

qualities of sportsmanship, hard work, and leadership in young athletes. It's the only national youth sports organization to require academic proficiency, and it annually awards more than \$110,000 in scholarships. It's also a leader in making youth sports safe, including its work on concussion-related injuries and a medical advisory board to remain proactive on player health and safety.

This Saturday, December 3, Pop Warner will kick off its Super Bowl and National Cheer and Dance Championship at ESPN's Wide World of Sports complex in Orlando. This week-long competition will feature participation from more than 12,000 athletes and will be broadcasted on ESPN3.

I want to extend our congratulations, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, to this excellent, well-recognized, and well-organized program for young people here in America on behalf of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports.

STOP EXCESSIVE REGULATION 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. Mr. Speaker, one thing is certain: Excessive government regulations are hurting America's economy and strangling job creation.

Just this year, new regulations cost our economy almost \$100 billion, and this is just the cost of new regulations this year. The Small Business Administration estimates that regulations cost our economy approximately \$1.75 trillion annually. This is unacceptable.

With over 14 million Americans out of work, we can't afford these excessive government regulations. But instead of creating jobs, President Obama would rather create more regulations that kill jobs and burden small businesses.

Now, House Republicans have done the exact opposite. As part of the House Republican Plan for America's Job Creators, we're fighting to reduce the regulatory burdens to empower small businesses to create jobs. We've passed over 20 bills that will create much needed jobs right now.

President Obama and Senate Democrats need to work for job creation, not against it, because the people of eastern and southeastern Ohio and all Americans deserve better.

DELAYED PILOT FATIGUE RULE

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

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, despite what you might hear in this body, I believe that there are some regulations that we all can support.

The National Traffic Safety Board concluded that pilot fatigue contributed to the crash of Continental Air-

lines Flight 3407, which crashed into a house in my district, killing 50 innocent victims nearly 3 years ago. The legislation passed by this body in response to this crash mandated new pilot fatigue guidelines to be implemented by August 1 of this year. That date came and went. Then we were told November 22. Then we were told November 30. Those days have come and gone.

The families of these victims have worked tirelessly for a resolution to make sure a tragedy like this never happens again. The millions of Americans who fly our skies every year are counting on us for regulations to ensure their safety. Let's not let them down.

TEXAS VALLEY COASTAL BEND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM GOLD SEAL

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. In November, the VA outpatient clinic in Harlingen, Texas, earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval. This award recognizes facilities that comply with the Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety in ambulatory care, behavioral health care, and home care.

There is no way we can adequately express our thanks to those who serve this country, but we must welcome them home and make sure they have access to the benefits and services that they have earned.

Our servicemen and -women deserve quality health care. The Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System has earned this distinction because they demonstrate a commitment to meeting the health care needs of all south Texas veterans.

My staff and I are passionate about helping veterans. South Texas is one of the most military and veteran-friendly places in the country, and I will work hard to ensure that the servicemembers and families receive the support that they deserve.

While south Texas is served by great outpatient facilities, we are in desperate need of a full-service VA hospital. I'm the cosponsor of two bills, H.R. 1318 and H.R. 837, that direct the VA to bring full-service, inpatient care facilities to south Texas.

POSTDEPLOYMENT COGNITIVE TESTING

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, one of my top priorities is to help our servicemembers with brain injuries. With posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury recognized as the signature injuries of the conflicts and wars in Iraq and Afghani-

stan, you would think the Defense Department would have a good system to catch the injuries. They do not.

Despite our vote, a bipartisan vote in 2008 to have pre- and postdeployment screenings, postdeployment screenings have not been required. Five hundred thousand soldiers with a predeployment cognitive test were given that test before they went to the battle. Coming out, only 3,000 tests were done postdeployment to actually compare results. We have nothing to compare. This is a disgrace and a disservice to our troops.

Both sides have agreed that we want something done. It has not been done in violation of the law. The Pascrell-Platts-Andrews-Cole-Ortiz-Wilson-Coffman amendment passed in the House Defense authorization bill to address this, but it was not included in the final bill. That's what we're trying to do this year.

□ 1220

PASS THESE JOBS BILLS

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, my constituents are rightfully fed up. President Obama has managed to create an economy where the only things that are growing are power in Washington, debt for our children and grandchildren, a lack of confidence for job creators, and the number of unemployed Americans.

When it comes to creating an environment to help the private sector create jobs, the difference between House Republicans and Senate Democrats is the difference between action and inaction.

This year, under the House Republicans' Plan for America's Job Creators, we have passed more than 25 pro-growth job bills. These bipartisan bills are aimed at restoring the freedom and confidence of job creators by breaking down the barriers preventing them from growing and creating badly needed jobs. Yet 21 of these bipartisan House-passed job bills are stuck in the Senate because Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID continues to put politics before jobs.

It's time for the Senate Democrat leadership to join our fight for America and put them back to work. Pass these jobs bills.

PASS THE EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I have heard from many struggling families in Massachusetts who simply don't know how they will make ends meet if Congress does not pass an extension of unemployment benefits before January 1.

From Lowell: I am a 58-year-old man that has been unemployed for 2 years

and 4 months. Finding a job these days is just about impossible. I am writing to you to beg you to please sign on to the unemployment extension bill.

From Westford: I have been unemployed since January of 2010. I look for a job every waking hour. Cutting unemployment to millions of needy families at this time makes no sense.

From Haverhill: If my unemployment ends, I will be unable to make my mortgage payments. Then my home will go into foreclosure and my neighbors' home values will be depreciated. This is truly a ripple effect. Please don't be penny wise and pound foolish.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work to pass this desperately needed extension.

HELP OUR ECONOMY GROW

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, the American people are calling on government to help the economy grow, but apparently Washington still hasn't gotten the message. The onslaught of new government burdens on the economy have become unbearable; yet Federal regulators pile on more and more. So far this week alone, the Federal Register has over 1,799 pages of new rules and regulations facing our Nation's small business owners.

Mr. Speaker, complex and burdensome regulations drive up the cost of doing business and, therefore, drive up unemployment. A great example is the EPA's new Cross State Air Pollution Rule. This rule, to be imposed by January 1, will not only cause rolling brownouts in places like Kansas, but will dramatically drive up the cost of energy production, increasing the costs of doing business and, therefore, putting more people out of work.

Mr. Speaker, if both parties are serious about job creation in this country, then we must put a stop to the constant attacks on those who create jobs.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. MILTON GORDON

(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, today I rise to honor the president of California State University at Fullerton, Dr. Milton Gordon, and to recognize his upcoming retirement.

For over two decades, Dr. Gordon's outstanding commitment to higher education has let California State University at Fullerton become one of the largest and one of the most inclusive institutions in our Nation. Because of Dr. Gordon's vision and commitment for greater cultural diversity in higher education, the university currently ranks ninth in the Nation in bachelor's

degrees awarded to minority students. And additionally, it ranks number one in California among colleges and universities awarding bachelor's degrees to Hispanics.

Dr. Gordon's caring, articulate, and collegial nature created a sense of pride among the faculty, the staff and students advocating for excellence in all aspects of university life.

It has been an honor for me to work with Dr. Gordon. He has been a mentor; he has been a shining light in Orange County. And I congratulate him on all his awards and distinctions, and I look forward to his next career. We hope to reel him in to continue to work on our community. Thank you, Dr. Gordon.

THE SILENT EPIDEMIC OF FOOD INSECURITY AND HUNGER

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring attention to a silent epidemic growing in our midst. Right alongside long-term unemployment, the increases in poverty and food prices, homelessness and the steep decline in household incomes is now the shocking rate of food insecurity and hunger.

According to the USDA, there are 46 million Americans surviving on food stamps. While Congress considers reductions to food stamp funding, the USDA predicts that the number of people requiring food assistance will substantially increase.

Last week, in my district in North Carolina, which ranks second in the country for food insecurity, I greeted thousands of people lined up outside of the Wilson OIC and the food bank of the Albemarle food distribution centers to collect bags of food for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Mr. Speaker, to help remedy the challenges to food security, I introduced H.R. 3437, the Eva Clayton Fellows Program Act. This legislation would enable the development of solutions to world hunger and confront food insecurity head on.

Food insecurity is not a partisan issue. I urge my colleagues to join me in this fight.

IN HONOR OF NANCY COOK'S SERVICE TO DELAWARE

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable woman and to honor her decades of service to the State of Delaware. Former State Senator Nancy Cook has been a leader in strengthening Delaware agriculture and our economy for the past 40 years.

Senator Cook has been an irreplaceable leader since becoming Delaware's first female Democratic senator in 1974. For 36 years, Senator Cook served with

distinction on the Senate Agriculture Committee, where she accomplished so much for Delaware farmers. Recently, a legislator remarked that agriculture had no better friend in the Delaware Senate than this lady, and I couldn't agree more.

In 1991 Senator Cook helped create the Aglands Preservation Program, which has preserved over 20 percent of Delaware's farm land. In 1999 she helped establish Delaware's landmark Nutrient Management Program. The program is now a role model for the entire region in the effort to manage animal waste responsibly and protect precious bays and waterways.

I would like to thank the Delaware Farm Bureau for its decision to honor Senator Cook with the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award, and to join the bureau in celebrating an incredible leader for Delaware.

Congratulations to my good friend, Senator Cook.

STOP STALLING ON THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, opponents of financial regulatory reform in the Senate continue to prevent the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau from fulfilling its legislative mandate.

The CFPB has been open since July 21, but it's taken 3 months for the Senate Banking Committee to advance President Obama's nominee for the director of the bureau, Richard Cordray, to the full Senate. Now, continuing their strategy of partisan obstructionism, 44 Republican Senators have pledged to oppose any Presidential appointee for the CFPB, until the bureau's mandate is weakened.

Such naked obstructionism is a disservice to American consumers and the American economy, which is in bad need of certainty after a year of artificial crises fomented by the Tea Party-dominated Republican Party.

The American people are sick of a dysfunctional Congress. We need the CFPB at full strength to move our economy forward, protect borrowers and consumers, and promote the interests of Main Street over Wall Street.

I call on the Senate to confirm Richard Cordray as director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau now.

□ 1230

REPUBLICAN'S FEAR OF DR. BERWICK

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow's a sad day. Don Berwick, Dr.