

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

ATTAIN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Achievement Through Technology and Innovation Act of 2009.

The 111th Congress begins in an era of continued shrinking school budgets, overcrowded schools, and overextended teachers. On an individual and on a national level, these factors have dire consequences. The individual consequence is that millions of American children may never realize their full potential or the promise of the American dream.

The national consequence is that our country loses the benefits of our children's talents and their potential to become our Nation's next generation of leaders in education, science, law, research, economics, engineering and all the key disciplines that have helped to make our Nation the greatest in the world.

While there is no easy or single answer to the complex problems of education in our country, there are steps we can take now to put us on the path toward a quality education for all our children. One such step is to make technology literacy a priority and an integral part of every educational system in the country.

From credible studies, we know technology can have a tremendous positive impact on student learning. This is especially evident in low income and minority communities where students are vulnerable to falling behind and learning 21st century skills critical to individual success and to America's success in today's world economy.

Whether preparing for college or going directly into the workforce, students are increasingly required to have the high-tech skills employers and the world market continue to demand.

Therefore, it is a tragedy that in the United States today we have high dropout rates that exceed 50 percent and school districts that cannot keep up with the technology needs of their students. Passage of the ATTAIN Act will help us to address these serious problems.

For example, at the School for Global Studies in my district, I had the oppor-

tunity to see firsthand the benefits and the life-changing impact teaching with technology has on a child's life.

While touring the school, I met some of the students who confided that if it were not for the meaningful technology program at Global Studies, they probably would have dropped out of school and ended up in some serious trouble. Instead, these students are excited about learning and excited about their future.

The excitement and the hope students feel at Global Studies is what every child in our country deserves to feel about their education and the promise of their future. The ATTAIN Act will help to make that possibility a reality for all our children.

The ATTAIN Act would amend the Enhancing Education Through Technology program and the No Child Left Behind Act. Currently, the No Child Left Behind Act allocates 50 percent of technology education funds to schools with disadvantaged students through formula grants. The ATTAIN Act would increase that percentage to 60 percent. This funding would be used to purchase new technology and train teachers on how to effectively use these new tools.

The remaining 40 percent of ATTAIN funds would be distributed through competitive grants that encourage schools to undertake comprehensive, technology based, reform initiatives that have been proven to increase student achievement.

Madam Speaker, we know that when teachers are properly trained and schools are properly equipped with technology, students are engaged, eager to learn, and ultimately better prepared to address and to lead our country to meet the challenges of the 21st century. We have already lost the untapped talents of thousands of our young people.

Passage of the ATTAIN Act will help to reverse this tremendous loss of unrealized potential.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the ATTAIN Act and help with its passage.

BAILOUTS, TARP AND STIMULUS PACKAGES

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam Speaker, there is a lot of talk these days about rescue plans and bailouts and TARP and stimulus packages. Let's take a minute to reflect on what has happened. Back in October we passed, and the President signed, a rescue plan which created the Troubled Asset Recovery Plan, so-called TARP.

There are those here on both sides of the aisle who believe that that didn't help, that that didn't do anything. Well, you know, you never get credit for bad things that don't happen.

Let me assure you, Madam Speaker, that the financial system of this coun-

try was on the verge of collapse, and we averted that collapse because of two things, because of the unprecedented and aggressive monetary action of the Federal Reserve, but also because of the rescue plan and the TARP that we passed and deployed back last October.

Now, you say, however, you averted financial collapse, but what's going on now? Look at unemployment, look at the economy.

What we were trying to avoid then was literally the collapse or the lack of function of our financial system and our financial structure. It was about to implode and to stop working at all.

It is still working, not as well as it should, not normally, but it is still working, and it gets a little better every day.

But we knew at the time, and said at the time, that the damage that had been inflicted at that point was going to start to affect employment and start to affect economic growth, and, in fact, it has.

We now know that millions of people have lost their jobs, lost their homes, or lost their businesses. More people are losing their jobs, their homes and their businesses every day.

The economy continues to sink and we don't know where the bottom will be. We can't see it at this point.

So what are we doing now? What is the purpose of all this economic discussion we are having now? Just one thing, we can't stop the recession, it has already happened, we are already in it. We can't retroactively go back and get the homes and the jobs in the businesses that have already been lost.

But what we do want to do is to make this recession as short and as shallow as we can. If we do nothing, the recession will end at some point, as all recessions do.

But if we can have it end sooner and save millions of people their jobs, their homes or their businesses, then we should do so.

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So I believe we should act, and the first thing we should do is to continue the successful TARP program.

Now, some people say, well, it wasn't successful, because, look, we invested all this money in banks and they haven't started lending. In fact, much of the reason that they haven't started lending is because the financial condition of the banks is much worse than we all thought they were back last October. The money the banks got from the Federal Government merely enabled many of them to keep their current functions, but not to expand lending.

The additional money, which I think should be leveraged with private capital, in other words, a bank should only get future Federal Government TARP money if they go out and raise a matching amount of private capital so that we get more and more money in the financial system, such that they can have the capital from which they can begin to lend again.

And then there is the talk of a stimulus package, and I think we should have one. Again, I think the consequences of inaction are going to be very severe on this economy.

But there is one thing that the stimulus package should do. It should actually stimulate the economy, and do it quickly. If we wait a year or 18 months, the economy will probably find its own bottom. It will be a bad one, but it will find its own. What we need to do is things, stuff, that will take effect and have an impact in the next 6 months, largely, 1 year at the most, so we can prevent the loss of as many jobs and homes and businesses as we can.

Now, many people on both sides of the aisle are bringing up the same things and priorities that we all do, and that is great. I am a Republican. There is lots of tax cuts I like as a Republican. I know there is a lot of spending that Democrats like, and there is good arguments to do some of both. But we have a patient who has pneumonia, and if you say you should eat right and exercise, yes, you should. Eating right and exercise is always good. But if you have pneumonia, you need antibiotics, and telling the patient to eat right and exercise won't cure their pneumonia, and we need to cure the pneumonia first before we can eat right and exercise.

So we need things that are directly targeted towards the next 6 months in creating jobs, and one of the things I think we should do is look at the demand side of things. People are scared. People are afraid. Even people with jobs, with plenty of security. We should be stimulating people to buy homes and cars, and doing it quickly.

FORENSIC ACCOUNTING OF WALL STREET BANKS NEEDED

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I am glad I was here on the floor to respond to the prior Member who felt compelled to say that he thought the Wall Street bailout was working. I would like to know what evidence he has to prove that, since we have no forensic accounting of what the Wall Street banks that got all this money did with the money. Maybe he has some special access inside these institutions and can provide it to the RECORD, because I will tell you what happened yesterday.

I went before our Rules Committee and I proposed a very simple amendment. My amendment was that before we give one more dime of the people's money, we require the Treasury to do a forensic accounting of every bit of money that was sent up there to Wall Street. And I was denied my amendment.

There is no Member of this Congress that can say with accuracy, including the gentleman who just spoke, that he knows where the money is, because,

you know what? They haven't told us. All you know is what you have read in the newspapers, and how can we extend more money from the American people when we don't even know what happened to the money that went out the door?

So you can say whatever you want and create a fiction, but the fact is that foreclosures are going up across this country. That bill that was passed last year was supposed to help people hang onto their homes. In Ohio, foreclosures have gotten worse every month.

What I am telling people right now is, stay in your homes. If the American people, anybody out there is being foreclosed, don't leave, because I will tell you what. If you had a smart lawyer like those banks up there on Wall Street can get, they would take you into court and they couldn't find the mortgage. They couldn't find the mortgage.

So why should any American citizen be kicked out of their homes in this cold weather? In Ohio it is going to be 10 or 20 below zero. Don't leave your home. Because you know what? When those companies say they have your mortgage, unless you have a lawyer that can put his or her finger on that mortgage, you don't have that mortgage, and you are going to find they can't find the paper up there on Wall Street.

So I say to the American people, you be squatters in your own homes. Don't you leave. In Ohio and Michigan and Indiana and Illinois and all these other places our people are being treated like chattel, and this Congress is stymied. We have the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression and our committees are muzzled. Power is given to one chairman or one person.

We are all equal here. We have a right to be heard. The concerns of our constituents have a right to be registered in the committees of this House, not choked down as what is happening here today. It is just a tragedy. And if we don't fix the economic cure, it is going to get worse, and the cure is to go after the home foreclosure crisis.

Who does that? Treasury? No. That is absolutely the wrong place. We need the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Securities and Exchange Commission empowered to do the real estate workouts on books across this country. Those are the normal institutions that are used. And then you have got HUD there now with FHA that can take these mortgages once they are refinanced. But that is not what is happening across our country. There is no help for the homeowner. That whole section they talked about today, Help for Homeowners over at HUD, nobody has even benefited. We said last year they wouldn't, and that is exactly what has happened.

So I say to the American people, stay in your homes. You have earned them. And don't you get out until you get a really good lawyer who can find your

mortgage up there on Wall Street. Because, you know what? They won't be able to find it, and therefore they can't prove you should be evicted.

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

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

WHEN THE WELL RUNS DRY: A BIPARTISAN APPROACH TO ENTITLEMENT REFORM

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, our financial situation is at a critical mass. Everywhere you look, everything you read, more bad news, no end in sight. Of massive budget shortfalls President-elect Obama has said, "If we do nothing, we will continue to see red ink as far as we can see."

Last week, the Congressional Budget Office projected the Federal budget deficit will balloon to \$1.2 trillion this fiscal year, and that does not include the economic stimulus package proposed by the incoming administration. These staggering numbers are deeply troubling today and pose a dire choice for our children and our grandchildren.

Simply put, our Nation is slowly going broke. Without a change of course initiated by Congress, we will follow what Comptroller General David Walker characterized as a financial "tsunami strong enough to swamp the ship of state." It will sweep our children and our grandchildren off their feet, leaving far less opportunity for future generations.

Out-of-control spending is not just an economic issue, it is a moral issue also. Is it right for our generation to live very well, knowing that future generations of Americans will inherit a broken system in the form of massive debt, Social Security and Medicare obligations, unsustainable spending and commitments that cannot be kept?

Entitlement spending has such a tight grip on the rest of the Federal Government that every day the 111th Congress waits to act is another day that vital discretionary programs, domestic and international, are in jeopardy. That is what we are facing today.

Everyone, whether you are a Republican or Democrat, should be alarmed. As parents and grandparents, we should care that without adequate resources our children won't receive the first-class education they need to compete in the global market. Already the tests show that one-third of U.S. students lack the competency to perform the most basic mathematical computations.

People should care that scientists at the National Institutes of Health who