

package of reforms, bringing derivatives onto exchanges, creating an agency which prevents mortgage brokers from selling mortgages to American families that that broker knows can't possibly be repaid.

Yet the other side is saying "no," saying "no" to the kind of common-sense reform that will restore Americans' faith in their system, make them comfortable investing in America. Yesterday in the other body, a big step back was taken.

The time is now if we are to be serious about addressing the crisis that this country is only now emerging from for this House to set aside partisanship and pass financial regulatory reform.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my deep concern over the rising tide of unemployment across America and particularly in my home State of West Virginia. In my State, the unemployment rate has risen now to over 10 percent with some counties reaching well over 12 percent.

Beyond these staggering figures, we must take a moment to pause and ask ourselves, are the policies we're pushing through this Congress creating real job growth? Absolutely not.

Sadly, we all know a family member, a friend, a colleague who has lost their job and is struggling to get back on their feet. The so-called stimulus bill, along with numerous so-called jobs bills, has failed to produce the jobs that the administration and the Democrats in this Congress promised. And worse yet, the policies of this administration are actually causing job loss in my State.

Instead we should be enacting policies that get Americans back to work and awaken Main Street across our country.

Mr. Speaker, at a time of increasing unemployment for American families, we must keep repeating, where are the jobs?

WE NEED TO PASS FINANCIAL REFORM

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, we need to pass financial reform, and it's time for Republicans to stop standing in the way.

When I'm home in Connecticut and talk to my neighbors and constituents, I never hear anybody disagree with me about the need to reform Wall Street. Their retirement account statements are all the proof that they need that Wall Street played a hand that was too dangerous for their own good.

We need to make sure that our financial system does what it does best: help get money from investors to businesses so that they can innovate and expand. When Wall Street sticks to this mission, we all win.

But over the last decade, much of Wall Street became a Las Vegas casino, with our money—our mortgages, our investments, and pensions—being used as casino chips in trading schemes that added no value to our economy.

Wall Street needs to get back to what it's good at, and it's time for Republicans to stop standing in the way and join us so that we can lock the door together.

RECOGNIZING AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, April is Autism Awareness Month, and I call for increased research into and treatment for this leading developmental disorder.

Autism impacts more of our children every day, and it is becoming exceptionally prevalent in our American society. The number of American families who must learn to cope with autism is growing every day. An estimated one out of every 110 children born in the United States are now diagnosed with autism.

We have got to invest in the research that will allow us to better understand and to treat this serious disorder. For individuals already living with autism and those children who will be diagnosed this year, we must make this a priority. Autism's hold on our families, our children, and our country must be broken.

I look forward to the day when children diagnosed with this developmental disorder can live full and healthy lives. Let's pass this bill before us today.

CONGRATULATING NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to the Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy of Erie, Pennsylvania, on their second straight victory at the United States Academic Decathlon.

On Saturday, Collegiate Academy's nine-member Academic Decathlon team won the Division II small school title and placed sixth out of 40 schools overall at the competition in Omaha.

The students showcased their knowledge in 10 subjects: music, art, language and literature, science, history, economics, essay, interview, speech, and math.

Coach Colleen Holmes led these bright students to victory and helped four team members—Rachel Vandever, Bronte Seath, Stan Tuznik, and Reeve Hunsaker—earn individual medals at the competition. Sean Carney, Ben Engel, John Luke Galla, Cullen Skinner, and Rose Heid rounded out this champion team.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, congratulations to Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy's Academic Decathlon team on this great victory and on your future successes.

HEALTH CARE BILL'S COSTS

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, each day I am more convinced that I was right to oppose the health care reform bill that was pushed through this Congress last month.

All along Republicans questioned how it's possible to increase Medicaid enrollees and cut costs at the same time. And lo and behold, we were right. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, or CMS, recently concluded that implementing this bill means health care will be 21 percent of our GDP in 2019, up from 16 percent today. Taxpayers will be forced to spend \$410 billion to expand Medicaid to 20 million new beneficiaries, and that's only at the Federal level. That doesn't count the State level spending, in which my home State of Texas has been estimated to incur a \$24 billion unfunded mandate over 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, there's a better way to provide access to quality, affordable health care for all Americans. We should repeal and replace the bloated government plan with one that makes sense. The American people deserve no less.

THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION AGENCY

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, last week I met with a small business owner from Concord, Massachusetts, who showed me several months of his credit card statements. Due to a 1-day late payment after years of on-time payments, his credit card company increased his interest rate by 15 percent, informing him that because of the increase, he will pay off his balance in 2,820 years.

Thanks to the Credit CARD Act, such abuses are now illegal but only after more than a decade of trying to move these bipartisan and commonsense reforms through Congress.

In response to the law, credit card companies are already devising new ways to exploit their customers, trusting in Congress' inability to respond quickly.

The Consumer Financial Protection Agency will give small business owners like my constituent an advocate that can respond to shady practices as they evolve. Groups like the AARP have endorsed the idea of a strong Consumer Financial Protection Agency because it will be able to stand up for the little guy against the giants who have been able to set their own rules.

“SNITCH TAX”

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, the biggest issue on the minds of the American people is jobs. So imagine my surprise when I took another look at the so-called health care reform bill and found a provision which is just another job-killer provision.

Beginning in 2012 under section 9006 of the Obama care bill, any company, large or small, that purchases more than \$600 worth of goods or services from any corporation during the previous year will be required now to file a 1099 with the government and with that company. That means you have to keep track of all the food that you buy, the paint that you buy, the secretarial supplies that you buy, and then you have to give this information to the government. Not because of any obligation on your part to pay something but on the part of the other individual.

The assumption is that everybody else cheats, and so what this is, is nothing more than a universal snitch tax. It requires all Americans to give up information on somebody else.

Repeal this nonsense. Get rid of this burden. Save small business, and co-sponsor H.R. 5141.

WE MUST PASS FINANCIAL REFORM

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, a little over 2 years ago, our Nation walked to the precipice. Many Americans are perhaps unaware of the fact that we were very, very close not to a major recession but a depression. And for this body to pass financial reform was, I think, one of the better things we have done.

For financial reform to remain on the table over in the Senate is just abominable. Many people were out trying to survive during this crisis and still losing money, still losing homes.

We saw Wall Street playing around with derivatives that many of them didn't even understand. They hired physicists to actually describe what would happen with the derivatives. So if we don't do financial reform, we're going to leave the American public vulnerable.

We have got to do it. We have got to establish a Financial Consumer Protection Agency and we need to do it now.

DEFENDING ISRAEL

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as a Nation, one of our strongest allies in the Middle East is Israel. For decades we have stood with this free and democratic state as it has been assaulted. We have always respected the right of Israel to defend itself and to build for itself a stronger nation.

But now our President is causing problems for our ally. The President takes offense at the bureaucratic approval of settlements. But these are not settlements deep in the heart of the West Bank. They are in their capital, Jerusalem. East Jerusalem is an area where half the Jewish population of the capital city currently resides. Prime Minister Netanyahu has made clear: This is an area that will be part of Israel in any peace settlement considered.

In just a few weeks, Israel will celebrate its 62nd year as an independent nation. The United States was the first to stand and recognize Israel on the day of their independence, and since that time we have remained close allies. Let's not let this close relationship move apart. The President should stop giving the cold shoulder to our friends in Israel.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, April 24 marked the 95th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Last Saturday I participated with the Armenian community in Fresno to commemorate this horrific tragedy.

I, once again, call upon this body to pass the Armenian genocide resolution. In my remarks before the Foreign Affairs Committee markup of House Resolution 252, I indicated that historians have clearly documented this event. Back home, as I grew up, my Armenian friends told me of the stories of the systematic approach to eliminate the Armenian communities from their farms, their homes, and their lives. It was the first genocide of the 20th Century. They believe it and so do I.

Theodore Roosevelt once wrote: “The Armenian massacre was the greatest crime of World War I, and the failure to act against Turkey is to condone it.”

No one holds modern-day Turkey responsible for the past sins of the Ottoman Empire, but they should recognize their history, apologize, and move on to establish diplomatic relationships with Armenia.

There is never a right time to recognize the genocide. We cannot wait around for a convenient time. I urge we pass this resolution.

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JOBS ACT

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it's another 3-day work week for Congress, and there is still nothing on the agenda to spur the economy and to incentivize growth. Job creation remains the top concern of the American people. Shouldn't it be a priority of Congress as well? With 15 million unemployed Americans, it is negligent not to prioritize job creation in the private sector today. Through my JOBS Act, H.R. 4100, we can empower small businesses by reducing their tax burden and provide relief to the lowest two individual income brackets.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to seriously consider my legislation or any other bills that put people back to work and provide lasting solutions to the problems facing our economy.

IN MEMORY OF AUTRY LAMONT BATTLES

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a life well lived—the life of Autry Lamont Battles, who passed away on April 15 of this year. Mr. Battles was born in Los Angeles, where he was known for his sense of humor, caring for others, his faith in God, and his talent for cooking. This led him to a fulfilling career in the restaurant and catering business, a job that allowed him to share his love for food and for meeting new people. He came into my life when he was caregiving for a lifelong friend of mine. He said, I just love your mother. She just turned 100 years old, and he was going to prepare the meal for 300 guests. However, his illness did not allow him to do it.

So I want to honor Mr. Battles today for living among us—a good and decent American, who will certainly be missed because he reached out to others and was more caring about others than he was of himself. So we lost him, but I just want to pay tribute to him for a life well lived.

PASSAGE OF PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(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, here in Washington, in these hallowed Halls, we have the power to do many things. At times, it might appear as if there is no riddle so complex that the careful arrangement of words on a paper cannot overcome it. Indeed, the very rationale behind the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act was to