deleted from the final package. Who deleted it? Is it okay for a Member of Congress convicted of a felony by acting as a foreign agent?

As you can see, the bill we will consider today falls far short of its potential for reform. A Member convicted of acting as a foreign agent should not receive a taxpayer pension.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later today.

HONEST LEADERSHIP AND OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1) to provide greater transparency in the legislative process, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 1

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

TITLE I—CLOSING THE REVOLVING DOOR

Sec. 101. Amendments to restrictions on former officers, employees, and elected officials of the executive and legislative branches.

Sec. 102. Wrongfully influencing a private entity’s employment decisions or practices.

Sec. 103. Notification of post-employment restrictions.

Sec. 104. Exception to restrictions on former officers, employees, and elected officials of the executive and legislative branch.

Sec. 105. Effective date.

TITLE II—FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING

Sec. 201. Quarterly filing of lobbying disclosure reports.

Sec. 202. Additional disclosure.

Sec. 203. Semiannual reports on certain contributions.

Sec. 204. Disclosure of bundled contributions.

Sec. 205. Electronic filing of lobbying disclosure reports.

Sec. 206. Prohibition on provision of gifts or travel by registered lobbyists to Members of Congress and to congressional employees.

Sec. 207. Disclosure of lobbying activities by certain coalitions and associations.

Sec. 208. Disclosure by registered lobbyists of past executive branch and congressional employment.

Sec. 209. Public availability of lobbying disclosure information; maintenance of information.

Sec. 210. Disclosure of enforcement for non-compliance.

Sec. 211. Increased civil and criminal penalties for failure to comply with lobbying disclosure requirements.

Sec. 212. Electronic filing and public database for lobbyists for foreign governments.

Sec. 213. Comptroller General audit and annual report.

Sec. 214. Sense of Congress.

Sec. 215. Effective date.

TITLE III—MATTERS RELATING TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sec. 301. Disclosure by Members and staff of employment negotiations.

Sec. 302. Prohibition on lobbying contacts with spouse of Member who is a registered lobbyist.

Sec. 303. Treatment of firms and other businesses whose members serve as House committee consultants.

Sec. 304. Posting of travel and financial disclosure reports on public website of Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Sec. 305. Prohibiting participation in lobbyist-sponsored events during political conventions.

Sec. 306. Exercise of rulemaking Authority.

TITLE IV—CONGRESSIONAL PENSION ACCOUNTABILITY

Sec. 401. Loss of pensions accrued during service as a Member of Congress for abusing the public trust.

TITLE V—SENATE LEGISLATIVE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Subtitle A—Procedural Reform

Sec. 511. Amendments to rule XXVIII.

Sec. 512. Notice of objecting to proceeding.

Sec. 513. Public availability of Senate committee and subcommittee meetings.

Sec. 514. Amendments and motions to recommit.

Sec. 515. Sense of the Senate on conference committee protocols.

Subtitle B—Earmark Reform

Sec. 521. Congressionally directed spending.

Subtitle C—Revolving Door Reform

Sec. 531. Post-employment restrictions.

Sec. 532. Disclosure by Members of Congress and staff of employment negotiations.

Sec. 533. Elimination of floor privileges for former Members, Senate officers, and Speakers of the House who are registered lobbyists or seek financial gain.

Sec. 534. Influencing hiring decisions.
Sec. 535. Notification of post-employment restrictions.

Subtitle D—Gift and Travel Reform

Sec. 541. Ban on gifts from registered lobbyists and entities that hire registered lobbyists.

Sec. 542. National party conventions.

Sec. 543. Proper valuation of tickets to entertainment and sporting events.

Sec. 544. Restrictions on registered lobbyist participation in travel and disclosure.

Sec. 545. Free attendance at a constituent event.

Sec. 546. Senate privately paid travel public website.

Subtitle E—Other Reforms

Sec. 551. Compliance with lobbying disclosure.

Sec. 552. Prohibit official contact with spouse or immediate family member of Member who is a registered lobbyist.

Sec. 553. Mandatory Senate ethics training for Members and staff.

Sec. 554. Annual report by Select Committee on Ethics.

Sec. 555. Exercise of rulemaking powers.

Sec. 555. Effective date and general provisions.

TITLE VI—PROHIBITED USE OF PRIVATE AIRCRAFT

Sec. 601. Restrictions on Use of Campaign Funds for Flights on Non-commercial Aircraft.

TITLE VII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 701. Sense of the Congress that any applicable restrictions on congressional officials and employees should apply to the executive and judicial branches.

Sec. 702. Knowing and willful falsification or failure to report.

Sec. 703. Rule of construction.

TITLE I—CLOSING THE REVOLVING DOOR

SEC. 101. AMENDMENTS TO RESTRICTIONS ON FORMER OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, AND ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES.

(a) VERY SENIOR EXECUTIVE PERSONNEL.—The matter after subparagraph (C) in section 207(d)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “within 1 year” and inserting “within 2 years”.

(b) RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND EMPLOYEES OF CONGRESS.—Subsection (e) of section 207 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (9);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (3) through (7), respectively;

(3) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE.—

“(A) SENATORS.—Any person who is a Senator and who, within 2 years after that person leaves office, knowingly makes, with the intent to influence, any communication to or appearance before any Member, officer, or employee of either House of Congress or any employee of any other legislative office of the Congress, on behalf of any other person (except the United States) in connection with any matter on which such former Senator seeks action by a Member, officer, or employee of either House of Congress, in his or her official capacity, shall be punished as provided in section 216 of this title.

“(B) MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—(i) Any person who is