

education teacher for the New York City Board of Education for 20 years. He was also a Track Four Coordinator for Severely and Profoundly Handicapped children.

Following his tenure at the New York City Board of Education he went to Brooklyn Law School and received his J.D. degree in 1989. He has had a private practice since 1989 specializing in all forms of personal injury cases, including slip and falls, auto accidents, medical malpractice and general negligence. His private practice is an Accredited Business with the Better Business Bureau since 2008 and has an A+ rating. Mr. Kagan has been actively practicing law for 22 years and has hosted an internship program for college and law students. Furthermore, Mr. Kagan advises law students and recent law graduates on how to start their own practices and on the basics of Tort law.

As a lawyer Mr. Kagan was admitted to the New York State Bar in June of 1989, and is admitted to practice in New York State and New Jersey. Besides his love for people and children, Howard loves reading, stained glass, traveling, Jai alai and flying Cessna 150's.

Mr. Kagan has four children of his own; two sons who are attorney's and one who is currently studying at Columbia Dental school. He has also been happily married for 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and success of Mr. Howard Kagan.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Reverend Dr. John H. Smith, Sr., has celebrated forty (40) years in pastoral leadership this year and has provided stellar leadership to his church; and

Whereas, Reverend Dr. John H. Smith, Sr., under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Welcome Friend Missionary Baptist Church as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Reverend Dr. Smith is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the nation his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Reverend Dr. John H. Smith, Sr., as he celebrates forty years in pastoral leadership;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim July 24, 2011 as Reverend Dr. John H. Smith, Sr. Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 24th day of July, 2011.

BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I have had and continue to have serious concerns about Senator REID's revised bill. The cuts to discretionary spending will be adverse to the beneficiaries of programs designed to provide essential services the private sector will never—and in some cases, should never—perform. The cuts to defense funding, the single biggest source of government waste, are a good start but are small compared to those cuts to non-defense spending. I will work to ensure that we achieve defense cuts greater than the minimum required by this bill.

We are now three days away from reaching the effective debt ceiling, a landmark that would drastically accelerate the \$400 billion of damage to our economy already caused by the mere threat of reaching the ceiling.

This bill raises the debt ceiling while not prescribing cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. It prevents further instances of the debt ceiling (which has been raised 74 times since 1962 and 10 times since 2001) from being held hostage. It cuts funding from the account that fuels the wars that dramatically increased our debt.

In the past, I voted against three of the main drivers of our debt: the war in Iraq, the Bush tax cuts and Medicare Part D. I believe in fiscal responsibility. I do not believe America should go into default over a manufactured crisis. It is time to prevent fake crises, and get on with rebuilding the U.S. economy.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES AURORA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. James Aurora for his exceptional service to his community and the youth.

James Aurora is a third generation of owners of the now famous Sonny's Collision Specialists in Brooklyn, New York. This renowned business has been serving the community for 60 years and has gained a distinct reputation for quality customer service.

Mr. Aurora has built an operation that employs 25 professionals that offer clients guaranteed personal attention. In the years that Mr. Aurora has been operating Sonny's Collision Specialists he has never known any unsatisfied customers. Every customer of Sonny's has only experienced top notch service in the most expeditious manner.

Jimmy Aurora knows the importance of giving. Sonny's is not only a staple in the community for their expertise in auto body collisions, but they are famous for their giving spirit. Mr. Aurora on a yearly basis has sponsored cricket teams, baseball leagues, and boys' clubs, along with donating thousands of dollars towards autism awareness and the American Cancer Society. He has not only provided a necessary service to his community but he

has found the means to give more to those in dire need.

Mr. Aurora lives by the company's motto: "Perfection is not an accident." Jimmy proudly represents his heritage and family legacy by ensuring that Sonny's Collision Specialists continues to be a leader and trendsetter in auto body collision work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. James Aurora.

BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to the debt ceiling and deficit reduction legislation and will vote against the bill.

Raising the debt ceiling should be a legislative act that allows us to meet the obligations our country has already incurred. But this legal formality has been taken hostage by the Republican Party and tied to dangerous and extraordinary demands regarding spending and taxes that affect everyone in our country.

As a result, we have a crisis that has been wholly manufactured. Our national debate has been paralyzed. Millions of Americans have been frightened about whether Social Security checks and salaries for our armed forces will be paid, financial markets have been rattled, and America's fiscal responsibility has been tarnished in the eyes of the world.

As a matter of economic policy, the spending cuts in this legislation will do harm to the economy and will curb our ability to stimulate job growth. Our economy is weak. The recovery is stalled. Our workers and households need action from Congress that helps promote growth and investment. With unemployment over 9 percent and growth at barely 1 percent, the last thing we need is for Washington to take the wind out of the sails of future growth. Cutting spending by over \$2 trillion hurts the economy's ability to move forward.

As a matter of equity, this package is not balanced. It is all spending cuts, cuts that are deeper because we are blocked by the Republicans' refusal to consider revenues to be gained from asking the wealthy and fortunate to play their fair share. There is nothing to end egregious tax expenditures benefiting corporations or to ask our most profitable companies today, such as the oil industry to pay a little more; or to have the burden of deficit reduction shared, even a little bit, by the wealthiest among us. This is not fair. It is willfully one-sided. And given the magnitude of the task before us to deal responsibly with our long term debt, it is not right.

As a matter of protecting and strengthening Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, this legislation is also gravely deficient. There may be buffers for these programs in the sequester, but the pressure to cut these programs as a part of the new joint congressional committee that is established to secure an additional \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts will be extreme. There will be tremendous pressure to restructure these programs in order to forestall additional defense cuts and additional cuts to discretionary spending. Such changes will undermine our country's promise to the elderly,

the poor, the vulnerable. Raising the eligibility age for Medicare or Social Security, or cutting benefit levels, will be subject to an up-or-down vote by this new joint committee. No amendments can be offered or voted on. This process weakens Congress as an institution, and it is a dangerous abdication of our responsibility for these bedrock programs.

We have worked over the years to make careful changes to Medicare when necessary to restore its solvency. In the Affordable Care Act, we enacted careful reforms that will improve the efficiency and soundness of Medicare. Arbitrary cuts to the program through sequestration, or rushed cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, are no way to guarantee the future of those vital programs. We run the risk of substantial changes that will drive providers out of the system, leaving patients without access to doctors or to nursing homes and long term care services.

This legislation does not represent the values to which I have been committed since first being elected to Washington.

That is why I have concluded that this package does not deserve my support today.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, In 2003, Ms. Kim Schofield founded the Lupus And Community Empowering Support organization better known as "LACES"; and

Whereas, LACES is an organization that continues to serve those who live with or are affected by the chronic autoimmune disorder Lupus, by empowering patients, bringing attention to the disease, and leading the way to find a cure through research; and

Whereas, today LACES sponsors its 3rd Annual Ride 4 Lupus Motorcycle ride to raise awareness and funds to assist individuals living with lupus; and

Whereas, this unique organization has given of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to advocate for our citizens and their families who battle lupus; and

Whereas, LACES continues to serve our county, state and country by being the sword and shield for those who live with lupus, encouraging better treatments, funding research and educating people about the disease to help heal families and strengthen our resolve to find a cure; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize LACES for their outstanding service to our District;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim July 9, 2011 as "Lupus And Community Empowering Support Day" in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 9th day of July, 2011.

OPENING STATEMENT OF REP. DENNIS J. KUCINICH FOR SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS, STIMULUS OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING HEARING ON: "LIGHTS OUT: HOW EPA REGULATIONS THREATEN AFFORDABLE POWER AND JOB CREATION"

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following. Good afternoon, and thank you to all the witnesses who are here today to testify about a critical issue facing America: protection of the clean air and clean water on which we depend every single day. Today, we will once again look at the critical role the Environmental Protection Agency plays in supporting these goals.

Air toxics from coal-fired power plants cause or contribute to devastating health problems, ranging from asthma attacks to premature death from cardiovascular disease, stroke and cancer. One air toxic, mercury, damages the developing brains of fetuses, infants and small children, robbing them of the opportunity to fully develop intellectually and physically. Coal burning emissions of sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides help fuel our nation's asthma problem and can increase heart attacks.

The burning of coal is also a major contributor to the environmental, national security, and economic crisis that is global climate change. The combustion of coal produces a tremendous amount of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that contributes to increased trapping of heat in our atmosphere. In fact, coal accounts for roughly 20% of all greenhouse gas emissions. It would be difficult to underestimate the urgency of shutting down coal power plants immediately for this reason alone.

These health and environmental consequences from toxic pollution are why the Environmental Protection Agency is developing tougher safeguards to protect Americans. One proposed rule on Mercury and Air Toxics alone would be estimated to save as many as 17,000 lives every year by 2015 and prevent up to 120,000 cases of childhood asthma.

One of the witnesses here to testify today represents American Electric Power (AEP), which is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. AEP is also one of our nation's biggest polluters. Another one of Ohio's polluters, FirstEnergy Corporation, which owns Lake Shore Plant in Cleveland in my own district, is identified as the nation's sixth-most harmful plant for low-income communities and communities of color. Thanks in part to AEP and FirstEnergy, the State of Ohio has more coal-fired generating capacity than any other state in the nation. Ohio's electric sector also has the ignominious honor of ranking FIRST in the amount of toxic air pollution it emitted in 2009, emitting more than 44.5 million pounds of harmful chemicals, which accounted for 65% of the state's pollution and 12% of toxic pollution from all U.S. power plants. Ohio also ranked THIRD among all states in mercury air pollution from power plants with about 3,980 pounds emitted in 2009, which accounted for

76% of the state's mercury air pollution and 6% of U.S. electric sector pollution.

AEP has lobbied against the Environmental Protection Agency's current efforts to regulate power plant pollution, and is pushing legislation to weaken and delay these regulations. I look forward to hearing from AEP today about how they can justify the tragic and destructive side effects that coal-fired power plants wreak upon us, as well as what steps they are taking to curb emissions of toxic air pollution in the United States.

While it is consistent with the history of big business to kick and scream about having to minimize the social and environmental harms they cause, we should NOT underestimate the entrepreneurial ability of America's electric sector to invest, retrofit and construct clean energy generation, while maintaining system reliability. In fact, when they upgrade our nation's electric generation infrastructure to comply with new regulations, their capital investments will help drive economic growth and create jobs. According to a study prepared by the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, two of the proposed EPA Regulations—the Clean Air Transport Rule, and the new Mercury and Air Toxics Standards—could stimulate the creation of more than 1.4 million jobs over the next five years in the pollution controls, engineering, and construction fields.

Congress passed the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act because the American public demanded it. The American people demanded it because they don't like their children to inhale and drink and die from toxic compounds from which even the most diligent parent can't protect her child. Nothing about this equation has changed, and we must allow the Environmental Protection Agency to continue to fulfill its mandate to protect our water and air. I look forward to hearing from the Environmental Protection Agency today about how it continues to fulfill this promise to America.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BLUE DEVILS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa's Class A Baseball State Champions and current holder of the national-record winning streak, the Martensdale-St. Mary's Blue Devils.

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, what this team has accomplished is nothing short of amazing. Last week, the Blue Devils sealed their second consecutive state championship by rallying from behind three separate times throughout the state tournament baseball game. And while the Blue Devils' second state championship in as many years is an incredible feat in and of itself, their most recent win has also placed their consecutive games won at an astonishing 87, giving them the best record in the Nation.

This special team consists of a large roster of players that have each contributed a unique quality to the team's record-breaking success. The Blue Devils consist of seniors Dillon Coates and Ethan Westphal, juniors David Walker, Zeb Noel, Josh Defenbaugh, Robert Walker, J.D. Nielsen, Jake Antcil, T.J. Foster,