

with a deal, they'll downgrade U.S. debt.

Could the threat to our national sovereignty be any clearer? It's time for Congress to listen to the wisdom of our Founders and reclaim its constitutional primacy over monetary policy. There is a way. It is called the NEED Act. The Fed takes our freedom and gives it to the banks. Let's take our freedom back from the Fed.

SENATE NEEDS TO ACT AFTER SUPERCOMMITTEE FAILURE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Monday, the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction announced that the bipartisan group had failed to reach an agreement. In an op-ed to *The Wall Street Journal*, Congressman JEB HENSARLING, cochair of the supercommittee, stated that the group "missed a historic opportunity to lift the burden of debt and help spur economic growth and job creation."

Last week, I attended a town hall meeting in Forest Acres, South Carolina, hosted by Mayor Frank Brunson, where we discussed ways to promote small businesses and encourage job growth within the private sector. The message from the constituents is very clear: Congress must reduce Washington's out-of-control spending before it's too late.

As Congress returns from the Thanksgiving Day recess, I encourage our colleagues in the Senate to begin focusing on job creation by considering any of the 20 jobs bills the House has passed with bipartisan support this year.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

FAILURE OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it was about a week ago that the Joint Select Committee announced that they were unable to reach an agreement in finding \$1.2 trillion in cuts before their deadline. Now, could they have done this without really breaking a sweat? And the answer is yes, they could have. The entire target for which they were reaching, the \$1.2 trillion to \$1.5 trillion, could have been cut with a single act: repealing the Affordable Care Act.

One point five trillion dollars in new spending that this country cannot afford is contained within the confines of the Affordable Care Act. Now, look, Washington needs to quit pointing fingers and get back to work if we expect to put America back on a path to prosperity. American families are making

cuts at home, and Washington should do the same thing. Families do not have the luxury of missing their deadlines, and neither should Washington.

Americans must reduce our deficit, and we need to put people back to work. The House has passed more than 25 bills that would affect employment. Twenty of these House-passed jobs bills are stalled in the Senate. You can find out more about them going to jobs.gop.gov. Let's get people back to work and focus on ways to reduce the deficit. That means creating more taxpayers, not more taxes.

BOLINGBROOK HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Illinois Bolingbrook High School football team on winning the Class 8A State Championship on November 25.

Coach John Ivlow led the team to a record-breaking season of 13 wins and 1 loss. This accomplishment by the Raiders marks the first State football championship for Bolingbrook High School. Despite the absence of their star linebacker, the Raiders overcame five turnovers and won the championship game by a score of 21-17 against the top-rated Loyola Academy.

Each player this season demonstrated a tremendous level of demonstration and hard work, including seniors Antonio Morrison and Robbie Bain. Other stars of the game included junior Aaron Bailey, who scored the game-winning touchdown, and senior Diaron Rhodes, who sealed the game with an interception.

Mr. Speaker, our community is very proud of these accomplished young athletes. Once again, I would like to congratulate the Bolingbrook High School Raiders on their win and wish them continued success in all of their future endeavors.

□ 1410

IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT WASHINGTON'S SPENDING AD- DICTION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the so-called supercommittee announced last week that it was unable to come up with a plan to reduce the deficit by \$1.2 trillion over the course of 10 years. That is a sad commentary on Washington, DC's addiction to overspending. After all, \$1.2 trillion is less than 1 year's worth of overspending at the going rate.

It's time to get serious. Just consider the mess in Europe. The eurozone's bailout fund is struggling to keep debt-ridden nations like Greece, Ireland, and Portugal afloat, while Italy also tee-

ters on the brink of insolvency. Europe's sovereign debt crisis is not an abstract economics lesson; it is the painful reckoning after years of the debt-financed government profligacy.

What should unnerve us is that some of these nations being battered by the consequences of high debt level have debt-to-GDP ratios that are close to our own. If Congress doesn't get serious about reducing spending and ending the Federal debt addiction, we're going to find ourselves in the same boat as our friends in the eurozone.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, this Thanksgiving many of us had the opportunity to spend time with our families and loved ones, so I think it's fitting that November is National Adoption Month. I also think it's appropriate to take time during this holiday season to recognize the tens of thousands of families nationwide who are foster families.

Unfortunately, in my home State of Illinois, a potentially tragic situation has unfolded. Faith-based adoption agencies across the State are being shut down because of their belief in traditional marriage. The Illinois Department of Child and Family Services has declined to renew contracts with several organizations. They have decimated these agencies, some of whose work was 70 percent foster care. It's an unfortunate situation, and I'm watching it closely.

But today I want to say publicly that, as we fight to curb teenage pregnancy and abortion, the right to adoption is one thing we really must defend.

OBAMACARE JOBS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, let's be perfectly clear: Our tax policy affects job growth.

When the Federal Government raises taxes, raises rates, or creates new taxes, businesses make decisions regarding their workforce. When the government takes more, businesses have to make due with less.

All told, last year's health care reform law will raise taxes by \$800 billion over the next 10 years. One of the new taxes is a 2.3 percent tax on medical devices.

Michigan-based manufacturer Stryker recently announced that they will reduce their work force by 5 percent so that they will be prepared to pay this new tax beginning in 2013. Stryker is just one of the first to announce reductions in the layoffs.

In the next year, medical device companies will be faced with difficult decisions about where they will cut in

order to pay this massive new tax bill. Many will have no choice but to reduce the workforce.

We don't need a health reform law that destroys jobs; we need one that encourages the creation of good jobs with good benefits. We must repeal the so-called Affordable Care Act.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 4 p.m.

□ 1605

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 4 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

FAIRNESS FOR HIGH-SKILLED IMMIGRANTS ACT OF 2011

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3012) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3012

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. NUMERICAL LIMITATION TO ANY SINGLE FOREIGN STATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking "AND EMPLOYMENT-BASED";

(2) by striking "(3), (4), and (5)," and inserting "(3) and (4)";

(3) by striking "subsections (a) and (b) of section 203" and inserting "section 203(a)";

(4) by striking "7" and inserting "15"; and

(5) by striking "such subsections" and inserting "such section".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 202 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking "both subsections (a) and (b) of section 203" and inserting "section 203(a)";

(2) by striking subsection (a)(5); and

(3) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

"(e) SPECIAL RULES FOR COUNTRIES AT CEILING.—If it is determined that the total number of immigrant visas made available under section 203(a) to natives of any single foreign state or dependent area will exceed the numerical limitation specified in subsection (a)(2) in any fiscal year, in determining the allotment of immigrant visa numbers to natives under section 203(a), visa numbers with respect to natives of that state or area shall be allocated (to the extent practicable and otherwise consistent with this section and section 203) in a manner so that, except as provided in subsection (a)(4), the proportion of the visa numbers made available under each of paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 203(a) is equal to the ratio of the total number of visas made available under the respective paragraph to the total number of visas made available under section 203(a)."

(c) COUNTRY-SPECIFIC OFFSET.—Section 2 of the Chinese Student Protection Act of 1992 (8 U.S.C. 1255 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "subsection (e)" and inserting "subsection (d)"; and

(2) by striking subsection (d) and redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if enacted on September 30, 2011, and shall apply to fiscal years beginning with fiscal year 2012.

(e) TRANSITION RULES FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the succeeding paragraphs of this subsection and notwithstanding title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151 et seq.), the following rules shall apply:

(A) For fiscal year 2012, 15 percent of the immigrant visas made available under each of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) shall be allotted to immigrants who are natives of a foreign state or dependent area that was not one of the two states with the largest aggregate numbers of natives obtaining immigrant visas during fiscal year 2010 under such paragraphs.

(B) For fiscal year 2013, 10 percent of the immigrant visas made available under each of such paragraphs shall be allotted to immigrants who are natives of a foreign state or dependent area that was not one of the two states with the largest aggregate numbers of natives obtaining immigrant visas during fiscal year 2011 under such paragraphs.

(C) For fiscal year 2014, 10 percent of the immigrant visas made available under each of such paragraphs shall be allotted to immigrants who are natives of a foreign state or dependent area that was not one of the two states with the largest aggregate numbers of natives obtaining immigrant visas during fiscal year 2012 under such paragraphs.

(2) PER-COUNTRY LEVELS.—

(A) RESERVED VISAS.—With respect to the visas reserved under each of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1), the number of such visas made available to natives of any single foreign state or dependent area in the appropriate fiscal year may not exceed 25 percent (in the case of a single foreign state) or 2 percent (in the case of a dependent area) of the total number of such visas.

(B) UNRESERVED VISAS.—With respect to the immigrant visas made available under each of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(b) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) and not reserved under paragraph (1), for each of fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014, not more than 85 percent shall be allotted to immigrants who are natives of any single foreign state.

(3) SPECIAL RULE TO PREVENT UNUSED VISAS.—If, with respect to fiscal year 2012, 2013, or 2014,

the operation of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection would prevent the total number of immigrant visas made available under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 203(b) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) from being issued, such visas may be issued during the remainder of such fiscal year without regard to paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection.

(4) RULES FOR CHARGEABILITY.—Section 202(b) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(b)) shall apply in determining the foreign state to which an alien is chargeable for purposes of this subsection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3012, as amended, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 3012, the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act. I would first like to thank Chairman SMITH for his work and diligence and commitment on this issue. We wouldn't be here today without his efforts and his commitment to this. I also want to thank Ranking Member CONYERS and Immigration Subcommittee Ranking Member ZOE LOFGREN. She cares deeply about this and has also been very instrumental in putting this bill together to make it something that we hope will pass today, and I thank her for her work on the Judiciary Committee.

The Immigration and Nationality Act generally provides that the total number of employment-based immigrant visas made available to natives of any single foreign country in a year cannot exceed 7 percent of the total number of such visas made available in that year.

The bill completely eliminates the per-country caps for employment-based visas and raises the per-country cap from 7 percent to 15 percent for family-based visas—all without adding even a single additional visa. In other words, there is no net increase in the total number of visas. What I want Members on both sides of the aisle to understand and recognize is that there is not a net increase in the total number of visas; but it does make important adjustments that will allow us to better service and fix legal immigration, which is one of the commitments that I have in working in this Congress.

While per-country limits make some limited sense in the area of family immigration, they make no sense in the context of employment-based immigration. American companies treat all highly skilled immigrants equally regardless of where they come from. Our