

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

solve forever the Gordian knot of equality in our citizens' access to health care. Yet, for all its words, commands, prescriptions, and boards in the bill, Richard Foster, the chief actuary of CMS, has laid bare an essential truth about these mandates. Mr. Speaker, they have consequences. On page 10 of his recent report, Mr. FOSTER states unequivocally that this bill will make hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other part A providers unprofitable.

It's clear to me, Mr. Speaker, that while we in Washington can pass words on paper that guarantee all Americans health care, that the doctors and hospitals throughout America may not be around long enough to provide them care. More jobs, Mr. Speaker, lost to wrong-headed policies being forced upon the American people by this majority.

MOVE AHEAD ON HEALTH CARE BILL

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

Mr. WELCH. We have a debate on health care, but the fundamental question that we face is whether we were going to stick with the status quo or we were going to put a stake in the ground to have a health care system where all are covered and all help pay. We did this, unfortunately, without bipartisan support. The question we now have is making this work. The status quo was broken. We're spending two, three times the rate of inflation, the rate of wage growth. Our businesses can't afford it. We spend more and get less, with 45 million Americans uninsured. Now, folks want to repeal it. That includes provisions where your child can be on your health care policy until age 26; where the doughnut hole is going to finally be closed so seniors can get the prescription drugs they need; where folks who need preventive care and long-term care are going to have access to the care that they need; where there won't be a lifetime cap on coverage, so that if you get really sick and need that, you're going to be able to get access to it.

So now the debate is: Are we going to improve this health care system and this health care bill, and do it together, or are we going to repeal it? I say: move ahead.

WHAT'S IN THE HEALTH CARE BILL

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, during the recent health debate, the Speaker ominously said, We have to pass the bill so you can find out what is in it. Well, they passed the bill, and now we're finding out what's in it.

They told us it would keep costs down. Well, now they admit health

costs will soar \$311 billion, increasing to 21 percent of GDP by 2019.

They told us, If you like your plan, you can keep it. Well, now they admit that seniors on Medicare Advantage could lose their plans. Companies that offer health plans to their employees and retirees are now considering dropping them.

They told us it would be good for the economy. Now they admit employers were correct to downgrade their earnings by billions of dollars that ultimately will come out of employees' wages and benefits.

This issue is not going away. It will continue to plague those responsible until they replace it or until they themselves are replaced.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. The Republicans always want to dwell on distractions, but I believe that the American people are waiting for the health care reform bill to be implemented—and that it will. And it will save lives. But why are the Republicans standing on the side of big business and big companies too big to fail? Now we need the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to be able to respond to America's cry for honesty and integrity on Wall Street.

Right now, one of the biggest Wall Street casinos, Goldman Sachs, is testifying. And I don't know whether they can find the facts to be able to defend atrocious acts causing millions of Americans to lose money. I personally know of a small business that they literally destroyed because they were unwilling to look at ways of allowing that business to survive. And so the \$14 million of net worth loss, \$22 million decline in net worth, and 2.2 million in homes lost is because of the lack of integrity on Wall Street.

Pass the legislation that will end bailouts; protect families' retirement funds; college savings; homes and businesses; protect consumers; and, yes, inject transparency. Goldman Sachs, what is your answer to the question?

WITH AMERICA AT A CROSSROADS, IT IS TIME TO LISTEN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, time and again during health care debate, the American people were told that the health care bill would lower costs, and Republicans continually argued that the big government takeover of our health care would actually increase the cost to taxpayers. Well, who was right? The nonpartisan Office of the Actuary at the Centers for

Medicare & Medicaid Services has released its analysis of the new health care law, and the results are very telling, Mr. Speaker.

The actuaries are reporting that the new law will increase health care costs over the next 10 years by \$311 billion, which was much more than the original estimates to both the House and the Senate bills. Published reports have indicated that this report, incredibly, was submitted to the Secretary of Health and Human Services more than a week before the final vote in the House. But that information, of course, was not shared with—at least on the Republican side—Members of Congress or the American people. So much for most open and transparent administration in history and so much for providing the American people with real health care reform that would help lower costs.

America is at a crossroads, Mr. Speaker, in this difficult economy. While the American people spoke out very loudly that they did not want a government health care takeover, Democrats refused to listen.

BUILDING A RECOVERY RIGHT FOR AMERICA

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

Ms. SUTTON. Congressional Republicans threaten to take us back to the failed policies that created the economic crisis, siding with special interest, Wall Street banks, credit card companies, Big Oil, and insurance companies. These Bush economic and fiscal policies created the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, with job losses of nearly 800,000 a month, and nearly doubled our national debt. Democrats in Congress are working to create American jobs and a strong new foundation for our economy, protecting Main Street and the middle class, not siding with the insurance companies and Wall Street.

This week's news provides evidence that American families are beginning to feel some effects of an economy headed in a better direction. USA Today headlines read: "Economists say recovery looks stronger than expected." Bloomberg says: "Companies in U.S. plan to increase employment, survey shows." The New York Times says: "From the mall to the docks, signs of rebound."

No matter how much they try to side with Wall Street, Democrats will side with the American people and build a recovery and an economy that will work for them.

RAIDING MEDICARE HURTS OUR SENIORS

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, last week, the nonpartisan Centers for