

showcasing their technologies. On efficiency: We should drill and mine energy efficiency the way we are so glut-tionously dependent on drilling for oil and mining for coal. On renewable energy: We should invest in sustainable energy and new technologies to build our energy independence and to once again create American manufacturing jobs.

I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming this year's participants at the expo and encourage my colleagues to stop by the Cannon Caucus Room to see the exhibits.

TIME TO MAKE A PERMANENT FIX TO THE MEDICARE PAYMENT FORMULA

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves up against another deadline for the so-called "doc fix," and this happens because this Congress lacks the courage to solve the problem. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, the longer we put off doing a permanent fix, the more expensive it gets. If the problem had been fixed 5 years ago, it would have cost \$49 billion.

Here is an ad that the AMA has been running in some of the papers here on Capitol Hill. The cost to fix the bill now is \$210 billion, but if we wait 3 years, it almost doubles to \$396 billion and then balloons to half a trillion dollars in 5 years.

But there is a better way. H.R. 3693 would make a permanent fix to the formula Medicare uses to determine payments to doctors, and it's critical for our patients because patients cannot get access to a Medicare physician because, consider this, Medicare physician payment rates are about where they were in 2001. Medical practice costs have increased more than 20 percent. What's worse, the current fee pays doctors less each year for performing the same procedures.

I urge the Congress to pass a reasonable Medicare physician fix. The time has come and gone.

FINANCIAL GAMES

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I'm astounded. I'm astounded with what I just heard. This is a problem that was actually created nearly a decade ago by the Republicans as they were playing financial games. And to stand here on the floor and say this has to be fixed now, yes, indeed it does, but indeed it is the Republican Party that has prevented us from fixing it. That's going on right now as the negotiations take place on the American Jobs Act and corporate tax loophole closing—closing the tax loopholes on corporations that are in fact shipping jobs offshore.

I would ask the Republicans in this House to stand with us and do a permanent fix. It can be done. But it's not going to be easy. We need to raise the tax revenue. A good place to raise it is from those corporations that are shifting jobs offshore.

NATIONAL GUARD SENT TO BORDER OR MAYBE NOT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the administration announced they're deploying 1,200 National Guard troops to the border. That sounds mighty good, but not so fast.

It appears troops aren't really going to the border. It seems they're sending the National Guard troops 20 miles behind the border to do computer support work. Well, we can hire a Geek Squad to do that. The National Guard troops need to be on the border and they need to be armed so they can defend themselves. And they need realistic rules of engagement.

One border patrol official said that sending unarmed National Guard troops to the border amounts to the border patrol guarding the National Guard. Our current border philosophy is to try to capture people when they cross the border. Once they've crossed, if we capture them, then we have to deal with the consequences—like deportations, prosecutions, drug gangs in our jails, et cetera. Why are we letting illegals cross in the first place?

It seems to me we need boots on the border, not 20 miles behind the border guarding computers.

And that's just the way it is.

BUY AMERICA

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, in the last year of the Bush administration, the Department of Defense, under President Bush, authorized a 450 percent increase in the number of waivers we grant to this Nation's Buy America law, allowing in just 1 year thousands of American jobs to be sent overseas using U.S. taxpayer dollars.

We have the defense reauthorization bill on the floor this week, and we have a chance to say no more, that one of the best ways to grow our domestic economy is to make sure that our own U.S. taxpayer dollars, 70 percent of which are used with respect to U.S. procurement on defense items, stay right here in this country.

The stimulus bill is working. It's creating American jobs. But without spending one dime more of American money, we can stop this trend of more and more waivers being granted to the Buy America laws and apply U.S. taxpayer dollars to create U.S. jobs.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POLIS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SENIORS' BILL OF RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an issue of concern to seniors in my district and around the country. I'm proud to support the Seniors' Bill of Rights crafted by the Democrats' Seniors Task Force, and am committed to its goals. These goals include helping seniors achieve financial security by staying in their homes, finding jobs, and receiving quality, affordable health care.

Our seniors made this country what it is today—fighting overseas for our freedom, serving as the backbone for an economic boom in the post-war years, and providing critical leadership in our communities.

Today, I want to address a fundamental flaw in the Social Security system that I want to correct in the coming weeks: Social Security disability fraud. We are all aware of the disability backlog and the steps Congress is taking to reduce it. Due to dedicated oversight and strong action since the Democrats took back the majority in Congress, the backlog is being reduced. What is less commonly known is that some disability insurers are purposely adding to this backlog.

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They have forced policyholders to apply for Social Security disability benefits or else they withhold payments. They do this even when they know the person is ineligible for Social Security disability benefits.

Here is where the fraud comes in. Disability insurance pays out when you are hurt and unable to perform your job. Social Security is there when you are so hurt that you cannot perform any job.

If a neonatal nurse, for example, injures her shoulder in a car accident and can no longer pick up infants, she can no longer do her job and is eligible for temporary disability benefits from her insurer. Because this nurse is still capable of serving a full career as a nurse in a number of other settings, she is not eligible for Social Security disability.

This isn't a hypothetical situation. It is an actual case pulled from a lawsuit against one of the disability insurers that was defrauding Social Security.

The disability insurer forced the nurse to commit fraud by forcing her to apply for Social Security disability, even though they knew the full extent of her injuries still meant that she

could work as a nurse in other capacities.

These insurers have access to medical records and know full well when their customers are unable to perform any job. Yet they mandate that all of their customers, even those who are only temporarily injured, apply for Social Security disability. This adds to the backlog and costs taxpayers millions of dollars, all because insurers want to delay paying legitimate claims.

My legislation would require that insurers play by the same rules that they require of individuals. If an insurer is going to mandate a policyholder apply for Social Security disability, that insurer should have to certify to the government that the claim is a legitimate, permanent claim.

This legislation will root out this practice so that bad actors won't be able to clog the system with frivolous claims. When frivolous claims are weeded out, access for legitimate applicants increases and the time to process legitimate claims decreases.

This is just one of the issues I am working on to benefit California's seniors. I look forward to working with my colleagues and passing this bill into law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SMALL BUSINESS JOB CREATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my thoughts on a matter of deep concern to me, small business job creation.

We have seen a lot of progress this year. Our economy has created over 500,000 jobs in 2010 alone. Last month, 290,000 jobs were created, with 231,000 of them in the private sector, the largest number of new jobs created in the last 4 years. While these are great statistics, we still have a long, long way to go. It will take time to recover the 8 million jobs lost over the course of this recession.

One positive thing that Congress could do to support jobs is to do all that we can to support small businesses. With two out of every three new jobs created by small businesses, they are the driving force of our economy. Unfortunately, they have also been the hardest hit by the recession, having lost over 2.4 million jobs.

As President Obama indicated in his meeting with the small business leaders, this is the Nation where anyone with a good idea and the will to work hard can succeed, and I agree with President Obama.

New York City is no stranger to good ideas, hard work, or small businesses. The city is home to over 200,000 small businesses which create hundreds of thousands of jobs, provide valuable goods and services, and help drive our local economy.

While the government can't get small businesses through all of the tough times, it can remove barriers that prevent businesses from growing and being able to succeed. We must do all that we can to support the work of the countless entrepreneurs that sustain our economy.

I encourage my colleagues in the House and in the Senate to work together to enact policies that will support small business job creation. We must work to eliminate these barriers and to permit people to be able to expand their businesses and to be able to create jobs.

We need to make certain that folks have an opportunity to work. We have people that have gone to college and are coming out with degrees and still cannot find a job. I think the time has come when the Congress must come together and create jobs and job opportunities for these young people in particular that want to work but are being denied the opportunity because they lack a job.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

YOUNG CUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last evening I spoke on the House floor about the newly devised YouCut program and how it undercuts our representational responsibilities as Members of Congress.

I would like to revisit this theme, which has become a recurring one, given the Republicans' most recent efforts.

I repeat, government by referendum is not representation. Just because 81,000 people voted for a program in a Republican ploy doesn't mean that it is the will of the American people or informed policy.

Let me make it very clear: Referenda have their place, but in this, the world's greatest deliberative body, we are not in the position of needing to have that kind of ploy put forward here in this body. Republicans seem to think that online gimmicks are an effective substitute for good government.

What they fail to understand is that national policy cannot be made in a matter of minutes or within a few clicks of a mouse. Instead of worrying

about friend requests, Republicans should contribute to meaningful debate. If they did, then they would have known that according to the non-partisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, cutting funding for the Temporary Aid to Needy Families Program, as they attempted to do, would have resulted in 100,000 people losing their jobs.

This Chamber isn't going to be fooled or bullied or be controlled by the misguided ideological intention or misleading rhetoric of the few. Republicans have called for voter input on programs of national significance in the name of civic participation. But spreading misinformation is not in the best interests of the American people.

To the contrary, it is only in the best interests of the Republicans and their agenda. Not only are the summaries provided on YouCut, which I have called CutYou, inaccurate, they are specifically written to elicit a specific response.

As I have said, I do not fault my friends on the other side of the aisle for taking their upcoming election campaigns into consideration and doing those technological undertakings that they deem necessary for themselves. What I do fault them for is wasting the time of this Chamber with their ulterior motives and legislative tricks. They are playing with short-term decisions that have long-term consequences.

YouCut provides no effective way to change policy, does little to reduce our Federal deficit, does nothing to allow for people to talk about saving themselves, and hurts everyday Americans, especially the poor and the elderly, who probably, some of them, cannot participate in their poll for the reason that they don't have BlackBerrys and computers.

Instead of continuing to be the Party of No, Republicans should say "yes" to the American people and help pass the legislation that this Nation needs and deserves.

I urge my Republican friends not to undercut with their CutYou YouCut representational democracy and not just substitute selective, push polling, robotexting, tooting and tweeting for the work of the greatest deliberative body in the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. BEAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize National Small