

with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. We've shown that this Chamber has the ability to work together.

So, yes, we can't wait. We can't wait until the end of the election for the President to come up with a real plan and to work with Republicans. We want to stand together. I get it. An election is coming up next November. We all understand that. You're going to hear about it on television. But let's not miss the next 14 months. Let's not miss this opportunity to really stand up and govern and get the American people back to work.

#### RETAINING AND STRENGTHENING THE TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Today's Washington Post has an interesting article about the possibility that Congress will jettison the Transportation Enhancement funding. Best known for providing resources for bike and pedestrian activities, it also opens the door to a wide range of important benefits. Sadly, the language in the article betrays a lack of understanding on the part of those who would eliminate these important programs.

For instance, they single out somehow that this was forcing the creation of wildlife corridors—turtle tunnels, passages that don't just comply with our environmental responsibilities. These aren't something to trivialize. More Americans die in collisions with moose, with deer—or, for that matter, from swerving to avoid a turtle in the roadway—than die on our airplanes and buses in a given year. These are not trivial issues. These are areas that give choices to be able to deal with meaningful transportation problems.

Right now, as I speak, there are millions of Americans stuck in traffic—burning fuel, wasting time, raising their blood pressure. The investment in complete transportation systems, which includes bike and pedestrian activities, means that there are hundreds of thousands of cars that aren't in front of these people in the roadway because they're able to walk or bike to work, and they're not fighting these commuters for a parking space.

These programs are about safety. In the communities that enhance bike and pedestrian activity, everyone is safer. Look at the numbers in New York City or in my hometown of Portland, Oregon. It isn't just the pedestrian and the cyclist who are safer, but it's also the individual motorist. Traffic accident rates for everybody have declined.

It gives people transportation choices. More people can let their children walk or bike to school safely on their own because of the Safe Routes to School program rather than producing another bulge in the early morning

commute. Choice also means healthier communities and the people who live in them. It's easier to get gentle exercise, cleaner air, less energy wasted.

The costs associated with pollution and obesity are astronomical. This gives values to families. Communities that have balanced transportation programs actually spend less on transportation. The figures for my hometown of Portland, Oregon, show that the average family saves \$2,500 a year not being stuck in traffic, in a commuting mess—money that they can spend on health care or books, restaurants or housing.

It's not just pedestrians and cyclists who would be shortchanged if we jettison these programs. The same adjustments that make it safer to walk or bike also have a profound impact on people who rely on walkers, baby strollers, motorized scooters. These enhancements have enhanced the community for the elderly, the disabled, and the young.

We also, frankly, have a current debate that shows exactly why we need a national policy. It's easy for people to get confused or misled. Nobody is forced to build a specific project. It forces State transportation officials to work harder and think differently, but it gives people more choices, more value, better health, stronger communities. It means that all our communities are more livable and that our families are safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

The 20-year legacy of the Transportation Enhancement program is strong. That's why they are the most requested transportation projects that Congress has entertained for the last 20 years. I do hope that we debate it fully and fairly. In the end, if we do, I am confident we will retain these important programs, and if anything, we will strengthen them.

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#### HONORING SPRINGFIELD LITERACY CENTER

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Springfield Literacy Center, which is an innovative district-wide initiative in Springfield Township, Delaware County School System in the Seventh District of Pennsylvania, which I have the privilege to represent.

Like so many of my colleagues, when we have our district work week, it gives us the chance to go back and really spend some quality time engaging with a number of the groups. While the principal focus of my work weeks is to go back and work on the issue of jobs and the creation of opportunities, particularly with small businesses, one of the issues that many of them will talk to me about is the unpreparedness of many of our graduates to be able to

take on the jobs, particularly the jobs in the expanding global economy which we face.

One of the issues is the ability to do fundamental things. I visited this literacy center last week because it's setting the standard for educational excellence in the 21st century. It's a community-wide focus on the issue of the fundamental of reading, and it started with the superintendent on down and every teacher in the school district focused on having the ability for every child being able to read.

This particular literacy center brings their entire second grade class from the full district together to learn. While it's an architecturally impressive area which supports the learning concept, it's really the individualized attention that's given to each and every student, identifying where they are in the process and, if necessary, going down and even to an individual basis to help them stay current with their class.

The literacy center is the foundation of Springfield Township's literacy first initiative, which aims to ensure that every child leaves elementary school reading at grade level. Let me repeat that: every child leaves elementary school reading at grade level. The center's teachers accomplish this by designing an individual literacy curriculum designed for each student. Lessons often use creative techniques, and the settings are tailored to individual students' learning styles. The key thing here is that students do not fall behind and they are prepared as they move into later education to stay with the rest of their class.

With these innovative techniques and through the hard work of the literacy center's teachers, students and families after only 5 years of operation, 99 percent of its students were reading at grade level. Let me repeat that again: 99 percent of its students were reading at grade level.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Springfield Literacy Center and its staff for all that they do in making a difference in the lives of their students and their communities. But I suggest to you that this is the kind of model that we should be replicating so that all American students will be prepared to have the fundamental of reading be a central part of their ability to be prepared to compete in the global economy.

#### BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

For nearly 30 years, the month of October has brought a sea of pink ribbons to our shopping centers, sports games and lapels as we commemorate National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Each ribbon symbolizes our Nation's renewed commitment to fighting this deadly disease, from promoting breast cancer awareness, sharing information about breast health, providing greater access to screening services, and ultimately finding a cure.

Our mothers, sisters, daughters, spouses, family and friends dress in pink to demonstrate support for women through awareness, education, and empowerment. And though we love the color, we know that October is about so much more than walkathons and accessories.

I'm one of 2.5 million breast cancer survivors living in this country. Just weeks after a clean mammogram myself and my 41st birthday, I felt a lump in my breast. As a young and otherwise healthy mother of three, I heard the words that all women hope they never hear: you have breast cancer.

Getting that news felt like an anvil crashing down on me.

With an early diagnosis and confirmation of a hereditary form of the disease, I underwent seven major surgeries, but not radiation or chemotherapy, to ensure that my cancer would not return. But that fear is never truly abated. Once you have had cancer, you always know it could come back.

As a breast cancer survivor, I understand intimately how important it is that women have every possible cancer-fighting tool at their disposal. Our Nation has been a leader in discovering innovative methods of detection and treatment. A cancer diagnosis is no longer the death sentence it once was, and the statistics are only getting better.

But our health care system is still rife with disparities, particularly when it comes to information and access that prevent these advances from reaching everyone. Here in the United States, more than 200,000 people will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year alone.

Around the world, that number skyrockets to an unbelievable 1.6 million new breast cancer cases annually. Tragically, almost half a million of these breast cancer patients will die.

That means every 74 seconds a woman somewhere in the world dies of breast cancer. These are our mothers, daughters, grandmothers, aunts, sisters and friends, women we all have known, loved, and lost.

Mortality from breast cancer has been steadily decreasing over the last 25 years in North America and throughout Europe. Much of this progress is attributed to the widespread use of mammography and other early detection techniques and improvements in treatments.

We know that leaps in research and treatment have led to increased survival and that early detection has the power to save lives. But we must make sure that that is the norm in communities all over the world and not only the privilege of the fortunate few.

Cost and geography should never place a limit on your ability to get screened, and knowledge should never be a health disparity. For all the progress that we've made over the last 25 years, we must work together to ensure that we beat this disease for good over the next 25 years.

Looking to the future, I'm committed to finding those areas of breast cancer treatment and breast health awareness that still have a long way to go and working on legislative solutions to fill those voids. Women in their 20s, 30s, and 40s have a completely different experience when it comes to breast cancer than women in their 50s, 60s, and 70s; and it is vital that we recognize and honor those differences.

For young women, we in Congress must work to help preserve fertility that often suffers as a result of cancer treatment. It's difficult enough to be told that you have cancer at a young age, but there's no reason that treating the disease should prevent young women from having children down the road. For older women, we should be working to ensure coverage for prophylactic surgery or appropriate treatment options.

Unfortunately, Medicare does not cover many of these services, leaving older women with difficult choices in their treatment options. We've made progress, but there is certainly a long way to go; and I look forward to making that progress together.

We know that early detection improves your chance for diagnosis, treatment, and survival. Yet there are so many women who still face barriers to treatment and access to care.

The biggest tragedy is that so many millions of women around the world will still lose their battle to breast cancer. We cannot forget their struggles, and we must continue our mission in honor of their memory. Working together, we must keep up our dedication and vigilance to help women know their risks, discover cancer early, access the best treatment possible, and work toward eliminating this disease.

This October, there is more hope for survival as we increase access to early detection and affordable quality care. Let us commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness Month with a renewed dedication to support our mothers, sisters, our daughters and sister friends and eradicate breast cancer once and for all.

#### PRESIDENT OBAMA AND THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, I have read President Obama's American Jobs Act. It is 155 pages and single spaced. I encourage the American people to read it too.

Unfortunately, President Obama's American Jobs Act does not address the underlying structural issues with

the American economy. In fact, in my judgment, it destroys more long-term jobs than it claims to create.

Some history is in order. In November 2006, America's unemployment rate was 4.5 percent. That's right, 4.5 percent—less than half today's rate.

In November 2006, Democrats captured Congress and gave us House Speaker NANCY PELOSI and Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID.

In November 2008, President Obama was elected. For 2 years, Democrats completely controlled America's economic policy. The result: Between November 2006 and November 2010, 7 million American jobs were lost. America's excellent November 2006 4.5 percent unemployment rate deteriorated to 6.8 percent by November of 2008 and degenerated further to 9.8 percent by November 2010.

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For almost 5 years, America's job creators have been hammered by job-killing policies. America's job creators are reeling from ObamaCare costs. America's job creators are shell-shocked by a job-killing National Labor Relations Board that sues to kill South Carolina jobs because South Carolina dares to be a right-to-work State in which workers cannot be forced to join a union.

Obama's job-killing 10 percent tax increase awaits job creators in 2013.

Obama's EPA repeatedly imposes new, costly environmental regulations that risk plant closings and kill jobs.

Obama's three consecutive trillion-dollar deficits threaten America with insolvency and bankruptcy and frighten job creators into inaction. In 5 short years, President Obama and his congressional allies have replaced a pro-free enterprise, job-friendly environment that created 6 million jobs between 2003 and 2006 with class warfare, demonization of job creators, socialist feel-good policies that don't work, and 7 million lost jobs between 2006 and 2010.

Mr. Speaker, Obama's so-called jobs bill creates "one and done" short-term jobs that will evaporate the moment Obama has blown through another \$450 billion in borrowed money. In exchange for "one and done" jobs, Obama kills real jobs.

First, Obama raises taxes on America's domestic oil industry, which increases production costs, drives up domestic oil prices, reduces demand for domestically produced oil, thereby destroying domestic oil industry jobs.

Obama's higher oil taxes force price increases for gasoline, heating oil, and plastics. These higher prices in turn drive up manufacturing costs in America, make America less competitive, and kill jobs across our entire economy.

Second, and incredibly, Obama gives civil rights status to unemployed people, empowering them to file costly EEOC complaints and Federal lawsuits against employers for discrimination