

SMALL BUSINESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE JOBS TAX ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, as chair of the Joint Economic Committee, I ask the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics to come before my committee and report on the latest employment situation.

In February 2009, the BLS Commissioner reported grim employment statistics.

At that hearing we learned that in January of 2009, total nonfarm payroll employment fell by 779,000 jobs. That was a staggering number.

A number like that made it abundantly clear that the task of turning the economy around was going to be enormous.

The bursting of the housing bubble and the stock market decline vaporized trillions of dollars in household wealth, leaving consumers reeling and unwilling or unable to spend.

It was a situation that called for unprecedented interventions, swift action, and—let me acknowledge it—a thick skin.

It was a situation where we needed to act on many fronts all at once to get the economy on track and restore the stability of the financial system.

The Fed prevented another Great Depression and the stimulus bill proved central to our recovery.

The stimulus bill included the fastest and one of the largest tax cuts in our history. Tax cuts went out almost immediately for 95 percent of working Americans.

We passed 24 tax cuts to date including some for small businesses, first time homebuyers and families with kids in college.

We helped struggling State and local budgets with badly needed funding to keep teachers in the schools, and police on the streets.

We extended unemployment benefits to help those who had lost a job through no fault of their own.

We passed tax cuts for 1st time homebuyers.

We passed Cash for Clunkers.

We passed the HIRE Act to provide tax incentives for private sector businesses that hire out-of-work Americans.

The House is now set to pass the Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act, which will, among other things, extend the “Build America Bonds” program from the Recovery Act.

This program has been extremely successful at reducing the cost of financing for State and local governments which use the money for rebuilding of schools, sewers, and hospitals, rebuilding America and putting people back to work. I urge every one of my colleagues to vote for this bill.

And the actions we have taken have begun to have effect. Not as fast as any of us would like—but turning a supertanker of an economy like ours around—just can’t happen on a dime.

First, the jobs losses began to moderate—decreasing month after month.

Then our Gross Domestic Product turned around from minus 6.4 percent in the first quarter of 2009 to a plus 5.9 percent last quarter.

At the last two jobs hearings before the JEC, the BLS Commissioner reported that the number of unemployed persons was essentially unchanged. The punishing job losses had been stopped.

In November 2009, the economy actually created jobs, on net. I expect that soon the economy will start creating jobs every month and Americans will start going back to work.

It was also important for our long-term economic health that we took the historic step of reforming health care. Left unchanged, the soaring costs of health care insurance were a problem that would be certain to act as a drag on our economy.

And, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, health care reform will produce a net reduction in federal deficits of \$143 billion over the next ten years. And it is estimated, by \$1.3 trillion over the next 20.

It sometimes seems that in all the noise, ill will, and the invective, what has really been accomplished by this country has been lost or overlooked.

18 months ago, we stood on the brink of an economic abyss so deep and dark it was fearful to even contemplate. The voices of doom were many, the predictions grim. The outlook was uncertain.

Though much remains to be done, so much has already been achieved.

It has been a tough year—it is tough for millions still. But we are making progress. We are not there yet—but without question we are moving forward.

As I look out on America and contemplate our future—I am filled with hope and optimism. The steps we have taken—have put us on the path to recovery and renewal.

And as we prepare for spring recess, let's be mindful of the season and the “green shoots” that are beginning to push upwards.

REMARKS ON THE PASSING OF
COLONEL JOHN REES

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to a visionary man and true American hero, Colonel John Rees.

John Cliff Rees was born in 1922 on his family farm in Mason County, Kentucky. After graduating from high school and then Bowling Green Business University, he met and married the love of his life, Bess Anderson. Not long after that, John joined the Army Air Corps and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1944.

In time, John would serve in four wars: World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Cold War, eventually earning the rank of Colonel. While there are many men who have served with as much pride, honor, and distinction as Colonel Rees has, I remember him today specifically for the last stop on his tour of duty. As Colonel, he was appointed the Wing Commander at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas. In that position, both he and his wife came to be known and loved by the people of San Angelo. A kind man with a keen intellect, Colonel Rees worked relentlessly to forge a deeper bond between the Base and the City.

In one of his lasting legacies to the people of San Angelo, he was instrumental in bringing a linguistic training center to the base, breathing new life into its mission and ensuring that the base would remain a strategic asset in the community for years to come.

Colonel Rees passed away on October 12, 2009. Some weeks ago, Colonel Rees' wife Bess also passed away on March 3, 2010. They will be laid to rest together the Friday after Easter, April 9, 2010, in Arlington National Cemetery. Colonel Rees was a dedicated and faithful servant of the American people and has rightly earned his place in Arlington.

Death is always a heavy burden to bear for those of us who remain behind, but I know that Colonel Rees is with God in all his glory and has been reunited with the love of his life in heaven. On behalf of the people of San Angelo, the people of Texas, and all Americans, I offer his family my deepest condolences. Your father fought gallantly to protect the nation he loved. He was our commander, our friend, our mentor, and our inspiration.

As Colonel John Rees is laid to rest next month, I know that the lives of his family and friends will dim just a bit. However, they need only look up to the sky to see that the stars over Texas shine brighter because he looks down on us all.

HONORING IVONNE ALEXANDER

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ivonne Alexander, a leader in South Dade's agriculture industry, and Chief Financial Officer of Nature's Way Nursery.

A native of Havana, Cuba, Ivonne came to the U.S. with her family at the age of 12. She studied accounting and finance at Miami-Dade College and Florida International University and took her first job with Farm Credit in 1972 as an accounting clerk. She later became a loan officer, and went on to be Internal Auditor, Senior Vice President and Area Manager. In 1995, she left Farm Credit and became general manager for Mike Costa Foliage, while at the same time, building her own business, Happy Days Nursery, and offering consulting to others.

Today, Ivonne continues to guide the agribusiness community in South Dade, and is the leader on issues affecting the industry like labor, immigration, the environment and the economy. She was the first woman in the Nation to be a loan officer and certified appraiser with Farm Credit and was named Agriculturist of the Year by the Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce. She has paved the way for others, specifically women, to follow her in the agriculture industry, in both farming and business components. Ivonne has the right attitude and mind frame to get the job done, and does not stop until she achieves positive results. Her passion, commitment and hard work have allowed her to get as far as she has, despite the fact that she is a woman in what has historically been a man's industry, and has inspired others to do the same.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask that you join me in thanking Ivonne Alexander for her contributions to the agriculture industry and honoring her work.

RECOGNIZING JEFFREY MICHAEL ROSS OF ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeffrey Michael Ross of Roseville, California.

On July 12, 2009 Jeffrey witnessed a driver lose control of her vehicle and career into the canal in Rancho Cordova. Running to the water's edge, Mr. Ross found the vehicle sinking quickly and the semiconscious driver trapped inside.

In a situation where some would feel helpless, Jeffrey took decisive action. He dove into the water and swam towards the car, forced open the window and started to pull the victim out. As water continued to rush inside the car, it slipped beneath the surface with the driver still inside. Ross continued to fight and freed the driver, bringing her safely to the surface.

Jeffrey's act of courage and kindness is an example of the highest values of citizenship, and a credit to himself, his family and our community. I am proud to rise today to honor Mr. Ross and recognize him for receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation's Citizen Service Above Self Honors award earlier today in a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. DREW EDWIN MARSHALL'S 5TH ANNIVERSARY AS SENIOR PASTOR OF TRINITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership of Dr. Drew Edwin Marshall on the occasion of his 5th Anniversary in ministry to the congregation of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church. As a Member of Congress it is both my honor and privilege to recognize Dr. Marshall for achieving this milestone.

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, which was founded as the City of Pontiac's first African-American church in 1917 with support from the Memorial Baptist Church in Pontiac, has a long, rich history as a pillar of spiritual fellowship in the community. Trinity's congregation and leadership, under Reverend Gulley, came together to endure turbulent beginnings in the face of a fuel shortage which initially closed the Church for a year, to continue their pursuit of spiritual well-being. Since its founding, Trinity's congregation and leadership have been devoted to creating a stronger, more vibrant Pontiac spiritual community. In its efforts to attain its goals, Trinity opened a child development center and a school in the early 1990s to provide better service to the Pontiac community.

This year marks an important milestone in the spiritual leadership Dr. Drew Marshall has provided as Senior Pastor to the congregation of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church. Dr. Marshall, a Pontiac native, has devoted over three decades of his life to the study and practice of divinity. Dr. Marshall heard the call to service over 35 years ago, accepting his first ministerial position with Trinity shortly before graduating with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan. Dr. Marshall's journey led him from Pontiac, to Colgate Rochester Divinity School, where he obtained his Masters in Divinity, to Texas, where he served as Minister of Christian Education at New Faith Church. It is only fitting Dr. Marshall's recognition comes for his service with Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, as it is the very place he heard the call to serve over three decades ago.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Trinity Missionary Baptist Church's Senior Pastor, Dr. Drew Edwin Marshall, on the occasion of his 5th Anniversary as the Church's spiritual leader and wish him, his family, and the congregation at Trinity many more years of happiness, health and service to the Pontiac community.

SMALL BUSINESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE JOBS TAX ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4849, the Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act of 2010. The passage of this bill will create jobs and continue to revive our economy.

In particular, I would like to highlight a portion of this bill that has proven itself as a job creator and with passage of this legislation will continue to put people back to work: the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or "TANF," Emergency Contingency Fund. Since its enactment as part of the Recovery Act, the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund has created or maintained 160,000 jobs and by extending the fund for an additional year it will create thousands more.

This is an effort that has broad bipartisan support. Kevin Hassett, a scholar for the American Enterprise Institute, has said that "Given the state of the labor market, it is hard to imagine how any sensible person could oppose such a move," and both Democratic and Republican Governors have supported extending the program.

A few weeks ago in Connecticut I met with leaders in the state government, the business community and the non-profit community to discuss their efforts to utilize the Emergency Contingency Fund. The extension that we are passing today will allow them to take full advantage of this program as they have committed to putting together a plan to use this funding to create jobs in the state.

I want to thank Chairman LEVIN for his hard work on this bill as well as the Caucus Jobs Task Force—particularly Dr. JUDY CHU, JIM McDERMOTT, and Co-Chairs ALCEE HASTINGS and BETTY SUTTON. Each of these members

has made a tremendous commitment to putting Americans back to work and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 3590, SERVICE MEMBERS HOME OWNERSHIP TAX ACT OF 2009, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4872, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this rule and the underlying health care legislation it is attempting to impose upon the American people. Despite the claim often made by my friends on the other side of the aisle, Republicans agree that we must reform health care in America. The current system is unsustainable, and simply doing nothing is not an option.

While I strongly oppose the underlying legislation and the direction it proposes to take health care in America, I do not support inaction to reform health care. Simply doing nothing is not an option. My vision of health care reform will ensure that Americans can get the health care that you need, when you need it, and at a price you can afford. I want to provide all Americans with access to health care that is affordable, portable, accessible, of high quality, and preserves choice for Americans.

In the health care reform debate, I believe it is critical that we remember the Hippocratic Oath: first, do no harm. Health care reform should also respect the sacredness of the doctor-patient relationship and ensure that the federal government does not interfere with the ability of patients and their doctors to make decisions about care. Health care reform should also lower costs for patients, and bend the overall health care cost curve downward. Health care in the United States represents one-sixth of our economy, and ultimately affects every man, woman, and child. Any health care reforms made will have an impact that is far and wide throughout America. It is critical that we ensure the reforms we pursue are the right reforms that will improve health care, because the wrong reforms could have devastating and long-lasting consequences for the greatest health care system in the world. As important as it is to reform health care quickly, it is more important to reform health care correctly.

I believe five principles should guide any health reform effort. One, every American, regardless of health or financial status, should have access to affordable health care coverage of their choice. Nobody should go bankrupt because they get sick. Two, health care in America should be family-focused and patient-centered. It must put patients, in consultation with their doctors, in control of their health care. Your health care decisions should not be made by your employer, a health care plan selected by your employer, or the government. Three, people should own and control their health care plan, and it should be personal and portable. Four, Americans who are