

Congress passed his legislation establishing the Congressional Award Program, which is privately funded and is the only volunteer award given in the name of Congress. Wyoming is proud to have the most active participation in that program.

Upon his retirement from Congress, Senator Wallop founded Frontiers of Freedom, a conservative think tank promoting freedom, fewer Federal regulations, and smaller government.

He was a man of supreme integrity, incredible intellect and a quick wit, humble to a fault and exceedingly kind. I am told he always had time to ask a Capitol Hill elevator operator or police officer about their family on his way to a vote. He had a tremendously devoted staff, many of whom worked for him for the full 18 years of his tenure in the Senate.

Finally, Malcolm Wallop was the descendant of an entrepreneurial pioneer family who had roots in Wyoming and the British Isles as well. Senator Wallop's grandfather served not only in England's Parliament but the Wyoming Legislature. The first polo field in the United States was built on the Wallop family ranch at Big Horn, Wyoming.

Senator Wallop was a man blessed with four wonderful children, many grandchildren, and his wife, Isabel. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. In their time of sadness, let them be comforted in the knowledge that Wyoming stands strong today because of Senator Wallop's untiring love of, and commitment to, our great State.

GOOD RIDDANCE TO "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a truly historic day in our country's struggle for equal rights for all people. Leaders of the United States Army sent a notice to soldiers serving around the globe that simply said the following: "Today marks the end of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' The law is repealed. From this day forward, gay and lesbian soldiers may serve in our Army with the dignity and respect they deserve. Our rules, regulations, and politics will apply uniformly without regard to sexual orientation, which is a personal and private matter."

Mr. Speaker, 18 years after this hideous policy was first implemented, it is now gone. And the thousands of soldiers who were shamefully discharged under Don't Ask, Don't Tell may apply for reenlistment.

To the men and women whose service and sacrifice have made us so proud, we say, as of yesterday: "You no longer have to live a lie." To them, we say: "You no longer have to choose between your personhood and your patriotism." To them, who have had the courage to do right by America, we now say:

"Your Nation now has the courage to do what is right by you."

Air Force Lieutenant Josh Seefried, a leader among gay and lesbian servicemembers, describes the oppressive nature of this policy in this way. He said: "It consumes your thought process, it consumes your future, because of the fear of getting caught."

Mr. Speaker, it is incomprehensible to me that anyone—in particular, brave, selfless members of our military—should live any day in fear of "getting caught." This step is hugely welcomed, and it is long overdue.

□ 1030

"Don't ask, don't tell" was opposed by an overwhelming majority of Americans because it violated the values we claim to stand for as a Nation. It was not only tearing at our moral fabric; it was undermining our military readiness and national security as well. At a time when we're asking so much of our servicemembers, putting them on the front lines of two wars, we owe them, at the very least, and we have finally brought them the dignity of a discrimination-free workplace.

I salute President Obama, and I salute our military brass for their leadership in reversing this injustice. I salute the Members of Congress, Democrat and Republican, who voted for the repeal. And of course we all owe a debt of gratitude to those who serve with honor and integrity, those who defended American rights and freedoms even when America wouldn't afford them the same rights and freedoms.

So, Mr. Speaker, now there will be no sanctioned bigotry or homophobia in the Armed Forces of the greatest country on Earth. Our military will accept everyone who demonstrates their fitness to serve. Their sexuality will be irrelevant. They may be as open about it or as discreet about it as they choose.

Good riddance to "don't ask, don't tell." Our country will be stronger, safer, and fairer without it. And while we support our troops by eliminating this wrong-minded policy, let's take the next step and support all of our troops, regardless of their sexual orientation, by bringing them home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

PUERTO RICO INVESTMENT PROMOTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, the coming months represent a defining moment for our Nation. Responsible leaders from both political parties understand that we must come together on behalf of the American people to create jobs for millions of unemployed workers and to put our Nation on the path to fiscal stability.

President Obama has transmitted the American Jobs Act to Congress, and I

hope its key components will be enacted into law. The supercommittee has begun its work of proposing responsible ways to grow our economy while reducing our deficits. The work that lies ahead will not be easy, but it must be done.

With this as backdrop, I rise this morning to discuss the Puerto Rico Investment Promotion Act, which I will introduce tomorrow. The bill is designed to attract investment to Puerto Rico and to create jobs on the island, where the unemployment rate over the last decade has consistently stood six to eight percentage points above the national average. At the same time, the bill seeks to generate new revenue for the Federal Government and to encourage job-creating investment in the 50 States, where unemployment now exceeds 9 percent.

This bill is endorsed by Puerto Rico's Governor, Luis Fortuno, the leaders of Puerto Rico's two main political parties, and the island's business community.

At the outset, it is important to explain why I'm promoting legislation of this sort. Like the States, the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico faces serious economic challenges. However, the economic problems of Puerto Rico have proven to be structural and chronic, not cyclical and temporary.

I believe that Puerto Rico's economy will never unleash its tremendous potential under its current political status. And I support statehood for the island in part because history shows that every territory that joins the union experiences substantial increases in its economic activity and standard of living. However, until a majority of Puerto Rico's people express a desire for statehood and Congress welcomes the island as a full member of the American family, it is incumbent upon me to take all reasonable steps to strengthen the island's economy within the severe constraints imposed by the current territorial status.

My aspiration for Puerto Rico is that it will enjoy the political, social, and economic equality that only statehood offers; and I look forward to the day when it will no longer be necessary for Puerto Rico's leaders to petition the U.S. Congress for customized, island-specific legislation to encourage job-creating investment, and to compensate—at least somewhat—for the countless ways in which our political status does damage to our people. But until that day arrives, we must be as pragmatic about the present as we are hopeful about the future.

To explain the bill, a little background is in order. Currently, nearly all of the large U.S. firms that conduct business in Puerto Rico are organized as controlled foreign corporations, CFCs. A CFC's earnings are not subject to any Federal taxation until they're distributed, usually in the form of a dividend, to its U.S. parent, a process known as repatriation. CFCs in Puerto Rico and in foreign countries have little incentive to repatriate because

those earnings, once received by the parent, are subject to full Federal taxation. As a result, billions of dollars in CFC earnings remain in foreign banks, where they generate no Federal revenue and create no American jobs.

My legislation seeks to integrate Puerto Rico companies into the U.S. tax system. It would authorize, but not require, companies that are incorporated in Puerto Rico and that earn at least 50 percent of their income on the island to operate as domestic U.S. companies. The bill would promote consistency and uniformity by bringing the treatment of an electing Puerto Rico company in line with the current treatment of a Puerto Rico individual under section 933 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Specifically, an electing company would be subject to Federal taxation on its worldwide income, except on the income it earns in Puerto Rico. Because it is a domestic rather than a foreign firm, the Puerto Rico corporation could distribute its earnings to its U.S. parent in the form of a dividend under section 243 of the Tax Code, which allows the parent to deduct a substantial amount of a dividend, depending on the parent's ownership stake in the subsidiary. Therefore, profits that were previously kept outside of the United States are now more likely to be brought back into this country, where they may be subject to a reduced, but still meaningful, level of taxation under section 243 and used to create jobs in America.

Moreover, as I already noted, under this legislation, electing corporations that have income derived from sources outside Puerto Rico—whether in the States or foreign countries—would become subject to Federal taxation on that income. This will generate additional revenue for the U.S. Treasury, since CFCs with non-Puerto Rico-source income currently pay no Federal tax on that income.

I hope my colleagues will support this bill.

This legislation is a substantial improvement over earlier proposals put forward by leaders in Puerto Rico with the goal of encouraging job-creating investment on the Island. Those proposals were carefully considered by the Federal Government and were met with resistance, even by Members of Congress and other Federal officials sensitive to Puerto Rico's unique circumstances. The primary shortcoming of those proposals is that they sought benefits without burdens. My legislation, by contrast, is balanced. It would benefit both Puerto Rico and our Nation. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support it.

REBUILD THE AMERICAN DREAM JOBS FRAMEWORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, this summer I took part in the Speak Out for Good Jobs Now! Rebuild the Amer-

ican Dream tour. Thousands of concerned Americans packed rooms across this country to share their stories of hardship, unemployment, and struggle. From these stories, my colleagues in the Congressional Progressive Caucus and I wrote the Rebuild the American Dream Jobs Framework, which outlines how we will put America back to work and get our economy moving again. I wanted to take some time today to share some of the stories and realities that we heard on this tour.

My first story is from Kimberly Lawrence from my State of Arizona. She says, "I waited more than 30 years to finally receive a modest inheritance from my grandmother's property. I used the money to make improvements on my home that my husband and I were buying, and to open my own childcare business. It happened that the year I opened is the same year the economy failed. I struggled to hold on, but when the new Governor of Arizona stripped away childcare subsidies and at the same time raised licensing fees by 200 percent, I lost nearly all of my clientele.

"I lived in a town that relied on hospitality jobs, which, coupled with all else, crippled the local economy and forced me out of business. My husband was laid off from his cabinet-maker job. And now, after struggling, our home is in foreclosure and set for auction. Everything I hoped for had finally taken shape, just to be ripped away. I have since left my husband and am now searching for a job in California. I have been applying and sending resumes for 6 months now and have had only two interviews. I am 50 years old, sleeping on my sister's couch, with nothing to look forward to in my retirement. I suppose I simply won't have that pleasure."

The next story comes from Bhisma Ramdass of Florida:

"I live in Palm Beach County. I work for the largest hospital corporation in the world. I also had another job to make ends meet.

□ 1040

"I had a daughter that was born premature. The economy got bad. I lost money from the other job. Took time off to care for my wife and baby. Unable to make full payments to Chase for the mortgage, they eventually foreclosed my home. My wife and three girls moved out. Chase got money from the Federal Government for my house, and they got my house. Do I owe them money if they sell my house for less than I owe? Is that fair? I have worked hard since I was 15 years old. I have provided for my family and gladly pay my taxes. Is that fair?"

The final story is also from Arizona, Thom Reiser:

"I'm retired and moderately well off financially. I've been doing a great deal of research on the economy and the history of these United States. I believe the middle class has suffered very much in the past 30 years. There's been

a great shift of wealth. However, my greatest concern is for the present economy. We need to put people back to work. A second stimulus is needed, but aimed directly at the jobless. Much of these funds should be given to states for immediate relief. Teachers, police, firefighters, and many others have lost their jobs, plus others that have to create jobs and infrastructure on our roads. Also, those unemployed should be retrained to do useful work while they're unemployed. Thank you for listening."

The American people are demanding we do something to get America back to work. These were just three of the stories we heard. I hope that we listened, and I hope that all of Congress listened. The urgency is jobs. The demand from the American people is jobs. And our responsibility is to provide the American people with the opportunities of employment and a secure future.

THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY AND ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge President Obama to take a strong stance against the Palestinian Authority's efforts to seek unilateral recognition for statehood from the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, Israel is our ally, an ally that has proven, time and again, a devotion to freedom, democracy, peace, and economic stability. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, Israel is our greatest ally in the turbulent Middle East, and we need to support their efforts to resolve their issues with the Palestinians. The President must show that America is resolute in support of Israel and that he is determined that we find real solutions for peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, solutions between Israel and the Palestinians will come through good-faith negotiations and cooperation. Solutions and peace come through both sides sitting at the table with equal determination to reach an agreement.

I hope that the President realizes all of this, and that he will show America's support for Israel and be a strong voice for peace reached through negotiations and partnership. The President should make clear to the Palestinian Authority that the way to a bright and stable future for the Palestinian people will be through talking to Israel, not unilaterally seeking statehood through the U.N.

I urge all of my colleagues in this House and the Members of the Senate to join me in this call.

RECESS

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