

doesn't have any lower teeth. This person now felt confident to go out and look for a job.

Rural communities, in particular, face tougher challenges when it comes to getting proper dental care because there are so few dentists, and people often have to drive long distances to see them.

Proper care is vital to our overall health, and I commend the Colorado Mission of Mercy for sponsoring this event.

JOBS FOR VETERANS

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

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, I welcome President Obama's announcement that our brave men and women in our Armed Forces serving in Iraq will soon be coming home in time for the holidays. This holiday season, we can expect to see 40,000 people returning to this country, particularly some who are coming back to my Niagara Falls Air Force base, where I look forward to welcoming them warmly.

But as we approach Veterans Day and embrace this group of America's newest veterans, I'm troubled that, in a time of 9.1 percent unemployment and an even higher rate of unemployment for our returning veterans, which approaches 12 percent, we have to ensure that these individuals will have jobs; otherwise, it is a national disgrace.

That is why it's critical that we pass the American Jobs Act. This would create a \$5,600 "Returning Heroes" tax credit for employers who hire veterans, and a \$9,600 tax credit for "Wounded Warriors," again, for employers who hire our veterans with service-connected disabilities. In a country as grateful as ours for their service, we owe them no less. We owe them better. That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the American Jobs Act.

BURDENSOME REGULATIONS

(Mrs. LUMMIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, as I traveled my district of Wyoming and visited another district, Nevada, over the last work period, I heard repeatedly from small business people about the burdensome regulations that have been placed on their businesses and ability to hire people and put people back to work by the current administration here in Washington.

So when I returned to Washington, I asked for a copy of all of the *Federal Registers*. Those are all the new regulations that have been printed just in this year alone and implemented by this administration. I now have in my office boxes of regulations that are taller than I am, and we're not even finished with this year. And going back

to the year before and the year before, those regulations have been growing at exponential paces.

If we're going to put Americans back to work, Mr. Speaker, we need to make sure that these rules that are taller than I am, thousands of pages, tens of thousands of pages, are repealed.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, last week I hosted a town hall meeting in Lawrence, Massachusetts, to discuss ways to grow our domestic manufacturing base and promote policies that keep jobs in the United States, not overseas. Participating in this town hall were several major employers who have made the often challenging decision to keep their labor force here in the United States.

Among these employers was New Balance, the last athletic shoemaker to make sneakers from first stitch to final product in the United States, and an employer of more than 800 Massachusetts workers. The success of these types of companies demonstrates that manufacturing jobs can still thrive in the United States, but we need to pursue policies at the Federal level that support their efforts.

House Democrats' Make It In America agenda provides the tax incentives, workforce training, and investment in 21st century education that will help keep the production of goods and services here in the United States.

We can't sit back and allow our manufacturing base to be continually eroded. We must pass the Make It In America agenda.

INVESTING IN SMALL BUSINESS

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, like the last speaker, I had the opportunity last week to visit an American manufacturer, Blue Star Power Systems, a small business in southern Minnesota employing 35 people that manufactures backup generators for schools, hospitals, and businesses.

Doug Fahrforth, the CFO of Blue Star, told me something that made me pause. He said that nowadays his bank will tell him this: We believe in you; we believe in your product; but unless there is no risk, we don't want anything to do with you.

Our economic system relies upon risks that small businesses take, like Blue Star Power, to create innovative products and services which boost our economy and grow our middle class.

Yesterday there was a New York Times story that said banks said they were turning depositors away at the door because the banks have more money than they know what to do

with. I have a couple of ideas what they can do with that money. Invest in Main Street. Invest in businesses like Blue Star Power Systems who create first class products right here in the United States.

Blue Star also told me there are things that we can do in Congress that will streamline the Small Business Administration and make it more efficient and effective. I look forward to working with them on that.

There are actions that we can take right now so that Blue Star Power and other businesses just like them can continue to innovate and create jobs in America.

NAVAL RESERVIST LEE REINHART

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, I stood on this floor and spoke out against the injustice of our Nation's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. I told the story of Lee Reinhart, a patriotic constituent of mine who wanted to serve his country in time of war.

Lee had already retired from a 4-year Navy career when our Nation was attacked on September 11. Like many Americans after September 11, Lee wanted to serve his country and again enlisted in the Coast Guard. But 4 months later, he was discharged under Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

Last December my colleagues and I repealed that policy; and Monday, I had the honor of administering the oath to Lee Reinhart as he reenlisted in the Navy.

Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." Mr. Speaker, I was proud of my country and proud of Lee Reinhart when justice finally arrived for both.

JOB CREATION

(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, our top priority must be creating jobs.

Yesterday I hosted a job creation conference for my constituents right here in Washington, D.C. Central Coast business owners, development experts, job trainers, and educators shared their experiences about job creation and discussed actions the Federal Government can take to support them. I'm grateful to these dedicated job creators for taking the time and effort to come all the way from California for this important event.

We had a packed day, hearing from policy experts and top White House economic officials about the steps we need to take now to create jobs today and strengthen our economy for tomorrow. Opinions were diverse and spirited, but there was clear consensus on: making it easier for businesses to succeed by lowering taxes and increasing

access to credit; and making smart investments in education, in innovation, and in infrastructure. These are bipartisan, commonsense solutions.

Mr. Speaker, we simply can't wait any longer. The message from my constituents is clear: Put aside our partisan differences. Take action now for the American people.

STENNIS SPACE CENTER

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, there is a saying that the path to space goes through Hancock County, Mississippi. That statement has been true for five decades due to the unequalled excellence and dedication of the men and women of the John C. Stennis Space Center, which commemorates the 50th anniversary of its founding this week.

The work done at Stennis is varied, but it is known worldwide as the home of rocket engine testing. Before we have sent men and women into space, the engines they ascended on were tested on the ground at Stennis. Every mission to the Moon and every flight of the space shuttle roared with Stennis-tested engines. The Space Center is the beacon of innovation for private industry, educational institutions, and students of all ages.

I am honored to serve as chairman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee. In my role, I hope to see all my colleagues visit the Stennis Space Center, especially to see an engine test. You will be awed by the technological ingenuity and complexity of the operation and of the passion and skill of the workforce.

It is so easy to herald the past achievements of NASA and the Stennis Space Center, but it is the future that should drive us toward even greater ones, for the path back to the Moon, to Mars and beyond goes through Hancock County, Mississippi.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support one of our Nation's crowning achievements, the Social Security program, and the 55 million Americans who benefit from this critical program. Since 1935, Social Security has kept its promise to America's seniors that after a lifetime of working and playing by the rules, you should not have to live in poverty when you retire.

I was happy to see last week that after 2 years, our Nation's seniors will receive a well-deserved cost-of-living-adjustment increase of 3.6 percent. The American people should be concerned, however, that the recently announced

COLA increase would effectively disappear if this Congress decides to adopt a chained CPI formula for Social Security. The chained Consumer Price Index would lower benefits by \$112 billion for current and future beneficiaries over the next 10 years.

I support efforts to reduce our Federal deficit, but we should not balance the Nation's budget on the backs of seniors, the disabled, and children. I call on our colleagues to stand with America's seniors and support Social Security. It's not a Ponzi scheme, as some candidates for President allege; and let's celebrate the 3.6 percent for our seniors.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend President Obama for announcing a plan this morning to lower student loan payments. The New York Times recently reported that student loan debt outpaced credit card debt for the first time last year and that the growth in student loan debt threatens to undermine the future life prospects of the current generation of students.

It was this realization that led me, as a State senator, to pass the Tennessee Education Lottery program that gives scholarships to our Tennessee students.

Too many young people have an unbelievable amount of debt that burdens them for the rest of their lives. The students that participate in Occupy Wall Street are very aware of this threat.

Earlier this year, I reintroduced H.R. 2028, the Private Student Loan Bankruptcy Fairness Act, which will restore fair treatment to Americans in severe financial distress whose debts include private student loans.

Before 2005 private student loans issued by for-profit lenders were appropriately treated in bankruptcy like credit card debt and other similar types of unsecured consumer liabilities. The bill I've introduced with Senator DURBIN in the Senate would ensure that privately issued student loans will once again be treated like other debt and be dischargeable in bankruptcy.

We need to give our students a fair chance.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As you know, violence against women in the United States is as insidious as it is destructive. And according to a study by the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of

Justice Statistics, there are as many as 3 million cases of domestic violence across the United States every year.

Due to the nature of the crime, the mental and physical cost of domestic violence are difficult to quantify, but they are far too obvious to ignore. Women suffering from domestic abuse average more emergency room visits, a significantly higher rate of unemployment, are more likely to lose the jobs they have, and are also more likely to rely on welfare.

Various studies find the monetary costs to the Federal Government of only the reported cases of domestic violence to be estimated in billions of dollars.

Regrettably, hard economic times make even more crimes of this sort likely to occur, which is why the Congress must ensure not only to address this growing epidemic but to protect the necessary funds to protect the women of this country from domestic abuse.

LOUISVILLE'S FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Louisville's Fairness Campaign—Kentucky's oldest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender civil rights organization. This month the Fairness Campaign is celebrating 20 years of fighting against discrimination, inspiring hope, and protecting our citizens.

Thanks to Fairness, in 1999 Louisville became one of the first cities to prohibit housing and employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Now Fairness is working tirelessly to secure these protections for all Kentuckians. Because of Fairness, more Kentuckians are seeing that the lines once drawn between us because of sexual orientation and gender identity are only imaginary, and they're realizing that hate has no place in our Commonwealth.

That's a message that needs to be heard not just from Pikeville to Paducah, but from coast to coast. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fairness Campaign on two decades of service. It's truly thrilling how much progress they have made.

I would also like to individually honor the 10 brave Louisvillians who co-founded the Fairness Campaign in 1991 to seek equal protections for all citizens under the law: Jim Adams, Eric Graninger, Lisa Gunterman, Ken Herndon, Jane Hope, Pam McMichael, Susan Remmers, Jeff Rodgers, Thom Snyder, and Carla Wallace.

THE SUPERCOMMITTEE

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