

going to forget about the Obama administration's failure to secure our borders and enforce our Nation's immigration laws.

THE NATION'S BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

(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, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to put aside partisan differences and begin in earnest to address our Nation's broken immigration system. Although we do not always agree on how to change the system, it is clear that we all agree that the current system is broken and in need of meaningful reform.

Yesterday I met with the President to discuss a way forward for immigration reform; and while comprehensive reform remains my priority, we cannot allow the perfect to become the enemy of the good. We must begin to address our immigration issues this year, improve our security at the borders. But piecemeal approaches at the State and local level only further complicates our Nation's immigration policy. We cannot and should not abandon our responsibility at the Federal level.

AgJobs and the DREAM Act provides a path forward that can be an example of how we can reform in a meaningful way that benefits our economy, provides a stable workforce on our local farms, and reduces the number of illegal workers in our country. We must act now, and I ask my colleagues to join me to pass immigration reform this year.

DEEMING A BUDGET ISN'T THE ANSWER

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, the American people are tired of more spending, more borrowing, more bailouts and more debt. And here we go deeming things again. Deem something, not budgeting. The Democrats' version of a budget means picking a dollar amount for this year without even looking at what the impact for the future is. We need a budget plan that guides spending decisions, but the Democrats are too afraid to even make a real attempt. Deeming things as a budget isn't the answer.

Republicans want to offer a budget that reins in spending, addresses the trillion-dollar national debt, and provides economic certainty for small businesses. In fact, some of us have co-sponsored the RSC budget that does that very thing. While others say that this plan is too extreme, it shows just how much Congress is spending beyond its means.

American families have to live within their means. Why should the govern-

ment be any different? They want Congress to get serious and make the tough decisions that will get our spending problem under control. Our country can't afford for Congress to avoid hard decisions that we were elected to do. You can't deem things. You've got to do things.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, the disaster in the gulf has made it increasingly evident that we must reevaluate our Nation's energy policy to prioritize renewable energy sources and focus on a clean energy economy. It is unfortunate that it has taken a man-made tragedy of this scale to open our eyes to both the economic and environmental dangers of offshore drilling and our reliance on fossil fuels. In addition to ensuring that BP is held accountable for the damages done to the gulf coast community, we must take this time to refocus on clean energy policies to ensure that a catastrophe of this nature never occurs again.

Comprehensive energy reform will not only help protect our pristine coastlines, but it will insist on ensuring that America stays competitive in the global economy. According to a new poll released by the Pew Research Center, the American people are now on our side and strongly support alternative energy production. Now is the time to launch a cleaner, smarter, more cost-effective energy future to protect our environment and create millions of clean energy jobs.

PASS THE COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Yesterday, China and Taiwan signed the free trade agreement to open up markets, create jobs and strengthen their economies. You have to ask yourself, if these two bitter political rivals can work together to boost their economies, why isn't this Congress taking up the free trade agreement with Colombia?

Colombia's one of America's strongest allies. With our help, they've instilled rule of law, defeated the FARC terrorist group. They've created labor rights and lowered their crime rate, violence rate by 90 percent. For 3 years, this Congress has done nothing. Other countries have now moved in line ahead of us, and our U.S. farmers are losing their sales to Colombia. Congress does nothing. Venezuela has imposed a trade agreement on our ally Colombia. This Congress does nothing. It's time for Congress to take up and pass the Colombia Free Trade Agreement this year.

CONGRATULATING CHEF RICK MOONEN

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chef Rick Moonen on his impressive second-place finish on Bravo's Top Chef Masters competition earlier this month. Chef Moonen is donating his winnings to Three Square Food Bank in Las Vegas, where the \$22,500 prize money will fund the equivalent of 67,500 meals for southern Nevadans who are struggling with hunger.

I was pleased to join Chef Moonen this past April when he further demonstrated his commitment to fighting hunger by supporting the Weekends Without Hunger Act, a bill I introduced that will prevent low-income children from going hungry when they are away from school during the weekends and on holidays. We're honored to have a chef of Rick Moonen's stature as such a strong advocate for fighting hunger in southern Nevada.

So, again, I extend my congratulations to the chef and thank him for the contributions he's made to our community. I am also proud to have his wonderful restaurant, RM Seafood, in District Three. And I urge all my colleagues to join us to support the Weekends Without Hunger Act.

AMERICA SPEAKING OUT

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today we're here on the floor of the House of Representatives talking about taxing and spending, jobs, and the needs of this great Nation. Yet today we will begin debating a bill which will further tax and cause fees of \$18 billion for consumers in the new banking bill, a banking bill that will collapse what is \$1 trillion worth of equity and other arrangements that can be made that today fund American businesses and keep small businesses alive.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's time that we change the direction that we're heading. Taxing and spending is something that the American people do not want or need for their future. The unemployment rate still stays near 10 percent. And since taking office in 2007, our Democrat friends have set a record for deficits, spending, and unemployment. The American people know this, and they are speaking out.

I encourage Americans to visit the Web site www.AmericaSpeakingOut.com. "America Speaking Out" is an opportunity for Americans to have a say in their government.

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LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE

(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, last evening I received a phone call from a friend from my congressional district who now lives here in the District. We spoke extensively, but painfully, about the pitiful action taken in this body yesterday.

We denied unemployment benefits to American citizens who, through no fault of their own, became victims of the worst recession in U.S. history. They lost their jobs.

This, for me, was a very, very low point. The Senate has failed to approve summer jobs for youth, as well as emergency TANF relief, temporary assistance for families in need.

Mr. Speaker, when I came to the Congress, I didn't sign up to make a mess but to make a difference. We are damaging the lives of men and women and, painfully, it is for political reasons. I went home last night ashamed of being in this body.

FEDERAL SPENDING IS OUT OF CONTROL

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Federal spending is out of control, and the American people know it. \$13 trillion national debt, a \$1.4 trillion deficit this year, an 84 percent increase in non-defense discretionary spending since this administration took office. The Democrat majority's answer so far this year, no budget.

To answer this extraordinary fiscal crisis by refusing to lead is unacceptable. After a year of avoiding hard choices, now we hear the latest Democrat plan is actually to bring a budget resolution to the floor in some procedural motion known as "deeming."

Well, Mr. Speaker, you can't deem a budget that you never passed. The American people long for leadership in Washington, D.C., that's willing to sit down across party lines and face the fiscal and economic crisis of this country head on with hard choices. We can't get this economy moving again until we get Washington, D.C., under control.

I urge my colleagues, reject this phony baloney deeming of the budget. Let's sit down. Let's face our fiscal crisis head on. Give the American people the kind of leadership they want and deserve.

LET'S PUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FIRST

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

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Mr. Speaker, in 2002 Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones introduced legislation to crack down on predatory lending and subprime bor-

rowers. Acting then to protect American homeowners could have helped prevent the foreclosure crisis, which led to the financial crisis, which led to the deepest recession in generations.

But instead of acting in 2002 or 2003 or every other year they controlled Congress and the White House, my Republican colleagues stood by and did nothing. We can now clearly see the result of that inaction.

This week we will take long overdue steps as we vote on the most sweeping reform of our financial system since the Great Depression. Instead of leaving decisions about our financial system in the hands of Wall Street bankers, this legislation will curb the risky practices and fix the systemic flaws that brought our economy to the brink. Instead of allowing predatory lending and dangerous speculation to go unchecked, these reforms will provide real protections for Americans looking to invest or to buy a home.

We cannot undo the failures of past leadership, but we can help prevent another economic crisis like this one. By passing the Wall Street reform conference report, we can chart a new course that puts America first.

CONDEMNING THE IRANIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

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

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on display in Jerusalem at the Yad Vashem museum, the Holocaust museum, amidst all the pain and suffering and murder and turmoil, are German schoolbooks from the 1930s that display an attitude that was getting pumped into young Germans through their educational system. And as fearful and as loathsome as that is, there is the same thing that's happening in Iran today.

The Iranian educational system has excerpts that suggest that martyrdom is praiseworthy, and it urges children to welcome it. It is laced with anti-Semitism, anti-Israeli sentiment, and anti-Western sentiment.

I'm introducing a resolution today that condemns that, calls upon us to focus on it, and urges the administration to consider that as it interacts with Iran, particularly on these sanctions. I urge my colleagues to join me.

THE WALL STREET REFORM BILL

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, 8 million jobs gone; \$17 trillion in savings gone; Americans' faith in their system gone. Why? Because mortgages that came in 31 flavors of insanity got bought by Americans who couldn't afford them. Banks tied them in a bow and put AAA ratings on them, and then the billion dollar betting really started. The Wall

Street reform bill that we have crafted addresses every one of the links in that chain of madness.

Yesterday, the minority leader called the reform killing an ant with a nuclear weapon. Mr. Speaker, I'm a human being, so I know that 8 million jobs lost and \$17 trillion in savings gone is not an ant.

Mr. Speaker, I worked years in the financial services industry, so I know that this reform is not a nuclear weapon. It is a critical and essential mechanism to restore the faith of the American people in their system and the prosperity that will follow.

WALL STREET REFORM

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, it's pretty clear that there's a difference between Democrats and Republicans and their attitude toward the economy. Democrats want an economy that works for everyone. Republicans want an economy that works for Wall Street banks, that works for insurance companies, and works for big oil companies.

The greatest evidence of that was just mentioned by my colleague from Connecticut; the minority leader's statement that the reform package that we're proposing to pass for Wall Street is like killing an ant with a nuclear weapon. Goldman Sachs is an ant? AIG is an ant? Bank of America is an ant? These are ants with an awfully big appetite, because they chewed up \$17 trillion worth of American citizens' net worth.

No, we can't let ants this dangerous loose on our economy. We have to propose reasonable regulations, and that's what we're doing. We want to make sure that the American economy works for every American and not just for the people on Wall Street.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS NOW

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is a shame and a disgrace that we did not extend unemployment insurance. Every single Member who voted "no" yesterday should be ashamed of themselves.

People are suffering. They are hurting. They are in pain. They cannot make ends meet. And too many, just too many on the other side of the aisle turned a deaf ear.

I ask my Republican colleagues: Can't you hear? Can't you feel? Can't you see? Where is your heart? Where is your compassion? Where is your concern?

Extend unemployment benefits, and extend it now.