

Also, the men and women serving as AmeriCorps members with the Up2Us Coach Across America program are helping young people with a passion for sports to go to the low-income communities and reach out to children who may not have someone to be their coach or their mentor.

The entire staff of Up2Us and their volunteers are doing a great job. May God continue to bless them in their successful work for years ahead and in demonstrating that we can help our young people in constructive ways with sports and recreation. Indeed, advancing the lives of all of our youth is a team sport.

DEFENDING TRICARE

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

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have the great privilege, and really the honor, of representing the largest concentration of active duty and retired military members in the country; and it's a true honor to defend those who wear our Nation's uniform and to speak boldly on behalf of our veterans.

Today, I rise to address a recent decision by the Department of Defense regarding TRICARE. The DOD has increased fees for those enrolling in TRICARE Prime after October 1, 2011. Mr. Speaker, this action is nothing less than a breach of trust between this great Nation and its veterans.

Career members of the uniformed services and their families make incredible sacrifices over the course of long careers defending our freedom. They honored their commitment and exceeded what they told us that they would do. They have served with distinction.

We need to honor our commitment to each of them. So I call on the Department of Defense to reverse its decision and to honor its promise to our veterans.

□ 1210

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH AND CELL PHONE DRIVE

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

Ms. CHU. Every 9 seconds, a woman is assaulted or beaten in the United States. Every day, more than three American women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends. And a staggering 1.3 million women and almost 840,000 men are physically assaulted by an intimate partner every year.

For the last decade, in October, during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I stood up with the shelters and hospitals in my district to support the women and men who escaped their abusers. Many of these victims escaped with literally only the clothes on their

backs. So together, we put on a donation drive of cell phones, clothing, and personal necessities to benefit victims of abuse. This drive will be going on throughout October, and you can support the effort by donating items at Kaiser offices throughout the 32nd Congressional District in California.

Together, we can and must do more to stop domestic violence.

THE DRAGON IS SNORTING FIRE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Chinese dragon is snorting the fire of intimidation against our ally, Taiwan. To defend itself from the Chinese dragon's evil intentions, Taiwan protects itself with rusty swords—outdated F-16s. It also appears that by bullying, the United States has become timid under the Chinese dragon. The Beijing Government doesn't want us to sell new F-16 CDs to Taiwan—so we don't.

Further, the Chinese evil intentions of mischief are not limited to Taiwan. In the South China Sea, the talons of the Beijing dragon have initiated confrontation with Korea, the Philippines, Japan, and Vietnam. China claims sea areas that are in international waters or belong to other nations.

With all these belligerent actions occurring by China, it's not in our national interest to play Chamberlain and appease the Chinese dragon.

Sell the Taiwanese the new swords they need to defend themselves against the fiery dragon. Sell them American F-16 CDs. It is in our national interest to help Taiwan be armed to be the dragon slayer if it needs to be and defend itself against China.

And that's just the way it is.

BENEFITS OF AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, the American Jobs Act, proposed by President Obama, is a clear path forward to rebuilding America by putting our country back to work, helping small businesses succeed, and providing tax relief for workers.

Specifically, this plan would put teachers, firefighters, police and first responders to work by creating jobs through investments in America's schools and infrastructure. It will also provide tax cuts that put money in the pockets of American workers and employers so they can grow and add jobs, as well as offer job training incentives to hire returning veterans and help the unemployed with pathways back to work.

The most critical element of the Jobs Act is that it requires immediate action to create American jobs and rebuild our economy. In conjunction with our Make It in America agenda, the

Jobs Act will provide the long-term tools for rebuilding the American manufacturing base and creating well-paying jobs into the future.

The Jobs Act invests in our future and assists struggling Americans now, all without adding a dime to the deficit.

Mr. Speaker, our number one priority needs to be job creation, and the American Jobs Act is the first step in that effort.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, 16 years ago, Congress failed to pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution by a single Senate vote. Back then, our national debt was about \$5 trillion. Today, our debt stands at nearly \$15 trillion, and our Democrat leadership is showing no signs of slowing down their outrageous spending.

Imagine what the state of the economy could look like if it weren't strapped down by that extra \$10 trillion worth of debt. Imagine how much brighter the future of our children and grandchildren could be without the threat of having to repay the money that Washington has wasted. Imagine how mom-and-pop shops could be growing, hiring and expanding if looming tax increases weren't a factor in their business plans.

Enough is enough. Missing another opportunity to balance the budget is not a mistake that we can afford to make twice. That's why I authored my balanced budget amendment, so that we can stop the spending and start paying down our debt.

I urge all of my colleagues to become cosponsors of my amendment, which is the most conservative and effective approach to balancing the budget.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, in my congressional district, the unemployment rate is 17 percent; and in San Bernardino County, it's well above 14 percent.

My constituents need a bold plan of action, not more gridlock in Washington, D.C. They want us to come together and take action. The American Jobs Act provides a clear path forward to put our country back to work.

This bill contains bipartisan ideas that will put teachers, firefighters, first responders, and cops back to work right now, provide tax cuts that put money in the pockets of working Americans right now, give businesses job-creating tax breaks right now, and provide a boost to our economy right now. And this bill is fully paid for, not adding a dime to our deficit.

The Republican Party has supported these ideas in the past. It's time to put

politics aside. Let's come to the table and work together. The American people cannot afford to wait any longer. Let's act now. Pass this bipartisan jobs bill.

TWO SIMPLE TASKS FOR THE DO-NOTHING SENATE

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, if our colleagues at the opposite end of this Capitol, the Senate, are serious about getting our economy moving and America back to work, I urge them to do two things immediately. To start with, for the first time in 888 days, they should do what every American family and business does and set a budget; 888 days—almost 30 months—without a budget is not just an abdication of responsibility. It is a fundamental failure to govern.

Second, they should immediately take up a bill we sent with overwhelming bipartisan support, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act. We passed it in March; they've done nothing. If we don't act on it by the end of this month, our agriculture sector will be deluged with a new avalanche of needless red tape.

I hope that this do-nothing Senate will move on both of these issues immediately in order to help both the American people and the American economy.

MODERNIZING THE AMERICAN LEGION

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the brave men and women who have served our Nation and are today members of the American Legion, a congressionally chartered organization. That charter is in need of modernization. So the American Legion, at their national convention, adopted a resolution asking Congress to amend the charter to clarify that the Legion members may pay their annual dues and renewals using modern technology, such as over the Internet by credit card.

For this reason, I have joined my good friend from Florida, Congressman ROONEY, in introducing a bill to support the Legion's recommendation.

Our bill, H.R. 2369, enjoys widespread support, as evidenced by the 350 of our colleagues who have cosponsored this legislation. Hopefully, this bill will soon move through the legislative process in order to modernize the Legion's charter and make this small, but significant, change to make life a little more convenient for members of the American Legion.

1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF DAVID HARTLEY

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

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago last Friday marks the tragic day that David Hartley was killed on Falcon Lake, which straddles the U.S./Mexico border. My staff and I have spoken with David's wife, Tiffany, on a number of occasions and pray that she, along with help from Congress, can find the answers we are all seeking regarding David's death.

David's death is a horrible tragedy and underscores the need to restore safety and security to our borders. Our role in Congress is to ensure that Americans are not in danger when they visit the border. That means we need to act. We need to put in place real and effective measures that keep the Mexican drug cartels, pirates, and other unlawful activity away from the United States. The drug trade contributes to the all-too-frequent stories we hear about crime, kidnapping, and murder that occur along our southern border. The time is now to put pressure on the Government of Mexico to bring their own criminals to justice.

My heart goes out to Tiffany, along with the Hartley family, during this time. I will continue to work hard for answers, and I will continue to fight for border security so that atrocities like this simply stop occurring.

IN SUPPORT OF 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. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the American Jobs Act, which addresses two critical issues facing America today: the need for immediate investments in our Nation's infrastructure that will put Americans back to work, and the need to upgrade our schools to meet the requirements demanded by a 21st-century education.

Mr. Speaker, last week, I visited Adams Elementary School in Santa Barbara, California. This school is well over 45 years old and is in desperate need of more classroom space, a new library, and technology upgrades. Like other school districts around the country, Santa Barbara has been forced to cut budgets and lay off teachers, and struggles to pay for school upgrades which would promote a better-educated workforce. The American Jobs Act would help fix this problem by providing school districts with the resources they need to make the needed school improvements. This act would create good, well-paying jobs now and strengthen our future economy as well.

The American Jobs Act is about jobs, but it's also about our children's education. It's about our Nation's future. We should pass the American Jobs Act,

Mr. Speaker; and we should pass it now.

□ 1220

AMERICANS SAY MEDIA ARE BIASED AND TOO LIBERAL

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans say the national media are biased, untrustworthy, and too liberal, according to separate polls released recently by Gallup and the Pew Research Center. Gallup found that only 1 in 10 Americans now have a great deal of trust in the national media. A majority say the media are biased. And by a margin of more than 3-1, Americans think the media are too liberal rather than too conservative.

Pew found that 1 in 4 Americans think that news organizations, in general, get the facts straight. That's a 14 percent decrease from 4 years ago. And almost 8 in 10 Americans say news organizations favor one side over the other.

Mr. Speaker, if the media want to restore the public's trust, they should give Americans the facts, not tell them what to think.

KEEP AMERICA'S WATERFRONTS WORKING ACT

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, of Maine's 3,300 miles of coastline, less than 20 miles support commercial fishing and other traditional marine activities. But this small portion of the coastline contributes \$800 million to Maine's economy and provides jobs for over 30,000 people. As the coastline continues to give way to condos, hotels, and other non-compatible uses, these jobs are disappearing.

This problem is not unique to Maine. It occurs on all our coasts and waterways around the country and throughout the Great Lakes region. Working waterfront jobs are disappearing as a result of tremendous pressures communities face from incompatible development.

That's why today I'm introducing the Keep America's Waterfronts Working Act, along with my colleagues from around the country. With a grants program devoted to preserving working waterfronts across the Nation, States will be able to help preserve jobs and communities that depend on them.

HEALTH CARE PETITIONS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, this morning here on Capitol Hill I stood with