

This legislation will help thousands of New Yorkers, courageous firefighters, police officers, EMTs and clean-up workers, as well as the thousands of selfless individuals who rushed from every State to lend a hand in the rescue recovery and cleanup efforts at Ground Zero.

Many of them are my constituents, like John Feal, who founded the FealGoodFoundation, which has achieved so much since September 11 to raise awareness and help those who answered the Nation's call upon learning of the attacks on lower Manhattan.

It is imperative that we affirm our commitment to first responders and survivors by ensuring they have access to treatment and care. We should pass this bill as a solemn measure of our indebtedness and to honor these most deserving patriots who sacrificed their health and safety for their fellow Americans.

I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

MEDMAL ACT OF 2010

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, last month, along with fellow physician Congressman PHIL GINGREY of Georgia, I introduced the MedMal Act of 2010, legislation aimed at enacting a meaningful medical liability reform.

Unlike ObamaCare, this legislation will increase access and lower health care costs for patients, physicians and our government by reducing needless costs incurred because of defensive medicine. Furthermore, this reform will strengthen the doctor-patient relationship by encouraging collaboration between parties when a medical incident occurs.

Repealing ObamaCare and replacing it with patient-centered reforms continues to be our primary goal, a goal that our constituents sent us here to achieve.

Thus we remain committed to passing comprehensive medical liability reform as part of the solution. With a savings of at least \$200 billion annually in defensive medicine costs, there is no reason not to act immediately.

WHAT MEDICINE SHOULD DO WHEN IT CAN'T SAVE YOU

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the current article of the New Yorker magazine has a thoughtful article from Atul Gawande, "What medicine should do when it can't save your life." It focuses on those critical areas of end of life. It deals with fascinating studies that show people who deal, who are in hospice care, rather than the most aggressive medical interventions, actually, in many cases, live as long or in some cases even longer.

But, more important, Madam Speaker, is the notion of control for these patients. The people who have substantive discussions with their doctor about end-of-life preferences were more likely to die at peace and in control of their situation and to spare their families anguish.

This is exactly why I have introduced Personalize Your Care Act, H.R. 5795, to make sure that patients' wishes are observed, that the government helps promote that conversation, and that we allow people to live their lives the way they want to.

KEEP AVONDALE SHIPYARD OPEN

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, Northrop Grumman recently announced that they would consolidate and close Avondale Shipyard by 2013. In the midst of economic downturn, the gulf oil spill, the drilling moratorium, layoffs from the NASA shuttle program, the decision to close Avondale will very well have a devastating effect on the State of Louisiana.

We must find a solution to help those 5,000 employees that would be affected. Article I, section 9 of the Constitution states that "no preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one State over those of another."

If Avondale were making cruise ships, then this wouldn't be a Federal jurisdiction. However, as Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding has built over 70 percent of the Navy's fleet, I believe this is the time to exercise some intervention into this consolidation process. We must assist the State in finding alternative issues for Avondale Shipyard in Louisiana.

STAND UP TO WALL STREET

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

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, today, 40 of my colleagues are joining me to call on the Wall Street banks that are continuing to totally disrespect the American taxpayer to do the right thing.

In a report issued last week, compensation master Kenneth Feinberg identified 17 banks which paid out questionable bonuses, questionable in the sense that it was multimillion dollar payments for no good valuable work. These are banks that did this after accepting taxpayer assistance. To make matters worse, six of those 17 firms have yet to pay back the taxpayer money that was the lifeline to keep them going.

When the American public threw the lifeline, it was not for those banks and the benefit of the bankers. It was to stabilize the financial system and revive Main Street.

Why is it that when it comes to compensation on Wall Street, too much is never enough? Today, my colleagues are calling on these banks to put paying back the taxpayer ahead of paying off their executives.

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OPPOSE THE CLEAR ACT

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, instead of directly addressing the gulf oil spill tragedy, Congress is voting this week on legislation, the CLEAR Act, that is stuffed full of unrelated items, legislation that will kill American jobs and raise energy prices.

Simply put, Democrats are using the oil spill as an excuse to raise taxes and increase spending. The bill imposes a new \$22 billion energy tax and has over \$30 billion of new unrelated mandatory spending. What the Democrats are doing, Madam Speaker, is rushing ahead of the facts and writing laws before investigations into the spill are finished.

Reforms are needed to make American offshore drilling the safest in the world, but that doesn't require tax increases or billions of dollars of unrelated spending and inflicting greater economic pain and lost jobs on Americans.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the CLEAR Act.

HAMOT MEDICAL CENTER

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the exemplary health care institution in my district, Hamot Medical Center in Erie, Pennsylvania.

For more than 125 years, western Pennsylvanians have taken advantage of the excellent quality of care at Hamot Medical Center. This week, Hamot Medical Center is being recognized yet again for their high standards of quality and excellent patient care. U.S. News & World Report announced that Hamot Medical Center has been ranked among the top medical facilities in the Nation in the specialty of pulmonary medicine, which treats diseases of the lungs and respiratory tract. U.S. News & World Report's Best Hospitals 2010-11 includes rankings of 152 medical centers nationwide on tough standards of care and the number of patients served, among other factors.

I want to congratulate Hamot Medical Center for its commitment to its patients and to our community. Hamot is truly an asset to my district.

FEAR IS IN THE AIR FOR DEMOCRATS

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

Mr. PENCE. Thomas Jefferson said, "When the people fear their government, there is tyranny; when the government fears the people, there is liberty." Make no mistake about it, there is fear in the air.

Now elitists in Washington, DC, would have us believe that the rising voice of the American people is based on fear, but it is becoming evident that the real fear is coming from Democratic elitists here in Washington who realize that the people will not be silenced.

Yesterday we learned of a new effort by Democrats in Washington to attack American citizens who speak their mind and peaceably assemble as "extremists" or "radicals." Demeaning Tea Party citizens or other Americans for simply saying no to runaway spending, takeovers, and bailouts is beneath the dignity of a great political party and it smacks of desperation. The voices of the American people—whether the left or the right or the middle—should never be muted or demeaned by the leaders who serve them. And when we see baseless smears of good Americans whose only offense is the exercise of their First Amendment rights of free speech and free assembly, we should see the fear for what it is—the fear of losing an election.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF FORMER NBA STAR LORENZEN WRIGHT

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, yesterday in Memphis, Tennessee, a tragedy was discovered that has affected our city and its professional sports world, a great basketball player and Memphian, Lorenzen Wright, was found murdered.

Lorenzen Wright was a 14-year NBA star who played 5 years with the Memphis Grizzlies, and before that, 2 years with the University of Memphis, taking our team to the Great Eight in Kansas City, and before that, in high school at Booker T. Washington.

Lorenzen Wright was a family man. He was loved in Memphis, he was an outstanding citizen who cared about young people, he loved his children, and the city grieves for him today.

It is a great loss to our city and to the basketball world. I miss Lorenzen Wright as a friend. I appreciate all he did for my city.

DEMOCRATS NEED MORE OF YOUR TAX DOLLARS

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, \$6.1 trillion, that's how much money the Federal Government has spent in just the first 18 months of the Obama Presidency. Washington is spending \$7 million every minute of every hour of every day. There is only one way to feed that kind of destructive habit: Washington needs more of your tax dollars.

And that's exactly what Democrats here on Capitol Hill and in the White House are talking about, the largest tax increase in American history. And it's no surprise when this Democrat-controlled Congress is on the verge of a second straight year of creating a record annual deficit.

Instead of working with Republicans to make the hard choices to cut spending, Democrats are going to keep right on with out-of-control spending, and they will send the American people the bill. At a time when American families are struggling and when nearly 15 million people are looking for work, Washington Democrats are poised to hit every single taxpayer with a tax increase to pay for their reckless spending.

Madam Speaker, House Republicans will fight those tax increases and will work to stop Democrats' out-of-control spending.

FORT EDWARD FIRE

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

Mr. MURPHY of New York. Madam Speaker, there are times when words fall abysmally short to describe the horrors that punctuate our lives. A few weeks ago, our community was shaken by the devastating loss of six children in a house fire. As a father of three, a loss of this magnitude is beyond my comprehension.

Fort Edward has come together to remember and mourn the loss of these young lives. After the fire, a makeshift memorial grew up on the sidewalk in front of their home with a sea of flowers, toys, teddy bears, candles, and cards. Our community has grieved the loss of these children and come together in prayer and silence to offer support to their family and friends.

It is always a tragedy when children are taken before they've had a chance to grow, and it leaves us wondering, why did this happen? Hope was 12, Paige was 8, Lewis was 7, Mackenzie was 6, Emilie was 3, and Abbigayle was just 1 years old. Our hearts go out to their parents, and today I rise to remember the six children who lost their lives on that tragic night. Our entire community grieves their loss and keeps the memory of their lives close to our heart.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES AND MISPLACED PRIORITIES

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

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I want to say just a few words about missed opportunities and misplaced priorities.

This is typically appropriation season, but this is only our second appropriation bill—and maybe final appropriation bill that we do all year. We typically have an open rule where any Member can bring any amendment to the floor as long as it is germane to strike spending and save money for the taxpayers, yet this year the Rules Committee only saw fit to allow 22 percent of the amendments offered to go onto the floor today.

Typically, any Member can offer any amendment they would like to as long as it saves money. But instead of saving money this year, we decided to spend time doing things like H.R. 1460, recognizing the important role of pollinators, or supporting the goals and ideals of Railroad Retirement Day, or congratulating the Saratoga race course. These are suspension bills that take 10 minutes to debate on the floor; that's the same amount of time that we give for amendments. And so instead of doing amendments to save money, we're actually honoring racehorses and things like that.

TAX 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. Madam Speaker, in December, and again in May, this House passed legislation to extend a set of expiring tax provisions providing billions of dollars in tax relief to millions of American families. That tax bill passed the House and has been stymied in the other body, where only two Republican Senators have stood up to their party's filibuster against these tax cuts. The \$250 deduction for teachers is an important incentive for people who educate our children and buy classroom supplies out of their own pockets, but it has expired. Let me tell you who's suffering in the meantime: 124,000 teachers in Georgia cannot deduct \$31 million in classroom supplies for our children; 26,000 teachers in Nevada cannot deduct \$6.6 million in expenses; 113,000 teachers in North Carolina cannot deduct \$28 million of classroom costs; and 314,000 teachers in Texas cannot deduct \$81 million in expenses to educate our children. More than 3.5 million elementary and secondary teachers cannot deduct more than \$908 million they will spend this year out of pocket.

A better educated child means a better job down the road. This tax deduction benefiting our Nation's teachers has been forgotten and cast aside by the Senate Republicans. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to