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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 27, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DONNA F. EDWARDS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

SBA EXTENSIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation to extend the important programs of the Small Business Administration.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, having created 65 percent of all new jobs in the last decade. However, over the course of the last 18 months, small business owners have had trouble accessing the capital they need to grow their business and to cre-

ate jobs. The SBA's lending programs are a critical piece of helping small businesses access this credit and create jobs, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Now, according to the Northwest Business Development Agency in Washington State, for every \$1 lent under the SBA 504 program, \$94 is generated in tax revenue for our communities. Congress has made important steps to encourage increased lending for small businesses, including allowing SBA 504 loans to be used for debt relief, reducing fees in the SBA's 7(a) and 504 loan guaranty programs, and increasing the maximum percentage of the loan guaranty for 7(a) loans to 90 percent.

And credit is starting to move. In my district alone, between October 2009 and the end of February 2010, 58 SBA 7(a) loans worth nearly \$18 million and 15 504 loans worth nearly \$6 million were provided to small businesses in the Second Congressional District of Washington State, allowing them to expand and to modernize. However, at the end of this month, authorization for these important SBA programs will expire.

As Congress stays laser-focused on creating jobs, extending these important programs and ensuring small businesses can access credit is critical. So I strongly urge a "yes" vote on this bill.

FREE TRADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, we are all encouraged by the positive news that we have been receiving about the economic recovery which appears to be underway. I think it's very clear that with the report that came from the CMS at the end of last week, the dramatic increase in spending and the regulatory vision that is proposed, that

the economic recovery that we're going through at this moment is in spite of, not because of, policies emanating from here in Washington, D.C.

Madam Speaker, when we were privileged to have the President of the United States stand in this Chamber and deliver his State of the Union message, one of the things that he talked about was the goal of job creation. We of course have seen signs of economic recovery, but the unemployment rate is still just below 10 percent nationwide. In my State of California, it is in excess of 12 percent, and there are people who are hurting.

When the President stood here right behind where I am now, Madam Speaker, just in front of you and delivered his State of the Union message, he talked about the importance of opening up new markets around the world. He talked about the fact that 95 percent of the world's consumers are outside of our borders, and we could create good jobs for American workers if we were to proceed with the plan for free trade agreements that have been pending.

Well, Madam Speaker, 1,253 days ago, an agreement was signed between the United States of America and the Government of Colombia to open up the market so that we could see jobs created for workers at Caterpillar, John Deere, Whirlpool, and other very important industries right here in the United States. It is 1,253 days since that measure has been signed, and in that same period of time we have seen \$2.7 billion in tariffs imposed on products made by U.S. workers going to Colombia.

Madam Speaker, if we want to create good private sector jobs, we need to unleash the potential, reducing the constraints that have been imposed on U.S. workers.

Two hundred and eleven years ago this month, the author of the U.S. Constitution became a Member of Congress, James Madison. Representative Madison, on April 9 of 1789 stood

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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in the House of Representatives and said the following. He said, I own myself to be a friend of a free system of commerce and hold it as truth that commercial shackles are generally unjust, oppressive, and impolitic. Madison went on to say, Madam Speaker, that this is more true than the wisdom of the most enlightened legislature.

Now, as it comes to job creation and economic growth in 2010, it seems to me that looking back to what was said 211 years ago by Representative James Madison about unleashing the shackles that exist to the free flow of commerce could create great opportunities for U.S. workers.

And so, Madam Speaker, while I congratulate the President for the words that he provided to us in his State of the Union message about the benefits of opening up new markets around the world, after 1,253 days since it has been signed, I urge the President to send to the United States Congress that measure because I believe that, in this election year especially, people want to focus on job creation and economic growth, and I am convinced that we would have a strong bipartisan vote in support of that very important measure.

HONORING THE AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the AIDS Foundation of Chicago for 25 years of service to the people of Chicago, Cook County, and the State of Illinois.

The foundation has served as the center of AIDS and HIV services in the Chicago metropolitan area and has been a leading advocate of sound policies and legislation in Illinois and Washington. The foundation has raised and disseminated millions of dollars in grants for prevention, care, and advocacy in underserved communities.

Praised as a national model of coordinated case management and supportive housing services, many look to the foundation as a way to do business. The AIDS Foundation is the kind of community-based, people-oriented organization that makes America great. Thanks to CEO Mark Ishaug and to all the staff, volunteers, and board for being a beacon of hope in the fight against AIDS and HIV.

FIX THE HEALTH CARE BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, last week, the chief actuary for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, issued a troubling report, but it is not at all surprising to many of us who debated the health care bill. The report said that the Obamacare health

care bill will increase national health expenditures by \$311 billion. That is a deficit.

During the debate, many of us said on the House floor that this bill will increase the deficit and expand Federal powers. I would like to take a few minutes to outline some of the problems with the bill by government officials pointing out these problems.

First of all, it obviously increases the deficit. CBO projected the cost of the health care bill to be \$940 billion and it would reduce the deficit by \$138 billion. However, that has been proven to be wrong. There are budget gimmicks in place and it is unlikely that Congress will keep those gimmicks in place. For example, the bill assumes that a 21 percent cut to Medicare's physician reimbursement rate will stay in place. This won't happen.

New taxes and mandates will create economic hardship. Businesses will be forced to buy health insurance for their employees or pay a tax for every employee. This will place businesses into a very difficult position, cutting workers, reducing wages, or preventing companies from growing larger if they wish to avoid these costly penalties. With 10 percent unemployment nationwide, is this the right time to create a disincentive for a company to hire more workers?

Expanding a broken entitlement creates more problems, not real solutions. For example, in 2014, Medicaid will be expanded to all individuals making less than 133 percent of the Federal poverty level. Half the people covered under the health care bill will be covered because of Medicaid. Unfortunately, most doctors do not participate in Medicaid because the reimbursement rate is far less than the private sector and less than Medicare. So where are these 16 million people going to go to get health care?

It bankrupts State budgets through Medicaid expansion. With 16 million new individuals enrolled in Medicaid, States will be on the hook for more Medicaid spending. In the short term, the Federal Government will pay for the expansion of Medicaid, but after 2017, States will have to pick up about 10 percent of the cost. Many States do not have the ability to do this; it will make it more difficult for them.

Medicare cuts jeopardize the care of our seniors. Medicare's costs continue to grow and the Medicare Trust Fund continues to be insolvent. So, to fix this problem, the majority cut over \$500 billion from Medicare, but rather than using the savings to extend the program, they immediately spent it on expanding Medicaid and creating subsidies for the health insurance exchange. CMS reports 15 percent of hospitals will be unprofitable within 10 years just because of these cuts.

It creates an inequity against low-income workers. The employer mandate requires businesses to offer a health plan that meets with the approval of HHS. This will drive up the cost of

health plans, and small businesses may not be able to afford a robust insurance plan. CMS' report further points out how many small businesses may cancel their plans because it is cheaper to pay the tax than to provide health insurance.

New regulations increase government control over health care. HHS gains an incredible amount of power under this bill. They will now have the power to dictate insurance policies, insurance prices, regulate the insurance market, and control benefits offered in your health care plan.

This bill obviously violates the Constitution in the fact that the Federal Government now is mandating that all U.S. citizens purchase a health care plan from a private company as a requirement for lawful residency in this country. This is an unprecedented extension of Federal power, and this is only the beginning. The health care bill was so big and so complex that now we are only learning about the problems and flaws in the law, such as its treatment of veteran health plans or weakening the Medicaid program for new lawsuits from trial lawyers.

We need to fix this bill and rein in all the controls and power that have been provided through this bill here in Washington.

IT'S TIME TO CUT WALL STREET DOWN TO SIZE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, as I speak here on the floor of the House, the Republicans on the Senate side of the Hill are still blocking meaningful financial reform, protecting their patrons on Wall Street as they always do, and the lords of Goldman Sachs are before a committee protesting their innocence.

Now, we all know that Goldman and these other firms on Wall Street were too big to fail, or at least some think they were—I think we should have let a few more of them fail, personally, and I opposed the bailout of Wall Street. But let's just say they were too big to fail or at least they were deemed too big to fail and they were bailed out by the United States Government and the taxpayers of the United States, but something else was going on at the same time.

Not only were they too big to fail, they had created wonderful, new financial products that were enriching them in unbelievable ways, making millions of dollars a day for the lords of Goldman and elsewhere on Wall Street. They had designed products that were designed to fail. Then they sold them after they went to the all-too-willing ratings firms, so-called "impartial" ratings firms.

Goldman would pay Moody's to rate garbage as caviar, AAA. Then they would go out and sell it to sophisticated investors who should have known