

on unemployment, Annette uses the funds as a bridge to her next job—not to replace it.

The notion that relief discourages people from seeking jobs is not only wrong but outrageous. So today, I call on Republicans to stop hurting American workers. Stop playing politics with their lives and start letting the Senate and millions of Americans get back to work.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, last week the State of Ohio announced that its unemployment rate for June was 10.5 percent. Every county in my district saw an increase, and in some areas it's higher than 14 percent. And that's before taking into account those people that have given up looking for work and the underemployed. No wonder my constituents continually ask, "Where are the jobs?"

Business leaders in my district and around the country continue to say the same thing. We need to stop this reckless spending in Washington and stop pursuing job-killing policies. When businesses are faced with new taxes to cover the government takeover of health care, the uncertainty of cap-and-trade tax legislation, and the litany of other taxes, how are they expected to hire new workers and reinvest in their business?

I am gravely concerned about the direction this Congress is taking with our economy. The reckless spending has to stop, and the massive debt which we are saddling our children and grandchildren with is unconscionable. It is time to put sound fiscal policies in place. Let's spend less, keep taxes low, and help create an environment in which small businesses can thrive. Only then in Ohio can we finally say, "Here come the jobs."

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SCHAUER. Mr. Speaker, over the last 75 years, Social Security has been secure and reliable for Americans approaching retirement. For some Americans, it's the backbone of their retirement; for others, it's all they have. Six out of 10 senior citizens in our country receive the majority of their income from Social Security and four out of 10 widows do. As a matter of fact, after our country's most recent economic disaster, even more seniors were left with only Social Security to rely on because they saw their retirement accounts dwindle at the hands of Wall Street.

We've already seen what can happen when we let Wall Street CEOs gamble with our life savings—we lose. We can-

not afford to gamble with our Nation's golden years, and privatization is just that—gambling.

We must work together to strengthen the promise of Social Security for our children and for our grandchildren and still meet the needs of those who depend on it now for income.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(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, everyone is asking, "Where are the jobs?" When will the liberal leadership in the House take action to get us out of this perpetual economic slump and have a plan to provide the jobs that American families need?

Unemployment nationally remains high at 9.5 percent for June, with the U.S. economy losing 125,000 jobs in that month alone. South Florida's unemployment rate has steadily increased to 12.8 percent. To add insult to injury, in my congressional district, we're still reeling from the perception of the gulf oil spill in our area. BP might have temporarily sealed the leak, but the damage has been done to south Florida's tourism economy. Commercial fishermen, charter boat captains, mom-and-pop restaurants, they're all feeling the economic pinch.

It is time to take a proven approach of providing tax relief, regulatory relief for families and small businesses, while reducing the debt, which is delaying future economic growth.

NATIONAL OCEANS POLICY

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, the United States Congress enacted legislation to create an Oceans Commission to look at how we can prevent the oceans from dying. Yesterday, the President of the United States enacted, by Executive order, the first national oceans policy and governance for the oceans and Great Lakes of the United States—our greatest national heritage and our greatest national trust.

We, the people, are going to be taking care of the oceans like they've never been taken care of before. We're not going to allow the conflicts of the sea of overfishing, of overmining, of overdrilling, of overeverything and dumping all of our waste and garbage and sewage into the oceans. We're now going to have a policy that's like the clean air policy, where we cleaned up the air in America, cleaned up the water in America with the Clean Water Act.

Thank you, Mr. President, for being the best steward our oceans have ever had and implementing the recommendations of the National Oceans Commission, which Congress enacted

but could not enact legislation. Hopefully, we'll move out from here and the world will see and the children will appreciate the actions that the President took yesterday.

IN SUPPORT OF SMALL BUSINESS

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

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, over the Fourth of July district work period, I met with small business leaders in central New Jersey. We discussed the state of the economy and how New Jersey's job creators are in dire need of free market solutions that will help them create jobs. Instead, Congress has put forth job-killing policies that include higher taxes, unchecked spending, and new health care mandates that continue to put a drag on small businesses across the Nation.

That's why I have joined a number of my colleagues from the Northeast in authoring a small business assistance plan that provides important tax relief, reduces paperwork requirements, and boosts small business lending. Our proposed measure focuses on letting small business owners keep more of what they earn to hire workers, buy new equipment, expand their companies, and spend less time filling out paperwork created by Federal mandates.

I urge my colleagues to help small businesses across the Nation and co-sponsor H.R. 5554.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, next month we will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of Social Security. Before 1935, half of America's seniors lived in poverty. Since FDR signed Social Security into law, we have upheld a sacred trust to our parents and grandparents that after decades of hard work, raising their children, and defending the U.S. against foreign enemies, that they would be able to retire with dignity and respect.

Three weeks ago, my colleague from Ohio, the House Republican leader, implied that we should raise the retirement age to 70 for everyone, office workers and construction workers alike, and cut Social Security benefits to help reduce the deficit and pay for the war in Afghanistan. Raiding Social Security in this way is both irresponsible, and it is a breach of trust.

We should not be gutting Social Security and breaching our sacred trust to America's seniors. It's amazing that Republicans are willing to gut Social Security and refuse unemployment compensation during these challenging times while at the same time arguing that we must preserve the tax cuts for the superwealthy.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, hardworking individuals and entrepreneurs have always been the life blood of our economy. They create jobs. They spur innovation. They have made the American free enterprise system the envy of the world.

As Americans, we all understand that if you work hard you can be successful. Unfortunately, that spirit appears to be undergoing a fundamental transformation in which government comes before the spirit of free enterprise.

The trend began early in 2009 when the government passed the so-called "stimulus package" that was supposed to boost the economy and keep unemployment under 8 percent. More than a year after stimulus, unemployment remains well above 9 percent.

Around this country there is an atmosphere of uncertainty caused by Washington's anti-worker agenda. New taxes, mandates, and regulations in countless new laws and proposed laws are threatening to strangle our Nation's entrepreneurs and workers. As I travel around my district, a prevailing feeling of uncertainty about what lies ahead has made employers hesitant to create new jobs; and until this fear and uncertainty about the future is allayed, the American people will continue to wonder and ask the question: Where are the jobs?

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT
EXTENSION

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, unemployment benefits and Social Security benefits are a safety net. They are not a lottery handout; and as we struggle to try to get the Senate to pass an extension of unemployment benefits, with 15 million out-of-work Americans who are depending on us to pay their bills, it's important to remember that the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has said that passage of unemployment benefit extensions is one of the most cost-effective and fast-acting ways to stimulate the economy.

But lost in all of this debate and all of this delay is the human side. So I want to share the story fresh from the headline of today's Dubuque Telegraph Herald with the headline: "Desperation sets in for jobless parents." A family with a 32-year-old dad and 30-year-old mom could provide for their children a year ago, but times have changed because Mom suffered an injury at work and hasn't been able to work since March. Dad lost his job a couple of months later, and their unemployment benefits expired in July. The family in-

cludes girls, 14 and 10, and boys, 11 and 7.

These are the Americans who need us to act now.

IT'S POLITICS AS USUAL

(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, last week, President Obama was in Holland, Michigan, announcing the award of an economic stimulus grant to a Korean Company: 300 jobs, \$150 million, all at a cost of \$500,000 per job, all financed by the American taxpayer.

Every Republican in this Chamber voted against the stimulus because we don't think that having the Federal Government pick winners and losers is a way back economically. We don't think borrowing over 40 cents for every dollar that we spend is the way to create jobs. We don't think that this out-of-control spending and piling mountains and mountains of debt on future generations is the kind of America that our Founding Fathers envisioned.

But then the President, while accepting our State's gracious hospitality and respect for his office, chose to take a cheap, partisan, political shot at Congressman PETE HOEKSTRA, whose district he was in. President Obama is proving himself to be the most partisan President in our Nation's history, and instability will not create jobs. Instead, it's politics as usual. It is certainly not change that we can believe in.

REJECT PROPOSALS TO PRIVATIZE
SOCIAL SECURITY OR MEDICARE

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

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as we debate ways to tackle our growing deficit and create jobs, I call today on this Congress to reject proposals that would privatize Social Security or Medicare.

Colorado seniors rely on Social Security and Medicare; and as we struggle to climb out of a deep recession, the security provided by these programs is more critical than ever.

Dismantling Medicare and adding trillions of dollars to the deficit with a risky privatization scheme that gambles seniors' financial security in the stock market is just the wrong way to go. Rolling the dice on the financial security our seniors depend on, in a financial system that recently almost collapsed, is reckless in the extreme and has been roundly rejected by the American people.

We can cut waste, fraud, and abuse from Social Security and Medicare without cutting a penny in benefits, and I will fight to protect the promise that we made to America's seniors.

COLOMBIA FREE TRADE
AGREEMENT

(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 the American people ask where are the jobs, the President's economic advisers reply with weak statistics about the wasteful government stimulus program. All the while, we're losing billions of dollars to tariffs that could have been eliminated years ago.

It has been 1,337 days since the U.S. and Colombia negotiated a free trade agreement. For over 3 years, the Democrat leadership in Congress has refused to consider the legislation to ratify that treaty. In that time, American businesses have paid an estimated \$2.8 billion in tariffs. This is \$2.8 billion that could have gone to good American jobs, and this number grows higher every day. You can see it on the Republican Ways and Means Committee Web site.

We need to stop wasting our time, hoping that more government spending and borrowing will revive the economy. Instead, we need to unleash American businesses and entrepreneurs to expand into new markets. Passing the Colombia, South Korea, and Panama Free Trade Agreements would give real, tangible benefits to American workers and create jobs.

MAINTAINING CURRENT RETIREMENT AGE FOR
SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, during the first decade of this century, the Bush economy destroyed the middle class. Today, we are at a point where 72 percent of Social Security retirees have elected early retirement at age 62 because they had no other financial choice.

But despite the fact that they have voted with their feet in unprecedented numbers, what is Mr. BOEHNER's proposal for Social Security, which he told the Pittsburgh Gazette a couple of weeks ago? He wants to raise the retirement age to age 70. If there is a more out-of-touch statement about what the middle class of this country is going through and what an out-of-touch proposal, to basically totally knock the stuffing out of the retirement security, Mr. BOEHNER's proposal to raise the Social Security retirement age to 70, to means test benefits would decimate what's left of the American middle class.

We cannot let that happen. Democrats will protect this program, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this August, by maintaining the retirement age which exists today, a program which is solvent until 2037 and with moderate, balanced changes can protect its solvency for future years and generations.