

not without precedent. A similar extension was granted for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

In the process of recovering from Ike, please consider that Catholic Charities reports that there are over 3,500 families in Galveston who are in the process of getting their homes repaired or replaced who still need rent assistance. The Gulf Coast Center in Galveston and Brazoria Counties is working with 19 agencies to provide mental health support and counseling to 3,000 clients each month who are still suffering from the impact of Hurricane Ike on their lives. The University of Texas Medical Branch reports that they are providing food assistance, medical care, and case management to 20,000 households each month. This will end without an extension.

In the words of one leader at the United Way, "We are not asking to access more funding, only to finish what we started." Do I wish this extension was not needed? Of course. We all do. But it is needed, and I ask that this Chamber join me in doing what is right and fair for a community that lost so much 2 years ago. I urge my colleagues to vote for Senate bill 3774, so the people of southeast Texas can finally put Hurricane Ike in their past.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3774, which would extend the deadline for Social Services Block Grant expenditures of supplemental funds appropriated following disasters occurring in 2008.

The FY2009 Supplemental Appropriation included funding for disasters that occurred in 2008. This included \$600 million in Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funding eligible to be used for a wide variety of social services to assist in disaster recovery.

In the wake of Hurricane Ike, a total of 734,000 Texans had registered with FEMA for individual assistance and 17,000 homes in Harris County were destroyed.

Due to the magnitude of Ike, the State of Texas received \$219 million in recovery funds under the Social Services Block Grant program from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Under federal law, these SSBG funds must be spent by September 30, 2010. Any money not spent by that time must be returned to the federal Treasury. Texas currently has \$44 million in funding that will revert back to the federal government.

Many entities and local governments in Texas have expressed difficulty in meeting the September 30, 2010 deadline and are requesting a one year extension to September 30, 2011.

Although there have been significant successes through the recovery process, significant needs remain. In the Greater Houston area, more than 2,500 families in case management still cite needs in the area of home repair and/or unmet needs.

It is important to note that Texas is not the only state that would lose access to these funds—16 other states have remaining funds and an extension would assist those states as well.

A similar extension was granted by Congress for Hurricane Katrina SSBG disaster re-

covery funds. It is also important to note that this bill involves no new spending. The SSBG grant funds were released and dispersed to the states over a year ago. This bill will only give those who need it, extra time to expend these needed funds as they continue to recover from Hurricane Ike.

Senator CORNYN's legislation, S. 3774, passed out of the Senate on a unanimous consent. It would extend the deadline for Social Services Block Grant expenditures of supplemental funds appropriated following disasters occurring in 2008 for one year from September 30, 2010 to September 30, 2011.

Before the House recessed on September 29 we tried to bring up this legislation, but it came over from the Senate very late and we were unable to come to an agreement to bring up the legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to allow the states impacted by disasters that occurred in 2008.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. And with that, I would ask for support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3774.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TAX CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, sometime between now and December 31 we will be discussing tax cuts—specifically, whether to extend the President Obama tax cuts for the middle class or

whether to extend the George W. Bush tax cuts for the rich—and I think it is important for people to understand exactly who this money will be received by.

In the case of the Obama tax cuts, like the child tax credit, it will be received by needy parents who need the money in order to pay the mortgage, pay the rent, pay their car payments, their credit card payments. And in the case of the Bush tax cuts for the rich, it will be received by the rich.

In fact, for the top 1 percent of income in this country, the high and mighty, the people who make an average of \$1.4 million every single year, according to these charts I am about to show, you will see the following:

Mr. Speaker, the Republican plan for tax cuts is to give each millionaire, each person who makes \$1.4 million a year on the average, the top 1 percent of income in this country, the high and mighty, \$83,347 a year in tax cuts. \$83,347 a year, according to econometric modeling by Citizens for Tax Justice.

Let's give some thought as to what the high and mighty might actually do with that money.

Well, here is one possibility. They can buy an \$83,000 Mercedes-Benz E-Class car not just once, but every single year for the next decade. And each year when they get tired of their brand-new Mercedes-Benz E-Class car, they can just give it to somebody because they can afford another one. They can give it to a spouse, a sister, a son, a daughter, anybody. Every single year for the next 10 years, the Republican tax plan is to give millionaires enough money for a Mercedes-Benz.

Here is something else they can do with it. They can buy this gorgeous Hermes bag, a Birkin, for \$64,800, not once, but every single year for the next 10 years, to which they will say to the Republican party, "Thank you very much."

Here is something else they can do with their money. They can buy this bottle of Chateau d'Yquem wine, bottled in 1787, for only \$56,588. That will leave loose change in their pocket of \$25,000. They can buy a bottle of wine from 1787 every year for the next decade. Thank you, Republican Party.

Here is something else they can do. They can buy 20,000 jars of their favorite mustard, Grey Poupon, 20,000 jars. That is certainly enough for them, their family, their friends, even a few poor people. Thank you, Republican party.

Here is something else they can do with the \$80,000 that the Republican Party wants to put in their pocket every year for the next 10 years. They can buy 800 cigars. Think about that. That is one for the morning and one for the evening, 800 luxury cigars. Then they can light each one of those cigars with a \$100 bill. Thank you, Republican Party. You are letting the rich in this country enjoy two cigars each day for the next 10 years and light each one with a \$100 bill.

Now, I have a different idea. I think it is a better idea. These tax cuts for the rich by the Republican Party are going to cost the U.S. taxpayers \$100 billion a year. Do the math. We have 14 million people in this country who are unemployed. We have 13 percent unemployment in my district.

Here is an idea. Let's take that \$100 billion and give 3 million Americans a job. Let's give 3 million Americans a working wage, an honest day's pay for an honest day's work, and that will revive our economy. It will immediately reduce unemployment by two points. And they will take that money and they will spend it on their rent. They will spend it on restaurants in their neighborhood. They will spend it on getting their hair cut. They will spend it on their credit card payments. They will spend it on the things they need to do to stay alive, instead of the alternative, the Republican favorite alternative, which is to have them lose their jobs, keep unemployed, and move into their cars. That is the better idea.

I favor jobs, not tax cuts for the rich.

OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I thank the Speaker for yielding time to me.

About 3 weeks ago, I and four of my colleagues wrote a letter to the President of the United States. Mr. POE of Texas, my good friend, RALPH HALL of Texas, PETE OLSON, and ED ROYCE of California wrote a letter to the President talking to him about the horrible, deteriorating problem that is taking place on our southern border.

We have a border between the United States and Mexico that is 1,980 miles long, and the problems are getting worse every single day. There have been reports on numerous television channels over the past few weeks talking about how really bad it is getting down there, and there is absolutely nothing being done by the administration to really deal with it.

Now, in the letter that we wrote to the President, we said it was extremely important to get on with dealing with this problem very quickly, and we gave the President a few ideas on how this could be accomplished.

First, we said, it became apparent that the Mexican Government and law enforcement authorities in Mexico are either unwilling or unable to address this problem. Therefore, we believe it is imperative that our President meet very quickly and begin a serious dialogue with President Calderon of Mexico on building a comprehensive framework in the spirit of Plan Colombia that will better coordinate a more aggressive and proactive strategy to turn the tide. This needs to be done immediately.

Second, we must complete construction of the border fence. The money

has been appropriated for that and it has been stopped. We need to get that completed. Any responsibility we have to minimize the impact of the fence on the physical landscape or native species in the region pales in comparison when measured against the value of human lives that will be lost if we don't seal the border.

And, finally, we said to the President in this letter, we believe it is critical that we deploy additional National Guard troops to the border. Media reports indicate that 17,000 National Guard troops were deployed to the Gulf region during the recent oil spill, 17,000; yet the administration has pledged only 1,200 to the 1,980-mile border of Mexico. Twelve hundred National Guard troops to protect that border; that is nothing. It will not work.

When you talk to sheriffs and Border Patrol agents who are down on the border, they will tell you that it is a war zone and it is spilling over into the United States, and American citizens are being killed on the Mexican side of the border. But bullets are actually coming across the border and hitting things in the United States in Juarez and elsewhere.

It is extremely important that we address this problem before it gets completely out of control. And some people say we are already there.

We have signs in Arizona 80 miles into the United States, 80 miles into the United States, saying, "Don't go south of here toward Mexico because it is dangerous." Can you imagine?

We are sending troops halfway around the world to fight for people's freedom and to secure our country from terrorist attacks, and yet we have the prospect of terrorists and drug dealers and everybody coming across that border because we are not protecting it, and it is in our front yard, 1,980 miles, and it is unprotected. They are coming across at will.

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The President needs to get on with doing what is necessary. I believe he needs to authorize at least 15,000 troops down there and work with the Mexican government to seal both sides of the border and get on with it as quickly as possible. If we don't, the problem is going to get worse and worse and worse.

If you don't believe what I am saying tonight, and if I were talking to the President, I would tell him directly this: "If you don't believe this, Mr. President," I know he watches television once in awhile, and if I were talking to the President I would say, "Watch what is going on and do your job, Mr. President, instead of fighting the Governor of Arizona and the people in Texas, the law enforcement agencies along the border who are staying up day and night trying to defend their constituents in the border area."

People are being threatened. Their houses are being threatened to be

burned to the ground if they even take pictures of the people coming across the border. This is a tragic situation, and if I were talking to the President tonight, I would say, "Mr. President, you are being derelict in your responsibility to the people of the southwest part of the United States by not addressing this problem in a very thorough and comprehensive way."

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, October 26, 2010.

Hon. BARACK OBAMA,

President of the United States of America, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to you today to express our extreme concern regarding the deteriorating security situation along our Nation's southern border. It seems that every day brings a new report of some atrocity; the most recent being the apparent murder of a U.S. citizen at Falcon Lake, Texas; yet little if anything appears to be being done by our government or the Mexican government to stop the bloodshed and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Protecting our borders and our citizens is a paramount responsibility of the Federal government; enshrined in the preamble of the Constitution. It would be an unforgivable breach of our constitutional responsibilities if we do not take stronger measures not only to prevent the upward spiral of violence from further spilling over into the United States and threaten the safety of U.S. citizens on American soil but to reclaim those areas of our border already overrun by smugglers and criminals. We can no longer pretend that this is simply Mexico's problem. The time has come to recognize that the drug violence along the border is a direct threat to the United States and act accordingly.

First, it has become apparent that the Mexican government and law enforcement authorities are either unwilling or unable to address this problem unilaterally. Therefore, we believe it is imperative that you immediately begin serious dialogue with President Calderon on building a comprehensive framework, in the spirit of Plan Colombia, that will better coordinate a more aggressive and proactive strategy to turn the tide of this conflict.

Second, we must complete construction of the border fence. Any responsibility we have to minimize the impact of the fence on the physical landscape or native species in the region pales in comparison when measured against the value of human lives that will be lost if we do not seal the border.

Finally, we believe it is critical that we deploy additional National Guard troops to the border. Media reports indicate that 17,000 National Guard troops were deployed to the Gulf region to respond to the recent oil spill. Yet, you have only pledged 1,200 National Guard troops to protect the border—and according to media reports only a small fraction of those troops have arrived to date. It is unrealistic, if not pure insanity, to believe that a mere 1,200 National Guard troops, even with the support of the Border Patrol, can effectively cover the nearly 2,000 mile long Southwestern border of the United States. We must put additional bodies on the ground and we must give them the weapons and specify rules of engagement that give them the authority to do whatever is necessary to secure the border. A National Guard trooper armed with only a pistol and given no authority to engage the enemy is useless against a criminal armed with military grade weapons and ammunition.

Mr. President, we implore you to view this situation for what it is, a war and to act accordingly.

Sincerely,

DAN BURTON,