

strengthens our economy. It strengthens our national security, and our folks will be able to make it in America.

□ 2220

Mr. GARAMENDI. How correct you are. And we would reach out to our Republican colleagues and ask them to join us on Making It in America.

We've had enough of our tax dollars shipped overseas to buy buses that are manufactured overseas, to buy trains and ferries. Our tax dollars need to be spent at home. If it's a water system, a sanitation system, a bus, if it's our tax dollars, make it in America. If it's our tax dollars, then let's use it to make our future energy supplies—wind turbines, solar systems—make it in America. It's our mission, in the second half of this session, to make it in America.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, we in West Virginia understand well the need for this "Make it in America" initiative. Even as we diversify, from broadband infrastructure to tourism marketing, we all know what the manufacturing center means for good paying jobs. The leap from a hard days work, producing the best products in the world, to a service-based industry is a far stretch—one that leaves our national security at risk. The House Democrats understand the need for a plan and action to increase American manufacturing and create new American jobs.

When we "Make It in America," we create jobs to lead the world economy. First and foremost, we must ensure that every nook and cranny of the federal government is geared towards American products, American companies and American workers. In 2007, the Defense Department alone allowed over 14,000 contracts for goods and services to go to foreign companies. That's \$5.7 billion American tax dollars we waved goodbye to. We've got to shut the floodgates on the tidal wave of taxpayer's dollars flowing overseas, and shore up our contracts for goods and services bought by the federal government and provided by American workers. I'm a long time advocate for "Buy American" provisions in law, but a concentrated effort will sharpen the focus on a fair deal for our workers and small business and industries.

A global economy doesn't mean a one way trade route for American capital. There's no question we can compete here at home, under fair rules applied to all competitors. Federal agencies should be partners, not competitors, with our workers. The first step towards this realignment is the National Manufacturing Strategy. We passed Congressman LIPINSKI's bill that calls for a National Manufacturing Strategy and will create the high-skill, high-wage jobs of the future—promoting American competitiveness, innovation, and exports.

The manufacturing sector generates two-thirds of our exports, and employs millions of Americans. This manufacturing strategy goes hand-in-hand with the newly formed Buy American Caucus, of which I am a member, by working to promote American jobs; reclaim American leadership in manufacturing; support small businesses; and close loopholes in current law to ensure that the federal government is purchasing American-made products.

Our efforts have the potential to assist manufacturing businesses throughout southern West Virginia. We are proud of those manu-

facturers who continue to support the economy and workers, and are particularly proud of those in the Third District of West Virginia. We have to create a continued demand for American products and create a rebirth of our state and nation as the manufacturing world leader. That effort must start with buying American products here at home.

POSITIVE SOLUTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERRIELLO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GRAVES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I guess I rise at an appropriate time to follow the dialogue that we just heard.

It amazes me, as I'm here now on my 44th day in the House of Representatives, and it seems like on each and every day I've heard the other side of the aisle do nothing but blame a previous administration for the failings of today. It is my hope that at some point they will begin taking responsibility for some of the policy actions.

But what we're here to talk about tonight are positive solutions. We've heard a lot of blaming and name calling here over the past several weeks, and we're here tonight to talk about positive solutions to some of the difficult challenges.

So to the colleagues that were just speaking, we're here to call your bluff. You said come call your bluff, well, here we are, and I've got some good gentlemen that are going to join me. But what I want to start out with today is we're going to talk about the kitchen table solutions.

As you may have heard, we have had a program here where we've been actually going out and seeking solutions from the American people, not from our leadership, not from a political party, but from the American people; and it's called America Speaking Out. And there have been more than 12,000 specific ideas generated from the American people, more than 600,000 votes cast on these ideas as to what is most important.

And so the top concerns from the kitchen table all across America: number one, jobs—and I think we've been saying, where are the jobs? Number two, spending. Why isn't the Federal Government balancing their checkbook? And then health care, ObamaCare itself. So that's what we are going to talk about tonight.

As we move through this, I know we have some colleagues that are going to join me. My good colleague from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is going to be with us and also Mr. THOMPSON from Pennsylvania. But first we're going to talk about the number one issue facing America: jobs, jobs creation.

We have a few quotes here. One—this is, I guess, just from last year, it says: "Our stimulus plan will likely save"—"likely," key word—"save or create 3

to 4 million jobs. Ninety percent of these jobs will be created in the private sector and the remaining 10 percent in the public sector." But now the public sector has lost nearly 8 million jobs in the last 2 years; government has gained 656,000 jobs. So when our colleagues from the other side of the aisle stood here a minute ago and said jobs have been created, they were in fact true; but they were created in the public sector, not the private sector.

And then it also says estimated unemployment without the stimulus would be 8.8 percent this year. Well, with all of the stimulus bailouts, buyouts, Cash for Clunkers, you ring it all up, unemployment in May was 9.7; far exceeded their expectations. So obviously the plans are not working.

So what have been the job killers? Excessive taxation, insufficient liquidity, economic uncertainty, and red tape and government mandates. So over the last year we've seen nearly double-digit unemployment, the debt is continuing to grow, we've got a job-killing agenda, and according to the National Federation of Independent Businesses, one in six small businesses are concerned about the uncertainty of the future. Fifteen million people out of jobs, out of work right now, unemployment at its highest rate in 25 years, and the private sector, again, has lost 8 million jobs.

So we heard a minute ago, stimulus: that was creating all the jobs, that was going to take care of America. Well, I think about stimulus and health care and all that we saw last year, and it brought Americans to the National Capital last year. If you will remember, on September 12, Americans from all over this Nation rode on buses here, flew on airplanes to celebrate—was it to celebrate or to speak out against what has been done? And we all know the American people are not happy right now.

So what is coming up next? 2011, 5 months away, under the leadership here in Congress, we will see taxes go up on each and every American. We heard "middle class tax cuts" just a few minutes ago. There aren't going to be any middle class tax cuts; in fact, every tax rate goes up for every American all across the country in so many different ways. Every individual tax bracket goes up. We have a marriage penalty, the Child Tax Credit will be cut in half. It doesn't sound like a tax cut to me; it's actually a tax increase. And then farmers, small business owners will see their tax rate go up to 55 percent in the States. And then of course capital gains and dividend taxes will rise as a result of the leadership here in Washington.

So much to do, so much to do. The good thing is that we have positive solutions. That's what we are here to talk about tonight. I know my good friend, Mr. THOMPSON from Pennsylvania, is a good leader on job creation and is working hard in that area. I would love to have you join us, if you

would like, to share with us some positive solutions here to get Americans back to work. And does that include public sector jobs or private sector jobs?

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I thank my good friend for coordinating this hour tonight, very important hour. This is about real solutions, not the types of policies we've seen over these past 19 months which has grown the size of government—bloomed the size of government, actually. We have increased the deficit to the point that what we have is a legacy of debt. There is not a generation, I don't think, that ever wants to have it so that—we always want to leave this country better than what we found it, to pass it on to our children and our grandchildren. Yet with the trend that we have been on from the leadership, or the lack of leadership, from my colleagues across the aisle in terms of the taxing, the spending, the borrowing, what we have today for the generations to follow us is just a tremendous legacy of debt.

I think the data that just recently came out showed the deficit pushing \$14 trillion, \$14 trillion. But you know what? There are better ways. We've been working on these. These are not new ideas. We've had bills that we have introduced. Unfortunately, the Speaker has control over what bills get to the floor. We have many solutions. What I call is, as opposed to Big Government solutions which we've been seeing, we've been working on smart government solutions, those that truly stimulate the economy—or would stimulate the economy if we were able to get moving on those.

Many of those have to do with who the true economic engine is in this country, and frankly that economic engine is small business. There are over 20 million small businesses in this country. These are the folks who take risk. They're the ones that work 6, 7 days a week; they're putting in those 16- and 17-hour days. Many times they do that without taking a dollar back for themselves. They keep reinvesting in their companies. They're growing jobs. They've got that American Dream, and they are trying to live that dream. Unfortunately, what we've seen in the past 19 months is this government, the Obama administration and Speaker PELOSI, just crushing those dreams.

On back home, I describe it as, if the economy is a football game, there are yellow flags flying everywhere for piling on the backs of small businesses. Actually, a former colleague here, Dick Armey, I understand once described it—it was a great description, I repeat it often—that if the economy is a horse race, and of course the economy is the horse and government is the jockey, at whatever point the jockey becomes larger than the horse, you know you've got problems. And that's what we have today.

We've been working on things and looking at trying to reduce the costs

for small businesses, and it has been very challenging to do in the 111th Congress with the folks that we have here.

□ 2230

To start out with, I'll share one bill that I have that I've been working on, which I introduced some time ago. It was to allow individuals—entrepreneurs—who have this vision, who have this American dream, to be able to take some money and to be able to put that money into a tax-deferred savings account. It allows them to do that on a regular basis and to build that amount of money up. You know, they've got the dream. They've got the idea. They know what they want to do. When they've accumulated enough of the tax-deferred savings, they can use that money to purchase maybe physical property, maybe the resources, equipment or capital they need to start that business and to be able to stimulate a new business that grows jobs.

That is just one of, obviously, I think, thousands of ideas that we've been working on as Republicans. You know, we are often accused of being the party of “no,” N-O. Well, that's a partial truth, actually. There are a lot of half-truths around Capitol Hill. The fact is we are the party of “know,” K-N-O-W. More importantly than that, we are listening to the American people.

I thank my colleague for really emphasizing tonight America Speaking Out and the fact that we are here as public servants.

We are here to work for the American people. That means we want to have a dialogue. That means we want to be communicating with the people we work for. So America Speaking Out is just a great program that has allowed Americans from coast to coast to be able to do that. That, to me, is so important. I look forward to it.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Well, let's get to some simple facts, because you're right. America has been speaking out. The main thing they've been asking is: Where are the jobs?

Just in the last year, we know there have been 2.5 million jobs lost here in the United States. So, you know, I guess a great admittance to that is the fact that the Democrats were pushing through the expansion or the extension of the unemployment benefits. If, in fact, their policies were to work or were working, there would be no need to extend unemployment benefits. The truth is they had to extend them because their policies aren't working.

Let's get to some simple facts here real quick. I'm a finance major. You know, the problem is not that difficult. The challenges are certainly great, but the facts are simple. There is a commonsense equation here.

We have total employers in the United States of about 24 million. The unemployment rate is 9.5 percent. We have about 14.6 million unemployed Americans right now. So there is a

simple equation, which is, if one in three businesses hired just one employee over the next year, the unemployment rate would be 4.4 percent. That gets it to reasonable, sensible, easy-to-understand ideas.

Here is the equation: If one in three businesses adds one new hire in the next 12 months, unemployment is down to 4.4 percent.

So the question is: How do businesses get to this point where they hire that next person? Right now, they're not doing it, and there is a reason for that. It is called “uncertainty.” It is the uncertainty of what is about to happen to them next—and I think we know the tax increases that are coming and things like that. It's certainly scaring businesses.

So what are some of the solutions?

I guess the broader solution is getting government out of the way of job creation and fighting the efforts here, you know, that we've seen as they're pushing through the largest tax increase in the history of this country, and it is coming in 5 months.

Yet today, here tonight, right before us, stood Members of the other party, saying, Oh, middle class tax cuts. That's not what is happening.

In 5 months, we will have the largest tax increase in the history of this Nation. We need to return to spending levels that were from the 2008 levels and then roll back taxes. You know, we often hear them say, Oh, those big corporate tax breaks. Well, guess who hires Americans? Businesses. Wouldn't it be sensible to relieve them of some of the tax burdens here in the United States instead of increasing taxes like they're going to do? Then, of course, there's rolling back the regulatory burdens that we see. There is so much to do, so much to do.

We heard them a few minutes ago say, Well, Republicans have voted against these job-creation packages. Well, I don't know that any of those packages have been successful, so it's probably a good thing that Republicans have voted against them.

The fact is they have a majority that is far greater than the Republicans. They can push through anything they want to push through, and they have certainly been doing that against the will of the American people.

Mr. GOHMERT. Will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Yes, sir.

Thank you for joining us.

Mr. GOHMERT. I love having a new Congressman here who's so good at math.

The question is: We have heard repeatedly that the majority wants to have a green economy like that in Spain. Now we've heard from Spain, and it turns out they're having to abandon their green effort at a green economy because they have determined that, every time they created one green job, they lost two regular jobs in the economy.

I was just wondering if the gentleman from Georgia would make a

calculation and figure out how long it would take us to get to the 4 percent unemployment rate if we were to lose two jobs for every one job the majority were to create under their green plan.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. I think we'd be going backwards a little bit. You're right.

I mean the fact is we need to empower the business community. We need to embrace the entrepreneurial spirit. We need to equip them with lower burdens of regulation, and we need to lower tax rates. We do not need to be creating jobs as a government. Instead, we need the private sector to be creating jobs. It's a zero sum game. There are only so many employees in the United States, and if more of them are shifting to the public sector, it is only taking intellectual capital and wealth out of the private sector.

I would love to turn it over to my good colleague from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Thank you for joining us on this late evening to talk about getting this country back on track.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ranger in Gordon County. It's almost my district. We have contiguous congressional districts, and we have the privilege, actually, of sharing Gordon County.

The gentleman from Ranger, Representative GRAVES, has done a great job in a short period of time, Mr. Speaker, in the House of Representatives, and he knows of what he speaks. I mean this is the kind of work that he did in the Georgia House of Representatives, and he represented us extremely well at the State level. It is really interesting to see him on the floor of the House of Representatives now, here to explain to the American people and to our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, what truly is going on here.

He and I had the privilege, I guess you could say, of watching the previous hour, of watching our colleagues from the Democratic majority. It seems, Mr. Speaker, that they spent an hour whining about competition from other countries, particularly from China. They wanted to focus in on China and talk about, you know, all of these unfair trade practices and what China is doing in regard to their currency and dumping and all of these things. You'd think there were, indeed, no World Trade Organization to police anything. Yet it was, you know, a whole hour of blaming other countries for the woes that we have in our country.

As Representative GRAVES pointed out, the fact is that we have an unemployment rate of 10 percent, and 16 million people are out of work.

I even heard from the other side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, the Representative from Wisconsin, the distinguished Dr. KAGEN, say that the problem is that the economic stimulus package of February 2009 of \$862 billion—that's right, with a "b"—was not enough, that they just simply didn't pour enough money into this problem.

Of course, we all know on this side of the aisle that we conservative Republicans are going to continue to fight this plan the Democratic majority has of just spending more money. You cannot spend your way out of debt. Every family in this country understands that and understands that very clearly. We'll talk about this in the ensuing hour as we proceed with the colloquy.

As Representative GRAVES points out, Mr. Speaker, the problem is not them. The problem is us. We can blame other countries all we want for our own woes. We can blame Greece. We can blame Spain. They spent an hour blaming China. How about blaming our tax policy that has a corporate tax rate of 35 percent? It is one of the highest rates of any industrialized country. While all of the other countries in Western Europe are lowering their corporate tax rates, we just leave it alone. We don't do anything about it.

As the gentleman from Calhoun and from Gordon County just said, we are about to let—not "we," but you, Mr. Speaker, and the Democratic majority—the Bush tax cuts expire.

Representatives GRAVES talks about marginal rates. He didn't have a chance yet—and I'm sure he will—to get into the estate tax and, instead of there being a 15 percent tax on dividends, letting it go up to the marginal rate, indeed up to 39.6 percent, and letting capital gains go back up from 10 or 15 percent to 20 percent.

□ 2240

These are the job killers. All of these regulations, union wages, kowtowing to them, giving them special deals, paying them, in many instances far more, and, indeed, even letting them work Federal jobs and negotiate union activities while they're supposed to be working for the taxpayer.

I could go on and on, but I want to yield back to the gentleman controlling the time and look forward to my colleagues as we go through this hour.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Well, let's take a quick glance at where we are from a perspective financially, and then the positive solution of balancing the budget. Imagine that, balancing the budget, balancing the checkbook here at the Federal Government.

Well, here's the truth of where we are. And we heard earlier when our friends from the other side were talking about how good it was since the new administration has taken over. Well, here's some facts. The facts don't lie. I mean, the truth is that the deficit under this current administration and leadership has just blossomed tremendously since they've taken charge.

Now, we've heard a lot. In my 44 days, I've heard so much about President Bush, President Bush, the last 8 years, his administration. But you know what? I think they've had a little bit of amnesia, because they took the majority in 2006, swore in their Speaker in 2007, and look what happened. From that point forward, the deficit bloomed and unemployment increased.

It all works together simultaneously, but yet they want to look back over the full decade and forget that, You know what? They're responsible. They were in a governing position, and yet they don't want to accept the responsibility of governing.

So that leads us to where we are right now, at a point of lack of governing, because for the first time since 1974 no budget has been presented here. And the question is: Where's the budget?

And right here you can read the quote. It says, Skipping a budget resolution this year would be unprecedented. And we've seen a lot of unprecedented things over the last several months, but this, in itself, is unprecedented. The House has never failed to pass an annual budget resolution since the current budget rules were put into place in 1974. And that's reported here back in April.

But budgets are necessary, according to the leadership here. STENY HOYER, our current majority leader, said, enacting a budget was the most basic responsibility of governing. That was the year they took over, the year they took over. And since then, look what's happened.

And then, of course, from the House Budget Committee chairman, if you can't budget, you can't govern. Right there it is.

Well, that leads us to today. I believe it's time to let the American people know that we have solutions to balance the budget and actually have a proposal in place, and that, I can tell the American people, hasn't got a hearing. I wonder why. I wonder why.

H. Con. Res. 281, which I know many of the colleagues here have signed on to it—I'm not sure if one would want to speak to it in its specifics, but it provides tax relief, returns to 2008 spending levels, makes no changes to the Social Security laws as they currently are, provides spending increases equivalent to the inflation growth in Medicare and Medicaid, requires each committee in this House to find savings equal to 1 percent of the mandatory spending, repeals the Troubled Asset Relief Program, TARP, repeals TARP, repeals ObamaCare, and then also provides medical liability reform, freedom to purchase health care across State lines, repeals Davis-Bacon, so many other things, great concepts there. And I'm sure you'd like to speak to some of those and the need, the importance of balancing the budget here in the United States Congress.

Mr. GOHMERT. I appreciate my new friend for yielding.

And going back to a comment from good Dr. GINGREY from Georgia about the \$862 billion stimulus package, because I know he recalls and others recall that CBO told us that it was a \$787 billion stimulus package. And lo and behold, we get here a year later, and they say, Oh, you know what? We blew it by about 15 percent. We just blew it.

Most statistical analysts say, you know, it's within the margin of error, 2

to 4 percent. Not with CBO here. You know, maybe we can blow it 25 percent, in this case, 15 percent or so. Whoops.

In a year's time, we were \$100 billion off the mark. Really, to be fair, \$80 billion off the mark. But still, that points out just how irresponsible things have gotten.

And when you look at the numbers, too, you find out that CBO really has been a bit of a willing ally, an accomplice, complicit in what's been going on. They told the country, okay, this ridiculous health care bill that's going to bankrupt the country, we're already finding, they're already starting to tell people we're going to have to ration your care. And, by the way, it's going to cost about \$250 billion more than we thought it would. We just misplaced some numbers somehow, because if we had found them before the bill came for a vote, people had said they wouldn't vote for it if it was more than \$1 trillion.

Well, what difference does another \$250 billion make when you're putting us in debt \$1 trillion? But the CBO just magically forgot, misplaced, you know, 200, \$250 billion or so until after it passed, and then within a matter of a couple of months they found it.

We're in trouble here and we need to get rid of CBO. We need to get some kind of independent group, whether it's Moody's or some other, that can do an adequate statistical analysis.

But the games that are being played with jobs would be comical if it weren't representing real people hurting, real people hurting. And I proposed a year and a half ago that instead of spending \$1 trillion, and we were told that we may be spending \$3 to \$9 trillion just to try to get the economy going. Hey, spend \$1.21 trillion and you would let everybody in America forego paying any income tax for the year. You let people keep their own money and they would jump-start this economy.

Yet, what our friends across the aisle are saying, "No, no, no. Our friends across the aisle want to give tax cuts and allow the lower rates only to go to the wealthy." Because the way they identify it, the 53 percent of adult Americans that will pay all of the income tax this year they consider to be the wealthy. And so what they're, in effect, saying is the Republicans want to give tax relief to the only people paying the taxes.

"We, on our side of the aisle, we want to give tax relief to all the people that aren't paying any tax." Well, there's another name for that. It's called redistribution of the wealth. It means those who have not been able to earn anything will have money taken away from those that earned it and given to those who didn't.

We need to help those that can't help themselves, no question. But we do not need to become a government that did what I saw as a judge, where the government lures people into a rut they can never get out of and gives them no hope, no way out, just still feeding

them a little unemployment check, feeding them a little check here and there just to keep them in a rut with no help getting out.

It's time to blow the lid off this thing and get an economy going where small businesses create the jobs. Yes, the small businesses are the ones that need the tax cuts. They certainly don't need the biggest tax increase in American history that's coming in January. They're the ones that are going to provide the hope for creating the jobs.

And so I hope and pray we'll be able to help the small businesses create the jobs instead of just doling out these little temporary census worker jobs, which, as my friends know, was all that happened in June. 411,000 out of 431,000 jobs created in America were temporary census jobs.

I yield back to my friend from Georgia.

□ 2250

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. You know what's so exciting about this America Speaking Out program is that we're getting ideas from Americans that are sitting around the kitchen table and they're talking about what would they do if they were in charge. What would they do if they were making these decisions. As they're watching the TV, and oftentimes in disgust seeing what comes out of Washington, D.C. The ideas that they have proposed and the thousands of connections that have been made.

And I took that to my district and somewhat implemented a program much like that and developed an economic advisory council of business and community leaders from each and every county in my district to seek input from them to tear down that wall. Because for far too long Washington has not been listening. And so we just took that wall down and said, hey, we want your ideas so we can push them up and present them here to the full House as the ideas from Main Street itself, not from Capitol Hill. But we need the ideas from the hills of north Georgia, are where the ideas come from, and the hills from all over this great Nation.

But you know, balancing the budget is a great start. Every American family has to balance their checkbook. But yet right now, here, leading by example, a terrible example is a Federal Government that is so far outside of its bounds with deficit spending and increasing its debt, it's unsustainable.

So I guess the Republicans have a solution right here. House Concurrent Resolution 281 balances the budget, cuts taxes, and cuts spending, something that's unheard of here in Washington, D.C. When every State and local government all around this Nation's cutting spending right now, every family's cutting spending out of their personal budget, here on the Federal level we just keep spending, spending, spending.

Mr. THOMPSON, you looked like you had something good to add to the conversation here.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Well, I thank my good friend. And I want to come back to one word I think that really describes what is suppressing jobs, what is killing jobs, what is keeping jobs from being created. And that is uncertainty. Uncertainty is the direct result of all the policies we've seen piled upon the American economy in the past 19 months. And you know, as I travel around in my district, just like you do, you talk with the job creators, you talk with the people who take the risks, that every year take their profits—and no, that's not a bad word, that's a good word. That's how we've grown and built this wonderful Nation, on the backs of entrepreneurs and small business men and women.

And they take their profits and they reinvest them back in their company. And they add a product line or they build a new site. They hire people. Well, they're not doing that right now. They're sitting on the sidelines. And that's a direct result of just all the terrible policies that have been crushing our small businesses.

When I think over this past 19 months, and I'm in my first term here, you know how many times taxes have been raised? Now, we're looking at the largest tax increase ever that's looming. And we should talk more about that. But we should not lose sight of the fact that taxes have already been raised tremendously on these job creators, these small businesses.

Now, my colleagues across the other side will say, well, we only taxed the wealthy, those folks who made somewhere around \$200,000 or more a year. And you know, where I come from, yeah, that's a lot of money. Absolutely. But when you really drill down and you look at who those people are, 60 percent of those folks are small business owners whose small businesses are organized as a limited liability corporation or an S corporation. They pay their taxes as individuals. And out of that maybe \$200,000, if they are lucky, that they generate, they're paying a payroll, they're employing people, they're providing family-sustaining jobs. And, you know, I've lost count of how many times they've raised taxes on those folks since January 2009. It's crushing.

And you talked about the largest tax increase ever. And this has been my fear all along, that 2009 was a really tough year. 2010's a tough year. But it's been—you know, there's almost like an anesthesia that, Doc, that's been applied. You know, all this government money's been thrown at people so it makes folks feel a little bit better because unemployment went down. But as my good friend from Texas noted, a lot of those were temporary government sector jobs that drove down unemployment nationally for a short time. Never went down much less than 10 percent, but it took the edge off.

Well, my greatest fear is in January 2011 we're going right off the cliff. Because that's when these new taxes,

these new regulations—we've tripled the size of the Environmental Protection Agency, although around home I refer to them as the Excessive Punishment Agency. You know, all that takes effect beginning January of 2011. And then you put on top of that the things that you've talked about, the largest tax increase ever, \$3.8 trillion. What will that be? Well, we are going to see the marriage penalty is going to return. The child tax credit's going to be halved. The death tax, which I think is just double taxation at the least. We put a tax on somebody's death.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Let's stop there for a second. You're talking about the marriage tax. Now, those are the people, the wealthy married people or is that all married people? That's everyone, right?

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. That's everybody.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. And now the individuals with children are the ones getting the penalty here, the ones who are the wealthy, or is it everyone who has children?

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. It's everyone.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. It is everyone. So the fact that they stood over here, what, 40 minutes ago and said, oh, these are tax cuts for the middle class, that's not the case. The largest tax increase in the history of this Nation will occur in 5 months. But we have a bill that we've introduced, and I am sure y'all have cosponsored it, I cosponsored it, to block that, to block that tax increase, and to allow the taxes to remain at the level they are today. And of course we would want to see them lowered. But it's not a tax cut. We're just saying, hey, keep it at the level it is. Don't raise them. Because that's what they are doing. They're raising taxes.

Let me finish this balance the checkbook thing real quick, and we'll talk about confidence in a minute. So balance the checkbook. Republicans, we're saying let's cut spending. Let's stop this excessive spending that's going on here in Washington. We can do that by repealing the unused portions of the stimulus bill. They talk about how great it's been, the grand fanfare of the stimulus, when in fact a third of it hasn't even been spent, which means, again, it's not working.

We need to end the bailouts. And then of course the big one, repeal ObamaCare, which is a nearly \$600 billion tax increase on all Americans and businesses all over the United States.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. If the gentleman will yield.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Billion, right, that's nine zeroes.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. In regard to America Speaking Out, the poster—if you don't mind, Mr. Speaker, have the gentleman put that America Speaking Out poster back up so our colleagues can take a good look at it. I was just, as I stood here, thinking about our colleagues from the majority

side of the aisle who had the previous hour. There was a Member from Ohio, there was a Member from Wisconsin, and there was a Member from California.

And I will just bet you, Mr. Speaker, if the folks in those great States will take the opportunity of going on that Web site, www.AmericaSpeakingOut.com, and input what their concerns are, it would probably mirror what is on that poster that Representative GRAVES has presented to our colleagues this evening in regard to balance the checkbook, cut spending, repeal the stimulus, \$862 billion. Indeed, the Representative from Wisconsin said that wasn't enough spending; we need to spend more.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. This is what Americans are saying right here. Americans did not go to AmericaSpeakingOut.com—and this is nonpartisan, it's confidential—Americans did not go to that Web site and say increase spending. They did not say increase the stimulus and do another one. They did not say continue the bailouts or keep ObamaCare. They actually said stop all this stuff. Stop it. That was America speaking out right here.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. If the gentleman will yield, I would say that the gentleman is absolute, Mr. Speaker, right on target. And he said a key word. And that is that this is a nonpartisan Web site. Yes, it is created by the Republican minority for all of America to let us know, whether they be Democrats, Republicans, independents, libertarians, whatever. Let them have the opportunity to tell us, and let's have a bubble-up-from-the-bottom contract with America, not a top-down driven government-knows-better-than-anybody-else kind of plan that it seems the Democratic majority is heck bent and determined to force on the American people, just as they tried to force a year-and-a-half ago cap-and-trade, an energy policy that was run amok, that would result in probably \$1,500 minimum a year per family in increased energy costs.

And then of course they come right back after that with this ObamaCare that Representative GRAVES is talking about. He mentioned the \$600 billion worth of increased taxes to pay for it.

□ 2300

What he didn't mention was the additional \$525 billion cut to the Medicare program, which we all know, all four of us know, is \$75 trillion of unfunded liability over the next 50 years, and you're going to gut it 12 percent a year and then have the unmitigated gall, Mr. Speaker, to spend taxpayer money and send out these brochures, these glossy, fancy Medicare brochures assuring seniors that it's going to be better for them to cut their programs 12 percent a year and Medicare Advantage 18 percent a year.

I think the American people know better, and I think that the folks in

Wisconsin, the folks in Ohio, and the folks in California are going to let those three Representatives know and give them a sure earful when they get back to their districts come August recess.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Thank you, Dr. GINGREY. You are absolutely right.

Now, let me summarize. We've been talking about solutions here tonight. First one we were talking about was job creation. Certainty was mentioned by Mr. THOMPSON there. Uncertainty being the problem; certainty being the solution. So some certainty would be let's pass this legislation that blocks the largest tax increase in the history of our Nation. Let's get some of this regulation out of the way. Let's empower the small business owners and just embrace and ignite that entrepreneurial spirit. The solutions to job creation.

The second component we were talking about is the spending and balancing the budget. It's time to cut spending. Let's say enough is enough here in Washington. All of America, all businesses, all State, all local governments are cutting spending, whereas here we are, we're raising spending. But we've even gone a step further, taken a bold step and said, we've got a plan to balance the budget here for the Federal Government.

And now the third category, which I think really involved the American people last year, not in a positive way because they weren't engaged in the process, because it was a process that was behind closed doors, but it raised the awareness of the abuse of the process and the abuse of the rules and abuse of the system right here, and that was health care.

As we've talked about America Speaking Out, repealing ObamaCare was one of the top items mentioned or indicated out of the—what did we say, nearly 12,000 respondents, 12,000 specific ideas and 600,000 votes cast for different ideas. We've got an interesting chart here, and this will be the debut I believe of it publicly to show the health care plan as passed, the health care plan as passed.

It was approached or presented as a plan that was patient friendly, right? Isn't that what it's called, the Patient Protection Act? This is the ObamaCare health care plan in a schematic of what occurred out of the 2,000 pages of legislation. They're still today figuring out that portions of it were in there that they never expected or knew were in there, including new additional taxes.

But let me point out as we discuss this, and I know, Doctor, you've probably got a lot of insight into it because we do have an alternative plan. We had one then, it was presented then, but it's still in committee right now.

But let me point out to those watching. Here's the physician at this point. Here's the patient down here at this point, and all of this government is in between. How is that better for the American patient, for the young boy

that's needing care? How is this better for that young single mom who's just trying to get care for her child? This is not better. This is a mess, a governmental nightmare right here, and this is as it's passed and has been signed into law, the Obama health care plan.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. If the gentleman will yield, Mr. Speaker, this is absolutely astounding. I have seen that chart before, not maybe in quite such a vivid highlight and outline, but Mr. Speaker, my degree is in chemistry. And when I first saw Representative GRAVES put that chart up for all of our colleagues to see, I thought that was the periodic table. Really, it took me back to my chemistry days and the periodic table of the elements. It's probably changed some now because it has been a long time since I attended Georgia Tech and got that BS in chemistry, but this is more complex than the periodic table.

And I'm sure the gentleman from Ranger will agree with me, it's something like 130 new Federal agencies that were created by this mess, all between the doctor and the patient. Maybe my colleague will point out where the doctor is on that chart and where the patient is.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. You're right. This is the doctor. There's the patient. You would think the patient and doctor would be in the center, right? That should be the center of this diagram, but it is not. It is this newly empowered Secretary of the Health and Human Services that is in the center of which all of this spirals off of, and all of this is documented and all the code sections are outlined on here how it was created, and it indicates new mandates, new taxes, new programs, new processes. All of this is in this new health care plan that is going to be a mess for Americans right here.

The great thing is, though, that as we stand before America tonight, we don't stand here without an alternative, without another idea. We come before America boldly with another alternative, and the first step, in my opinion, is we have to defund this mess. Let's just put the brakes on it. We don't need another, what, \$600 billion in new taxes. We need to defund this, and we have introduced legislation that is H.R. 5882, which each of you are probably cosponsors of and I'm the sponsor of the legislation to just defund it altogether, and let's start over because the process was broken. The policy is flawed.

Let's get a patient-centered, patient-driven health care plan in place of which we've got good alternatives. Would you like to share a little bit about the proposal that's out there, or do you have some ideas yourself?

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Thank you so much for looking at this. What a nightmare this is. I spent 28 years managing a rural hospital, and what I see there, when I look at that chart is not the periodic table. I see bankruptcy for hospitals, physicians, health care providers.

I mean, my health care career goes back to the beginning of the 1980s, and I am a proud survivor of the first prospective payment system, diagnostic related groups that were rolled into hospitals all across the Nation. I was there in the 1980s. I was there in the 1990s for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, HIPAA.

HIPAA would just be one of those circles on that chart, but let me tell you the experience of health care, and it's health care everywhere, but it really hits hard in rural health care and underserved urban areas.

The bureaucracy that was required to implement HIPAA in the 1990s was tremendous. It took dollars from actually providing what I thought was compassionate and cost-effective care, and you had to hire clerical staff, you had to hire compliance individuals, you had to hire people that never saw a patient, never did anything to directly touch that life of somebody that was facing life-changing disease and disability in the health care work that I was privileged to participate in for 30 years.

You take that experience of HIPAA in the 1990s and now multiply that by the complexity of that chart. You know we have worked hard, I know Dr. GINGREY has, all health care professionals work very hard to make sure that health care is patient-centered. It's about the patient. And this is not about the patient. This obviously is government. This is not patient-centered health care. This is government-centered health care, and there's many different proposals out there.

Let me just touch on two of those because I think it's very important that as we show the negative impacts of this, that we show the alternatives, the things we are working on that are better solutions, what I like to call smart government solutions.

Going back to July of 2009 when we introduced the Putting Patients First Act. That's an act that addresses people with preexisting conditions and makes sure they're able to purchase affordable health care insurance. It's about providing greater access to care. It was about bringing down the cost of health care for all Americans. It was about preserving and even increasing the innovation quality of health care that comes out of this country and certainly about preserving that important decisionmaking relationship between the patient and physician, not allowing the government or bureaucrat to do that.

□ 2310

Putting Patients First Act, I encourage people to check that act out. You know what, it doesn't raise taxes a dollar. No cuts to Medicare, and yet it achieves all the things it needs to achieve.

You know that's the kind of thing, when we repeal this, that's what we need to replace it with. And I would tell you there are things we need to

surgically repair right now, because I don't expect that President Obama—I would expect a veto on any general repeal any time soon, so we need to surgically repair, certainly working with an eye to repeal.

And I am sure all my colleagues on the floor here are also cosponsors of H.R. 5141. It goes right back and it deals with the health care bill, but the impact's directly on small businesses.

Under the ObamaCare plan, every small business, for every exchange of business, a vendor, a contractor, just buying resources, anything more than \$600, they are required to file a 1099 form today under the ObamaCare plan. For some businesses, that's thousands of 1099 forms. We are talking more clerical staff. We are talking more overhead cost. We are talking about complying with bureaucracy that is just raising the cost on small businesses.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 5141. It puts an end to what I call death by a thousand paper cuts. And that is where health care buries small businesses, in paperwork.

That's another example of a Republican, smart government solution that we have put forward and it has been introduced. It's out there and, frankly, it would be good for America.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. You are absolutely right. So you presented a solution. H.R. 3400 would be the Empowering Patients First Act. We have talked about deauthorizing the funding for this mess here, and you talk about surgically removing some items here. I mean, this is a mess.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. It's going to be a whole lot of surgery, though.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. You wonder why this component would be in a health care proposal. The IRS, the Internal Revenue Service, is part of a health care plan; although, I think we all know that the American people do not want to have to go through this maze in order to get their health care taken care of here in the United States.

We have a couple of opportunities. One, H.R. 5882, for those whom are viewing this tonight, could encourage their Members to sign on to, and that would not allow any funds to be authorized or spent towards this here. Then there is the Repeal It proposal that repeals this altogether, and there are two of those out there. There is a letter or petition to have one voted on here on the floor, and that's H.R. 4972, by Mr. KING. That's the Repeal It legislation.

Then you have spoken about the alternative, the replacement. So you have defund it, repeal it, and then replace it with H.R. 3400, which is a free market, capitalistic solution to health care for Americans to allow them to be empowered, empowering them.

Would you like to add some more to this? I know we are getting close here before we need to stop sharing the truth here.

Mr. GOHMERT. It should be noted in all those little areas, you talk about all the new parts of government that are created and brought together in this—it's not a health care bill. It's a GRE—government running everything—bill. But they all have little references to the specific areas within the law that created them and created the relationship. That's one thing.

Another thing is, you know, all of the records, the medical records that people consider so personal and so dear will be in the Federal Government control. I think they are contracting out to their dear benefactors and contributors at General Electric, but they will have all that information, and the IRS could have access to your most personal information.

Can you imagine the debt collectors of America being able to have your most personal medical records? Well, that's what will occur here, and there's a great quote from Patrick Henry. People remember, "Is life so dear and peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?"

He had one quote where he said, "The Constitution is not an instrument for the government to restrain the people; it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government—lest it come to dominate our lives and interests." When I look at that board and I look at all the new government that is just going to be overwhelming people, they don't need the doctor after they start dealing with all this stuff.

Is that quote ever more appropriate that the Constitution should restrain the government lest it come to dominate our lives and interests? Will it ever?

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Last August, the American people were pretty upset about that. They were fired up 1 year ago as the leadership of this Hall went out all across America and avoided town hall meetings because they could not defend this 2,000-page spaghetti plate here of mess, because the American people know that the government taking over their health care is not the best option. The best option is the patient, the individual that is being empowered.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. You know, you talk about there is a temptation to try to surgically repair. But, Mr. Speaker, when you look at that chart that Representative GRAVES is presenting and you realize the complexity and there is so much wrong with this bill, I am afraid that by the time that you tried to surgically repair, there would be very little left to say grace over. That's why so many of our colleagues on this side of the aisle feel like that we need to repeal this bill, this monstrosity, this omnibus of 2,400 pages, government takeover of one-sixth of our economy, 16 percent, and start over, and start over.

Just this past week in the Energy and Commerce Committee—but we deal with a lot of health care issues, and this monstrosity, indeed, started

over a year ago. We passed, this week, eight separate health care-related bills, none of which were more than five pages long, and we did it in a bipartisan way.

We can certainly come back and, with four or five really good solid ideas, and maybe we can present those in a subsequent town hall meeting or Special Order hour here on the House floor, but that's what we really need to do. I think it's important that people understand that.

I thank the gentleman for having us here and this colloquy so that our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, and the American people can better understand what we truly need to do to repair this.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I want to thank you for joining me tonight, because here at this late hour here on the east coast, we are standing before the American people presenting alternatives, solutions to these challenging days.

We started off by talking about the economy and jobs and job creation, and that's empowering the private sector, not empowering government, creating certainty in the marketplace as opposed to the uncertainty that is out there today by standing in the way of the largest tax increase in the history of this Nation, which is about to be unfolded here in the next 5 months. And then also the reduction of capital gains. The reduction of the corporate tax rate and just igniting that entrepreneurial spirit once again to allow that entrepreneur, the American business owner, to dream, and to dream big and to go work hard.

Then next we talked about spending and spending cuts, balancing the budget. Very difficult items here on the Federal level, it would seem by the majority party. But, instead, we have proposed positive solutions to balance the budget like has never been seen before.

Then lastly, the health care. And all of this comes as a result of America Speaking Out, the Web site in which 12,000 responses were given and over 600,000 votes were cast on different ideas and concepts. Listening to the American people about jobs and the economy, about spending, about balancing the budget and the health care proposal, which leads us to defunding it, repealing it and then replacing it with a patient center, patient-driven concept that provides affordability, portability, and accessibility to Americans.

But this is not a time in which we stand and point fingers as we have heard over the past several weeks. My 44 days being here, the other side has pointed fingers back, back in time. But we are not here to do that. This is not about Republican and Democrat. This is about America right now and this is about getting our economy back on track. It's about creating the confidence once again in the marketplace and then providing true health care solutions.

So I appreciate my colleagues in joining me tonight on this late hour. I know it means a lot to your constituents that you would do that and that you would be working at this late hour in the evening because you know how important it is.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

□ 2320

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for half the remaining time to midnight.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate my friends from Georgia and the wonderful contributions that they have made to enlightenment with regard to these issues.

There is an issue that we want to recognize and take up tonight, and it's a wonderful topic, the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America here in the United States.

The Boy Scouts of America were incorporated on February 8, 1910 and chartered by Congress in 1916. The mission statement of Boy Scouts was to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the scout oath and the scout law.

It's interesting, doctors say that often our short-term memory is the first to go and our long-term memory seems to last longer, but I still do recall the scout law, that a scout is supposed to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. Those are good things to live by. The Boy Scouts have continued to live by that and produced incredible Americans over the years.

Right now we celebrate this fact because there is the National 2010 Boy Scout Jamboree going on at AP Hill—not terribly far from here—and so we've had thousands of Boy Scout visitors come through Washington, come through the Capitol. It's been an honor to take many through the Capitol and through this area, and we have many more coming. I know my district has 85 in one group that will be coming through on August 4 when they leave the AP Hill area and others have been helping as staff members.

But the jamboree is worth noting. There are 45,000 attendees that will include 37,000 Boy Scouts from all 50 States, 8,000 scout leaders and staff. A whopping 275,000 visitors will join the celebration over the course of 10 days to partake in the festivities. This 76,000-acre area has been hosting the National Scout Jamboree since 1981. The Boy Scouts use approximately 3,000 acres of this land to support a city of over 50,000 inhabitants.

One of my daughters asked years back, after having found out that one of the parents of one of her friends had