

The picture isn't pretty if these tax hikes go into effect. If you're a family of four and your income is \$50,000 a year, you could pay \$2,100 in additional taxes; if you're married as a senior citizen earning \$40,000 a year, you could pay \$1,400 in higher taxes; a single mom making \$36,000 a year could end up paying \$1,100 in new taxes.

Hardworking middle class Americans across the country cannot afford an attack on creating jobs. The Federal Government cannot pay off America's debt by higher taxes.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

EXTENDERS BILL

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, in December and again in May, this House passed legislation to extend a popular set of expiring tax provisions providing billions of dollars in relief to millions of American families. This tax bill passed the House and has been stymied in the other body where only two Republican Senators have stood up against their party's filibuster for these tax cuts.

The State sales tax deduction has provided parity for families living in States without an income tax.

Let me tell you who's suffering: 600,000 families in Tennessee cannot deduct \$1.3 billion of State sales taxes; 2 million families in Florida cannot deduct \$3 billion of State taxes; 2.2 million families in Texas cannot deduct \$4 billion in State sales taxes. Nationwide, more than 12 million families cannot deduct \$19.5 billion in State sales taxes.

This deduction will spur purchases for cars, boats, and school supplies. But time is slipping away. We need to tell the other side to move these Senators on the tax extenders bill because it means jobs.

DICTATOR CHAVEZ AND U.S. OIL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Venezuela's dictator Hugo Chavez is threatening to cut off oil supplies to the United States. Chavez doesn't like the fact America is friendly with Colombia. Since America is the biggest buyer of Venezuelan oil, Dictator Chavez thinks he has a say in American foreign policy.

American dependence on foreign oil poses a national security risk. It makes no sense at all. And why are we paying dictators and tyrants to supply us with energy? We have all of the energy we need right here at home, but we don't produce it. American-made energy provides jobs for Americans—good-paying jobs, the kind of jobs that buy houses and cars and put kids through college.

But the offshore jobs and money are moving to Indonesia, Egypt, Brazil, and Venezuela.

The moratorium on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico threatens America's jobs and economy. It is a national security issue, and it gives a brutal buffoon dictator like Hugo Chavez dangerous influence.

End the illogical, ill-advised, ill-conceived offshore drilling moratorium. It's about time.

And that's just the way it is.

IN SUPPORT OF A NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the President's executive order establishing a comprehensive national ocean policy. Now, more than ever, we need a coordinated approach for the management of our ocean and coastal resources.

The tragedy in the gulf is a wake-up call. We would have been much better prepared to deal with this disaster had a national ocean policy been in place before the spill.

But Mr. Speaker, oil spills are just one threat. Overfishing and ocean acidification are also evidence of the urgent need to ensure wise stewardship of our coasts, our oceans, and the Great Lakes.

In the gulf and around the country, our communities are intimately linked to healthy coastal oceanic ecosystems. A national ocean policy will make our oceans healthier and our coastal economy stronger. It will strengthen ocean governance and coordination. It will bring a science-based approach to ocean conservation.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the President for taking this historic step. This vision of healthy, resilient oceans will ensure that future generations can share in the wonders of our cherished seas.

□ 1010

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to revisit the subject of health care reform. The bill was passed behind closed doors using bribery, deceit, and arm twisting. It is not popular with the American people, and the majority of them want it repealed.

The promises made to the American people were false. You will not be able to keep your doctor. You will not be able to keep your insurance. There will be rationing of health care, even to the seniors.

The acute physician shortage means the poor, near poor, and middle class Americans will find the quality of their

health care diminished and their access limited. Emergency rooms will be busier than ever, and it will be increasingly difficult for Medicare and Medicaid patients to be seen.

The unfunded medical mandates forced onto the weakened financial systems of the States are designed to collapse and fail. The administration had no intention of keeping any of the promises it made. Their only concern was furthering their own agendas, even at the expense of the taxpayer and the American health care system.

The American people stand ready to support those of us who seek to repeal this disastrous health care bill, and I stand resolute with my colleagues to do so.

9/11 HEALTH LEGISLATION

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, this week, yesterday, we approved billions for the war in Afghanistan but Congress has yet to fully address the impact of the events that caused the war in the first place, the 9/11 terrorist attacks. On 9/11, thousands of Americans were murdered and killed in the first act of the war on terror on our soil, but thousands more on that day lost their health when they ran into burning buildings to save the lives of others. Nine long years after the attack, we have yet to approve guaranteed help for the first responders that risked their lives for others.

The House will soon vote on the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, a bill that provides health care and compensation to the thousands of Americans that came from almost every congressional district around this country to help others. The bill is fully paid for and meets our moral responsibility to help those who came to the aid of our Nation in one of America's darkest hours.

I urge my colleagues from across the country to support this patriotic bill.

ADA ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, Monday we recognized the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It's important to recognize the work this country has done to ensure equality for people with disabilities, to make sure they experience a good quality of life; that their rights are protected; that they have access, resources, and tools to live fulfilled, productive lives.

I am thankful for the leaders who fought for this law 20 years ago because it benefits people I love, family, friends, and coworkers. But Mr. Speaker, this Congress failed our disabled community miserably this year when it passed the health care overhaul, and it did so at a steep cost.

Somehow this Congress thought, let's tax medical devices, tools that people with disabilities depend on every day. Was this the right thing to do? I don't think so. Some thought taxing pacemakers, hearing aids, prosthetics, and wheelchairs was okay, it's acceptable. If that isn't an example of broken government, I don't know what is. It's not okay. It's not acceptable. Taxing our disabled population is flat out wrong.

9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

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

Mr. CROWLEY. This week when the House considers the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, my colleagues will have a simple choice: to vote to protect foreign corporations who are avoiding paying U.S. taxes or vote to protect those who stood in protection of us on 9/11.

It has been almost 9 years since our Nation was attacked. Three thousand lives were lost, including that of my cousin, Battalion Chief John Moran. Thousands more were injured, particularly those who spent days and months cleaning up Ground Zero.

Our Nation stood together in the aftermath, defiant against those who attacked us, committed to never again let a terrorist attack occur on American soil. And we stood with the thousands who came to Ground Zero, first to look for survivors and then to clean up.

Tomorrow, the House will get a chance to fulfill our thanks to those who served us. Thousands were told by the Federal Government, "the air is safe, return home," go back to work. Thousands were told that a flimsy medical mask would keep them secure and to keep searching, keep cleaning up Ground Zero. But the air was not safe and now thousands are sick.

We have a commitment to those who served us. We have a duty to pass the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. Vote "yes" tomorrow. Make our Nation proud.

ANOTHER SETBACK FOR VIETNAMESE HUMAN RIGHTS

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

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year local authorities in Con Dau, Vietnam, announced the demolition of properties to make way for a tourist resort. No plans for adequate compensation or relocation were offered. At the same time, the government posted a sign forbidding burials in the local church cemetery, which, for more than 100 years, had served as the town's burial site and which the government had recognized as an historical site.

On May 4, 2010, Da Nang police intervened in the funeral of Mary Dang Thi

Tan, preventing her burial at the cemetery and brutally beating 59 of the mourners. When 43-year-old Mr. Nam Nguyen refused to make false statements to authorities about the mourners, he was beaten by police and died at his home shortly thereafter.

Along with many others, this incident shows that the Government of Vietnam has no respect for human rights. To make matters worse, they defended and protected those who committed these outrageous acts.

If our Nation is to be recognized as a beacon of democracy and an advocate of human rights, we must demand the same from those we work with, especially from Vietnam, whose human rights record is atrocious.

What happened to Mr. Nguyen is an outrage and should be met with condemnation from our government and from this esteemed body.

CONGRATULATING WORLD CUP TEAM MEMBER HERCULEZ GOMEZ

(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 my constituent and member of the United States men's soccer World Cup team, Herculez Gomez, on his performance in the World Cup.

Herculez Gomez, a former soccer star at Las Vegas High School, was a stand-out forward for the United States at the World Cup. With Team U.S.A. facing a 2-0 deficit in a match with Slovenia, Coach Bob Bradley turned to Gomez to come off the bench to provide a spark to his squad. Thanks to Gomez's energy and play-making abilities, Team U.S.A. rallied for a 2-2 tie.

Although we didn't prevail in the final competition, I want to congratulate Herculez Gomez and his teammates for their performance in the tournament. Their teamwork and passion inspired millions of fans throughout the United States and was just a preview of what U.S.A. soccer can do in the future.

I wish the best of luck to Herculez Gomez and welcome him home to District Three, where he is a local hero and role model to many aspiring young soccer players.

WE NEED A CONSTITUTIONAL BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT NOW

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I had an opportunity in my community, Sarasota, Florida, to talk to a couple hundred people, working families and small businesses. They've had to cut their expenses 20, 30 percent, but yet Congress is incapable of cutting its own expenses.

First 206 years, the history of our country, we accumulated a trillion dol-

lars. The last 9 months we accumulated a trillion dollars. Last year was a trillion and a half dollar deficit. You would think after last year we would cut the expenses, no. But this year, another trillion and a half dollar deficit. Next year they're projecting another trillion and a half dollar deficit.

You can talk about Greece. We're the next Greece. We have to have a constitutional balanced budget amendment. It's a bill I introduced my first year here. It just says simply you can't spend more than you take in. We need a constitutional balanced budget amendment now.

□ 1020

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in recognizing the 75th anniversary of Social Security. Social Security has provided basic economic security for generations of Americans.

A woman from Tewksbury, Massachusetts, a city that I represent, recently wrote me to say, "I am retired and dependent on Social Security to survive. Please protect the benefits I've worked so hard for for many years."

Over the years, Democrats have fought to improve and strengthen Social Security. As a result, the Social Security Trust Fund has reserves of \$2.6 trillion, which will continue to earn interest and pay benefits until 2037.

But imagine if Social Security benefits had been invested in the stock market during the recent Wall Street crisis. Seniors would have lost billions of dollars in Social Security income, along with any retirement savings they had when the economy collapsed.

Despite what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would argue, subjecting Social Security to the whims of Wall Street is not the answer. We must be committed to strengthening Social Security so that our contract with American workers endures for generations.

HOLD ON TO YOUR WALLETS

(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. America, hold on to your wallets. NANCY PELOSI and the Democrats are coming after you with higher taxes—in the middle of a recession.

Come January, tax rates are going to skyrocket on hardworking, middle class families and small businesses. A new poll says 55 percent of voters in battleground States would be less likely to vote for Democrat congressional candidates if Congress doesn't stop or delay next year's scheduled tax increases before election day.