

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.

□ 1220

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.)

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, the super-committee is at a standstill. The Democrats won't consider cuts to entitlement programs if the money is primarily to pay for cutting taxes on the wealthy. Republicans won't consider raising taxes on the wealthy from their currently historically low levels because these are the job creators. But where are the jobs?

The fact is that corporate profits are at historic highs, as are CEO and investor compensation. But the reason for that corporate profit being historically high is that over the last several years, 75 percent of corporate profit has come from reduction in personnel costs. Then the top 1 percent reward themselves for cutting those costs and raising profits by increasing their own income and bonuses to record high levels.

In fact, the CBO report that came out today confirms this. The wealthiest 1 percent, whose income the Republican majority wants so much to protect, went up by 275 percent since 1980. You don't get upward mobility, you don't realize our full potential as a Nation when we have such a concentration of wealth at the top.

FAIRNESS AND TRANSPARENCY IN CONTRACTING ACT

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced the Fairness and Transparency in Contracting Act, which will help level the playing field for small businesses and ensure that publicly traded companies no longer masquerade and then receive contracts meant for small businesses. Small business contracts should go to small businesses.

Unfortunately, loopholes in the system have resulted in subsidiaries of large corporations receiving Federal small business contracts. The GAO has found that small businesses across the Nation are the real losers when the Federal contracts are awarded to large firms that should not be eligible.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should no longer turn a blind eye when large publicly traded and foreign-owned companies obtain Federal small business contracts. The Fairness and Transparency in Contracting Act will ensure that America's small businesses can compete.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

REDUCING PERSONAL DEBT

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

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, several months ago, I introduced House Resolution 365, which asks this Congress to cut student loan debt and home mortgage debt.

As a result, several hundreds of thousands of people all around this country

signed an online petition to support this resolution. I'm happy to say that our voices are now being heard. The White House is moving in the right direction on helping to cut student loan debt. But I'm urging the American public to keep speaking out, sign on to this petition to support House Resolution 365, and help free the American people from excessive home mortgage and student loan debt.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2576, MODIFYING INCOME CALCULATION FOR HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 674, 3% WITHHOLDING REPEAL AND JOB CREATION ACT

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 448 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 448

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2576) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the calculation of modified adjusted gross income for purposes of determining eligibility for certain healthcare-related programs. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions of the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 674) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions of the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. (a) In the engrossment of H.R. 674, the Clerk shall—

(1) add the text of H.R. 2576, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 674;

(2) conform the title of H.R. 674 to reflect the addition of the text of H.R. 2576, as passed by the House, to the engrossment;

(3) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; and

(4) conform provisions for short titles within the engrossment.

(b) Upon the addition of the text of H.R. 2576, as passed by the House, to the engrossment of H.R. 674, H.R. 2576 shall be laid on the table.

□ 1230

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. House Resolution 448 provides for a closed rule for the consideration of H.R. 674, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities, and H.R. 2576, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the calculation of modified adjusted gross income for purposes of determining the eligibility for certain health care-related programs.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this rule and the underlying bills. What we have here is something very simple: a bill to save jobs in America and a way to pay for it through a simple technical fix in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which is supported by the President and many Democrats in this Chamber.

H.R. 674, or what I call the Saving American Jobs Act, would repeal the 3 percent withholding requirement on government payments to businesses, both large and small. This is truly a bipartisan bill with more than 60 Democrats among the 269 cosponsors. Even the President supports changing the withholding tax. The tax is a job killer, plain and simple.

Beginning January 1, 2013, government agencies at all levels—Federal, State and local—will have to withhold 3 percent of their payments to businesses for goods and services. For many small businesses, this has the potential to completely wipe out their profit margins. At a time when we have a desperate need to create jobs and to create the environment for job creation, the withholding tax does the exact opposite. For many State and local governments, the implementation costs will be huge at a time when their budgets are already stretched thin.

For example, in my home State of South Carolina, the State Comptroller estimates the implementation costs associated with this tax will take up 11.5 percent of its budget. This tax punishes all businesses for the sins of a few, automatically and wrongly assuming all job creators who do business with the Federal Government are somehow