

sure that future World AIDS Days are all about celebration.

□ 1210

TURN OUT THE LIGHTS FOR THOMAS EDISON

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, in 1 month, every home in America must be lit with the special \$3, CFL government-approved lightbulb. The 75-cent incandescent lightbulb, Thomas Edison's greatest invention, is going to be banned by the Federal Government. The Federal Government's anti-consumer choice law leaves Americans no other option but to purchase and use a harmful mercury-filled product.

Also, this new ban is an American job killer. The government's new ban ended a manufacturing industry that went back to the days of Thomas Edison and instead shipped most of those jobs overseas, primarily to China. Isn't that lovely. Where does the Federal Government have the constitutional authority to force anybody to buy anything, from health care insurance to a box of doughnuts or even a lightbulb?

It's time for the bureaucrats to quit forcibly micromanaging America. Let Americans choose how to light their own homes. Otherwise, we will have to turn out the lights. The party is over—even for Thomas Edison's lightbulb.

And that's just the way it is.

TAXES

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, with the unemployment in the Inland Empire above 13 percent and home foreclosures at a record level, families in my congressional district are hurting. And now, if Congress does not act soon, these struggling families will face a \$1,000 tax increase. And why are our families facing this deadline? Because the Republicans refuse to ask those making more than a million dollars a year to contribute their fair share.

The Republican obsession with extending the Bush tax for the ultra rich has led to the failure of the supercommittee. We all know the Bush tax cuts were a horrible failure. They didn't produce jobs here in the United States. They didn't create any new jobs. They dug us into a \$15 trillion debt. And now the Republicans want to permanently extend this madness.

It can't just be my way or the high-way. Let's stop this gridlock. Let's pass a jobs bill. Let's work together on a balanced budget.

IN MEMORY OF FREDERIK MEIJER

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

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I rise today with a twinge of sadness in my heart as I pay tribute to Frederik Meijer, a friend to the entire west Michigan community and one of America's most entrepreneurial spirits, who passed away this week just shy of his 92nd birthday.

Fred was born in Greenville, Michigan, in 1919, and was known as the "father of the super store." His innovation and entrepreneurship will live on in his Meijer grocery stores, with over 200 stores in five different States. Mr. Meijer will be remembered in west Michigan for his philanthropy, his friendship, and care of the community he lived in and its residents. He and his wife, Lena, gave back and invested millions in west Michigan, and created what would become one of the State's top attractions, the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park.

Despite growing one of the most successful businesses in the country and revolutionizing the retail model, Mr. Meijer remained a typical west Michigan down-to-earth person who once remarked, "Money is only a tool" and "Money doesn't buy happiness." He truly knew what was important and kept that in the forefront: friends, family, a strong relationship with his neighbors and community. The thing he loved to do the most was to hand out "Purple Cow" cards—free ice cream cards to kids in his stores. That will be remembered by my family as well.

Again, I rise to pay tribute to him, his family, and the innovation and entrepreneurial legacy he leaves behind.

Mr. Meijer, you will be missed but you will not be forgotten.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SYSTEM

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, at a time when so many Rhode Islanders and so many Americans are out of work, we need to do everything we can to provide assistance to families while individuals continue to look for work. The Federal Emergency Unemployment Insurance system is a critical part of our safety net that supports families during difficult economic times.

Many constituents have contacted my office explaining the impact on their families of not extending unemployment benefits, like Estella Londono in the town of North Providence. Estella is a single mother who was laid off from work and now relies on unemployment benefits to support herself and her son. She's looking for work and is currently participating in a job training program to improve her skills and to enhance her ability to find a job. Without unemployment benefits, she would not be able to support her household and pay her bills.

If the Emergency Federal Unemployment Compensation program is not ex-

tended at the end of this year, it will be devastating to Estella and to thousands of Rhode Islanders who rely on this program. These Americans who have worked hard throughout their lives should not be sacrificed on the altar of partisan politics. Congress must stop playing Washington-style political games with the fate of these families and act now to provide security to unemployed workers and their families while they look for jobs.

INDIANA'S WAIVER REQUEST DENIAL

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. I rise today to express my extreme disappointment with the recent HHS decision to deny Indiana's sensible waiver request that would have allowed our State to ease into the new rule that requires insurers selling policies to individuals to dedicate 80 percent of premiums they collect to medical care. This decision was made on the basis that insurers doing business in Indiana were deemed "profitable enough." CMS claimed that no provider would be forced to leave because of the denial of such a waiver. However, it was the very specter of uncertainty surrounding the President's health care law that resulted in five providers leaving the Indiana market this summer. Invariably, the departure of providers from our State and the denial of this waiver will limit competition and push prices higher.

Let this serve as a warning to other States. Creative and consumer-driven solutions to meet our citizens' medical needs will be disproportionately harmed under the President's denial of these waivers.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUT ACT OF 2011

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, Nevada's middle-income families have borne the brunt of the economic catastrophe that has devastated our State. We need to create jobs and get our economy moving again. What we don't need is a middle class tax hike. But that's exactly what some of our colleagues in the United States Senate are proposing as they consider whether to extend and expand the payroll tax cut this week.

This should be a no-brainer. Opposition to the Middle Class Tax Cut Act of 2011 is a vote to raise taxes on middle-income families in Nevada and across the country. This would be devastating for a State like Nevada. The Middle Class Tax Cut Act would cut taxes for 1.2 million Nevadans and 50,000 small businesses across the State. What does that mean? It means the average Nevadan keeps \$1,600 in their pocket. It

means that a \$1,000 tax hike on Nevada families is prevented. And it means that Nevada small businesses have more money to create jobs. But instead of wholesale support for this common-sense measure, we're getting excuses and roadblocks.

It's time for action. Let's pass this bill.

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

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

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, as the President has designated this month as National Family Caregivers Month, I rise to give honor and to recognize the tens of millions of Americans and the million New Jerseyans who provide loving care for family members and friends living with disabilities and illnesses.

Caregiving is not easy. The caregivers themselves face physical and mental health complications. Some are working with almost unbelievable endurance. Some of these caregivers are part of the "sandwich" generation, providing care for their children as well as their parents. There are economic costs as well. U.S. employers estimate the cost to be about \$34 billion a year in lost productivity.

I look forward to working with my colleagues here in Congress to provide caregivers with the help they need—respite care, a reauthorized Older Americans Act, tax credits. Just because the CLASS Act will not be implemented does not mean the need to provide care will go away. We have work to do.

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PAYROLL TAX CUT

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge you to bring legislation today to extend and expand the payroll tax cut to the floor today.

If Congress fails to extend the payroll tax cut, the average American family will pay \$1,000 more in taxes next year. Countless families in my district are still struggling to stay afloat; they can't afford to lose \$1,000 in income next year.

Extending and expanding the payroll tax cut is not just the right thing to do for families on the central coast of California; it's the right thing to do for our economy.

Leading nonpartisan economists estimate that letting the payroll tax expire could cost the economy 400,000 jobs by the end of next year. Such tremendous job loss would be devastating to our struggling economy and to American families.

Extending the payroll tax cut should have bipartisan support. With all the

anti-tax pledges taken by our colleagues across the aisle, you'd think this would be a no-brainer. More than half of the Republican Conference already voted for the payroll tax cut last December.

Madam Speaker, let's extend the payroll tax cut now. It's a win for the middle class, it's a win for small businesses, and it's a win for our economy.

VOTER SUPPRESSION

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

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, the attempt to intimidate, discourage, or otherwise prevent certain people from voting has a long and notorious history. Unfortunately, voter suppression isn't just a part of our past; it's a current event.

Southern States used tactics such as literacy tests and poll taxes to deny African Americans, Native Americans, and poor immigrants their right to vote. While civil rights achievements in the 1960s did away with these tactics, the strategy continues. The old ways have been replaced with voter ID laws, outrageous registration requirements, dishonest inactive voter lists, unfair purging of voter rolls, disinformation campaigns, and unlawful disenfranchisement of ex-offenders.

Madam Speaker, when anyone's right to vote is threatened, we're all threatened. We need to stop these blatant attempts to deny American citizens the right to vote.

WORKING ON BEHALF OF AMERICA

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

Mr. RANGEL. At a time that government is held in such low esteem, it's time that we all really say to each other that we all love America and we respect America. And all over the world people are just trying to get here.

Recently, we talked about In God We Trust, and the question is whether God is going to continue to trust us. Because the fact is that one of the things that makes our country different is that people don't come here to become rich. They come here to be respected. And that is what we have learned, no matter whether it's Jew or gentile or Mormon, every religion emphasizes the fact that we have a moral obligation to take care of those people that are vulnerable, whether it's our kids, our old folks, or sick people.

We don't talk that way in the House. We talk about Medicare, education, Medicaid and Social Security. But all of those things, including the opportunity to have a job, make America what it's supposed to be. It's the hope for the future that our kids will have a better opportunity than we did.

Let's say God bless America, and let's work and make certain that we do all that we can do.

LET'S NOT FORGET

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, let's not forget. We talk about the Great Depression and how close we've come to it. Let's recognize and realize what we as a country did then. We passed the Social Security Act of 1935. And let's also not forget that part of that is the protection of not only our seniors, but also of those who are unemployed through no fault of their own. That is what we're looking at. Madam Speaker, we must recognize that it is time to extend the unemployment insurance, or we're going to cost our economy \$30 billion, and we're going to also affect 1 million people.

Madam Speaker, let's also recognize what makes us a great country. It is not our military might. What makes us a great country is compassion; it is the fact that we have defined ourselves by how we treat our people. Let's never forget that.

It is time to be compassionate, Madam Speaker. It is time for us to extend the unemployment insurance.

EXTEND PAYROLL TAX CUT

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, about 1 year ago, Republicans were insisting that before we do anything to help unemployed Americans, we had to guarantee that tax rates for the richest of the rich were made at the lowest level in 50 years. Before doing anything to help those who were struggling, they demanded we give more to those who are hurting the least. But that was just the beginning. Now, they are resisting a tax cut that would give American families an average of \$1,000 per year. These are the same families that have seen their incomes drop by \$6,000 in just the last 2 years.

Republicans are putting more and more money into the pockets of millionaires and taking it out of the pockets of American families. They've gone from simply not helping working Americans, to actively making it harder for them to get by. These are not the priorities of the American people.

I urge my colleagues to support the extension of the payroll tax cut and stand up for this commonsense policy that will help millions of American families.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND PAYROLL TAX CUTS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my Republican colleagues to move fast and join forces to extend the unemployment insurance and payroll tax cuts.