

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

any time an employer does not hire an unemployed person. Millions of frivolous EEOC complaints and lawsuits will drive up the cost of doing business in America which, in turn, kills business and destroys American jobs.

Third, Obama raises taxes on charitable contributions to churches, synagogues, mosques, the Red Cross, United Way, and other charitable institutions. Higher taxes mean fewer charitable contributions, which kills religious and charitable institution jobs. Obama does not have a jobs bill; Obama has a kill-jobs bill that encourages jobs to relocate overseas.

Mr. Speaker, America's economy has serious structural issues that Presidential Band-Aids and makeup won't fix and can't hide. President Obama's kill-jobs bill must be defeated because it is poorly thought out, bad economic policy, and costs American jobs. President Obama's kill-jobs bill is a political document, not an economic document. It gets an "A" for class warfare politics and an "F" for job creation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge defeat of President Obama's kill-jobs bill. It must be killed before even more damage is done to America's economy.

IT'S ABOUT TIME: A WELCOME BUT OVERDUE MILITARY REDEPLOYMENT OUT OF IRAQ

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, 8½ years ago, without provocation or just cause, and based on distortions and deceptions, our country launched a bloody and immoral war in Iraq—almost 9 years, a long time for a war whose mission was pronounced accomplished by then-President Bush in May of 2003.

But now the Iraq war, which has cost our Nation so very much in blood and treasure, in moral authority and global credibility, is finally ending. Thank you, President Obama.

When I heard the President's announcement that our troops would be home from Iraq by the end of the year, I had one thought: it's about damn time. And my second thought was: oh, well, we have to stay vigilant, especially with negotiations still to come about the possibility of military trainers or advisers remaining in Iraq. As we move forward with a constructive bilateral partnership, let's make sure we don't backslide into a renewed military occupation under a different cloak.

To me, however, Friday's news was greeted not so much with celebration but with relief and also with reflection about the senseless sacrifice endured by so very many people. Nearly 4,500 courageous American servicemembers gave their lives for this war. More than 30,000 have returned home with searing wounds to their bodies and their minds, if not missing limbs, then too often

post-traumatic stress that can make every day a living nightmare.

And let's not overlook the 100,000-plus innocent Iraqi civilians, many of them children, who were killed because the United States of America chose to "liberate" them. When I think about the humanitarian atrocities of this war, it is most often the faces of those children that I see.

Then there's the fiscal carnage. The \$800 billion appropriated to prosecute the war doesn't even scratch the surface of the total cost. There is the rise in oil price, the interest on the debt we've accumulated, and of course the veterans health obligations, a promise we must and will keep, a promise that will still be with us at least 50 years from now.

President Obama's announcement is welcome, but long overdue. I've been an outspoken opponent of the war since before it started, and I introduced the first legislation to bring our troops home in 2005. More than 400 times I've stood in this very place in this Chamber to call for an end to the Iraq and Afghanistan military entanglements and the beginning of a SMART Security approach that emphasizes humanitarian and peaceful conflict resolution in place of military might.

I was proud to work with my good friends Congresswomen WATERS and LEE to establish the Out of Iraq Caucus. Their leadership, their support, plus our many other colleagues on both sides of the aisle who lent their voices to the cause made the difference because back in 2004 and 2005, ours was not the majority position. Because we broke the silence, because we acted on principle and refused to stand down, the American people came around to the out-of-Iraq perspective. Because we stood on the right side of history, we found ourselves with the majority of Americans on the right side of public opinion wanting—no, demanding—an end to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Our work isn't done, of course. The war in Afghanistan rages on. It's destructive, it's foolish and about 100,000 troops are still in harm's way there on a futile and expensive mission that is not making us safe, but is actually undermining our national security.

Mr. Speaker, again I give President Obama credit for his decision to bring our troops home from Iraq by the end of the year; and at the same time, I will continue to speak out until Americans get the peace that they want and deserve and all of our troops are home from Afghanistan as well.

DEPORT FOREIGN CRIMINALS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there's been a lot of talk about immigration, border security and all of the problems in between. But let's talk about one part of the immigration issue that has maybe slipped through

the cracks and we don't hear much about it. There are some illegals in the United States that are just criminals. They have been convicted of crimes from everything from stealing to killing, including rape, robbery and murder.

The Bureau of Prisons says that 27 percent of all the prisoners in Federal prisons are foreign nationals that are illegally in the United States. That's astonishing, that over 25 percent of our Federal prisons house illegals, all at the expense of Americans. These criminals serve their sentence in one of our State or Federal prisons. Then after they serve that sentence and they are ordered deported, here's what happens: many of their native countries refuse to take back their deported criminals.

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Why would they take them back? They've got enough criminals of their own.

Since they won't take back all of their own citizens that are convicted criminals after they serve their sentence, that nation tries to pawn off the remainder on the United States. These thugs get a get-out-of-jail-free card in the United States because we do not permanently detain them in jail after they have been ordered deported and their country of origin refuses to take them. That means that they are released on the American streets. They are criminals without a country.

So how many people are we talking about? Well, according to an ICE report earlier this year, we're talking about 138,000 illegal aliens who are pending deportation—either in jail or out on the streets. Some of these are never taken back to their home countries.

Now, who are these offending nations? Well, Cuba, Iran, Pakistan, and, yes, China. Our good buddies the Chinese are the second worst offenders, with 35,000 convicted criminals pending deportation. Imagine that—Chinese criminals in the United States. Who would have thought?

Well, we already have a law on the books that says that the Department of Homeland Security is supposed to report to the Secretary of State any countries that do not accept or unreasonably delay taking their citizens back. Then the Secretary of State is supposed to discontinue granting visas to citizens of that country. That sounds good, but the problem is Homeland Security doesn't always enforce the rule of law. Homeland Security has the obligation to follow the law and ship these criminals back to where they belong. It's simple: If you come to the United States illegally and commit a felony, you go home after you are lawfully deported.

It's time we offer a proper incentive for these uncooperative nations—like China—who freely take money from us—like our debt—and turn around and disrespect our laws. There needs to be a punishment for any nation that refuses to take back lawfully deported