

Mr. Speaker, this left-wing Democrat notion that we can borrow, tax, and spend our way into economic prosperity should now be disproven thoroughly in the minds of any reasonable person. Yet we learn today that inexplicably this administration still plans to shove the monstrosity of government-controlled health care down the throats of the American people. This will raise costs, decrease quality, rob the American people of their God-given freedom, rob our children of their future, and it will cost America many, many more jobs, Mr. Speaker. Where will the madness end?

THE BENEFITS OF THE RECOVERY ACT

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

Ms. RICHARDSON. One year ago the economy was declining by 6 percent. Over 600,000 Americans month after month after month were losing their jobs, with no relief. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that this Democratic Congress ensured that we brought forward was enacted to ensure that President Obama and his commitment as well would jump-start our economy, that we would create and save 3.5 million jobs, that we would give 95 percent of Americans who needed assistance a tax cut that we would deliver, and finally, that we would rebuild America through our roads, our rail, and our water infrastructure.

When we look at America today, we are doing better than what we were doing a year ago, but we have more to do. The American Recovery Act helped us to create new infrastructure, to train teachers, hire educators, and to improve health care. But we are ready to do more.

FIRST DO NO HARM

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. The Hippocratic oath is well known for the phrase, "First do no harm." Unfortunately, we have continued to come down on this floor and ask a simple question. Where are the jobs? What business and industry needs is some certainty. What this Congress and administration continues to offer is more uncertainty, which translates into higher risks, which increases borrowing rates.

We should first do no harm. We should stop the government takeover of health care, which will raise rates and cost jobs. We should oppose a cap-and-trade scheme which will raise energy costs and destroy jobs. Shelving these two major Democratic proposals would do the most to return some certainty to the economy so business can work on maintaining and creating jobs.

AMERICA IS GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, if you would listen to the party opposite, you would not know that America is actually on a real trajectory for positive change in the area of jobs. When President Bush left office, for the last 3 months of his administration America was hemorrhaging jobs at the rate of 750,000 on average. And now, in January, only 22,000 jobs lost. Now we are going in the right direction.

You can't overturn and change over 8 years of Republican rule in simply a finger snap. But the Democratic Caucus is on its way to restoring this country to economic health. We have seen increases in GDP. We have seen increases in manufacturing. We have seen increases in significant indicators. And this country needs more help, but we are going in the right direction, which is something we were not doing when President Obama took office a year ago.

All the American people need to do is just look at the numbers. Things are getting better. And the message of doom and gloom can never match up to one of hope.

FOCUS ON JOBS

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week President Obama released his latest version of a government takeover of health care. And as you look at the details of his latest plan, it is not much different than the previous plans that the American people have continued to reject.

And while the American people are saying where are the jobs, and they want Congress to be focused on creating jobs, all that they get from this tone deaf liberal leadership is more government takeover, more taxes, and more policies that are running millions of jobs out of this country.

It is time that this liberal leadership start listening to the American people and work with those of us who have for months and months been saying we need to reduce the cost of health care, we need to address preexisting conditions, and we need to do common sense medical liability reform, and we need a focus on jobs instead of more taxes, more runaway spending, and more policies that are running jobs out of this country.

JOB CREATION AND HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, we hear the question, should Congress be dealing

with job creation or with health care, as if these are unrelated. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, passed this past year, is already funding around this country an expansion of community health centers. It is funding already implementation and use of information technology in the health care fields. This is doctors' offices and hospitals, and in training the workers to use it. This provides, yes, jobs, as well as better health care for Americans.

In the health care legislation that is taking shape, based on the common principles of the House-passed and Senate-passed legislation, that too will lead to economic growth and jobs. In particular, not only will there be medical innovation, but it will assist small businesses and large with these large expenses they have in covering the health care of their employees. And less money will be wasted in exorbitant salaries and profits, and will actually go to providing health care.

OBAMACARE 2.0

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express disappointment with Obamacare 2.0. Apparently President Obama did not get the message Americans don't want a big government takeover of health care. This \$1 trillion health care bill is just more of the same: more spending, more taxes, and more government mandates. The American people want us to start over on health care, wipe the slate clean, and consider commonsense reforms that won't bankrupt our country.

But what Americans want the most of all are jobs. Where are the jobs? Government doesn't create jobs, but we can do things to allow the private sector to create jobs. We could do these three things: across the board tax cuts, increase domestic energy production, and stop the overregulation of business. Those three simple things would create jobs. If the President really wants to, this is where he should start.

CRITICIZING PROGRESS

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

Mr. MEEKS of New York. If this wasn't so serious, it would be laughable. Eight years they had a chance, the other side here, to get this economy right. Eight years. And they are the ones that drove it into the ground and dares criticize when someone is turning it around so we are going in the right direction. Eight years. This didn't happen overnight when we started losing jobs. When President Bush left office we were losing 750,000 jobs a month. What did they do? Nothing.

Then you have President Obama come on board, started turning things

around, and what do they do? Criticize. Criticize progress of creating jobs again. Criticize trying to create an opportunity for America to have good health care again. Criticize the fact that we are able to improve bridges and roads. Criticize the fact that we are going to be able to approve the money to help the unemployed. Eight years of driving the economy into the ground.

One year, President Obama had 1 year to make sure that we begin to restore America to the prosperity that we had 8 years prior to the Bush administration. Let's continue to move in the right direction.

ORLANDO ZAPATA TAMAYO

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I rise today to inform my colleagues that a great Cuban hero, Orlando Zapata Tamayo, who is a prisoner of conscience in the gulag of the Castro brothers, is in critical condition and near death.

Forty-two years old, Orlando Zapata has been active in the Cuban pro-democracy movement for many years. Already a political prisoner in 2003, he was released by Castro for 14 days before being imprisoned once again and sentenced to 25 years in the gulag, in March 2003.

A colleague and partner in the struggle for freedom of Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, Orlando Zapata personifies the best of mankind. And the fact that he is near death at this moment in the Castros' gulag points to the profoundly criminal nature of that grotesque totalitarian criminal regime. His condition and fate are the Castro brothers' doing. If he dies, his blood will be on Castro's hands.

CURRENT HEALTH CARE SYSTEM CANNOT BE SUSTAINED

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the current system with reference to health care cannot be sustained. We are currently spending \$2.5 trillion per year. That is a large number, difficult to get your mind around it. However, \$79,000 a second is something that we all can understand. And by 2018 it will become \$4.4 trillion per year. That would be \$139,000 per second.

For those who say, this is not my fight, I have good insurance, it may be that you have not utilized your insurance and you don't really know how good it isn't. For those who say I have insurance, I am okay, remember that 14,000 people per day lose their insurance. But for the grace of God, you may be one of the 14,000 people without insurance tomorrow. So please understand this is everybody's fight, because the economy of this country is dependent upon how we impact health care.

Finally, this. In my State of Texas, 6 million are uninsured, 1.4 million children uninsured. This is inexcusable. There is a difference between something being unsustainable and being inexcusable. It is inexcusable.

TOO MUCH GOVERNMENT SPENDING

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the other side of the aisle has been calling for even more misguided government spending despite the fact that they have controlled this House for the last 3 years, with massive spending in the past. Hasn't the American public spoken loud and clear that the Federal Government is just spending too much and trying to do too much, and that they want us to start cutting spending here?

You know, the consequences of governments spending too much money are apparent around the world. Over in Greece, with potential default, they are only the tip of the iceberg. You have Italy and Spain also showing serious concerns as well. But here at home over the last 3 years we now see, because of the Democrat leadership of the House, \$1.6 trillion deficits without any serious commitment whatsoever about trying to cut spending.

And what is the result of that? Well, Moody's is now saying that there is a real possibility that the U.S. may lose its AAA rating. Think about that for a moment. Serious people are beginning to whisper that if things don't change here, the U.S. may actually default on its debts in the coming years and do serious damage to our economy and weaken it and cause higher interest rates.

You know, throughout the last year we have talked a lot about spotting systemic risk in our economy. Well, there is one major risk in it right now, our mammoth Federal deficit and ever-increasing debt. Washington and the Democrat majority leadership must get serious about addressing this fast.

WE NEED A JOBS BILL

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

Ms. NORTON. One has to congratulate the other side for chutzpah. After racking up most of what is now the deficit, they have gotten religion on the deficit in the middle of a recession. When conservative and progressive economists say when the only body that has any money is the government, you better spend it for jobs.

I wonder if in this House we would at least do what they did in the other body yesterday, when five Republicans crossed over to actually be for a modest jobs bill. It certainly is not the bill that I would have wanted, but what is

noteworthy is that the majority of Republicans actually voted against the jobs bill yesterday that spent only \$15 billion.

Were you afraid that that would contribute to the deficit? How much are you willing to help the American people get out of the deficit that you left us and get out of the economic morass that you have bequeathed us? One begins to wonder if we could even get unemployment insurance passed. We have sent over a bill to the other body which is far larger. Let's hope that we can get more such bills passed.

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THERE'S A BETTER WAY FORWARD

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you know, small businesses want, need, and deserve policies that will encourage, not punish economic growth. And yet, due to the Democrats' tax-and-spend agenda, job creators in my district are either cutting their payrolls or holding back on hiring. That's why we have a record 16 million Americans unemployed.

There's a better way forward, and that way forward is with pro-growth, small business tax cuts that will help get this economy moving again. Mr. Speaker, small business owners know how to run their company better than a Washington bureaucrat. It's time for the government to get out of the business of running small business.

THE RECOVERY ACT

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I'm here to report that the Recovery Act is working in my hometown of Tampa, Florida. Yesterday, I attended a groundbreaking for a new community health center that is desperately needed in a part of town where they don't have anywhere else to go other than the emergency room, where we all end up paying for their health care.

But in attendance at the groundbreaking were some of the construction workers, contractors, the architects, the real estate agents that will be put to work constructing this new community health center.

And just a couple of weeks ago I visited another community health center up the road, run by Tampa Family Health Centers, and met doctors, nurses, medical professionals, a new receptionist that were hired because of the Recovery Act. It's these dollars that are investing in our hometowns, putting people back to work in the short term constructing these new facilities, but in the long term providing better health care at affordable rates for our families.