

billions of dollars to hire more teachers and firefighters and police officers. But these temporary government jobs come at a steep price. Every dollar spent sustaining one of these jobs is a dollar taken from the same capital pool that would otherwise have been available to productive businesses to invest in creating permanent jobs.

Government can also transfer jobs from one business to another by taking capital from one and giving it to the other. That's how we got Solyndra. We put a half-billion dollars at risk to create 1,100 jobs. That's \$450,000 per job. Now that half-billion dollars is gone and so are the jobs. And who pays for these losses? Other businesses and their employees, meaning fewer jobs created.

What government can do very effectively is to create the conditions in which jobs either flourish and expand or wither and disappear. When we place additional taxes on productivity, jobs disappear.

The President says he only wants to tax millionaires and billionaires, but the tax increases in his so-called jobs plan actually hammer more than 75 percent of net small business income, at a time when we're counting on those small businesses to produce two-thirds of the new jobs that our people desperately need. That is insane.

When we place additional regulations on productivity, jobs disappear. That's what we're watching in real time—thousands of pages of new regulations from Obamacare, from Dodd-Frank, from the EPA stifling American job creation.

It's no secret why business isn't expanding. Just ask a businessman. They're scared to death of the additional taxes and regulations they may be facing in the next few years, and they're pulling back to see what happens. Ask bankers why they're not lending; you'll hear the same answer.

□ 1100

House Republicans have laid out a comprehensive plan to revive the economy through the same policies that worked under Ronald Reagan in the early 1980s, under John F. Kennedy in the early sixties, under Harry Truman in the mid-forties and under Warren Harding in the early twenties. For example, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that ObamaCare by itself will cost our economy a net loss of 800,000 jobs. A few weeks ago, the Natural Resources Committee received testimony that, just by getting government out of the way and opening up American energy resources to development, the economy could create 700,000 jobs and \$660 billion of direct revenues to the national and State treasuries. So repeal ObamaCare and open up American energy resources; there's 1½ million jobs right there at no cost to taxpayers.

Now, imagine doing that across all sectors of the economy. That's what Republicans are proposing to do. The

fact that the President doesn't even recognize this as a jobs plan leaves me to conclude that he simply doesn't understand how jobs are created in the first place.

When Ronald Reagan inherited an even worse economy from Jimmy Carter, he reduced the tax and regulatory burdens that were crushing the economy, just as Republicans proposed to do today. According to a recent article in *The Wall Street Journal*, if the economy today under Obama had tracked the same as it did under Reagan, 15.7 million more Americans would be working today and per capita income would be \$4,000 higher than it is today, \$16,000 higher for a family of four.

Mr. Speaker, freedom works. It is time we put it back to work.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL WORK AND FAMILY 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 in recognition of National Work and Family Month. As a mother of young kids in a household with two working parents, I know all too well the daily struggle facing today's American families. How can we be great parents and also be great at our jobs?

This summer, when I was home in my congressional district, a constituent raised a question that particularly struck me: Can you imagine what a typical workweek would look like if suddenly, without warning, every single child care provider failed to show up to work and left parents with no alternative child care options? From Wall Street to Main Street, America's businesses would come to a grinding halt; and the carefully spun web of endless schedules, systems, and to-do lists that we've created to make it all work would unravel.

With the number of parents working full-time on the rise, more and more families are fully engaged in the daily juggling act that comes with trying to do it all. Particularly in today's economy when secure employment has become more tenuous, parents have become increasingly hesitant to ask their employers for greater flexibility in their work schedule, to encourage their company to open a day care center, or to ask for the option to work remotely.

If anything, the current economic climate has led to an even greater need for increased flexibility. Thousands of parents are at home not by choice but because they lost their jobs and have not yet had the opportunity to reenter the workplace. These parents may be at home, but looking for employment is a full-time job.

With thousands of American families experiencing the situation as we speak, we are hearing too many stories about parents who couldn't get to an interview, a networking opportunity, or a

job training session because their partners didn't have the flexibility in their work arrangements to make it work.

Studies show that employees and their families are not the only ones to benefit from greater workplace flexibility. From improved productivity and efficiency to higher employee morale, flexible work arrangements can help employees and help businesses reach their fullest potential.

In the last decade, we have seen significant strides made toward improving the great juggling act that is work-life balance. We cannot let this progress slip away during these challenging economic times. In the spirit of National Work and Family Month, I urge my fellow policymakers, employers, and employees to pause this month to think about how we can better work together to make it just a little bit easier for today's families.

Attending the school play, tending to a sick child, or just being able to meet your family's needs makes a huge difference in the morale and work ethic of an employee. Achieving work-life balance makes a more productive employee and a more loyal one. I encourage all employers to assist their employees in achieving this balance. It will reap immeasurable benefits for both the workplace and for our families.

RECOGNIZING CHIP SMITH AND BLUE RIDGE LOG CABINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. GOWDY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOWDY. Mr. Speaker, Milt and Suzy Smith from Spartanburg, South Carolina, are parents to three wonderful sons. Doug Smith is a former speaker pro tem of the South Carolina House of Representatives. Stuart Smith has a brilliant real estate mind and is a world-class Sunday school teacher. But, Mr. Speaker, I rise today in praise of their third son, Chip.

Chip Smith is from Spartanburg, South Carolina, and his company, Blue Ridge Log Cabins, employs nearly 100 people in the Fourth Congressional District. Blue Ridge Log Cabins is an innovator and a national leader in the modular log cabin industry and one of the fastest growing, privately held companies in the Nation.

But, Mr. Speaker, I am not here to talk about that today. I'm here to talk about something even more significant and special than that.

On Sunday, September 25 of this year, "Extreme Makeover Home Edition" spotlighted the efforts of Blue Ridge Log Cabins in their season opening episode on ABC. Over 10 million viewers witnessed the donation made by Blue Ridge Log Cabins to Barbara Marshall of Fayetteville, North Carolina. Chip Smith decided to build Steps N Stages Jubilee House to serve as a shelter for homeless female military veterans. Chip's generosity and Barbara Marshall's vision are providing an

invaluable service to those who have sacrificed their safety for ours.

This 8,000-square-foot facility will provide the most basic necessity to those who cannot provide it for themselves, which is shelter. And when it comes to our veterans, Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we encourage efforts like this and help those in need.

So, Chip, thank you and your company for putting your time and treasure to use to help others.

Mr. Speaker, times are tough and people are hurting. The greatness of the American spirit is that, even in those times, we still reach out to others who are in need.

So I am proud to call Chip Smith a constituent. I'm even prouder to call him my friend.

AMERICA IS NOT BROKE

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, America is not broke; so Republicans should stop saying it. Conservative pundits should stop spreading it, because this country isn't broke.

Now, our government temporarily is and millions of American families are, but our Nation is not. And my hypothesis is this: If we don't wake up to this fact soon, if we don't start investing our Nation's riches in spreading wealth out across this economy, then our whole economy is sunk whether you are rich or you are poor.

So, let's try to debunk this myth once and for all that America is broke, that we can't afford these investments.

And let's start here. It's pretty simple. The United States is still a global leader. We are still the richest country in the world on a per capita basis. For all the talk about the rise of India, China, and Brazil, if you take their population's adjusted wealth and combine it together, they are still 50 percent of U.S. wealth.

So if our country is still wealthy, we need to understand that we've made a choice to keep our government poor. Now, why is that? Contrary to popular belief, it's not because discretionary spending has run amok. Take a look at this chart. Discretionary spending has essentially remained stable over time. We've had a brief uptick with a couple of extraordinary pieces of legislation, but discretionary spending has remained stable.

Don't believe this chart? Take a look at this. If government is growing at extraordinary rates, you would expect for government employees to be growing at extraordinary rates as well. That's not true either. In fact, we have 16,000 less Federal employees than we did in 1970. And as you can see, the trendline just from 1990 continues to go down as well.

Now, this isn't all to say that government can't get leaner and meaner. It's

just a suggestion that there's another culprit at work, and that other culprit is revenue. Despite what you hear on TV, despite what you hear on Fox News today, taxes as a percentage of GDP today are at a 60-year low. Right now, we are collecting about 15 percent of our GDP in taxes. The problem isn't just that the government is broke; it's that we've made a decision, effectively, to keep it broke.

Now, if the government isn't broke and this country is still the richest in the world, why is it that so many families feel broke? Why is it so many families are broke?

□ 1110

Let's explore that for a second. Here is the problem right here:

Over the last 60 years, incomes for the bottom 99 percent of Americans have basically remained flat. What that has meant is that all of the additional wealth that we've accumulated in this Nation has gone to the richest 1 percent as their incomes during that same time have increased by almost 300 percent.

Do you want to see it in even starker terms? Take a look at this chart.

The 400 wealthiest Americans have a net worth that is greater than the net worth of the 100 million poorest Americans. Let me say that again: the 400 richest of us have more money than the 100 million poorest of us.

Now, having said all of this, getting rich is good. It's great. The richest 400 people didn't steal this money. They made it legally. We just have to start having policies in this country that make more people rich, that make more people feel rich. So we need to be having a debate in this country right now about how we do that, about how we put policies in place to lift more people into the ranks of those who have enough to succeed because an economy with this kind of wealth disparity, combined with an unwillingness to make the investments to shrink it, is destined to collapse. This isn't about pitting one group against another. This is just about economics.

It's not class warfare to suggest that, as an economy, we'd be stronger if incomes were rising for a few more people than the top 1 percent—the people who tend to spend domestically, the middle class, rather than invest internationally.

It's not class warfare to suggest that our economy would be stronger if more of our Nation's wealth went to local innovators and small businesses rather than to big multinational companies that tend to take income from the United States and use it to create employment overseas.

It's not class warfare to suggest that our economy would be stronger if more kids had access to the ultimate wealth creator—higher education—if we were investing our Nation's riches in making college cheaper.

Do you know what? If we have this discussion, everybody, not just the bot-

tom 99 percent, benefits from the discussion.

My friends, the government is temporarily broke. Millions of American families are broke, but our Nation is not broke. We're just pretending that we are.

Here's the thing: If we don't wake up from this dream soon, what is fiction today will be fact before we know it.

IN HONOR OF AMERICA'S BRAVEST

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in having survived Hurricanes Rita and Ike, my district and the people of southeast Texas know and understand hurricanes and the devastation they can bring to our communities.

This past September, we dealt with a very different type of disaster in the form of major wildfires in the Counties of Jasper, Tyler, Trinity, Walker, and in my home county of Montgomery. Luckily for us, we were also granted our September miracle on Labor Day weekend as fire crews from across Texas—and, in fact, from the entire country—came to Magnolia to battle a three-county blaze that threatened to consume well over 10,000 homes and businesses in Magnolia, as well as thousands more in neighboring Grimes and Waller Counties.

In fact, if you look at this map, you can see the structures lost in Montgomery County were a fraction of the percentage of those saved by the brave fire crews. The fire was in this area outlined here, but you can see from the red, the yellow, the green, and the blue going out all the thousands of homes and small businesses which were saved because of the actions of our local firefighters.

I had the privilege to go up twice to those fire areas to see for myself how the fire lines came right up to these homes—within 5 feet of their front doors. Somehow our firefighters saved them, and then they did it to the homes next to them and to the homes next to those. It is impossible for me and for anyone who could see that not to be in awe of these heroes. Their skill and dedication saved the town of Magnolia, and I can't wait to join them this Saturday in Unity Park to honor their success and their hard work.

Chief Gary Vincent led the Magnolia Volunteer Firefighters and exemplified their motto: a community of unity. Gary united over 100 different firefighting agencies by his side. The chief also had help from our dedicated sheriff, Tommy Gage, and his deputies; our constables; our police departments; our terrific fire marshal, Jimmy Williams, who you need to meet; our school districts; and the Texas Forest Service—just to name a few of the people and agencies that stepped up like you can't believe.

California sent from the Federal Government the Interagency Incident Management Team, and I think they had