

Instead, my Republican colleagues have sought to terminate every step taken by the Federal Government to help homeowners like my constituent, leaving them at the mercy of unscrupulous lenders such as these.

□ 1210

JAPAN

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, in the past few weeks we have seen the devastating images of the massive earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

As someone who lived in Japan, it is hard to believe entire towns and cities in this beautiful country have been destroyed, and I am heartsick for the more than 9,800 lives that have been lost. I can only imagine the grief and shock felt by the families and friends of the victims, and my heart goes out to them.

I am grateful that San Diego's own USS *Reagan* departed for Japan on March 11 to help with relief efforts. With the more than 17,500 people still missing and more than 245,000 people in evacuation centers, daunting challenges lie ahead.

Madam Speaker, I urge this body to stand in solidarity with the Japanese people and reassure our ally that America is ready and committed to giving our partner the support needed to cope with this horrible disaster.

IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, America's broken immigration system continues to wreak havoc in communities across the country.

Real families with real children live in fear that someone they love may be torn away from them. No child deserves to grow up without the love of their parents. We must bring an end to the separation of families. We must all remember that immigrants are not our enemies. They are our neighbors, our classmates, our fellow churchgoers. They are part of the American fabric.

Over the coming month, I look forward to working with CHC and advocates across the Nation to speak on the human impact of our broken immigration system.

Immigration is not just a Latino issue. It is an American issue that impacts all of us. Let's work together to stop this hateful rhetoric and pass real immigration reform.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

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

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I rise today to promote early childhood pro-

grams, which are an investment not only in our children, but in our country's future.

In 1990, the Child Care and Development Block Grant was created for low-income parents who are either working or in school. If the proposed cuts to Child Care and Development Block Grants are signed into law, 150,000 families nationwide will lose child care subsidies. In my home State, the annual cost for child care for an infant can be nearly \$12,000 a year and the annual cost for a toddler can be as much as \$9,000.

Head Start is another vital service that has provided education, health, nutritional and social services for 3- and 4-year-olds since 1965. If the cuts proposed in H.R. 1 become reality, 218,220 children nationwide will lose access to Head Start, and approximately 55,000 Head Start employees will lose their jobs; 3,719 children in New Jersey would be left without access to Head Start, and we already have 9,500 children on the waiting list.

I ask Congress to continue debate in support of the bill.

CUTS TO JOBS AND SERVICES

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

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the loss of jobs and services in America.

So far, this Republican-controlled Congress has had nearly 100 hearings, but not a single one has addressed the real issue in this country, which is jobs. Republican attempts to cut more than 50 percent—50 percent—of funding for Head Start, which will affect more than 200,000 children, and their proposal to cut 62 percent from Community Development Block Grants have hurt our communities. They are depriving hardworking Americans of services they need.

According to the latest Bloomberg national poll, when given five choices of the most important issues facing this Nation, 43 percent of all Americans picked unemployment and jobs as number one. Reducing the deficit and spending came in a distant second at 29 percent.

Madam Speaker, the American people want leadership that will create jobs and jump-start our Nation's economy.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF SAN RAMON VALLEY

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of Soroptimist International of San Ramon Valley for their work to improve the lives of women in our community.

This is the final week of the Women's History Month; and, as such, it is fit-

ting that we recognize an organization that is helping the next generation of women to succeed and make history.

The Soroptimists of San Ramon Valley recently held a conference for the 7th year in a row to help young women gain self-confidence and develop important life skills. The event included presentations from speakers and interactive workshops that promote leadership and help the participants to pursue their life's goals.

The Soroptimists of San Ramon Valley, which is one of many chapters of the Soroptimists International throughout the world, also issue awards to girls who are involved in community service and provides grants to women so they can participate in job training and education programs.

The Soroptimists of San Ramon Valley have made a difference for many in our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the members of this organization for their hard work to improve the lives of women.

SUPPORT MORE DIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, this week I plan to introduce a bill that will allow States to submit three statues for display in the United States Capitol.

This bill seeks to include more diversity among the honored in our Capitol by increasing that number of statues to include more notable women, minorities, and other ethnic groups that have contributed significantly to our history.

Currently, there are 100 statues on display given by the States, and only 16 are women or minority groups. Ten are women with three Native-Americans; three statues are Native-American males, two are Hispanic, and one is a Pacific Islander. Although there have been many noteworthy African Americans and Asian Americans in our history, no State has submitted a statue honoring one of them. This disparity must be rectified.

If you walked through the Capitol and looked at the statues, you would think all the heroes and leaders were granite white men. This bill is to express that equal representation of all Americans is essential in our historical perspectives and the educational value that the Capitol offers its thousands of visitors.

I urge my colleagues to look at the bill, to support it, and to have more diverse representation among the statuary in the United States Capitol.

GROW THE ECONOMY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask the American people to

wake up from the malaise of this debate about the deficit and raising the debt ceiling. You have lost your way. Let me just ask you to raise your voices against the issue of a broken government and the potential of a shutdown on the question of, what do you want for your children.

As we go back to our districts and our school districts and our States, parents are standing in lines at school board meetings crying about 60-seat classrooms and teachers being laid off. Don't you understand that it starts right here in Washington? You need to be speaking to our friends on the other side of the aisle. It is time to invest and grow the economy. It is time to recognize that consumer spending has increased, that jobs have been created, and that it is important to invest in this economy.

If you don't get in the way and get in the mix, I can tell you that the rise that we have of 192,000 jobs being created, the unemployment going down, economists saying we should invest now, you are going to lose it, tied up with those who have views that are only self-centered, our friends that are in the tea party. It is time for people to put education first and realize that if you let us fall on the spear here in Washington on the grounds of mislabeled politics and not worry about your children, you are going to lose.

Wake up, America. It is time to get in the fight. Fight for your children. Invest and grow the economy now.

CONTINUE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

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

Ms. HIRONO. Last week, when most of us were in our respective districts, representatives from community health centers around the country came to Capitol Hill to remind us of the essential role they play in our communities. I hope that the staff of Members who voted for H.R. 1, which drastically cuts funding for these very health centers, listen to the stories they heard last week.

I have long supported community health centers because in my district, spread over seven inhabited islands, access to care is a challenge. Although their principal focus has been to provide health care for the underserved, these centers serve people at all income levels.

Hawaii's network of community health centers serve nearly 127,000 patients, and only one-third of them are Medicaid eligible. On the island of Lanai, 40 percent of the residents receive care through their community health center. This population, 25 percent of which are over 65 years of age, can't afford to fly to another island for care.

Funding for community health centers is an investment because prevention is more cost effective than treat-

ment. I urge my colleagues to reject cuts to community health centers.

□ 1220

WAKE-UP CALLS; ARE WE LISTENING?

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

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, wake-up calls; are we listening? Yes, there are wake-up calls. Can we hear them?

This majority in the House has not heeded a wake-up call. They have ignored the investments that we need in the clean energy economy to grow jobs.

What are those wake-up calls? Well, there is, first, the hard-earned American energy consumer dollars, \$400 billion plus, that go to unfriendly nations that will take those dollars and invest in fighting the American troops while they supply us fossil-based fuels. Then there is the oil spill in the gulf that reeked damage on our ecosystem and wrecked the regional economy. Then there was the sticker shock at the pump, at the gas pump, that is driving down the American economy. And no one is listening.

Now maybe we will pay attention to the sad announcement today. Last year, we dropped to number three in clean energy investment after China and Germany. When will we wake up?

I say today, as the President talks to us about energy security in our economy, that we need to reduce oil imports and innovate into a clean energy future. We need to heed that clarion call. It is a wake-up call that's necessary.

The America I know and love is number one. It should never be three on the list of clean energy investment.

WASHINGTON DOESN'T UNDER- STAND CALIFORNIA'S WATER PROBLEMS

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, California's Governor will soon declare an end to the drought that devastated the San Joaquin Valley. Our cities are flooding and our rivers are raging and the snowpack in the Sierras is deeper than it has been in any 15-year period. It is clear that the drought is over. Somehow, though, Washington has not gotten the news.

With unemployment still in double digits in seven counties in the valley and unemployment continuing to be very problematic, the folks in Washington think that communities can recover from the Great Recession with just over half the water our farmers need. They don't understand the valley. They don't understand us.

Do you hear me, Commerce Department? Do you hear me, Secretary

Locke? Water is the lifeblood of the San Joaquin Valley. It puts food on our table. It sustains our economy, and it creates good jobs. That is why I am introducing legislation that will allow the needed flexibility for California's water policy.

As we work to find short-term and long-term solutions to California's broken water system, passing common-sense legislation will bring over half a million acre-feet of water to valley farmers and farm communities. It is time to put aside our political differences. It is time to reach a compromise, and it is time to end this regulatory drought.

FISCAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SAFETY AND SANITY PREVAILING

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, a few hours ago, fiscal and public health safety and sanity prevailed when the Food and Drug Administration clarified an order on February 3 approving the drug Makena, which is an injectable medication for women at risk of preterm birth, one of the biggest health care challenges that our country faces. There are a half million premature births in this country. They cost the health care system \$29 billion. They are the leading cause of infant mortality.

This new medication which the FDA approved on February 3 is promising, but it costs \$1,500 per injection, \$30,000 per pregnancy. At the same time, OB-GYNs in this country have been prescribing a compound alternative that costs only \$20 per treatment per medication. And yet the order on February 3 indicated that there would only be exclusive treatments under the \$1,500 medication.

The order this morning clarifies that there will be no exclusivity, that OB-GYNs will continue to be able to prescribe the cheaper alternative, but FDA retains its power to still require exclusivity.

For the sake of taxpayers and patients, Congress must keep a close eye on the FDA to not take away this option to OB-GYNs all across America.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 471, SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY AND RESULTS ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 186 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 186

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 471) to reauthorize the DC opportunity scholarship program,