

The comprehensive nature of these prohibitions will leave our fishermen with little or no alternative for their economic livelihood. These prohibitions, compounded by a reduction in tourism throughout south Florida, and that includes the Florida Keys, will force generations of Florida fishermen to walk away from their boats in search of other types of employment. This is unacceptable.

That is why I have called on Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke to reconsider these ill-timed proposals. Additionally, I have asked Secretary Locke to refrain from implementing any emergency rules which impose short-term restrictions on Florida's fisheries. These emergency rulings completely circumvent the public comment process, which is an essential element to any fishery management plan. Sound science is also a critical component to sound management.

My congressional colleagues and I have called on the House Natural Resources Committee to conduct a hearing on the legislation introduced by Congressman JOHN MICA and Congressman HENRY BROWN which would require the Department of Commerce to conduct a non-biased, science-based study on the health of the red snapper population in the South Atlantic.

My colleagues from Florida understand that scientific data collection processes need to be improved, and economic impacts must be taken into account when considering a fishery closure. I have also asked the Department of Commerce to provide economic assistance to those fishermen and businesses that cannot survive the restrictions that are being implemented.

For Keys recreational angler Andy Griffith, the upcoming 4-month grouper closure has resulted in a 90 percent loss of business for the 2010 fishing season. His season for 2010 will only be 2 months long. For the rest of the year his boats will sit by the dock racking up insurance costs. Fishermen like Andy need economic relief. They need our help.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, last amended by Congress in the year 2007, directs how the Federal Government will manage saltwater fisheries. But the lack of flexibility provided to local managers in this law is of serious concern to many of us. That is why I support legislation which would amend the Magnuson-Stevens Act to provide flexibility to State regulators and regional fishery management councils in their work to rebuild healthy fisheries.

Mr. Speaker, the livelihood of Florida's fishing industry demands that we act.

HOUSING CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, unemployment and foreclosures are on the

rise. In my hometown of Toledo, Ohio, unemployment is officially at 11.1 percent, but that is just those who are looking for jobs. The real number is much higher as so many people have dropped out or are working part time and they really want full-time jobs. Many, many more people are discouraged and are no longer trying to find jobs. Kids are moving in with their parents. These are people, many of whom are losing their homes. The housing crisis continues.

Before the financial crisis unfolded, our housing crisis was unfolding. In fact, it triggered the financial crisis. Congress acted, passing the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 at the end of July last year. I didn't vote for it because I knew it would not work. And you know what, it hasn't worked.

The HOPE for Homeowners program has failed so miserably that HUD had to change the program, and Congress since has had to pass fixes to try to get more participation into it. It hasn't worked. As of mid-July this year, the program that the Congressional Budget Office estimated would help up to 400,000 people rework their mortgages has closed 50. Fifty mortgages. That's five-zero, from a program that was supposed to help 400,000 people. Fifty homeowners have been helped?

The administration announced the Making Homes Affordable Program in February, released rules and regulations in March, and they told us that the program would help 3 million to 4 million homeowners. As of September 30, Treasury reported that 758,000 modification offers, listen to the words, my friends, had been extended with 487,000 trial modifications begun. Hmm. I will be interested to hear when the first modification moved from a trial to a real modification that actually kept somebody, a real person or family, in their homes.

There is no peace for the family while they are in this trial period. They still have to have a backup plan in case something falls through. They are still stressed beyond what you and I can imagine.

The servicers get to sit back and wait, keep making their money. Either way, they make plenty, either from the homeowner or from the government. They have got it at both ends. This program probably won't even help a handful of homeowners.

So we have just 487,000 homeowners with these trial modifications out of the millions of people who are losing their homes. Now that's not 4 million people, like the program said it would take care of. And again, it is just trial modifications. Trial, not real. They get 3 months to show they can handle the modification payments. What happens if they lose their job? If they have already lost their job, unemployment income does not count as income for modification. Can you believe that? We can still tax it, but it does not count to banksters and servicers when they are

looking to rack up fees, kick people out, sell the homes for a fraction of what they are worth and maybe pull a profit; and if not, they move that property and destroy the stability of the family that once resided in the home.

I still hear that servicers and banks are hard to work with on modifications. Boy, is that an understatement.

I heard that the Making Homes Affordable Program isn't working. Well, it isn't. The solutions are not working because the system does not work. The housing crisis will continue as long as the job situation is so poor. It takes employment to make house payments. It takes workouts to keep people in their homes, even with lease-to-own programs over a 40-year mortgage.

That is why I am joining my colleague, BOBBY RUSH, in forming the Jobs Now Caucus. Please join us in taking a stand for putting our communities, our families, our Nation back to work and keeping them in their homes. This new caucus will advocate for policy initiatives that stimulate and maintain a strong economy that is based on sustainable development that will lead to one common goal across the political spectrum: Creating jobs again in America.

The American people want to work. Employment brings stability, and the ability to stay in your home or buy a home and build your community makes this Nation truly strong. Please join Congressman BOBBY RUSH, myself, and Congresswoman CANDICE MILLER in our bipartisan Jobs Now Caucus.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GRAYSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ABOLITION OF THE ESTATE TAX

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress and the administration to permanently eliminate a punitive tax that has plagued family farms and businesses for over 100 years. The estate tax only serves as a double taxation to those who have worked tirelessly to build their estates for themselves and their family. These entrepreneurs are not only working for themselves; they are working for their children and their grandchildren, and future generations of Americans.

Building a small business from the ground up is the very fabric of the

American dream, and the estate tax tears that fabric apart. This punitive tax inflicts great harm on the hard-working families of America. The estate tax costs small business owners thousands of hours in manpower and millions of dollars in legal counsel. It is time to eliminate the estate tax.

Madam Speaker, I urge Congress to prioritize the quick and permanent abolition of the Federal estate tax in order to accelerate our economic recovery and foster a greater environment for business and rural development.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEAL of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BRANDON M. STYER, U.S. ARMY, OF LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Private First Class Brandon M. Styer of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

On October 15 of this year, Brandon lost his life from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Kandahar province, Afghanistan.

Brandon exhibited a willingness and enthusiasm to serve and defend his country by joining the United States Army. He understood what it means to live a life with purpose. He served a cause greater than himself. He served the cause of liberty. He gave his life so that we might be safer.

Brandon told his father that he loved the camaraderie and excitement of serving in the Army. He enlisted just last year, his senior year at Conestoga Valley High School. Upon graduation, Brandon completed his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and

Fort Benning, Georgia. He then was transferred to Fort Carson, Colorado, for additional training.

In March of 2009, Brandon deployed to Iraq for 7 weeks before being transferred to Afghanistan. Assigned to the 569th Mobility Augmentation Company, Fourth Engineer Battalion as a combat engineer, Brandon worked to dismantle, remove, and destroy improvised explosive devices. The 569th MAC Company has a storied history of participating in campaigns in World War II and Vietnam and, more recently, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. It is entirely fitting that Brandon joined their ranks.

As an exceptional young man, Brandon was determined to serve our country and keep his fellow soldiers safe from roadside bombs. It is tragic that one of these bombs claimed his life.

Brandon was also a noble and selfless friend and family man, a compassionate son, brother, and uncle. He leaves behind a family proud of all that he accomplished throughout his distinguished life and career in the military. His valor and service cost him his life, but his sacrifice will live on forever among the many dedicated heroes this Nation has sent abroad to defend freedom.

Brandon earned a number of awards throughout his brief career in the Army, which demonstrates his professionalism and his outstanding ability as a soldier. His awards include the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon and Bar, and the Weapons Qualification Badge.

Posthumously, Brandon received the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the NATO Medal, and the Combat Action Badge.

May God grant to Brandon's family the peace that surpasses all understanding. Our prayers and most heartfelt gratitude go out to them, and I offer them my deepest condolences.

I am humbled by the dedicated service and sacrifice of their loved one.

Brandon joins the revered ranks of the many thousands of men and women throughout American history who have gone before him in battle to secure the freedom of the people of United States of America and people around the world.

He is an inspiration to us all.

AMERICANS DESERVE MORE THAN OVER-THE-TOP RHETORIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in recent floor speeches and in numerous media appearances, some Members of Congress continue to repeat the mis-

taken idea that a significant number of people will die automatically because of lack of access to health insurance. Now, as Franklin Roosevelt said, "Repetition does not transform a lie into truth." The American people deserve better than this kind of rhetoric. The American people deserve a Congress that can work together to find solutions to our most pressing problems.

This argument is based upon a questionable study conducted by biased researchers, inaccurate characterizations, and faulty ideas. Oftentimes these Members quote from a Harvard study, which estimates that 45,000 deaths per year in the United States are associated with the lack of health insurance. What they neglected to tell you was that the two authors of this study, Dr. Himmelstein and Dr. Woolhandler, are cofounders of the Physicians for a National Health Program. And what do they support? This program supports government-backed, single-payer health coverage.

In fact, Dr. Woolhandler testified before the Energy and Commerce Committee, where I serve on the Health Subcommittee, on June 24. What did he testify on? On the absolute need, in his opinion, for a single-payer system. So he is totally biased. This report reflects his demand and his desire for a one-payer system. It's clear that this study was conducted by researchers who knew what they wanted the outcome to show before they even conducted the study.

Furthermore, this study used questionable methodology to reach its conclusion. According to analysis by John Goodman of the National Center for Policy Analysis, the authors of this Harvard study "interviewed the uninsured only once and never saw them again. A decade later, the researchers assumed that participants were still uninsured"—this is after 10 years they assumed it—"and, if they died in the interim, lack of insurance was blamed as one of the causes." Obviously, that's faulty logic.

Yet, like unemployment, uninsurance happens to many people for short periods of time. It happens to a lot of people. Most people who are uninsured again regain insurance within 1 year, yet they forgot about this statistic. The authors of this study did not track what happened to the insurance status of the subjects over the decade examined, what medical care they received, or even the causes of their death. How can they make those claims?

In Massachusetts, for example—the public option here in Congress is patterned after Massachusetts. It has the highest percentage of its residents insured in the United States at 97 percent. We can see the effects of a government-run health care system by looking at Massachusetts. According to a 2009 survey by Merritt Hawkins & Associates, there is a 63-day wait to see a family medical doctor in Boston, the longest of the 15 cities surveyed. This