

There is nothing out there for us at this age. I am 52 years old and I have worked since I am thirteen. Most of my teen and adults years I worked two jobs while raising my children. At this age I should be enjoying life with my family and grandchildren however, I find myself scared, depressed and full of anxiety at the thought of perhaps finding myself homeless. I have only one check left and then I will have no income. My savings is totally gone, as a matter of fact I do not even have a bank account anymore. My credit is destroyed and I am in a serious financial crisis. The little \$288 dollars I receive from unemployment helps me keep food on the table and pay the minimum to my bills which are all behind. Thank God my son won a scholarship for college or else he might not have been able to further his education. I have to say I resent the Republicans for assuming that we the unemployed are lazy and do not look for work. Yes this might be the case for some however, there is good and bad in everything in life just as there are good Politicians and bad ones. That does not mean we must form a general opinion based on only a few. I am not a lazy person. As a matter of fact, I am willing to clean toilets if it means keeping a roof over my head and food on my table. Most Republicans are rich and will go home to a happy holiday, for many of us there will be no holiday. I cannot even afford to buy a tree this year. Please let the Republicans in the House know that many people, does not matter Democrat or Republican, are watching and are growing a real distaste for the cruel treatment we are getting. Thank you Congressman for you time."

STATEMENT REGARDING H.R. 10,
REINS ACT, DECEMBER 7, 2011

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly oppose the REINS Act (H.R. 10). This reckless legislation would put American families at risk while doing nothing to create jobs.

If enacted, H.R. 10 would delay and possibly block agency rulemaking in critical areas of public health and safety. This legislation would require that any "major" new rule be approved by Congress and the President within 70 legislative days. If Congress fails to act by the deadline, the proposed rule could not be reviewed again until the next Congress. My Republican colleagues do not deny this cumbersome process would prevent many new rules from taking effect. They argue preventing new rules is necessary to stimulate hiring and strengthen the economy.

The House Republican majority has used similar justifications to undermine existing regulations that create a level-playing field for business and protect the health and safety of American families. Earlier this month, Republicans passed the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act (H.R. 527) and Regulatory Accountability Act (H.R. 3010). These bills add new layers of bureaucracy intended to hamper enforcement of important environmental, labor, financial and food safety laws.

Evidence does not support Republican claims that federal regulation is to blame for persistently-high unemployment. According to

the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), only 0.3 percent of Americans laid off in 2010 lost their jobs due to "government regulations." In 2011, the BLS found even fewer layoffs attributable to regulations—0.18 percent. A McClatchy News survey of small businesses in August 2011 did not identify a single business owner who complained about regulation in their industry. In fact, McClatchy reported that "most seemed to welcome it and some pointed to the lack of regulation in mortgage lending as a principal cause of the financial crisis that brought about the Great Recession of 2007–9 and its grim aftermath."

Bruce Bartlett, a former advisor to Republican Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, said congressional Republicans' anti-regulatory fervor has nothing to do with jobs. Bartlett recently wrote: "Regulatory uncertainty is a canard invented by Republicans that allows them to use current economic problems to pursue an agenda supported by the business community year in and year out. In other words, it is a simple case of political opportunism, not a serious effort to deal with high unemployment."

Economists from across the political spectrum agree the real impediment to hiring is weak demand in the economy. Increasing demand is the focus of President Obama's proposed American Jobs Act, which independent economists say would create over 1 million jobs. Despite the jobs crisis facing over 14 million Americans, House Republican leaders refuse to bring the American Jobs Act to the floor for a vote.

H.R. 10 and other anti-regulatory bills will not only fail to create jobs, they expose American families and small businesses to new and unnecessary risks. President Obama has threatened to veto the bill, arguing it would "delay and in many cases thwart" implementation of important rules and increase unnecessary confusion and uncertainty in the economy. The Coalition for Sensible Safeguards warns that H.R. 10 "would make it virtually impossible for federal agencies to ensure that American families are protected from tainted food, unsafe drugs, predatory financial schemes, dirty air and water, and dangerous workplaces."

Abandoning Americans to an unregulated marketplace is not a solution for economic growth—it is a sure threat to public safety. In recent years, many Americans have died as a result of E.coli and salmonella outbreaks in our food supply. A failure to enforce federal workplace safety standards resulted in the tragic deaths of 29 miners in West Virginia. Under-regulation allowed irresponsible bankers and mortgage lenders to destroy the education and retirement savings of millions of Americans. America is, in fact, facing a regulatory crisis. Not the crisis of "over-regulation" my Republican colleagues claim, but a series of crises resulting from a failure to enforce and enact common-sense rules.

Sensible regulation is necessary for an efficient, fair and innovative private market. But we should not be surprised that industry will not always support—and rarely ask—to be regulated. History shows that industry groups initially opposed new requirements for seat belts and air bags, limitations on mercury pollution and even restrictions against child labor. In the short-term, narrow private interests often conflict with the broader public interest. Over time, well-designed and consistently-en-

forced rules often prove to be less costly and more beneficial than originally expected.

Democrats and Republicans should be working together to improve the federal regulatory structure. Our shared focus in Congress should be on reforming regulations to increase results and reduce costs. Partisan attempts to weaken common sense rules and protections will not make our economy—or our country—stronger.

I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 10 because it undermines public safety and distracts Congress from the urgent task of creating jobs.

HONORING VICTOR GRIFOLS
ROURA—SPAIN-U.S. CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE 2011 BUSINESS LEAD-
ER OF THE YEAR

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Victor Grifols Roura on being honored as the 2011 Business Leader of the Year by the Spain-U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Grifols Roura is President and CEO of Grifols, a global healthcare company with U.S. headquarters in my congressional district in Los Angeles.

Founded in Barcelona, Spain in 1940, Grifols is a leading producer of plasma protein therapies essential for the treatment of a variety of rare, chronic and often life-threatening diseases including: hemophilia, von-Willibrand disease, primary immune deficiencies, and alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency. All of Grifols medicines are derived from human plasma collected at one of the company's 147 plasma donation centers across the country.

For three generations, the Grifols family has been dedicated to improving the lives of patients around the world. One of the company's founders, Dr. Jose Antonio Grifols Roig, developed the plasma donation technique known as plasmapheresis with Dr. Edward Cohn in 1950. Still the method of choice today, plasmapheresis is an automated process that enables individuals to donate plasma while retaining their red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. This groundbreaking invention gave rise to the modern plasma therapeutics industry.

Mr. Speaker, Grifols employs 700 people in its corporate, manufacturing, warehousing, and testing facilities in California's 32nd District. The company has invested \$135 million in these facilities since 2003 and is moving forward with plans to add 70 new manufacturing jobs.

As part of its commitment to Los Angeles, Grifols supports local organizations that promote education, job training and skills development for area residents. Through an industry partnership with Los Angeles Trade Technical College, Grifols devises curricula and hosts seminars in microbiology, manufacturing, interviewing techniques and resume preparation. Graduating students are given the opportunity to tour the Grifols manufacturing facility and learn about the production of plasma therapies.

Grifols also partners with the Wilshire-Metro WorkSource Center, which provides workforce

development resources to job seekers and local businesses. Grifols hires interns from the Center who have completed their certificate program in technology. In addition, the company interviews all graduates of the program to provide them with valuable, real-world experience.

Grifols presence in the U.S. was greatly enhanced this year by the acquisition of Talecris Biotherapeutics. This transaction, valued at almost \$5 billion, is the largest acquisition ever completed by a Spanish company in the U.S. Grifols is now the world's largest collector of human plasma, the third largest manufacturer of plasma protein therapies globally, and the leading plasma manufacturer in Europe.

Mr. Speaker, the Spain-U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the leading forum for the promotion of commercial, economic and industrial relations between Spain and the United States. Founded in 1959 and based in New York City, the Chamber is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering economic outreach between the two countries.

The Chamber honored Mr. Grifols at its annual gala dinner in Manhattan on December 6th. The U.S. Ambassador to Spain, the Spanish Ambassador to the U.S., and the Spanish Minister of Culture joined over 250 guests in recognizing Mr. Grifols Roura's commitment to fostering expanded economic and social ties between the U.S. and Spain.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Victor Grifols Roura for his outstanding leadership of Grifols and for his well deserved honor as 2011 Business Leader of the Year by the Spain-U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

TRIBUTE TO COACH ANDREW
TRENKLE AND THE MAINE
SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUTION
TEAM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Andrew Trenkle and the Maine South High School Constitution Team for their achievement in winning the Illinois State Title of the "We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution" competition. This extraordinary accomplishment marks the twentieth time in twenty one years that Maine South's team has won this title.

"We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution," a program sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, educates students on important issues including the purpose of government, the function of the Constitution, and the importance of citizen participation. Participants are encouraged to identify and communicate their own opinions, thereby developing strong skills in discussion, debate, and compromise. In the "We the People" competition, teams of students participate in simulated Congressional hearings, presenting statements and answering challenging questions about the United States Constitution. This year's victory of the 2011–2012 Maine South Constitution Team demonstrates their deep understanding of Constitutional principles as well as their aptitude for critical thinking and teamwork.

Congratulations to all the members of the 2011–12 team: Coach Andrew Trenkle, Paul Ansani, Jeremy Apolinski, Austin Bryniarski, Ethan Campbell, Colton Cannon, Claire Floriano, Merrill Hester, Luke Kapolnek, Lauren Krone, Renee Kumon, Jimmy Loomos, Thomas Lis, Meredith Machon, Caroline Murphy, Kyle Richardson, Michelle Roberts, Allie Sakowicz, Daniel San Gabino, Matt Sherbahn, Katie Solberg, Sarah Tarabey, Caroline Unger, Maddy Vogg, Patrick Wohl, Alex Zaug and Lindsey Zawila.

The United States of America was founded on the principles of civic involvement and responsibility. The students of Maine South High School have proven that they embody those principles and that they will grow to be passionate and capable future leaders. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District, I congratulate you on this outstanding achievement and wish you the best of luck at the National Competition in April 2012.

HONORING CHICAGO POLICE
OFFICER NIAL FUNCHION

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Nial Funchion of the Chicago Police Department for his swim across the Strait of Gibraltar on October 6, 2011, and for his support of the Brotherhood for the Fallen, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting the families of fallen police officers.

Officer Nial Funchion is an 18-year veteran of the Chicago police force and a trusted public servant. He first became involved in the Brotherhood of the Fallen following a funeral for a colleague killed in the line of duty. At that funeral, he noticed a group of uniformed police officers offering condolences to the family of the slain police officer. He was deeply moved by this kind gesture and contacted the Brotherhood for the Fallen to see how he could help.

Already a tremendous swimmer, Officer Funchion has since dedicated his swimming endeavors to the Brotherhood for the Fallen to raise public awareness for the organization. His most recent swim dedicated to the Brotherhood was perhaps his most impressive. He crossed the 12 miles separating Spain and Morocco, known as the Strait of Gibraltar, in three hours and fifty minutes. Not only did Officer Funchion brave rough waters to complete his swim, but he did so while being followed by a family of orca whales.

Officer Funchion plans to add to his swimming accomplishments by completing endurance swimming's Triple Crown. Over the next two years he intends to complete the 28.5 mile loop around Manhattan Island and the 21 mile swim across the Catalina Channel in southern California. He previously crossed the English Channel in 1992 with the fastest time by an American that year. I applaud Officer Funchion for protecting our community, performing amazing feats to help others, and supporting the Brotherhood for the Fallen, and I wish him safety and calm waters in his coming endeavors.

TRIBUTE ON THE PASSING OF
OFIELD DUKES

HON. HANSEN CLARKE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I honor the life and legacy of Ofield Dukes, a public relations pioneer, long-time friend of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), and fellow Detroit. Mr. Dukes was firmly committed to fighting for justice and equality for all people.

Mr. Dukes, an Army veteran, graduated from Detroit's Wayne State University with a degree in journalism. After graduation, he worked at The Michigan Chronicle, a weekly African American-run newspaper based in Detroit, until he moved to Washington D.C. in 1964 to work for the federal government.

Mr. Dukes served as the deputy director of public affairs at Lyndon B. Johnson's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity. From 1966 to 1968, Mr. Dukes was a communications advisor to Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey.

Mr. Dukes founded his public relations firm, Ofield Dukes & Associates, in 1969. The firm focuses on political and minority affairs with a focus on African-American and African issues. Mr. Dukes' first client was Detroit's Motown Records. Today, Ofield Dukes & Associates represents the Democratic National Committee, Howard University, The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, and the Congressional Black Caucus, among other notable clients.

Mr. Dukes' relationship with the Congressional Black Caucus dates back to its founding in 1971 when he helped organize the first Congressional Black Caucus dinner. Mr. Dukes also served as an advisor to several CBC chairpersons. He was a founding member of the CBC Foundation, served on the Foundation Board for 14 years, and worked to improve the socioeconomic circumstance of African-Americans around the nation.

Mr. Dukes also spent his time reaching out to younger generations. He taught at the Howard University John H. Johnson School of Communications for 25 years and American University's School of Communications for 8 years, inspiring hundreds of African-American students to pursue careers in public relations and politics.

Mr. Dukes' work ethic, dedication, and resilience embody the spirit of Detroit. In October 2011, Mr. Dukes returned to his hometown of Detroit, Michigan because of his love for the city, family, and friends. After a struggle with bone cancer, Mr. Dukes passed away on December 7, 2011. I am honored to call Mr. Dukes a friend and colleague. He will be greatly missed.

URGING TURKEY TO SAFEGUARD
ITS CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H. Res. 306, regarding religious