

fact, I've seen cynical attempts at purposeful disinformation.

I think it's important that we remember history. Let's not forget that while the Sahara was under Spanish colonial rule, only Morocco laid claim to that territory as its own. The Kingdom of Morocco repeatedly claimed the Western Sahara and demanded the end of Spanish colonial rule. It was only when Morocco's efforts at recovering the Sahara from Spanish colonialism under the leadership of King Hassan II began to be seen as making serious progress in the 1970s that the so-called Polisario Front came into being. Then, as now, the so-called Polisario group is financed by Algeria and is propped up by Castro's Communist dictatorship in Cuba.

Why is it important to understand this? Because in Morocco, our ally in North Africa in the struggle against international terrorism, the issue of the Sahara is the decisive issue. The reality of Moroccan sovereignty over the Sahara enjoys the support of the entire population of Morocco, including the Sahara itself. In other words, the issue of the Sahara is the sine qua non, the necessary ingredient for stability and peace in that country of strategic importance in North Africa, our friend and ally, Morocco.

King Mohammed VI and his negotiating team have demonstrated great courage and patience in dealing with this critical issue so closely tied to the security of the entire region. Let us never forget that a make-believe, an illusory, a fake microstate in Northern Africa would be led by a Castro-Cuban-formed political class which would constitute a minority of the population even within the fake microstate, but would control it through Castro-style repression. Let us never forget that such a microstate would serve as a focal point of regional instability and destabilization, as well as an exporter of terrorism.

For over a decade, Mr. Speaker, Morocco has agreed to grant a genuine and profound autonomy to the Sahara under Moroccan sovereignty in order to reach a realistic and definitive solution to this problem, but Algeria and the so-called Polisario continue to insist on the creation of a fake microstate.

Majorities in this Congress comprising both Republicans and Democrats have spoken clearly in support of our ally Morocco's position on this critical issue in letters we have sent, first to President Bush, and then to President Obama. The United States, during both administrations and with the strong leadership of Secretary of State Rice and Secretary of State Clinton, has agreed with the position expressed by the overwhelming majority of this Congress.

The future of America's struggle against international terrorism and the stability of Northern Africa require that the Government and the Congress of the United States continue to stand firmly and clearly with our friend and ally, the Kingdom of Morocco.

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U.S.-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, please allow me to explain what happens when flawed free trade agreements are implemented and outsource more U.S. jobs.

Our Nation has not had balanced trade accounts for over 25 years. In fact, every time we sign one of these so-called free trade agreements, we lose more and more jobs in our country. In its attempt to move forward the George W. Bush-negotiated U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, it appears the Obama negotiators may have forgotten the real costs of so-called free trade.

With Korea, it has been more than a dozen years already since the United States held a trade surplus with Korea. We're already in the red. In 1997, America actually held a small trade surplus with Korea of a little over \$1 billion. Since then, we've accumulated \$161 billion worth of trade debt, and that is in the red. That translates into lost jobs, lost opportunity in our country. Using the Department of Commerce's estimate that each billion dollars of trade deficit costs us 14,000 jobs, our trade deficit already accumulated with Korea has cost us over 2 million American jobs. And everybody knows we're short over 20 million jobs in our country.

The proposed new Korea Free Trade Agreement will make our markets more open to Korean industries but does not do enough to open Korean markets to our products. Every time the United States imports more than we export, it leaves us with higher trade deficits and more lost jobs. This NAFTA-inspired Korean free trade agreement will lead to just that, even higher trade deficits and lost jobs here with Korea.

Since NAFTA passed in 1994, more than 3 million American manufacturing jobs have been lost to Mexico and Canada. In fact, the Economic Policy Institute estimates that a trade deficit between NAFTA countries alone could have led to 1 million additional manufacturing jobs here in our country. Why would a NAFTA-inspired free trade agreement like the Korean deal yield different results? It won't. The Economic Policy Institute projects 159,000 more jobs will be lost if this deal is put forward, and the International Trade Commission projects increases to our trade deficit with Korea. How can this be a pathway to economic growth in our country?

Just in the automotive sector in 2009, Korea sold 700,000 of their cars in the American market, compared to sales of U.S. cars there of 7,000. Just a smidgeon. Acknowledging that Korea's population is about one-sixth of the population of the United States, a propor-

tional fair trade equivalent would be a total of 113,000 cars from our country sold in Korea—not 7,000, 113,000. That would require a 1,514 percent increase in the number of American vehicles sold in Korea. Why wouldn't we wait for them to open their market to our goods before we give away the store again? Instead, the proposed solution in the auto sector—and this is written in the agreement—says, our three auto companies can expect to export 25,000 vehicles each, so it's 75,000 total, into their market—which is certainly better than the current 7,000—but it accepts no limits on the amount of Korean cars that can be sold into our market. But there are limits imposed on U.S. vehicle sales to Korea. How is that balanced? How is that fair?

This is neither fair trade, nor is it reciprocal. It is a managed trade arrangement that accepts an inferior position for U.S. producers. And why do we do that when our economy is hurting so very much? And it's not just in autos. It's in beef. It's in electronics and every single category.

In order for the United States to have a square deal with Korea, this is what should be in the agreement: We should eliminate tariffs in both countries. We should make certain that discriminatory nontariff barriers are immediately eliminated by both nations, not gradually implemented over time. We should include provisions to redress Korea's discriminatory value-added tax. We should contain mechanisms that will prevent an offset currency manipulation and, as well, eliminate provisions that weaken trade remedy laws. This deal does none of that.

The United States can ill afford to continue job-killing trade policies. We should embrace the old adage that, in fact, George Bush once used, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." Well, Congress cannot allow the American people to be fooled again by the false promise of the so-called free trade agreements. When have we heard that before?

The U.S.-Korea free trade agreement should not be ratified until changes are made to make it truly free, truly fair, and truly reciprocal based on results, not dreams. Then we would hold promise to create jobs again in our Nation as well as in South Korea and Asia in general. But why should the United States keep coming up with these agreements that make us second class and that hollows out our middle class?

Let me say in closing this evening, as did Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, the people of our region in northern Ohio—in fact, our whole Buckeye State—wish to offer deepest condolences in the death of Elizabeth Edwards. Her passing truly takes from the horizon one of the bright stars in our country. I met many people in my political life. And I can tell you, her intelligence, her humility, her kindness are values that I know her children and her family will long cherish. And we send our deepest sympathy to them, to

the people of her State, and all those who had the great privilege of knowing her.

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.)

THE NATION IS READY FOR IT: REPEAL "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" NOW

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, 69 years ago today, the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor was attacked. In the epic 4-year war that followed, millions of Americans served with honor and courage, and more than 400,000 lost their lives. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that many of them were gay.

Nearly seven decades later, it appears we are finally prepared to acknowledge publicly what we have known for so long: That gay and lesbian Americans have been part of the military, making invaluable contributions to our Nation's security, for as long as there has been a Nation to secure. We appear to be finally on the cusp of repealing the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy that has asked those who wear the uniform to lie about their very identities as a precondition of their service. As if we don't ask enough of them already.

Those who have continued to back this dreadful policy said earlier this year that they wanted to see the results of the Pentagon review before reconsidering their position. Well, that sober and empirical review was released last week, and it quite clearly concluded that repealing the policy would have minimal impact on military readiness or cohesion. But guess what, Mr. Speaker, that wasn't enough for the small minority of Don't Ask, Don't Tell supporters. Clinging to a fringe, reactionary, extremist position, they are unmoved by the Pentagon's findings. They say repeal would be premature, that to do anything but maintain the discriminatory status quo would be an irresponsible rush to judgment.

A rush to judgment? Gay soldiers have been forced into the closet for the entirety of American history. How much longer do we need to wait for fundamental fairness and equal treatment? How much longer must we endure a policy damaging our national security and hostile to American values?

Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell is anything but premature. It's long overdue. Repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell is also overwhelmingly popular. The President of the United States, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a

bipartisan congressional majority, veterans groups, not to mention most of the American people all support repeal. And now we know from the Pentagon report that 92 percent of servicemembers say the presence of a gay person would not affect their unit's ability to work together. And that last fact really shouldn't be surprising. I don't imagine that every single member of our Armed Forces is unambiguously enthusiastic about changing the policy, but I don't think every single member of our armed services is unambiguously enthusiastic about the meal they were served last night or this morning.

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My point is these men and women are dedicated professionals. They are sworn to protect the Nation. They follow orders and do their jobs as they did during the desegregation of the military. And they do this without regard to their personal values.

We can do this. We must do it. It will be far less daunting than President Truman's desegregation of the military. The Nation was far more racist in 1946 than it is homophobic in the year 2010.

It's time to repeal, Mr. Speaker, Don't Ask, Don't Tell. The Nation is ready for it. The military can handle it. Justice demands it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOP DOCTORS CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 60

minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, thank you for your patience as we tried to get our act together here this evening, not realizing of course that here it is almost Christmastime, that our pages have all gone home. It reminds me of what a great, great job these young men and women do for the Members in so many ways, not the least of which is of course helping during these Special Order hours. But, Mr. Speaker, thank you for your patience.

I want to of course thank my leadership on the Republican side for allowing me and my colleagues in the House GOP Doctors Caucus to lead this Special Order for the next hour. And we are going to do that, Mr. Speaker, on health care and on the recently passed—I say “recently”; 10 months ago, March of this year—the passage of ObamaCare, now, I know, formally referred to as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

But this is a piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, that the American people, at the 60 percent plurality level, opposed and have remained here 10 months later, as certainly was seen in the results of the election on November 2. The American people felt that this was something that was forced upon them against their wishes, although they had a 2-year period of time to let not just our Democratic majority and President Obama, but every Member of Congress in both the House and the Senate understand not only that they were opposed to this bill but why they were opposed to it.

And, in fact, during this campaign, our Republican Party made a pledge to America on many things, not the least of which, of course, was to repeal this bill, this 2,400-page monstrosity that has done hardly any of the things that President Obama had hoped, wished, promised that it would effect. So we said to the American people, you give us an opportunity, you give us an opportunity to elect, to choose, to have John Boehner as the next Speaker of the House and give the Republicans an opportunity to lead, that we will repeal this bill.

So, Mr. Speaker, this evening I am very proud, as the cochairman with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Dr. TIM MURPHY, to chair the House GOP Doctors Caucus. There are about 11 current active members. That includes medical doctors, psychologists, dentists, people that were involved in health care before they came to this body as a profession. And I am telling you, I think most of our colleagues know, Mr. Speaker, that the number of years of clinical experience among this group is something like 350 years. Several of us have got a little gray hair around the temples.

But I think we have served a great purpose for our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make sure that everyone understands from a health care perspective what this bill has done, the