

Nation are ready. They want to know if Washington is, too.

WE MUST SUSTAIN AND PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in these times of great difficulty and uncertainty, our senior citizens want to know where we stand, and I want the senior citizens to know that I stand with them. I will not vote to voucherize Medicare, and I will not vote to socialize to the extent that we privatize Social Security.

Medicare has been there for millions of our senior citizens. It is a program on which they can depend. In their minds, Medicare is better care. We have 40 million seniors depending on Medicare. We cannot take that from them. Many of the seniors in my district depend on Social Security to the extent that, if they don't have Social Security, they do not "have."

These two programs mean a lot to the people that I represent. No privatization of Social Security and no voucherizing of Medicare. I will vote to sustain them and protect them.

CREATING A SOUND ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, President Obama announced today that he is releasing 30 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to alleviate supply disruptions that he claims are as a result of the conflict in Libya. The irony here is obvious: Who attacked Libya and created the disruptions in the first place?

Furthermore, this is the same President whose policies and regulations over the past 2 years have systematically choked our domestic energy production, stifled job creation and resulted in record energy prices for the American public. Releasing oil from the SPR is an obvious political move to cover up the high gasoline prices created by the President's policies.

Mr. President, if you were truly serious about increasing the supply of oil and lowering prices, you would stop being the candidate-in-chief and begin taking leadership on a sound energy policy, parts of which the House has already passed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). Members are advised to address the Chair and not the administration.

THE 375TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROVIDENCE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 375th anniversary of the founding of the city of Providence, Rhode Island's magnificent capital city.

Providence, fondly known as the creative capital, the Renaissance city and the beehive of industry, has embodied American values since its founding in 1636. When Roger Williams founded the city of Providence, he could not have known what it would become: the city, built upon Roger Williams' tradition of diversity, welcoming immigrants from around the world into vibrant urban neighborhoods.

Having served for 8 years as mayor of this great city, I am aware of its well-earned reputation as the arts and culture center of New England. Providence has been recognized as one of the coolest cities in America, one of the 25 best cities for arts and culture and one of the 100 best cities for young people—to name just a few accolades. It has also been recognized by the U.S. Conference of Mayors for its innovative after-school programs, its world-class arts and entertainment and its restoration of city rivers, the creation of downtown warfront parks and spectacular historic preservation.

Three hundred seventy-five years after its founding, Providence is, without question, one of America's greatest cities, and it is a true honor to commemorate its founding.

YORK RIVER WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY ACT

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, last month, when I was standing on the banks of the York River in Maine, I learned that the river serves as a home for species like the New England Cottontail, the Eastern Box Turtle and the threatened Harlequin Duck; but the York River is also a place where people are making their livings.

Fishermen depend on the good quality of the water and access to the waterfront, and farmers in the York River Watershed grow pumpkins, potatoes and other produce that keep Maine communities healthy. The natural beauty of the river draws visitors to the area from around the State and around the country.

Mr. Speaker, later today, I am introducing the York River Wild and Scenic River Study Act, which would commission a feasibility study to find out if the river qualifies as a "Wild and Scenic Partnership River"—a designation that would help preserve the river as an economic and natural resource for generations to come.

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IT'S TIME TO GET AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it's time to talk turkey about jobs. Too many Americans are unemployed, and it's time to get Americans back to work. As we enter this new decade in the 21st century, research and development is critical to rebuilding American manufacturing and to creating jobs. In today's global economy, manufacturing here in the United States and innovation remains a linchpin for economic growth that is being challenged rigorously by our competitors around the world.

Today, I rise to highlight legislation I introduced with my colleague from Maryland, ROSCOE BARTLETT, to spur innovation and economic development. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 682, the 21st Century Investment Act, would encourage companies to co-locate their research and development activities with job creation here in the United States. We'd make permanent the research and development tax credit and increase the domestic manufacturing tax credit to 15 percent. Those are jobs here in the United States.

The time was that we were the global leader and the architect of research and development, but not true today. We can and we must do better because of whatever that is we're down to, about number 17 or 21. We can do better; and so by joining Mr. BARTLETT and me, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 689 will reclaim the mantle of innovation and create jobs.

LEGALIZING MARIJUANA

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, in June the Global Conference on Drug Policy, a 19-member group that included former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, Ronald Reagan's Secretary of State George Schultz and Paul Volcker said that the drug war was a failure, that it needed to be readdressed with new priorities, and suggested that this country get out of the Federal marijuana possession business.

It is for that reason and others that I will be joining today with Congresspeople RON PAUL, JOHN CONYERS, BARNEY FRANK, JARED POLIS and others to introduce a bill to get the Federal Government out of possession of marijuana and into interstate and international shipments of marijuana and allowing the States to decide, like they do with alcohol, how they should deal with marijuana. Better they should deal with it as a health policy and not a criminal policy and not stigmatize young people for life with marks on their record that might deny

them employment and taking police officers' work away from violent crimes, where they should be better be used.

SUPERINTENDENT JANE RUSSO'S RETIREMENT

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very dedicated leader from my community, our superintendent Jane Russo. She has served the Santa Ana Unified School District for over 25 years. As the first woman superintendent for Santa Ana Unified, she has been a visionary for the community.

Superintendent Russo has built partnerships with parents, with community leaders, with government, and with business leaders. She has taken leadership roles she has mentored and she has shown parents and faculty and administrators, the business community, all of us, what it is to truly collaborate and work together.

With approximately 58,000 students, 61 schools, 4,500 employees, Superintendent Russo manages the second largest employer in Santa Ana and the largest school district in Orange County and the sixth largest school district in California.

Her accomplishments have been recognized at the State and national levels. Under her leadership for the school district's academic performance index, it increased by nearly 100 points, and she received the highest score on State compliance report cards for special education and the highest increase in State testing for English language learners scoring proficient and above.

Ms. Russo will leave a lasting legacy in our district. She has shaped and made our community even better, and I am honored to recognize such a great member of our community, and I congratulate her on her retirement.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, next week marks the 45th anniversary of implementing Medicare. On this occasion, it is right that Congress work together to protect and strengthen Medicare for our future generations. Sadly, instead of preserving Medicare, my Republican colleagues have approved a plan to destroy it.

The Republican budget privatizes Medicare programs, turning control over to the insurance industry; ends guaranteed Medicare coverage for seniors, replacing it with a voucher system; doubles out-of-pocket medical costs for seniors.

I ask my colleagues, where are your priorities? We should be creating jobs and helping middle class families. We

should not be dismantling safety net programs like Medicare and Medicaid.

Let's stop the politics. Let's work together. Let's work on a plan to protect our seniors and be responsible to lower the deficit.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PASS THE PENDING FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, for more than a short period of time, we've had an opportunity to talk about free trade agreements, and when we talk about it, it's about jobs, jobs in the economy. More than 57 million jobs in America are directly supported by international trade. Free trade with other nations not only creates more jobs for Americans; it creates more opportunity around the world.

In my district, over 58,000 jobs are directly supported by exports. In fact, last year almost \$20 billion worth of merchandise was exported from my district alone. If Washington is serious about creating more jobs, then we should immediately pass the pending free trade agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama.

New jobs are created in our local communities when our Nation increases free trade. Free trade also lowers prices for the American consumer. When burdensome tariffs are lifted, the average American family of four sees an increased purchasing power of approximately \$10,000.

Now is not the time to play political games with these free trade agreements. Now is the time to pass these pending free trade agreements so that we can create jobs here at home and help ease the burden on American families.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-40)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency

declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, expanded in scope in Executive Order 13551 of August 30, 2010, and addressed further in Executive Order 13570 of April 18, 2011, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2011.

The existence and the risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula, and the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea that destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil U.S. Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in the region, continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to these threats and maintain in force the measures taken to deal with that national emergency.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 23, 2011.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-41)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the Western Balkans emergency is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2011.

The crisis constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting (i) extremist violence in the Republic of Macedonia and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton accords Bosnia, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo, or the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 in Macedonia, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on June 26, 2001, in Executive Order 13219, and to amendment of that order in Executive Order 13304 of May 28, 2003, has not been resolved. The acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity outlined in Executive Order 13219, as amended, are hostile to U.S. interests and continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For