

out-of-control spending is something that has been made aware of for so many, but it is time to do something about it.

As part of the House Republican plan for America's job creators, we have a stated goal: to pay down America's unsustainable debt burden and start living within our means.

Madam Speaker, when I served in the Michigan Legislature, we had to live under that same requirement of a balanced budget according to the Michigan Constitution. It made for some very, very difficult decisions.

But you know what, Madam Speaker? The American people are not only ready, they are asking for this reasonable step to be made for us to insert this balanced budget amendment into the United States Constitution as well. They need to do it in their own lives. It's time government do it as well with theirs.

Living within our means is a requirement in their lives. It is a requirement for a vast majority of the State governments. It's time that the Federal Government do that as well.

It's time for your voice to be heard. And, frankly, Madam Speaker, it's time for the American people to hold accountable those who will not listen.

VETERANS AND JOBS

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Last week we celebrated Veterans Day, a time to remember those who have served our country and their families. As a nation, we must live up to our obligations and responsibilities to care for our servicemen and -women from the moment they join up and throughout their lives. And we have done this through the post-9/11 GI Bill and our efforts to strengthen TRICARE.

But now, with over 12 percent unemployment for veterans, there's so much more we must do. And that's why I support the putting veterans to work tax credit for hiring veterans and wounded warriors that will be on the floor today, and it's why I introduced my own legislation to help our military medics transition into civilian EMT jobs so that they can continue their service here at home.

Our commitment to our men and women in uniform doesn't end when they return. It lasts a lifetime. I urge my colleagues to support these bills so we can fulfill our commitment.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, this week we will take what I believe is one of the most important votes we will ever cast in the U.S. Congress on adding a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

With our national debt approaching \$15 trillion—more than \$47,900 for every man, woman, and child in this Nation—it's time to get serious about spending. That's why we must succeed where other Congresses have failed and send this amendment to the States for ratification. According to the CBO, the budget submitted by the President earlier this year would, at no time over the next 10 years, bring the annual deficit below \$748 billion.

This balanced budget amendment would require Washington to live within its means just exactly like families do, cities, counties, States do every day. It simply says that spending cannot exceed revenues unless three-fifths of each Chamber approves.

Forty-eight States, including my home State of Tennessee, already have a balanced budget amendment. This is just common sense. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and the principles that it represents: Spend less than you take in.

LOCAL FARMS, FOOD, AND JOBS ACT

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, when I moved to Maine 40 years ago and started a little organic farm, growing and selling healthy food locally was out of the mainstream. It was something that the back-to-the-land crowd was into, but here in Washington the government was pushing farmers to, in the words of Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz, "Get big or get out."

It turns out that kind of thinking wasn't good for family farms, it wasn't good for rural communities, and it wasn't good for our Nation's health. That's why I've introduced a bill that is intended to make it easier for farmers to sell food locally and regionally, make it easier for schools to buy healthy local food and easier for us to rebuild the local and regional food systems.

Over 100 organizations and 53 of my colleagues have endorsed the Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act, a package of reforms to the farm bill that will help move our Nation's food policy in the right direction.

Everywhere I go, people just want to know that the food they put on their table is healthy, fresh, and good for their family. This bill will help make that easier for American families.

□ 1220

FOOD MARKETING RESTRICTIONS

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

Mr. GIBSON. I rise to share my disappointment with the recent proposal by the administration to restrict food

and beverage marketing. Like many Members of this body, I am concerned about the rise in childhood obesity. However, the proposed guidelines will do little to address the issue. In particular, I am concerned that this proposal blatantly contradicts existing Federal nutrition standards.

Under the administration's food marketing restrictions, many healthy products could no longer be advertised or marketed, including most soups, breads, cereals, yogurts, and most cheeses. These unreasonable standards impact products that are considered healthy by the administration's school lunch program, WIC program, and new dietary guidelines.

Any proposal to regulate food should be based upon sound nutritional standards and common sense. We should let science, not politics, lead the way. The first step is to complete the study originally requested by Congress, and then we'll go from there.

ARMY STAFF SERGEANT ARI CULLERS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of Army Staff Sergeant Ari Cullers, who lost his life on October 30, 2011, while serving in Kandahar province in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Cullers was born 28 years ago in New London, Connecticut, and later moved with his family to Waterford, where he attended school and graduated from Waterford High School in 2001. As his principal, Don Macrino, said, "He was a hard worker at school, but when he got into the service, I think that was a place where he felt he could really make his mark."

He joined the Army in 2004 and was deployed twice to Afghanistan—the first tour in December 2008—and returned again this year in March before he perished a few weeks ago.

Ari Cullers' passing reminds us of the sacrifices that have been made and that continue to be made by our military overseas. Last Thursday, the day before Veterans Day, there was a huge outpouring of support from Waterford's townspeople, who lined the streets. They knew Ari; his mother, Robin; and his brother, Jacob, who himself has served a tour of duty in Iraq. There were many there who did not know Ari but who wanted to pay respect for his sacrifice and service.

I ask my colleagues to join them in honoring Ari Cullers' life and service to our Nation and in extending our condolences to his family.

SANDY PERL

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

Mr. DOLD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sandy Perl for

receiving the AJC's prestigious Judge Learned Hand Human Relations Award. The Learned Hand Award is presented to leaders in the legal profession who display the highest principles and ideals of humanitarianism and betterment of the community.

In both his professional and community activities, Sandy Perl has shown that he carries on in this proud tradition. A native of the 10th District of Illinois, Sandy has served in a number of leadership roles at his firm and is consistently recognized as one of the top lawyers in his industry.

But what makes Sandy stand out for this well-deserved recognition is his commitment to civic and charitable causes. Through his active leadership in organizations such as the Jewish Federation and the Golden Apple Foundation, which recognizes excellence in teaching, and through his work on global issues with the Chicago chapter of the AJC and with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Sandy has dedicated himself to improving his community and fighting for important causes worldwide.

I want to congratulate my friend Sandy Perl on this tremendous honor, the Learned Hand Award.

PASSING THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. It has been 45 weeks since the Republican Party took control of this House, and they still haven't passed a serious jobs bill. In fact, it's just the opposite. They've blocked proposals that will put millions back to work—to play political games while people are hurting and to attack the President's job instead of creating jobs.

Last week, we honored those who have fought to protect our country, many of whom are returning to a tough job market. That's why, this week, my office held a veterans' job seminar in St. Louis. When our troops return home, they deserve our promises kept.

The American Jobs Act will get more than 1 million Americans back to work—teachers, firefighters, police, construction workers. It will encourage small businesses to grow and hire.

Next week, we will celebrate Thanksgiving—a holiday that brings families and communities together. As well next week, I hope those in this people's House, who have so clearly lost touch, will hear loud and clear from the people they represent and will come back with renewed focus to pull together in order to tackle the common challenges we face as a Nation.

SMALL PROGRESS IN THE SENATE ISN'T SUFFICIENT

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, I was pleased to see that last week the Senate finally followed the House and passed one of our pro-growth bills; but while repealing the 3 percent withholding tax is a step in the right direction, it's not enough. We've sent them more than 20 other bills, each of which would stimulate job creation and a pro-growth environment.

These aren't ideological bills. They're commonsense pieces of legislation that were passed with bipartisan support. They would get government bureaucrats off the backs of small businesses and enable the private sector to invest and grow their businesses, putting Americans back to work and getting our economy moving again.

I hope the Senate will listen to the American people and pass the 20 bills that we've sent to them.

POST OFFICE CLOSURES

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

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern about the closure of post offices across this country.

For decades, the post office has sustained and created American jobs in every corner of this country. Closing these vital institutions will not only hurt our economy, but it will devastate American families who rely on these jobs.

The closing of thousands of post offices will adversely affect minorities who live in low-income neighborhoods; it will affect the elderly, who need post offices within walking distance in order to send letters to their families; and it will affect small business owners who use the U.S. Postal Service as a way to conduct business. Additionally, rural communities, the hardest hit by the economic downturn, will see the greatest number of closures, causing their communities to further suffer.

It has been reported that if 10,000 of the smallest post offices were closed the postal service would only save 1 percent of its total yearly budget. Furthermore, the United States Postal Service branch closings would mean that approximately 5,000 postal employees would lose their jobs.

If we are serious about economic recovery, we must save post offices, which provide jobs to thousands of Americans; and we must make the necessary reforms to strengthen our postal service.

THE SENATE MUST PASS REPUBLICAN JOBS BILLS NOW

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I have breaking news for President Obama and Senate Democrats:

House Republicans have passed more than 20 bills that would create much needed jobs, but the Democrat-controlled Senate won't even consider them.

The hardworking people of eastern and southeastern Ohio are ready to get back to work. In fact, they've been ready. So I'm serious about creating and protecting jobs now. That's why I was proud to introduce the Coal Miner Employment and Domestic Energy Infrastructure Protection Act, which would prevent the Obama administration from enacting more job-killing regulations.

This administration's war on America's coal industry will be devastating to eastern and southeastern Ohio. Up to 27,000 direct and indirect coal jobs are at risk from the administration's proposed rewrite of the stream buffer zone rule—and that's just one regulation.

This bill is part of the House Republican jobs plan that you can find at jobs.gop.gov. I urge the Senate to get to work and to pass these important bills now.

MR. DANIEL FOSTER AND LACK OF BENEFIT DISBURSEMENT FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

(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. I rise today to recognize Mr. Daniel Foster, the recipient of a Silver Star and a Purple Heart, and who is a veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan. However, he has waited more than 1 year to receive his benefits that he both deserves and has earned, because the Department of Veterans Affairs has lost his benefit application over and over and over, person by person.

As a result of this carelessness with Mr. Foster's files, he was unable to receive his VA benefit checks for the last year, and he was not able to pay the mortgage on his disabled father's home in Costa Mesa, California, where he resides with his father. Now the home is scheduled to be foreclosed on November 23, the day before Thanksgiving.

Mr. Foster does not reside in my district, but he came and asked for help. I am happy to say that Representative ROHRBACHER, Mr. Foster's Representative, has now opened a case on his behalf. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I work every day to ensure that our veterans receive the benefits they need and deserve. So I will continue to follow Mr. Foster's case and will encourage veterans in my district who are experiencing these types of difficulties to please contact us at our Garden Grove office.