

this airport funding program more efficient by throwing out what is wasteful but keeping what works.

RECOGNIZING MARIA T. SOLIS-MARTINEZ

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. I rise today to recognize an amazing woman, a woman from the city of Anaheim in my district, Mrs. Maria T. Solis-Martinez, in honor of Women's History Month. Mrs. Solis-Martinez is a retired United States Air Force Master Sergeant who served during the Vietnam era from 1960 to 1967. In 1974, she joined the California Air National Guard and continued her commitment to serving our country in the 261st and the 222nd Combat Communications Squadrons.

I'm truly proud to have such an extraordinary woman in my hometown. She is a mentor and a friend, and she's always working for the community. For over 10 years, she has been an active member sponsor of the Latino Advocates for Education, Inc., an organization that brings awareness and recognition to the contributions of Latino military veterans in all the wars fought by the United States. She continues to devote endless hours volunteering with the Girl Scouts Council of Orange County, North Orange County YWCA Youth Employment Service, and so many other organizations, mentoring young girls to become talented, distinguished women.

As we honor Women's History Month and Women in the Military History Week, I proudly recognize Mrs. Maria Solis-Martinez for her incredible leadership and for being such a great role model.

MISPLACED PRIORITIES

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to object once again to the majority's misplaced priorities during these difficult times for American families. As a result of the financial crisis in 2008, more than 7 million Americans lost their jobs, and more than 9 million Americans have faced foreclosure. In my small State of Delaware, 6,000 people filed for foreclosure last year, which is three times the norm. As Lieutenant Governor, I chaired a foreclosure prevention task force in Delaware. We learned that the best way to help homeowners was through a combination of private and public sector efforts.

It's just unbelievable to me that this House voted to end foreclosure prevention programs which for thousands of families are the last chance to keep their homes. Let's remember that we are still recovering from the worst fi-

nancial crisis since the Great Depression, and the housing market is still floundering. Allowing more families to lose their homes just makes things worse. So this debate is not just about helping individual families, as important as that is. It's also about strengthening the economic recovery now underway.

RECKLESS SPENDING PROPOSALS

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to continue to focus on creating jobs and the economic recovery. I am very concerned with the reckless GOP spending proposal that will slash jobs all across the United States of America, and I want to give two examples that were highlighted by my local Urban League that visited Washington yesterday from Pinellas County, or St. Petersburg, Florida.

They said the Republican spending proposal will actually cut 9,100 teachers, teachers' aides, and education jobs if it goes into effect. I think that's wrong. We shouldn't be slashing jobs. We should be fighting to create jobs. They also highlighted the fact that H.R. 1 will slash the Pell Grant for 9.4 million college students all across America. Their proposed cut is \$845 per student. That is wrong.

We must remain invested in education, our teachers, our students. We've got to fight for each and every job in the face of the GOP reckless spending proposal and misguided priorities.

HONORING ELIZABETH KEARNEY

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. I rise today to honor a remarkable woman. This weekend, those who love and admire Elizabeth Kearney will gather in Mankato, Minnesota, to celebrate her life. She passed away last Saturday at a very vibrant 96. She was a trailblazer in countless ways. She graduated with a degree in medical technology from the University of Minnesota in 1936. After her husband, Wynn, completed his residency in Rochester, Minnesota, they moved to Mankato, where they raised five children and became pillars of our community.

The Mankato Free Press reported that she was a devoted mother who cherished family above all else and was so active in the community. She was a friend, a mentor, and a role model. Her daughter Ann and her sons Wynn and Mike and their wives, Ginette and Jane, are still an important force in our community. She founded the Women's Leadership Development Program at the YWCA, served on the Mankato Rehabilitation Center board, started

the cultural exchange program at the University of Minnesota, Mankato, and served on so many countless organizations.

The Free Press summed it up: "Elizabeth was the personification of grace, humility, kindness, and generosity, and a day didn't pass without her touching someone's life in her special way." Elizabeth will be deeply missed not only by her family but by so many of us in the community who admired her commitment to causes greater than herself.

JOB-KILLING SPENDING PLAN

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, private sector employment went up by 200,000 people this month. But unemployment remains stubbornly high. A principle reason for this is the job cuts in the public sector. This past month, public sector jobs were lost at an annual rate of a quarter million people. These people also have mortgages to pay, college kids to educate, car payments to make, and the like. They matter to our economy.

Over the last 2 years, more than 200,000 teachers have been laid off, while student enrollment has increased by 750,000. We're told that H.R. 1 would eliminate another 9,000 teacher jobs. In Detroit, classroom size has gone up to 60 students per classroom in middle school, the toughest years to maintain discipline and enhanced knowledge. Now we're told we may have a compromise on H.R. 1 that will cut only 300,000—not 700,000—public sector jobs.

It's inconsistent at best, hypocritical at worst, for the Republican majority in this House to suggest they care about jobs while at the same time they're eliminating hundreds of thousands of them.

□ 1230

THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY'S RECKLESS SPENDING PLAN

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, the cloud hanging over this Chamber is the threat of a government shutdown. We are engaged in what is literally a life-or-death debate about our priorities as a country, and the Republican majority's reckless spending plan doesn't just betray our national values, it highlights their values.

They are demanding cuts to financial aid for students and assistance to homeless veterans or they'll shut the government down. They want to slash heating assistance for low-income seniors or they'll shut the government down. They're even demanding we sacrifice the needs of police officers, firefighters, nurses, seniors, and even pregnant women. And on top of all that,

they're fighting to protect billions in tax breaks for Wall Street and oil companies or they'll shut the government down.

In other words, they demand sacrifices from everyone except millionaires, billionaires, and their corporate benefactors. That's why I think we ought to call the reckless GOP spending plan "good old payback."

Mr. Speaker, we cannot let politics and corporate profits trump smart and compassionate policy and the well-being of our Nation. I urge my colleagues to reject these demands and fight to create a government and an economy that works for all Americans, not just the wealthy few.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS SMART CUTS

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, we have got to get ahold of reality. We have got to ask: What is it? What is it that we're doing when we're not able to come to a CR? Look at what we're telling the people. And worse than anything else, we are defeating the main purpose for which we are here.

We're here to build public confidence. We're here to make people feel good that we know what we're doing and that there is a bright future for all of us. Instead, the majority is proposing yet another series of budget cuts.

Cuts, yes, we must get our budget under control, but we must do it smartly. And somehow that message isn't getting through.

Two economists said that the cuts are shortsighted. Budget cuts to human capital, our infrastructure, the next generation of scientific and technological advances do nothing for us. As a matter of fact, those are going to set us back.

Mr. Speaker, please, what we need to do, what the majority needs to do, is to say, yes, cuts, but smart cuts. And let's work together towards smart cuts.

APRIL FOOLS AND THE REPUBLICAN SPENDING CUTS

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, as one of the previous Members on the Democratic side talked about, tomorrow is April Fools. April 1, April Fools. The Republicans would like to have everybody believe that a bill that just passed the House but has never passed the Senate, never been signed by the President, is going to become law. I mean, we all know from our civics class that just isn't what the Constitution says, but they'd like us to believe that.

Now, that's a bad enough joke on America, but the real bad joke is what's in that bill. We're finally start-

ing to get this country on its feet economically. We're starting to make things in America again. Manufacturing is on the rise. But they'd like to see that cut. They want to cut our research into clean energy, which, in Colorado, for every job that we have in research, there are four private sector jobs. They want to cut that. That's the bad joke that's coming up on April Fools.

The cuts that they ask really pull the rug right out from under the feet of America, and we've got to stop it.

THE DREAM ACT CHILDREN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to ask my colleagues to help American families and children.

I join my good friend Congressman LUIS GUTIERREZ on acknowledging the many children, the talented children that are in our schools that deserve the best education, along with all of our children who happen to have been in this country most of their lives but they're undocumented. They are called the DREAM Act children, the children who are our future engineers and doctors, teachers and train workers, bus workers—people who help build America.

It is time now to support comprehensive immigration reform. It's time now to distinguish between the bad guys, whom all of us want to be deported, versus these young children who are valedictorians and salutatorians, who are athletes, who are men and women in the United States military, who are seeking to be part of the pillars of this community. I want to join in standing alongside these American families and children, not to break up families who are raising wonderful Americans but yet are not statused because of the way their families came to seek an opportunity.

Comprehensive immigration reform is the answer, but we must protect the DREAM Act children.

GOP AGENDA OF MISGUIDED PRIORITIES

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues made a "pledge to America" to develop a plan to "create jobs, end economic uncertainty, and make America more competitive."

Yet, to date, Republicans have not produced a single job-creating measure. In fact, they have done just the opposite. First-time jobless claims increased by 5,000 last week, and the total number of people receiving benefits fell to its lowest level in 3 years. The February job report showed gains of 192,000 jobs and a drop in the unemployment rate to 8.9 percent.

Still ignoring the facts that the experts have said, the needs of their constituents, and basic logic, Republicans continue to embrace a plan that would hamper our economic progress, depress our growth and development. This misguided job-killing spending plan is estimated to eliminate 800,000 jobs and reduce economic growth by 2 percent.

This is irresponsible, unacceptable, and I urge my Republican colleagues to abandon this job-killing spending campaign and adopt a reasonable agenda to support economic development and job growth.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BE AVAILABLE TO SERVE ON INVESTIGATIVE SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5(a)(4)(A) of rule X, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair announces that the Speaker named the following Members of the House to be available to serve on investigative subcommittees of the Committee on Ethics for the 112th Congress:

Mr. BISHOP, Utah
Mrs. BLACKBURN, Tennessee
Mr. CRENSHAW, Florida
Mr. LATHAM, Iowa
Mr. SIMPSON, Idaho
Mr. WALDEN, Oregon
Mr. OLSON, Texas
Mr. LATTA, Ohio
Mr. GRIFFIN, Arkansas
Mr. GRIMM, New York

QUESTION OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule IX, I rise to a point of personal privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has been made aware of a valid basis for the gentleman's point of personal privilege.

The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the critical issue before this Nation today is not Libyan democracy; it is American democracy. In the next hour, I will describe the dangers facing our own democracy.

The principles of democracy across the globe are embodied in the U.N. Charter, conceived to end the scourge of war for all time. The hope that nations could turn their swords into plowshares reflects the timeless impulse of humanity for enduring peace and, with it, an enhanced opportunity to pursue happiness.

We are not naive about the existence of forces in the world which work against peace and against human security.

□ 1240

But it is our fervent wish that we should never become like those whom we condemn as lawless and without scruples, for it is our duty as members