

With 14 million Americans still looking for work, I ask my colleagues on the other side, Where are the jobs? Where is the plan? In this House we have talked about repealing health care reform and instructing committees, but nothing about a jobs plan.

And, now, as we approach the deadline for government funding and the looming threat of a crippling government shutdown, House Republicans are focusing on irresponsible budget plans than actually threaten job creation. In fact, the Republicans' proposed long-term CR not only fails to create jobs or spur the economy, it would actually cause more job losses and depress economic growth.

Economists have discovered that their plan would destroy around 700,000 jobs through 2012. Mr. Speaker, as the impending funding deadline approaches, my Republican colleagues should negotiate in good faith and fund the government in ways to support job creation and economic growth, not cause greater job loss or economic damage.

RED TAPE

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk today about red tape, specifically the 1099 form.

It's a relatively short, seemingly harmless form. Yet when we require every business in this country to file a 1099 form for every business transaction over \$600, it is far from harmless. In reality, this requirement is an enormous burden that takes time, energy, resources away from growing their businesses.

The 1099 provision is one of the many backbreaking regulations included in the Democrat's health care overhaul that I opposed when it passed the House in 2010. Repealing this requirement would be a victory for America's small businesses, families, and individuals.

Florida's businesses deserve economic solutions that will let them keep more of what they earn so that they can innovate and grow. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4 and repeal this 1099 provision.

BREATHE CLEAN AIR

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, one thing we share on a bipartisan basis is Republicans and Democrats like to breathe the clean air. We don't want to see our kids exposed to aggravated asthma problems.

That's why it's very disappointing that the Republicans are trying to threaten a government shutdown if they don't get to pass their dirty air act. Now, their dirty air act is a bill

that they want to pass, and I am not making this up. They want to pass a bill that would make it illegal for the Environmental Protection Agency to enforce the provisions of the Clean Air Act that will reduce air pollution.

This is amazing to me. You want to shut down government, if you don't shut down government in enforcing pollution. Now, I always thought that the American people thought that that was a really bad idea.

I want to share my colleagues' proof of this. In polls done in 19 congressional districts recently, including the Speaker's own district in Ohio, 68 percent of Americans said that we should move forward with the EPA in this; 6 out of 10 said the Republicans' dirty air act is a really bad idea.

We need to keep the government to keep this clean air. Reject the Republicans' threat of a government shutdown.

HONORING THE MEADOWS OF NORTH SMITHFIELD, RHODE ISLAND

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Meadows, an affordable senior housing community in my congressional district located in North Smithfield, Rhode Island.

The Meadows excels as an elderly community by providing individual living with enhanced social services and high-quality care to approximately 100 Rhode Island seniors. The Meadows was built using a smart combination of Federal, State, local, and private funding. It has a green design which includes geothermal heating, Energy Star appliances, and energy-efficient lighting.

For the commitment to providing our seniors a quality standard of living, I congratulate the Meadows. I proudly join the National Affordable Housing Management Association in honoring The Meadows as a "community of quality" for exemplary development for our seniors.

Thank you for your work. Congratulations on your achievements, and thank you for your commitment to Rhode Island's seniors.

TAX HIKES FOR WORKING MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, in 2010 the Republicans promised smaller government and fewer taxes. They even signed a pledge, a pledge not to raise taxes. Yet here we are, 56 days after assuming control of the Congress, and Republicans are proposing to do exactly that, tax hikes for working middle class Americans.

Their bill, H.R. 4, would repeal the onerous reporting provisions on small

businesses, but on the backs of hard-working middle class American families. Those watching the debate are probably thinking "say it ain't so, Joe," but despite Republicans' claims that it isn't a tax increase, it is a tax increase.

If it isn't, why did the Joint Committee on Taxation say it is? If it isn't, why do Republicans block a vote on my amendment that would prohibit any section of H.R. 4 from kicking in if it did, indeed, raise taxes on middle-class families?

It took only 56 days to break their pledge. Republicans are raising taxes on working people. Say it ain't so, GOP. Say it ain't so.

BLAME FOR OUR NATION'S FISCAL PROBLEMS

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it's hard not to get angry when watching the news or reading the newspaper about Wisconsin.

We are trying to recover from the biggest financial crisis since the Depression, and who is getting the blame for our Nation's fiscal problems? Teachers. Teachers certainly aren't the people who caused the Great Recession. It was a group of Wall Street executives who brought about the financial crisis which led to the budget shortfalls in the States.

Blaming teachers or cutting their pay is wrong. Working to strip them of the basic American right to collectively bargain because some greedy Wall Street executives made huge mistakes and went too far, well, that's absolutely also wrong. Of course, Wall Street executives have gone back to collecting big bonuses while teachers and public workers are collecting the ridicule.

It's time to quit blaming hard-working and dedicated teachers and let them get back to focusing on their students.

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OUR NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, our national debt, as we all know, is approaching \$14 trillion, with a capital "T." It's clear that we can no longer afford to continue the partisan bickering and short-term thinking that too long has consumed our Nation's capital. While kicking this can down the road may have been in vogue at one time, it can no longer be afforded by our Nation.

The staggering debt was not created in a day, and we can't dig ourselves out of this hole overnight, but we must stop digging. In order to tackle our

debt, we must cut spending, agree to a stable source of revenue, and hold these commitments over the long term on a bipartisan basis. Partisan rhetoric will not get the job done. The Congress now has to deal with the reality of this budget mess.

The longer-term continuing resolution the House passed 2 weeks ago, though, won't grow our economy and it won't create jobs in the San Joaquin Valley. And, in fact, two reports by respected economists have indicated that it will provide careless cuts and mean hundreds of thousands of jobs lost throughout the Nation.

We can cut spending and we can grow our economy, but it will require shared sacrifice across the Nation by Democrats and Republicans coming together. Our Nation's fiscal health depends on it.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. POLIS. One of the most critical issues to my constituents and Americans across the country, there is crying out for Congress to take action with regard to illegal immigration.

This Nation has over 15 million people who are here illegally, and yet I don't hear one word about comprehensive immigration reform. Comprehensive immigration reform has strong majority support in polls from Republican voters, from Independent voters, and from Democratic voters. Comprehensive immigration reform would finally establish real border security, real employment verification, and require that people that are here illegally register, pay a fine and get right with the law. It is common sense for America, and it's time for Congress to take action on this critical issue.

Lately I've heard that we might be discussing mandatory E-Verify. That would make the problem worse. E-Verify encourages a black market in Social Security numbers. We need real employment verification with fingerprints or eye IDs so we can identify who's there and don't simply contribute to a black market in Social Security numbers which can be bought and sold, only increasing crime in this country.

My constituents are calling on Congress to take action on comprehensive immigration reform. I urge my colleagues to bring this important issue forward.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4, SMALL BUSINESS PAPERWORK MANDATE ELIMINATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 129 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 129

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4) to repeal the expansion of information reporting requirements for payments of \$600 or more to corporations, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of the amendment recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in H.R. 705 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours and 30 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 129 provides for consideration of H.R. 4, the Small Business Paperwork Mandate Elimination Act of 2011.

If you are looking for a prime example of government regulation which, first, is an unnecessary intrusion on small businesses, second, enlarges government bureaucracy at the expense of taxpayers and entrepreneurs, and, finally, creates a mountain of mind-numbing paperwork which has the net effect of killing jobs, then look no further.

Section 9006 of the health reform bill does all of that by requiring businesses to report every expense that they incur over \$600; not just wages to their employees, but even for payments to other businesses and for merchandise.

Imagine, if you will, a small business that picks up a couple of dozen doughnuts from Krispy Kreme on a weekly basis. At the end of the year, they must send a 1099 to Krispy Kreme. Think about a small business owner, as I have been for the last 14 years, who buys stamps from the post office, and now you have to send a 1099 to the U.S. Post Office. What about if you buy a printer for your office or blinds for your office? Here comes more, another mountain of

new paperwork. So now you're spending tax time preparing 1099s for Krispy Kreme, Office Depot, Walmart, Costco, Starbucks, and the list goes on and on.

It's one thing for a large corporation with an in-house tax department. It's another thing completely for a small business which spends an average of \$74 an hour—that's \$74 an hour—on tax compliance, the most expensive paperwork burden that the Federal Government imposes on all small businesses.

Then, to make matters worse, last year the President signed the Small Business Jobs Act, which expanded this onerous 1099 requirement to anyone who rents out property. How did this happen? Well, after the bill has been passed, we are learning more about it. We had a Congress that passed a bill through backroom deals shielded from the public view without reading them.

The American people have seen what's in this bill, and they don't like it. They don't like it one bit. That's why they sent all of us to Congress, to repeal, to defund, and to dismantle the health care reform. My Republican colleagues voted to repeal this bill 245-189, with a 49-vote greater margin than the original vote to pass it. That is also why two Federal judges have already ruled that national health care reform is unconstitutional.

And I am proud to be handling this rule on the House floor. H.R. 4 will remove an unnecessary burden from small businesses, so that instead of creating 1099s for their expenditures, they can create W-4s when they hire new employees.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today the Republicans are breaking a promise that they made to the American people, a promise not to raise taxes. The new majority came in promising a growth agenda. Instead, under the guise of giving administrative relief to small businesses—relief that we all agree is necessary and the majority of this body last session voted to provide with a different way of paying for it—the Republicans are now increasing taxes on middle class Americans and punishing workers.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues have also broken their promise to this body. The people's House was promised an open legislative process. Over and over, the leadership has told the American people they want to create an open process, create jobs, and lower taxes. Yet here we are debating the second closed rule of the week on a bill that calls out for new and better ideas, a bill that in its current form will increase taxes and punish employees.

We all agree that the 1099 reporting provision of the Affordable Care Act needs to be fixed. Just last Congress, we brought a bill to the floor to do that. H.R. 5982 would have repealed the 1099 requirements. But the measure failed because our Republican friends did not believe that ending incentives