

Republicans across this Nation are attempting to suppress certain predetermined populations of eligible voters. In Ohio, they are trying to limit voting by mail, which greatly affects seniors, the disabled, and students.

In 2009, in the county in which I live, Cuyahoga County, we eliminated 26 percent of all of our precincts because of the effectiveness of our vote-by-mail operation. We saved more than \$1.2 million on voting machines alone. And with fewer precincts, we save at least \$800,000 for each countywide election by having people vote by mail. Yet Republicans passed legislation that would restrict counties from mailing ballots. As a consequence, this year alone, early voting is down by one-third from last year.

With such an efficient vote-by-mail system, why would Republicans seek to eliminate mail ballots or to confuse voters? Why are Republicans pushing policies that seem to have no other objective than to disenfranchise our citizens?

□ 1210

SENATE NEEDS TO ACT ON FORGOTTEN 15

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

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, in response to the President's jobs plan, Linda Shevchuk from Carmel, New York, in my own 19th district, sent the following letter to me: "The government's first priority should be to make sure that existing programs and agencies are operating efficiently and effectively. I can't fathom how the President can ask for more revenue when there is so much waste in our government. Government needs to act more like a business. In order to succeed, a business has to operate efficiently and effectively, be innovative, set a reasonable budget, and operate within that budget."

Ms. Shevchuk, you're absolutely right. In fact, on our list of the forgotten 15 bills that we need the Senate to act on right away, there is the budget for fiscal year 2012. It has now been 918 days since the American people received a budget for the Federal Government because our Senate has not yet acted.

Please call your Senators across the country—and, Ms. Shevchuk, call our Senators from New York—and ask them to act on the forgotten 15, including the budget for fiscal year 2012, so that we can free our economy, free our hardworking American taxpayers, and get us all back to work.

WAKE UP, AMERICA

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I spoke yesterday with a very well-known

Cleveland talk show host, Mike Trivisonno, who told me he and his listeners, who are many, are concerned that an al Qaeda flag is flying over the courthouse in Benghazi, Libya. It was put there by the same group that we helped to oust the Qadhafi regime.

Trivisonno is right. U.S. soldiers died fighting al Qaeda in Afghanistan, but in Libya we enabled al Qaeda to raise their flag? Will al Qaeda now have access to Libya's oil wealth thanks to the U.S.-led invasion?

Months ago I raised this question about elements of al Qaeda reportedly being involved with so-called rebels. This administration looked the other way. Why? What are we doing?

Our international policies are a diversion from our disastrous domestic policies: 14 million unemployed, millions of small businesses at risk, millions of homes at risk, Social Security at risk.

Wake up, America. The administration just helped elements of al Qaeda knock off one of the world's leading oil producers. Their flag flies over Benghazi. It's time for us to get out of these foreign adventures and start taking care of things here at home.

SONGWRITERS' TAX LEGISLATION

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about legislation I'm introducing dealing with tax options for songwriters and music publishers. The Songwriters Tax Simplification Reauthorization Act reinstates the ability of American music publishers and self-published songwriters to elect to use a 5 year, 20 percent per year amortization schedule. We had this tax option from 2005 to 2010. Inadvertently, it wasn't reauthorized.

Under current law, tax options available to songwriters and publishers are unworkable, obsolete, and cost-prohibitive. This creates a disincentive to new investment at a time when the music industry is under assault from illegal piracy online and as they are fighting to retain and create jobs.

A 16-year-old singer-songwriter named Bonner Black from Hot Rock, Tennessee, came to Washington last month to build support for this idea. Her dream is the American dream—to write songs that inspire and entertain us. We need this legislation to make certain songwriting remains a part of the American dream.

THE PRESIDENT'S AMERICAN JOBS ACT AND SMALL BUSINESS

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the President's American Jobs Act because America's

small businesses need this legislation now to grow and hire new workers. Creating jobs and strengthening the economy is my highest priority, and I strongly urge this Congress to remain focused on these goals because they are the most pressing challenges facing Americans today.

The President's American Jobs Act will cut the payroll tax in half for 98 percent of small businesses. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that cutting of the payroll tax is one of the most effective job-creating measures. In addition, the President's proposal will completely eliminate payroll taxes for businesses that add new workers. This incentive is directly targeted to encourage small businesses to hire new workers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to put partisan politics aside and pass this legislation now because American families and small businesses are in need of jobs now.

THE FORGOTTEN 15

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

Mr. PENCE. Well, with a national government seemingly incapable of confronting a mountain range of debt and a national media preoccupied with politics, I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, as I travel across the State of Indiana, one thing is clear: In the city or on the farm, Hoosier families are hurting. Unemployment in the State of Indiana is a heartbreaking 8.9 percent, and Hoosiers want action on jobs.

Now, the President is traveling around the country talking about his legislation. He says that the American people can't wait to take action on jobs, and let me just say, I couldn't agree more. The good news is House Republicans have a plan, and House Republicans have taken action.

Since the first of this year, House Republicans have passed no less than 15 different pieces of legislation to create jobs in America. These are common-sense, bipartisan bills that have passed the House of Representatives and are now languishing in the Senate. We call them the forgotten 15. Among the forgotten 15 is legislation to increase domestic energy production, reduce the harmful Federal regulatory burden on jobs, help unemployed veterans, and the rest.

I urge my colleagues in the other body to take action on the forgotten 15. We can't wait. Let's take the measures necessary to put Americans back to work.

END CHINESE CURRENCY MANIPULATION

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I recently visited two factories in my district in Woonsocket, Rhode Island—a

textile mill, Hanora Spinning; and a producer of personal care products, Diversified Distribution. These businesses had a clear message: They believe in making it in America, but they need an even playing field.

The U.S. has the best workers in the world and makes the best products in the world, but we need policies that allow us to compete and prevent cheating by our global competitors. Rhode Island businesses, American businesses, can't compete with their Chinese counterparts who keep their currency artificially low so their imports are cheaper than U.S. goods.

It's time to end this unfair practice, and I'm calling on the Republican leadership in the House to allow a vote on the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act. This is a bipartisan bill that could create between 500,000 and 2 million jobs. Ending the cheating by our trading partners, especially the Chinese, we can level the playing field for American manufacturers and create jobs. We must bring H.R. 639 to the floor for a vote now.

UNESCO AND THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 31, UNESCO voted to award the Palestinian Authority full membership in its organization. UNESCO made the decision in spite of an existing U.S. law which prohibits U.S. contributions to the United Nations or any associated organization that awards the Palestinian Authority the same standing as full member states.

It defies logic that UNESCO would willingly forgo nearly one-quarter of its budget—the 22 percent that is contributed by the United States each year—in exchange for awarding the PA full member status. This decision is especially troubling considering that it will only diminish the prospects for genuine peace between Israel and the Palestinians, which can only be achieved through direct negotiations between the parties involved and not by fiat.

Nevertheless, UNESCO has made its decision, and the U.S. should stand by existing law and cut off funding for the organization. Anything short of this will send a clear message to other international organizations considering similar action that Congress and the United States does not follow up on what it says. It will also send a message to America's allies, most especially Israel, that the United States cannot be taken at its word. Congress needs to stand by Israel and all of its allies and hold UNESCO accountable for the decision that it made.

□ 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 and Members, I rise in support of the 54 million retirees, disabled workers, children and spouses in our country who currently receive Social Security. For 75 years, Social Security has served as a promise to the men and women who worked hard all their lives to make this country great that they could look forward to financial security later in their lives.

Social Security was designed to be one leg of a three-legged stool. Unfortunately, the other two legs—savings and pensions—aren't there for many seniors. Only 41 percent of seniors have employer-sponsored pensions. Three out of five senior households have no retirement savings at all, and one in three seniors rely on Social Security for 90 percent or more of their entire income.

The Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction should not look at Social Security as a way to pay down our national debt or as a way to offset tax cuts for the most fortunate in our country. Social Security is not in crisis. It presently has a surplus of over \$2.6 trillion—enough to pay its obligations in full over the next 25 years.

Social Security needs to be reformed over the long term. These reforms need to be debated in proper order inside the appropriate committees in the House and Senate and not hastily put together. I ask my colleagues to stand together with America's seniors and support a strong, robust Social Security program.

IN MEMORY OF BYRON DAY TATE, JR.

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

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, born September 13, 1921, in Chicago, Illinois, Byron Day Tate, Jr., spent his early years working alongside his brother as a brass and iron molder. On November 14, 1942, Byron answered the call to service and enlisted in the United States Army. While in the service, he saw action with the 1st Army across the European Theater under the command of General Omar Bradley. He joined the D-day invasion force in July of 1944 and saw combat in the Battle of the Bulge.

After returning to Chicago as a decorated and proud Army veteran, he married the love of his life, Mildred, and like so many of our brave World War II heroes, he went on to become part of the greatest generation the world has ever seen.

On October 20, 2011, my uncle Byron Day Tate, Jr., passed away at his home in Macon, Georgia. With his passing,

however, I'm reminded that without the hard work and selfless sacrifice and attitude of our World War II veterans, this Nation truly would not be what it is today.

NO JOBS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Forty-three weeks, Mr. Speaker. For 43 weeks, my Republican colleagues have led the House, and they have failed to pass a single bill to create jobs. Our national unemployment rate has returned to 9.1 percent after declining earlier this year and late last year as a result of the Recovery Act.

Yet my colleagues who ran on the platform of upholding a pledge to America to create jobs and strengthen the economy have failed to do so. Instead of delivering on their promise to the 14 million Americans without jobs, the Republican Congress has decided to take off of work for themselves.

This Republican-led Congress has only been at work for 111 days, leaving 105 days off for recess. With so many of our constituents out of work, Congress should be at work on their behalf, doing its job and creating jobs for Americans and improving America's economy.

That is what my Democratic colleagues and I have tried to do. We have proposed commonsense legislation that would strengthen our economy and create jobs now. And we say that this is what we were sent to Washington to do. We must create jobs now.

VETERANS OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ACT

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about jobs. Millions of Americans are hurting and in need of work. Our Nation's veterans have been particularly hard hit by the economic downturn. With Veterans Day approaching, it is heartbreaking to see so many of our Nation's heroes suffering. Nearly 1 million veterans are unemployed right now, and their unemployment rate exceeds the rest of the Nation.

We must act now, Mr. Speaker. Here in the House, we have passed the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act. This legislation takes an all-encompassing approach that incorporates education and training, eliminates roadblocks in the system, and helps veterans compete in a 21st-century economy.

Putting our veterans back to work is something we can all agree on, Mr. Speaker; and I encourage the Senate to address this important issue.