

CUT CONGRESSIONAL PAY

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed a bill to stop the 2011 congressional pay hike. I am proud to cosponsor this effort. Member salaries come out of taxpayer dollars. Washington needs to know it would be unacceptable to have taxpayers who are making less pay us more.

When millions of Americans are tightening their belts, folks have the right to expect their elected officials to do the same. Blocking the pay hike was a necessary first step, but it cannot be the last. Washington can and must do more.

Members have not reduced their salaries for 77 years, since the Great Depression. I do not know anyone back in Arizona who has gone eight decades without a pay cut. Senators and Representatives should be no different. That is why I introduced legislation to cut congressional pay by 5 percent. This Congress needs to pass my bill now. Americans are tired of waiting for Washington to get it.

VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday afternoon I attended the Robbins, North Carolina, First Wesleyan Church's Veterans Memorial Dedication. The program was generously laced with patriotic music and appropriate hymns. Veterans, living and deceased, were recognized.

It has been said, Mr. Speaker, that many Americans do not practice patriotism as they did in the past, in the World War II era in particular. Not true in Robbins, when last Sunday patriotism was alive and well. And I am appreciative to the Wesleyan Church in Robbins for the invitation that I received to attend that very special day in Robbins Saturday last.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. I stand to voice my strong opposition to the new Arizona law, S.B. 1070. This is an unjust law, inspired by hate and racism. The new law opens the door to serious civil rights abuses, and will lead to racial profiling of Latinos and Latinas in Arizona and people of color.

It is unconstitutional, violating the 4th and 14th amendments. This new law will create a division between people

who are asked for legal documents and those that are not. Anyone who values fairness is opposed to this kind of hate and should not spend one cent of money in Arizona except to create jobs.

I urge Americans to show their support of the boycott by wearing red, yellow, and blue wristbands. This misguided law is another example why we must act now. We need Republicans to stand with Democrats in a bipartisan fashion to support comprehensive reform now.

PROMOTING DISTRICT EVENT—RECESSION PROOF YOUR FINANCES

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. During these tough economic times, many people are experiencing financial uncertainty. That's why on Saturday, May 8, at 9 a.m. in Plano, Texas, I will host a free workshop titled Recession Proofing Your Resources. I will host the free seminar in conjunction with Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Greater Dallas.

Unplanned emergencies like job loss, illness, natural disaster, or death can be overwhelming and financially taxing. Financial knowledge and a sound financial contingency plan are vital to ensuring that you and your family come out of this fiscal crisis in the black.

Fortunately, there are ways to plan for unexpected life changes. An expert will be on hand to show people how to learn more. Visit SamJohnson.house.gov or you may RSVP by calling my Texas office in Richardson.

SUPPORT FOR MISSISSIPPI AFTER THE TORNADOES

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

Mr. CHILDERS. Mr. Speaker, this weekend Mississippi communities were struck by the largest natural disaster to hit our State since Hurricane Katrina. Saturday's devastating tornadoes hit several areas in North Mississippi, including three counties in the First Congressional District, which I represent. Damages included more than 700 homes or mobile homes destroyed, various businesses, 49 injuries, and 10 deaths.

I would like to express my deepest condolences to the families of the victims killed in Choctaw, Holmes, and Yazoo Counties. Choctaw County specifically is located in Mississippi's First District.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the families of Andra Patterson, sisters Tyana and Brittney Jobe, and Mary and Bobby Yates. I would also like to express my support for all those Mississippians who suffered injuries and damage to their homes and businesses. We are a strong community, and we

will recover from this disaster. We will continue working with authorities at all levels of government toward the shared goal of recovery.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our condolences for those who lost their lives during this weekend's storm, praying for those who were injured or lost their homes or businesses, and wishing Mississippi a swift recovery.

A NUCLEAR IRAN IS A SEVERE THREAT

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, the DOD's recently released Military Power Report on Iran should be a wake-up call for the President and the leadership here in Congress. While I am glad the Pentagon undertook this assessment, I and most Americans didn't need a report to confirm the Iranian threat is real and credible.

Iran's extremist regime poses a significant danger to the United States and our allies, particularly Israel. Also, because of our failure to implement tough sanctions against Iran, many nations will feel the need to develop nukes, while we are reducing our stockpile and failing to modernize our nuclear inventory.

In addition, we have halted the production of F-22s, allowed a window of vulnerability in missile defense, and have delayed development of the NextGen bomber. I hope the Democrat majority and the President do not shortchange the DOD again this year on key investments in ballistic missile defense, the NextGen bomber, and other vital initiatives to protect our homeland and our allies well into the future.

HONORING RENAE OGLETREE

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, Renae Ogletree dedicated her life to fighting for others. She fought for equality in the GLBT community. She fought for equality for everyone. She fought to bring people together around issues of diversity, development, and health care. She fought for the children in the Chicago Public Schools.

In the final days of her life, the community she served for so long surrounded her with love and comfort. Upon learning of her illness, President Obama wrote to Renae, "In trying times, each of us draw on the power of hope, determination, perseverance, and faith."

Renae Ogletree lived her life changing the community she served through a perseverance few may ever know.

Renae, we'll continue your fight.

CMS REPORT ON HEALTH CARE
BILL

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, despite assurances the health care bill would actually lower costs for the American people, actually things are quite different. An independent CMS report released last week concluded America will spend \$311 billion more on health care under the new law than we would have without it. It increases taxes on the middle class. About 3 million people will have to pay the insurance mandate penalty tax. It also kills jobs through mandates on small businesses.

The American people have said this is not the direction in which they would choose to go. Health care reform should be patient-centered to increase access to care and reduce costs without bankrupting our Nation and limiting our liberties. We should, rather, allow individuals to band together across State lines to allow deductibility to everyone for the cost of premiums, and to crack down on junk lawsuits.

WALL STREET REFORM

(Mr. MILLER of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Senator McCONNELL said yesterday about Wall Street reform that "as you look at the bill closer and closer, it is mostly about Main Street." Yes, Wall Street reform is about Main Street because Americans trying to make an honest living on Main Street are being bled dry by Wall Street.

The vulgar excesses of Wall Street, the bonuses, and the profits, and all the rest are at the expense of working and middle class American families. Ordinary Americans know that the fine print that big banks' lawyers wrote in their credit card contracts, and their mortgages, and their overdraft agreements were filled with traps to take their income, and their life savings, and who knows what worthless junk Wall Street unloaded on their pension funds.

Every issue I have worked on I've compromised, but there comes a time to pick a side. I pick the side of working and middle class Americans trying to make an honest living to support themselves and their families.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased health care reform passed the House of Representatives and the Congress on March 21 so 32 million more

Americans will have access to health insurance.

Americans are already realizing the benefits of this legislation. For instance, for the past few years, as chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, we have investigated the industry practice of rescission. Rescission occurs when the insurance company pores through your policy application to find any excuse to drop you from coverage when you become ill. So when you need the insurance the most, they look for an excuse to abandon you. This rescission practice used by insurance companies employ up to 1,400 different computer entries to kick out claims of people who may become seriously ill, to drop them when they are sick, and will cost the insurance companies some money.

As chair of Oversight and Investigations, I have written to the largest insurance companies to stop this practice of rescission now. Under the health care legislation we passed, it says rescission practice will stop in September, but I urge the insurance companies to stop this unconscionable practice now. In America health care is a right; it's not a privilege.

WALL STREET REFORM

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

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, our Nation experienced the beginning of the worst financial crisis since the stock market crash of 1929, resulting in the longest, deepest financial downturn since the Great Depression.

While the factors that contributed to the crash were numerous and complicated, there's one simple underlying cause: Unchecked greed. Our history teaches us the best way to focus this greed into something constructive is to have rules to protect consumers and investors and to put cops on the beat to ensure those rules are enforced. But for decades, this country has pursued a policy of deregulation and lax enforcement, believing that "greed is good" and the "invisible hand of the market" would protect hardworking Americans.

Well, that invisible hand did something. It gave billions in bonuses to those who used other people's money like poker chips. When that game went bust, it slapped the American taxpayers to the tune of 8 million jobs and billions in bailouts. Now that this Congress is moving to restore fairness and accountability, there are those among us who would prefer to huddle with Wall Street and delay or dilute our efforts. The status quo is bailouts for too-big-to-fail banks.

I urge my colleagues, both here and in the Senate, to stand with the American people, pass reform, end bailouts.

WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Today I join with people across the country to commemorate Workers' Memorial Day, honoring workers killed, injured, or harmed at work.

Unfortunately, workers in Nevada are all too aware of the dangers they face in the workplace. A number of deaths on the job in recent years led to Nevada's being the first State in the country to undergo an in-depth review that highlighted the problems facing the State's OSHA program. This review made it clear to me that Federal OSHA needs an additional option to work with States that are not meeting Federal standards. Currently, OSHA can only suggest improvements or completely take over the State's program.

That's why I introduced the Ensuring Worker Safety Act. This legislation aims to protect both workers and States' rights by giving Federal OSHA additional tools to make sure that State OSHA plans like Nevada's are at least as effective as Federal standards and enforcement.

The slogan of Workers' Memorial Day is "Remember the Dead and Fight for the Living." That's what I intend to do in Congress.

PARTY OF "NO"

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I know our Republican friends don't like it when we call them the party of "no," but let's review the score for just a minute.

On health care reform, 177 noes, no yeses. On Wall Street reform, 175 noes, no yeses. On the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, 177 noes, no yeses.

Let's look at the Senate. In two consecutive votes whether to bring Wall Street reform to the floor for a debate, 40 noes, no yeses.

They're not just the party of "no"; they're the party of no jobs for America, for no energy security, for no Wall Street reform, for no consumer protections against predatory practices, for no equal pay for women in the workplace, and the party of "no" for tax relief for middle class families.

If the Republicans don't want to be called the party of "no," they'd better learn to say "yes."

WALL STREET REFORM

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, as the newest Member of Congress, I just spent 6 months talking to voters every day, and I can say with confidence that there are a lot of partisan issues out there. However, there was one issue that united people of all political persuasions. That was our urgent need to