

Speaker, this defies common sense. And that's why I am introducing two bills: one which would pause all new regulations for a year so that businesses would know the rules they are to live under, and another that would require Federal regulators to analyze the impact of their new rules on jobs and to find the least costly alternative for each new business mandate.

Madam Speaker, let's come together and agree that regulations don't create jobs. And let's pass commonsense legislation to get America working again.

THE URGENT NEED FOR JOB CREATION IN AMERICA

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the urgent need to create jobs in America.

Millions of Americans have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, and finding a job now is as hard as it has been in generations. Our country needs decisive action, and we need it now.

Earlier this week, the President submitted the American Jobs Act to Congress, and I ask my colleagues in both parties to put partisanship aside and work together to create jobs our country desperately needs. Many of the proposals included in the American Jobs Act enjoy bipartisan support, and I call on Speaker BOEHNER and Leader CANTOR to work together in good faith to bring forward good jobs proposals from both parties to Congress.

We won't have an economic recovery without putting people back to work.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, too many people in America are out of work, and as the President said in his speech last week, too many people are living day to day, paycheck to paycheck, struggling to find work. That is why we need to pass the American Jobs Act now.

A consequence of such high unemployment is poverty. Yesterday, the Census Bureau reported that our country's poverty rate last year was an astonishing 15.1 percent, the highest it has been in almost two decades. With 22 percent of our children living in poverty, this report makes clear who has borne the brunt of our country's economic woes.

I believe that all of my colleagues share a strong love of this Nation and its children, but in order for them to succeed, we must ensure that they have access to health care, housing, modern classrooms, and qualified teachers. We must also put their parents on a path back to work.

Madam Speaker, it is a travesty to have even one child living in poverty in this country, let alone one in five of

our children. It is also unconscionable to allow our actions, or inactions, to affect their future prosperity. Let's work together in a bipartisan way now to pass the American Jobs Act today.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 352

(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. Madam Speaker, 53 years ago, China declared ownership of the islands in the Eastern Sea, which include the Spratly and the Paracel Islands.

On September 14, 1958, then-Prime Minister Pham Van Dong of North Vietnam issued a diplomatic note affirming the declaration from China regarding the Chinese ownership of those islands. When this decision became known, Vietnamese students and bloggers organized unprecedented protests in Hanoi and in Saigon against China's violations of Vietnam's sovereignty in the Eastern Sea. The Vietnamese security police were ordered to end the public demonstrations regarding the issue of the Spratly and Paracel Islands and detained over 40 activists who were involved in this protest.

Since early August of this year, at least 13 young patriots have been arrested by police and the Ministry of Public Security in Vietnam, and several of these activists are prominent bloggers, such as the Vinh Diocese of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, for this same issue.

As a cosponsor of House Resolution 352, I call for a framework in accordance with the United States Convention on the Law of the Sea for a peaceful resolution to this conflict.

Furthermore, I urge the Vietnamese Government to unconditionally release all advocates who were exercising their rights as citizens to call for social justice and protesting the sovereignty of Vietnamese territories from China.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, as I traveled throughout my district these last few weeks, one issue dominated all conversations—jobs.

As my colleagues on the other side created the default crisis this summer, the American people threw up their hands in disgust and dismay, and I don't blame them. Our constituents know the number one issue facing this country is jobs, and they know this Congress must take concrete actions to grow our economy, and it must take them now.

The good news is we have a plan. The American Jobs Act is a commonsense, bipartisan plan to put Americans back to work and strengthen our economy.

It keeps teachers in the classrooms and cops and firefighters on our streets. It rebuilds our crumbling roads and bridges, modernizes our schools, and rehabilitates our neighborhoods. It cuts taxes for small businesses, workers and their families.

The time for political games—which are costing jobs and creating economic uncertainty—has passed. I urge the House leadership, help us pass the American Jobs Act, and let's pass it now.

□ 1230

AMERICANS LIVING IN POVERTY

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

Mr. MORAN. Madam Speaker, today we learned that 46 million Americans are living in poverty. More people are suffering economically than at any time since the Great Depression. But we learned from an excellent article by Scott Lilly of the Center for American Progress that history may be repeating itself.

In 1937, conservative Republicans succeeded in virtually eliminating the Federal jobs programs of the New Deal, so as to eliminate the Federal deficit. But the results were catastrophic to America's economy and society. Half of the 8 million jobs that had been created by the New Deal were lost, and unemployment went over 19 percent.

Economists generally classified the economic reversal in 1937 and 1938 as a second depression. Not until military spending began to revive activity in 1940 did unemployment again drop to less than 15 percent.

That was a long and painful experience. It would be tragic if we permitted the new conservative crowd in Washington to repeat it by killing President Obama's jobs act and sending us back into a double-dip recession.

Those who don't learn from the past are doomed to repeat it.

JOBS IN AMERICA

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

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the all-important issue of jobs in America.

As I travel around my district, I frequently hear discussions about jobs. But more importantly, I hear discussions about jobs that have gone unfilled. In my district alone, that is 2,600 jobs. In America it is 3.2 million jobs that are ready to be filled today.

We must come together, as Members of Congress, to provide assistance that helps us train people, relocate them, or do whatever is necessary to bring people to jobs; 3.2 million people back to work, that's significant. I hope that my colleagues in Congress will work with me to put 3.2 million Americans back to work.

This is not a situation where there are not jobs. This is a situation where there are unfilled jobs.

INVEST IN DETROIT

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

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I offer this Congress and this country a simple, yet powerful, way to create new, good-paying manufacturing jobs in the United States, and that's by investing in Detroit, by allowing the tax dollars that Detroiters pay to be invested back in Detroit; invested to help make the streets of Detroit safer, to help improve Detroit schools, to help train Detroiters for jobs, to help rebuild our city.

You see, this type of investment will definitely create jobs in Detroit. But more importantly, Detroit's manufacturing know-how, our trained workforce, investing in Detroit will help put Americans back to work. So by helping put Detroiters back to work, you're going to help put this country back to work.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken tomorrow.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REFORM AND REAU- THORIZATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2867) to reauthorize the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2867

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reform and Reauthorization Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION.

(a) MEMBERSHIP.—Section 201(b)(1)(B) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "Nine" and inserting "five";

(2) in clause (i), by striking "Three members" and inserting "One member";

(3) in clause (ii)—

(A) by striking "Three members" and inserting "Two members";

(B) by striking "two of the members" and inserting "one member"; and

(C) by striking "one of the members" and inserting "the other member"; and

(4) in clause (iii)—

(A) by striking "Three members" and inserting "Two members";

(B) by striking "two of the members" and inserting "one member"; and

(C) by striking "one of the members" and inserting "the other member".

(b) TERMS.—Section 201(c) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking the last sentence and inserting the following: "An individual is not eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms as a member of the Commission. Each member serving on the Commission on the date of enactment of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reform and Reauthorization Act of 2011 may be reappointed to not more than one additional consecutive term.";

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "May 15, 2003, through May 14, 2005" and inserting "May 15, 2012, through May 14, 2014";

(B) in subparagraph (B) to read as follows: "(B) PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The member of the Commission appointed by the President under subsection (b)(1)(B)(i) shall be appointed to a 1-year term.";

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking "three members" and inserting "two members";

(ii) by striking "the other two appointments" and inserting "the other appointment"; and

(iii) by striking "2-year terms" and inserting "to a 2-year term";

(D) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) by striking "three members" and inserting "two members";

(ii) by striking "the other two appointments" and inserting "the other appointment"; and

(iii) by striking "2-year terms" and inserting "to a 2-year term"; and

(E) in subparagraph (E), by striking "May 15, 2003, and shall end on May 14, 2004" and inserting "May 15, 2012, and shall end on May 14, 2013"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) INELIGIBILITY FOR REAPPOINTMENT.—If a member of the Commission attends, by being physically present or by conference call, less than 75 percent of the meetings of the Commission during one of that member's terms on the Commission, the member shall not be eligible for reappointment to the Commission.".

(c) ELECTION OF CHAIR.—Section 201(d) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(d)) is amended by inserting at the end the following: "No member of the Commission is eligible to be elected as Chair of the Commission for a second, consecutive term.".

(d) QUORUM.—Section 201(e) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(e)) is amended by striking "Six" and inserting "Four".

(e) APPLICABILITY.—A member of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom who is serving on the Commission on the date of enactment of this Act shall continue to serve on the Commission until the expiration of the current term of the member under the terms and conditions for membership on the Commission as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. APPLICATION OF ANTIDISCRIMINATION LAWS.

Section 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is

amended by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

"(g) APPLICATION OF ANTIDISCRIMINATION LAWS.—For purposes of providing remedies and procedures to address alleged violations of rights and protections that pertain to employment discrimination, family and medical leave, fair labor standards, employee polygraph protection, worker adjustment and retraining, veterans' employment and reemployment, intimidation or reprisal, protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, occupational safety and health, labor-management relations, and rights and protections that apply to employees whose pay is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, all employees of the Commission shall be treated as employees whose pay is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives and the Commission shall be treated as an employing office of the Senate or the House of Representatives.".

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 207(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435(a)) is amended by striking "for the fiscal year 2003" and inserting "for each of the fiscal years 2012 and 2013".

SEC. 5. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND DISCLOSURE.

Section 208 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking "\$100,000" and inserting "\$250,000"; and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking "International Relations" and inserting "Foreign Affairs".

SEC. 6. TERMINATION.

Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) is amended by striking "September 30, 2011" and inserting "September 30, 2013".

SEC. 7. REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The Comptroller General shall consult with the appropriate congressional committees and nongovernmental organizations for purposes of preparing the report.

(c) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report shall include the following:

(1) A review of the effectiveness of all United States Government programs to promote international religious freedom, including their goals and objectives.

(2) An assessment of the roles and functions of the Office on International Religious Freedom established in section 101(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411(a)) and the relationship of the Office to other offices in the Department of State.

(3) A review of the role of the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom appointed under section 101(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411(b)) and the placement of such position within the Department of State.

(4) A review and assessment of the goals and objectives of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom established under section 201(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(a)).