

taunted every day in schools as children who we say are "normal."

Tomorrow, I will be cohosting a briefing with Congresswoman CATHY MCMORRIS ROGERS, herself a parent of a special needs child, to discuss the heart-breaking issue. We will be joined by Lauren Potter, an actress on the hit show "Glee," who has Down syndrome and who will share her personal stories as well. We will be highlighting a report by AbilityPath.org, Best Buddies, and the Special Olympics. This report shines a bright light on this epidemic.

Here in Congress it seems there are as many reports as minutes in the day, but too often they end up collecting dust instead of inspiring action. In this case, we cannot allow that to happen. Bullying and harassment foster a climate of fear and disrespect that can seriously impair the physical and psychological health of its victims, and create conditions that negatively affect their learning.

For special needs children who already face tremendous challenges, adding this extra burden is simply unacceptable. Those with special needs are more likely to be targets, either because their differences single them out in the classroom or because they have difficulty in communicating and in reading social cues.

Let me share with you a story from the report. These are the words of a mother of an 11-year-old girl with Down syndrome:

"My daughter is a wonderful, adorable, sweet child with Down syndrome. The bullying she encountered started in elementary school and has followed her to middle school. Everyone makes a big deal about their children being bullied at school, and it is a big deal. However, it is always the 'normal' children that you hear about. Who stands up for the children who are like my daughter?"

It was this sense of helplessness that led James Jones, whose daughter suffers from cerebral palsy, to confront her school bullies on a Florida school bus in 2008. The video was unforgettable and shocking. The numbers are just as disturbing.

A study in the British Journal of Learning Support found that 60 percent of students with special needs reported being bullied compared to 25 percent of the general student population.

Researchers have discovered that students with disabilities are more worried about school safety and about being injured or harassed by other peers compared to students without disabilities.

The National Autistic Society reports that 40 percent of children with autism and 60 percent of those with Asperger's syndrome have experienced bullying.

It is time for Congress to stand up and to speak up for these children and their families. In the coming weeks, I will be introducing legislation to tackle this issue head-on. Under this legislation, schools that receive Federal

funds will be required to report the number of incidents of bullying and whether the victims have special needs. In addition, Federal funds used for bullying programs will be required to include content that specifically addresses the bullying of those with special needs.

I hope we can begin a national conversation to ensure this epidemic remains silent no more.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, our Hope and our Salvation, 40 years is hardly a lifetime anymore. Yet Your people wandered in the desert until a whole generation passed, longing for Your promises to be fulfilled.

Now, 40 days seems far longer than a month's time. Yet both Moses and Jesus withdrew from the people just that long to seek Your face on the holy mountain.

Be with this Nation and the Members of this House as long as it takes, Lord.

Allow Your people to repent and reflect on old patterns that have brought about present crisis. Grant them Your power to seek new patterns of behavior so free people will embrace laws with accountability and security will spontaneously give rise to self-discipline.

Lord, heal our wounded nature and bring us to the fullness of life You have promised both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a

quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BACA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HATE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, they cry peace, peace, peace in the daylight, but, when darkness of the night comes, they murder the innocent. Such was the case over the weekend when suspected Palestinian radicals killed five Israeli members of the Fogel family living in the West Bank. The assassins slithered into the Fogel home and murdered Udi and his wife, Ruth, and brutally butchered three of their children, ages 11, 4, and 3 months.

These homicides are an act of terror against the Jews of Israel. They appear to be political murders by radicals who preach hate in the name of religion. Baby killers of any religion or political belief are the lowest forms of the human existence.

Israel has the absolute right to existence. But those that have the blood of babies on their hands refuse to let Israel exist.

The murder of the Fogel family is yet another example that Israel cannot have peace as long as their neighbors hypocritically preach peace in the daytime and practice murder in the nighttime.

And that's just the way it is.

REPUBLICAN CR

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, we've just seen 12 straight months of private sector jobs growth and there is a 2-year low in the unemployment rate. Now is the time for us to give our economy another push forward with a smart budget that invests in critical needs and lowers the deficit with intelligent

spending cuts. But instead, what are we giving the American people? More uncertainty with another short-term extension.

This short-term continuing resolution must stop. The American people need jobs, not misguided plans that undermine the future of our Nation. Unfortunately, the Republican-passed budget would give pink slips to 7,000 American workers. And now, with a continued assault on mortgage relief programs, the Republicans are ready to start handing out foreclosure notices, too.

Let's stop this madness. Let's work together on a budget plan that create jobs, reduces the deficit, and keeps our families in their homes.

THEY JUST DON'T GET IT

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, with a \$14 trillion national debt and a \$1.65 trillion deficit this year alone, our Federal Government is facing a fiscal crisis of unprecedented proportions. With the passage of H.R. 1, House Republicans took an important first step toward turning our national government back in the direction of fiscal discipline, defunding ObamaCare, and even restoring the sanctity of life to the center of the Federal budget. But it was rejected by liberals in the Senate. In fact, last week, the Senate majority leader called the Republican budget cuts mean spirited, reckless, and irresponsible, even defending Federal funding for a cowboy poetry festival. Seriously.

Is it reckless and irresponsible to ask for \$61 billion in cuts when the national debt is 230 times that size? The truth is, they just don't get it.

I think it's time to take a stand for taxpayers and for future generations. And I will not vote for the short-term continuing resolution that is coming to the floor of the House today, to make that statement.

Things don't change in Washington until they have to. It's time to pick a fight.

FOOD SAFETY BUDGET CUTS

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to make our way through the budget process, we must ensure that all funding reductions we make are done in a responsible manner.

While I strongly agree that we need to get our deficit under control, we cannot do it in a way that undermines public safety and job creation. For example, the Republican long-term CR will cut \$88 million in funding from the Food Safety and Inspection Service. This little-known cut will force food safety inspectors off the job for over 30 days, resulting in shutdowns of plants

across this Nation. The USDA has estimated that such cuts will result in an \$11 billion loss in productivity. Additionally, meat and poultry production is supposed to grow over the next year. If we decrease funding for food safety, there will be fewer inspectors to examine our food and make sure it's acceptable for consumption.

Mr. Speaker, this is just one example of how we need to dissect each cut and the impact that it will have in the real world. I hope this Chamber can come together and make sensible decisions when it comes to reducing our deficit.

WE MUST ACT TODAY

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Since the time President Obama took office in 2009, the price of gasoline has more than doubled, rising from \$1.53 a gallon to \$3.52. America has become more dependent on foreign oil, undermining our national security while forcing hardworking Americans to endure budget-busting gasoline prices.

When you fill up your car, it's not the oil companies you should be blaming; it's the White House. Excessive government regulation, the fact that offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico is all but shut down, and the attempt to end the tax incentives for oil exploration are all factors. The culture of "no" from the executive branch is killing us. Add to that the lack of any action in light of the deteriorating situation in the Middle East, Egypt, and Libya, in particular, and we have a failure of leadership at the top of this country.

Energy is key to our economy. Scores of jobs rely on it. And \$3.50 gasoline is unacceptable.

I call on the President to act today. Call off the EPA. Issue those leases and permits in the gulf. Open America's land for drilling. And quit demonizing the oil and gas industry.

□ 1210

THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, to my Republican colleagues, when you say that we have a fiscal house to get in order, you're right; but when your plan is to focus 100 percent of your firepower on 12 percent of the budget, I say you are designing a plan that will fail.

Why is it that we have added \$700 billion to the deficit by extending tax cuts for the top 2 percent?

Why is it that we will cut low-income heating assistance by \$2.5 billion and continue \$55 billion in tax breaks for oil companies when they're selling oil at \$100 a barrel and when they've made \$1 trillion in the past 10 years?

Why is it that we are now having a threat by the Republican majority to say "no" on extending the debt limit, having America default on paying its bills for past obligations incurred under Republican and Democratic administrations, and playing with fire as to the reputation of the American people, despite the clear damage that it will do to the economy, rather than acknowledging that we have an obligation to meet our obligations?

THE ATTITUDE OF "SO BE IT" CANNOT CONTINUE

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, the people of America are asking us: What are we doing? We're going to vote today on another continuing resolution that extends the budget for another couple of weeks. People are asking: What's the matter with all of you? Why can't you just get it done?

They're absolutely right.

Mr. Speaker, the attitude of "so be it" cannot continue. Yes, we all understand that there is a deficit, and we all want to work to stop that; but we also realize that you simply can't just cut, that you have to do it smartly, that you've got to make smart cuts so it doesn't hurt what we are all striving for, which is the creation of jobs. People want jobs, and they want us to get this fiscal house in order.

If you don't want to listen to us, Mr. Speaker, think about the military. Both sides of the aisle have always looked upon the military as something we share in common, and the military is saying a continuing resolution does not work.

THE DEFICIT

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I've had an opportunity to listen to two of my friends on the Republican side of the aisle. I just need to remind them, when you take a voluntary pay cut, when you subsidize and give tax cuts to millionaires and billionaires, when you prosecute a couple wars to the tune of \$1 trillion that you don't pay for and then when you let Wall Street run amuck without any police on Wall Street and you have a crash, you're going to have major debt.

So now they're complaining about a debt that they were instrumental in creating. All right. We've got to pay it, but you've got to get people back to work. The best way to reduce the deficit is to have people working. President Obama has reduced what we're spending in Iraq by \$100 billion. That's real money. You can't just focus on education. You can't just focus on energy efficiency. You've got to focus on tax cuts for oil companies and on tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires.