

haven't assumed that this Congress is as dysfunctional as it potentially is if we fail to renew this tax increase. We shouldn't let our dysfunction in this body harm the middle class and the American people.

I call upon my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support renewing the payroll tax extension to make sure that middle class families are not slapped with a \$1,000-plus tax increase next year.

SIXTEEN DAYS AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Sehar, a Pakistani woman in an arranged marriage, was constantly raped and abused by her husband. He accused her of becoming a doctor only to attract men. He blamed her for the miscarriage that she had, and he constantly beat her. He was angry when she gave birth to two girls rather than to two boys, and he was an abuser of the girls and his wife.

Sehar and her daughters were able to escape to the United States to find safety. She will not go back to Pakistan because her former husband's family says they will kill her.

Violence against women, unfortunately, is too common of a plight for women throughout the world. My grandmother used to tell me that you never hurt somebody you claim you love. As the leader of the free world, it is critical that the United States promote this simple truth throughout this country and other countries:

Every person has the right to a life free of violence.

I want to thank the gentlelady from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for bringing this to the attention of the Members of Congress as we reflect on this fact during these 16 days against gender violence.

And that's just the way it is.

THE DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT, AN AFFRONT TO AMERICA'S VALUES

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, in 1996 Congress passed the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA. It was then, as it still is today, an affront to our country's values—the values we hold true as established in the Declaration of Independence, those of life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and of equality and fairness for all.

On October 7 of this year, I held a field forum in Chicago, along with my colleague JAN SCHAKOWSKY, to hear from legal experts and gay and lesbian couples about the real-world harm caused by DOMA. The findings were startling. I ask that the clerk enter all of their testimony into the RECORD to

formally document this collection of unfairness and inequity, burdens that are imposed on normal Americans who are just trying to live normal lives.

It is incomprehensible that today we are still dealing with such injustice. Congress created this injustice, and Congress should correct it. Let the RECORD reflect these sentiments.

LET'S REIN IN THE REGULATORS

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, \$1.75 trillion annually—America's job creators are buried under the regulatory burden of about \$1.75 trillion annually.

The cost of the regulatory burden from new regulations just this year is \$67.4 billion, which is larger than the entire State budget of Illinois, my home State. Studies and polls have shown us time and again that the regulations are a hidden form of taxation; and just as our Tax Code is in need of reform, so is our regulatory system.

That's why I'm proud to support the REINS Act. This commonsense bill will require that Congress approve every new major regulation proposed by the executive branch in order to ensure that Congress, not unelected bureaucrats, retain control and accountability for the impact of government on the American people.

Unless Congress acts decisively, this unchecked regulatory state will only grow bigger and make things more complicated. Let's pass the REINS Act, and let's give our job creators the certainty they need to grow, expand, and put Americans back to work.

□ 1210

TAXES

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, this year will be a very difficult holiday season for millions of Americans looking for jobs. Sadly, these families are not getting the help they deserve from the Republicans here in Congress.

We have now reached 337 days of Republican control here in the House, and we still do not have a jobs plan from the Republicans.

Benefits for over 6 million unemployed Americans are about to expire. And now, to make matters worse, Republicans are creating uncertainty for the 160 million middle class families by stalling and extending the payroll tax cut.

Why are these Americans forced to wait? Because Republicans refuse to ask those making more than a million dollars to pay their fair share. Millionaires are not paying their fair share.

We must act now on those lifelines of the middle class and allow the Bush tax cuts for the ultrarich to expire. No

new taxes, no jobs. No new taxes, no new jobs. We must pass a responsible tax plan that extends the unemployment benefits and gets the economy moving again.

IMPLICATIONS OF GOVERNMENT'S ADDING ADDITIONAL RED TAPE AND ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

(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, as a small business owner, I understand firsthand the implications of the government adding additional red tape and additional regulations. One clear example of this is the Dodd-Frank bill.

The Dodd-Frank bill was supposed to impose clear rules and regulations on the financial industry so that another economic disaster could be averted. However, this single piece of legislation has imposed more uncertainty into the marketplace. The bill imposes literally hundreds of new rules and regulations, most of which haven't even been written yet. As a result, businesses are not growing and they're not creating jobs, and this is in large part because they don't understand what tomorrow will bring.

I did have an opportunity to talk to a smaller bank back in my district that said, We're not growing, with the exception of adding people into our compliance department to cross the T's and dot the I's, but not a single person was hired in order to try to get additional liquidity into the marketplace and help small businesses.

Rather than pile on rule after rule, we should implement smart regulations that truly protect consumers. The last thing we want is another financial disaster, so we should examine the implications of the rules and regulations and ensure that the right regulations are in place and get America back to work.

THE NEED TO PASS PAYROLL TAX CUT

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

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, the majority has held 891 votes in this Chamber, and we still see no plan for job creation.

To make matters worse, my colleagues across the aisle have now focused their efforts on opposing a tax break for the middle class. They are opposing the extension of the Federal tax holiday enacted earlier this year that gave virtually all working Americans a much needed tax cut, reducing taxes for over 160 million American workers.

Economic uncertainty both here in the U.S. and abroad makes this a dangerous time to eliminate an important tax cut that is saving American families an average of \$1,000 a year. Failing

to extend the payroll tax holiday will raise taxes on millions of Americans, taking over \$120 billion out of the pockets of consumers and out of the economy.

Furthermore, at the same time the majority is working to raise taxes on the middle class, they are willing to cut off the unemployment insurance that has been keeping millions of Americans afloat.

Madam Speaker, let's ensure that millions of Americans enjoy this holiday season and are not forced to worry about raising taxes or losing essential assistance.

UNEMPLOYMENT HAS NOT BEEN THIS PERSISTENT SINCE 1948

(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. Madam Speaker, last Friday the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics announced November's unemployment rate remained above 8 percent. Over 13 million American families are now without jobs. Nearly 25 million people are looking for full-time employment. The number of unemployed Americans has not consistently remained at such a high percentage since 1948.

For the past 34 months, the American people have been depending upon Congress and the President to cut Washington's wasteful spending and enact policies targeting job creation and economic growth.

Since the Republicans regained the majority of the House in January, legislation has passed that allows small businesses to grow and create jobs. It is past time for the President and liberal-controlled Senate to change course to put our hardworking American families back to work.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism, as on December the 7th we honor the heroes of World War II.

BEYOND THE BORDER AGREEMENT

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, today the United States and Canadian Governments will announce a Beyond the Border agreement to ease border trade and travel in this era of heightened security.

I support this goal because in western New York our future depends on integrating our economy with the booming economy of southern Ontario by expanding the Bridge Peace that connects our two communities. The Peace Bridge is the busiest passenger crossing at the northern border. Passengers using the bridge spend \$133 million in western New York annually in support of our retailers, sports franchises, air-

ports, educational and cultural institutions.

In western New York, Peace Bridge trade impacts \$9.1 billion in business sales, supporting 60,000 local jobs and generating \$2.6 billion in household income and \$233 million in local tax revenue. All of this economic activity depends on a Peace Bridge that is free of congestion, one that is safe, reliable, and predictable.

I applaud the efforts of this agreement and call on a renewed Federal focus on the northern border, generally, and the Peace Bridge, specifically.

MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT SYSTEM

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, for decades the fundamentally flawed Medicare physician payment system has created uncertainty and instability, not only in the health care system but in the larger economy.

Every year physicians face the threat of reimbursement cuts which, in turn, hinders their ability to provide the necessary care that patients need. The Sustainable Growth Rate rate formula has constantly called for negative updates to physician payments with the scheduled reductions accumulating year after year, but Congress has continually delayed the cuts.

Congress has a historic opportunity to implement sound fiscal policy in the Medicare program in the context of broad economic reforms. I believe we must pursue a fair, efficient, and affordable long-term solution to the Medicare SGR formula. I am committed to working with my colleagues to pass commonsense legislation that promotes efficiency, quality, and value and ensures access to medical services for Medicare beneficiaries.

MEDICARE TOWN HALL/DOUGHNUT HOLE CLOSURE

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

Ms. HOCHUL. Madam Speaker, yesterday I spoke with over 8,000 of my constituents during a telephone town hall to talk about the end of the open enrollment period for Medicare, which occurs at midnight tonight.

We also talked about the savings they are now receiving as a result of the closing of the legendary prescription drug doughnut hole. More than 2.5 million Medicare recipients across the Nation have saved \$1.5 billion on their prescription drugs this year alone. In New York, we had 175,000 Medicare recipients, and they received a 50 percent discount on prescription drugs, totaling over \$113 million in savings, an average of \$650 per family.

Yesterday's call was a reminder, when I was talking about Bill from

Williamsville and Joan from Livingston County, that we have to work hard to protect this absolutely critical program that ensures medical care for our seniors and allows them to live their later years in dignity.

As my seniors told me: Medicare is not an entitlement; it is a program we spent our entire lives paying into. And I, for one, plan to protect it.

□ 1220

CONGRATULATING ED SNIDER

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ed Snider, the owner of the Philadelphia Flyers hockey club, on being inducted into the United States Hockey Hall of Fame. This is a special occasion, not only for the city of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley as a whole, but particularly for those who love the game of hockey, myself included.

Ed's tremendous success with the Flyers franchise—winning two Stanley Cups and reaching the finals six times—contributed to making Philadelphia a Class A hockey town. However, the key is that he has really given back to communities.

Through his organization, the Ed Snider Youth Hockey Foundation, he teaches high-risk inner city boys and girls from Philadelphia the game of hockey. But it prepares them with life skills for success in school and life as well. Hard work, honest effort, teamwork, dedication, and a solid work ethic are instilled in these children as life lessons and values as part of participation in this program. It is through these lessons that his organization helps our children become good and productive citizens. His philanthropic cause is significant to our region and to these young children in our area.

Congratulations to Ed Snider on this recognition.

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join thousands of activists participating in the 16 Days Campaign by speaking out against violence against women.

Violence against women is a violation of fundamental human rights. It is a global problem of epidemic proportions. One in three women worldwide is beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused over the course of her lifetime.

That is why I am proud to be working with Congressman TED POE to reintroduce the International Violence Against Women Act. The important bill would require a comprehensive strategy to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls internationally.