

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, this week Arizonans are celebrating our latest success in the fight to preserve our second amendment rights.

Yesterday, a new law took effect allowing law-abiding citizens to bring guns into national parks and wildlife refuges. I was proud to join members from both parties to pass this law which ensures we can now move freely throughout State and Federal land with our firearms.

Greater Arizona is home to the most beautiful sites in the country, including thousands of miles of parkland. National parks are not just places we visit on vacation. We live and work in and around them. It was unacceptable to leave our rights behind each time we left home.

Now folks can become confident that their freedoms are protected wherever they travel in Arizona. I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue fighting to protect our constitutional right to bear and keep arms with measures like this.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President unveiled his \$1 trillion health care bill which is nearly the same as the two previous bills which have already been rejected by the American people. The American people have rejected those bills because they raise taxes, kill jobs, and increase costs to fund a government takeover of health care virtually.

The new taxes and regulations on small businesses alone will kill jobs at a time when nearly 1 in 10 Americans are already out of work. The plan unveiled yesterday still lacks fiscal responsibility and still levels mandates on individuals and employers and still puts Federal bureaucrats in control of private citizens' personal health care decisions. However, it does nothing to bring about true reform such as ending junk lawsuits or allowing individuals to purchase affordable health insurance across State lines.

This new plan is simply more of the same as what we have seen before—a series of half-measures moving in a proven wrong direction.

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AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, in January of 2009, the United States economy had lost more than 750,000 jobs in just 1 month. A year later, in January 2010, the United States economy gained a

few thousand jobs. This remarkable shift in the economy's performance is mainly due to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by this Congress and signed by our President.

In one year, the Recovery Act has provided \$120 billion in tax cuts for 95 percent of working families as well as businesses across this country; loaned nearly \$20 billion to small businesses to expand and create jobs; funded more than 12,500 transportation projects Nationwide and kept teachers, police officers, and firefighters working on the job.

Now we are seeing growth in our economy. On February 20, 2009, the Dow Jones was trading at 7,365. Yesterday, the market closed at 10,383.

The Recovery Act has worked and will continue to work throughout the course of this year. After all, it was designed to be a 2-year program.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, last week, the President and his administration were out in force bragging to anyone who would listen about how successful last year's trillion dollar stimulus bill has been. Vice President BIDEN left no doubt in anyone's mind when he said, "I am absolutely certain of one thing. The Recovery Act is working." Well, forgive me, Mr. Vice President, if I and millions of other Americans are a bit skeptical.

The American people continue to ask: Where are the jobs that this trillion dollar budget buster promised? Let me tell you, I would have a hard time going to my district in Monroe County, which has gone from 6 percent unemployment when the Democrats took control of the Congress in January 2007 to, last month, over 20 percent unemployment. Sadly, this is a story that is being repeated all across America.

So while the President and his Democratic colleagues in Congress are trying to remember the words to "Happy Days Are Here Again," the American people are left wondering, where are the jobs, and does anyone in Washington care about us?

TOMMY DOUGLAS FROM WEYBURN, SASKATCHEWAN

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, like everyone last night, I was watching the Olympics and I was wondering who was the most famous person in Canada. Fame is a rather fleeting thing; 60 seconds down a hill or on an ice rink.

The most famous person in Canada, by a vote on the CBC, was a politician, a Baptist minister, from Weyburn, Sas-

katchewan. His name is Tommy Douglas. Tommy Douglas, in 1947, brought universal health care to Saskatchewan.

Nobody remembers the people who said that they would never have health insurance in Canada. Nobody remembers all the people that fought him. He was elected five times premier of Saskatchewan because the people remembered who brought them health care. Maybe that is why former Speaker Gingrich said, "We can't let Mrs. Clinton succeed or the Democrats will be in forever." Well, that is what we are seeing again, folks. Maybe the Republicans are afraid that they will never get back in.

Nobody remembers who didn't say "yes."

BIG GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WORK

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week marked the first year of the trillion dollar spending bill claimed to produce jobs, but The Island Packet at Hilton Head Island reports the fact that more than 4 million jobs have been lost.

With 7.5 million jobs lost since Speaker PELOSI took over, I toured the district I represent on a "Joe Means Jobs" tour, where I found people want change from Big Government failed policies. They supported the concepts of the proven tax cuts of John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan as presented today in H.R. 470 to create jobs.

Sadly, the administration obsessively pushes a health care takeover, which the National Federation of Independent Business confirms will kill 1.6 million jobs.

Both parties should be working together to promote small business, the backbone of America, to create jobs.

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

Welcome Marc Conner Westbrook, the newborn son of Thad and Christy Westbrook, born February 19 at Lexington Medical Center of West Columbia, South Carolina.

My sympathy to the family of Wayne Dell of Ridgeland, the father of Chief of Staff Eric Dell of the Second District.

TODA AMERICA MANUFACTURING

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

Mr. SCHAUER. I rise to tell the story of an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project that is set to create new high-tech manufacturing jobs in my hometown of Battle Creek.

Last week, Toda America finalized a \$35 million grant through the Department of Energy's Electric Drive Battery and Component Manufacturing Initiative. Without the Recovery Act,

this Japanese firm wouldn't be investing \$70 million to build a new hybrid battery plant in my district. They wouldn't be hiring 50 to 60 new workers at an average weekly wage of \$900, plus an additional 91 indirect jobs.

In Michigan, with an unemployment rate of over 14 percent, we need every job we can get. 150 people will have jobs in my district because of Toda's innovation, the Recovery Act's commitment to battery development, and a never-give-up attitude. This is how we turn our economy around one job at a time.

THREE DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I returned from my district here just a couple of days ago after hearing from my constituents at several town hall meetings. One of the things they made absolutely crystal clear was they wanted us to start over on health care. They weren't arguing for the status quo. They are arguing for a new start.

So what do we have on Thursday? The President inviting Members from both Houses, both Democrat and Republican, for what? For what? A session in which it appears that the ground rules are going to be we are going to start with the House and the Senate bills.

I don't know. I am proud to be in this House, in part because of my love of the Constitution. I look at the Constitution, and it says we have three different branches of government and we are responsible for legislation. I don't see where there is a monarchy, where you are supposed to go and have an audience with the monarch surrounded by his court jesters.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, last week I, too, had a chance to be out in my local district. I was on Main Street in St. Peter, Minnesota. We had great conversations about how small businesses can continue to create and revitalize our economy. But do you know what they talked about most? Health care. They shared stories about double-digit increases in premiums. They shared stories about a difficult time hiring new employees because of the cost of health insurance. But one story in particular stuck with me.

I walked into Julee's Jewelry Store in St. Peter, Minnesota. Julee is a woman who has poured her life into making her business work, but she also shared a story with me.

Her son Trevor was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. So as she

and Trevor fight for his life, they are also fighting their insurance company to pay for the chemotherapy that their doctor ordered. She also told me she fears her son will never be able to change jobs because of a preexisting condition. Our current health system is limiting our ability to innovate and grow our economy.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I represent the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. I am proud to do so because of the high quality, low cost care that they provide.

I would like to leave you with a quote last week from the Mayo Clinic: "Reforming health care in America is absolutely essential. The status quo is not sustainable."

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I went online and got the President's proposal here, and it is 11 pages, and it is a summary. And then I got the summary of the summary, and it looks like it is about 19 pages summarizing the 11 pages. So I guess we are creating jobs by trying to do summaries of the summaries of the summaries. That is not good enough. People are out of work.

We heard last year, a year ago that if we did not pass the stimulus bill, the porkulus bill, if that didn't pass, unemployment might go as high as 8.5 percent. God, would that we would be there instead of where we are today.

This is not going to create jobs. It is going to suck more money out of the economy that government uses that the businesses will not have to create jobs. Let's help America. Let's put people back to work so they can afford their own health care.

HEALTH CARE AND JOBS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. When we were fighting in the civil rights movement, you could always count on the naysayers to stand aside and say America could not tolerate the equality of so many new people. Here we are today with the same crowd complaining about the good.

Let me tell you about the Investment Act that has generated opportunities for jobs. Before I tell you that, we do have a health care plan, one that will provide the largest middle class tax cuts in American history for affordable health care, one that will provide you with a competitive marketplace to go in and buy your insurance. No pre-existing condition can ever keep you from health insurance. As far as I am concerned, the people in the 18th Congressional District understand the good, and they know that health care in this form is good for them.

Then, as we stood with Speaker PELOSI at the Port of Houston on Mon-

day and were able to announce \$45 million to fix one of the most dangerous bridges in the Nation, investment, and to acknowledge 2,000 jobs and 3,000 extra jobs, the good is on the way.

WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO ON JOB CREATION

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I recently held a job fair in my district, and despite one of the snowiest travel days of the entire winter, more than 2,000 people showed up. The overwhelming turnout makes one thing clear: We have a long, long way to go to create real jobs.

But instead, Congress has embraced record borrowing and record spending while unemployment now hovers at about 10 percent. Millions of Americans are scraping by wondering why hundreds of billions of dollars of their tax money is being wasted, with millions of lost jobs to show for it.

An economic recovery without jobs is not a recovery. We need to strengthen small business and create the private sector jobs. If we want to boost our economy and put people back to work, we have got to get our priorities straight to help the entrepreneurs, the risk-takers, the innovators, the dreamers, instead of growing government.

HEALTH CARE

(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, the news that private health insurance companies earned a record \$12.2 billion in profits last year is a stark reminder of the need for enacting health reform now. Their profits are up 56 percent from the previous year, yet more and more Americans can't afford health insurance and are being dropped when they get sick.

As we have seen with Anthem Blue Cross in California, insurance companies are raising their premiums on individuals by as much as 40 percent. This is ridiculous. Fortunately, we have a plan to address this huge problem.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle may think the status quo is fine. I certainly don't. We must enact health reform legislation, holding insurance companies accountable, ensuring that patients have access to affordable care, improving the quality of health care for everyone.

I welcome the release of the President's proposal to achieve these important goals. I look forward to the outcome of Thursday's summit. As these outrageous premium increases show, we have an urgent need to move forward on health care reform.