

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to highlight the foreclosure crisis and recognize the thousands of distressed families in my district and across the country who continue to battle foreclosure. In Maryland our foreclosures approached nearly 800,000 in the fourth quarter of 2010. This crisis hits particularly hard in my district, where we have about 40 percent of our foreclosures statewide.

The foreclosure prevention and mitigation programs the Republican majority wants to terminate this week have helped thousands of hardworking families to stay in their homes and mitigated the effects of declining property values in neighborhoods across the country. Now, I know they're not perfect, but terminating these programs does not one single thing to spur the economy or protect middle class families in need. In fact, the effect is quite the opposite.

My colleagues claim that the programs haven't delivered on their promises. So what? What about the families who have benefited from the programs? What about the 1.2 million families that will face foreclosure this year?

This is another case of trying to throw the baby out with the bath water. Enough of that already. It's a simple question: Whose side are you on? Families, workers, working families, protecting their homes and communities; or are you on the side of the banks that want to take their homes?

LINCOLN/PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the creativity, effort, and resourcefulness of two local housing authorities in the First Congressional District of Rhode Island.

At a time when Rhode Island and many other States across our country are experiencing unacceptably high foreclosure rates, there are some beacons of light in the housing sector, beacons like the Town of Lincoln Housing Authority and the Housing Authority of the City of Providence, which are both being recognized by the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment officials as Awards of Merit winners for being well-positioned to meet the demand for safe and affordable housing for low- and very low-income families.

The Lincoln Housing Authority has instituted innovative programming for seniors, and the Providence Housing Authority has put in place energy efficiencies and cutting-edge health and fiscal planning programs.

These housing authorities are leaders in the development and maintenance of cost-effective approaches to responding to the variety of today's housing and

community development challenges. Lincoln and Providence Housing Authorities not only effectively address local housing and neighborhood redevelopment challenges and concerns; they have also set a national example for similar organizations to learn from so they can meet the unique needs in their communities.

I congratulate you for your leadership in our State's housing industry, which proves yet again that Rhode Island innovation can combat both our State and national housing challenges.

RECOGNIZING THE NMI CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate American Red Cross Month, I would like to pay particular tribute to the Northern Mariana Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross for the leading role it plays in responding to disasters large and small and in providing vital health and safety services in our islands.

Our small community has been blessed since 1978 with an exceptionally active and effective local Red Cross chapter. With just four staff members and 150 volunteers, the Northern Mariana Islands chapter last year provided financial assistance to 26 families who suffered house fires or localized flooding, facilitated emergency communications between 154 servicemembers and their families, provided community disaster preparedness materials to over 3,700 individuals, and trained over 2,300 students in courses on CPR, first aid, lifeguarding, and swimming.

The Northern Mariana Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross is an integral part of the Commonwealth community, a leader in health and safety training, and an invaluable partner in helping people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. We thank them for their work.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, as the recent job report shows, our economy is steadily improving with 12 straight months of private sector job growth.

Now, I state, now is the time for us to build on this progress and work together in a bipartisan effort to create jobs, not reduce jobs. I state, not to reduce jobs.

But, sadly, my Republican friends are letting the extremists dictate their agenda, protecting special interests at the expense of working families. The Republican budget would destroy 700,000 jobs and turn back the clock, I say, turn back the clock on our recent economic progress. This budget would do critical harm to American families.

Mothers and children would be stripped of nutrition benefits from the WIC program. Thousands of youth would be kicked out of Head Start.

And now the Republicans are ready to continue their assault on the middle class by terminating the mortgage relief program that keeps families in their homes.

We should be helping families, not making them homeless. Let's work together to pass a budget that creates jobs and helps middle class Americans.

NO JOBS PLAN AND ASSAULT ON MIDDLE CLASS HOMEOWNERS

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have been in control of this Chamber for the last 10 weeks now, and we have taken 164 recorded votes. Yet they still have no plan to create jobs and spur economic growth.

Instead of tackling unemployment, my Republican colleagues have now turned their efforts toward eliminating vital programs that are helping families deal with the fallout of the mortgage crisis.

Seven million families have lost their homes with another 3 million foreclosures expected through 2012. And what is the Republicans' response to this crisis? They want to terminate programs designed to help homeowners keep their houses and avoid foreclosures.

This week they will bring a bill to the floor that will abolish a program that makes temporary loans to unemployed homeowners to help cover mortgage payments until they can find a job.

Mr. Speaker, it is bad enough that they have no plan in sight to bring Americans back to work; but to actually put their energy towards ending programs that are helping the unemployed during difficult times is unacceptable.

I urge my colleagues to stop cutting programs that will keep American families in their homes and focus the legislation on creating jobs and move the economy forward.

THE REPUBLICANS' PRIORITIES

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority is indeed focused on jobs. In fact, their H.R. 1 would kill 700,000 jobs under the guise of fiscal responsibility. They'd cut transportation investments. They'd cut investments in education, student loans, and grants. They'd cut the COPS program, keeping our citizens safe with additional police on the street. They'd cut back on nutrition assistance to women, infants, and children.

What's not on the table? Well, corporate welfare. Six billion dollars in

ethanol subsidies—don't want to touch that. Twelve billion dollars in agriculture subsidies for corporate farms—can't touch that. Tax loopholes for Big Oil while they're gouging us at the pump and not paying taxes in the United States of America—can't put that on the table.

But the Republicans have shown us their priorities, and even their friends in the Senate yesterday refused to take up their bill.

And that's the way it is.

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EARMARK RECISSION, SAVINGS AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the majority has now been in power for 10 weeks and has yet to offer a plan for job creation. Instead, they have chosen to ignore the warnings of economists from across the political spectrum and are promoting a continuing resolution that threatens to derail and reverse our Nation's recovery.

Instead of slashing programs that are vital to job creation and economic growth, we need to carefully examine the budget and eliminate all wasteful spending. That is why I am introducing the Surface Transportation Earmark Recission, Savings and Accountability Act of 2011, and I'd ask for bipartisan support on this. This legislation will reduce the deficit by \$584 million by rescinding unspent funds authorized by Federal transportation projects requested by Members of Congress that date back to 1978.

Instead of eliminating research at the National Institutes of Health or eliminating funding to protect our air and water, let's focus on elimination of wasteful, unnecessary spending. I encourage you to work with me to include this language in the continuing resolution.

ADDRESSING THE CRIES OF THE NATION

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, we know that the economy is getting better. We know the job numbers are getting better, but we're still not there. We still have not addressed the cries of the people of this great Nation.

We do know that essential to addressing the cries is a sense of public confidence, and tied to that public confidence is something that is essential to everyone, and that is feeling safe in your home and being able to provide for your family. That is what two bills are about to address in this legislative body, two bills that should not pass—the attempts by the Republicans to defund two major programs that ad-

dress what the people want and what the people need.

One, of course, is the Federal Housing Administration's Refinance Program and the other is the Emergency Homeowner Loan Program. That's for people who are without jobs through no fault of their own, either through unemployment or just simply medical conditions. Thirty thousand to 50,000 people were to be helped with that particular program. The other one is, of course, the underwater loan. Sixty-seven percent of homes in Nevada fall in that category; 25 percent in the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, let's concentrate on giving people public confidence and hope in the future.

GOP MESSAGE TO CONSTITUENTS: SUCK IT UP

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today's message from the House Republicans is as follows—and these are my quotes, by the way—“This House will subsidize Big Oil and Wall Street, but our constituents who are losing their homes can just suck it up and find a bridge to sleep under.”

Just about every economist under the sun agrees that we won't have robust job growth and recovery until foreclosures are under control; but rather than putting forth a proposal to improve the deeply flawed homeowner assistance programs, the GOP panders to its Wall Street base by proposing we do away with homeowner assistance altogether.

I urge my colleagues to join me in rejecting this anti-homeowner, anti-middle class proposal so we can turn to the serious work of improving homeowners' assistance programs that are currently failing.

RADICALIZATION OF THE REPUBLICAN AGENDA

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the House Homeland Security Committee will hold a hearing that will actually have the potential to make our Nation less safe. The title of the hearing is “The Extent of Radicalization in the American Muslim Community,” but what's truly radical is using committee time and resources to profile and demonize whole communities of people based on their faith. American Muslims are peaceful, law-abiding citizens, and many have cooperated with the U.S. authorities to help prevent terrorist attacks. We should target terrorists based on actions, not religion.

When law enforcement agencies were asked to identify terrorist groups within their States, Muslim extremist

groups ranked 11th out of 18. Neo-Nazis, environmental extremists, and anti-tax groups were all more prevalent. Radicalization and homegrown terrorism are serious and legitimate concerns and deserve thoughtful examination, not an ideologically motivated charade.

We must continue efforts to defeat al Qaeda wherever they exist, but one key to combating extremism is winning the hearts and minds of the next generation of Muslims.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 836, EMERGENCY MORTGAGE RELIEF PROGRAM TERMINATION ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 151 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 151

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 836) to rescind the unobligated funding for the Emergency Mortgage Relief Program and to terminate the program. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill. Each section of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those received for printing in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII in a daily issue dated March 9, 2011, or earlier and except pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate. Each amendment so received may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or a designee and shall be considered as read if printed. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman, my friend from New York (Ms.