

our economy is based on consumer confidence and spending.

The same Congress that took us to the edge of a government shutdown and defaulting on our debt is again choosing brinksmanship over leadership, regardless of the impact on our economy and the middle class.

I urge the House to reject this bill and pass a clean extension of the payroll tax cut that we know will pass the Senate and become law immediately.

STAND WITH ISRAEL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the U.N. agency UNESCO sent a message to Israel loud and clear that the U.N. accepts the creation of a Palestinian state whether Israel likes it or not. UNESCO intervened in the peace process and formally recognized the Palestinian state by raising the flag in front of the whole world. No surprise there, just another day in the U.N.'s position of bigotry against all things Israel. Yet another reason to cut U.N. funding.

Israel is America's loyal ally and the lone free and democratic country in the Middle East. Its people are constantly under attack from the jihadists who wish to remove them from the Earth all in the name of religion. The same radicals who wish to kill innocent Israelis are also sworn enemies of America. Intimidation, terror, and murder are not acceptable and must be rejected by the entire international community, especially the U.N. The United States must make it clear that we stand with Israel in their fight against hate and extremism, whether the U.N. likes it or not.

And that's just the way it is.

HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I held a forum for small businesses and teamed them up with experts from the U.S. Government on how to discuss strategies in getting them into the global marketplace. It's also a reminder to me of the vast, untapped potential that lies before us as we address the critical needs for more jobs in this country.

With nearly 96 percent of the world's consumers living outside the U.S. and two-thirds of the world's purchasing power in foreign countries, we must help our small businesses learn how to export their products and services to other nations.

Small businesses I met on Saturday, like the Kean Wind Turbines and Maram's Dress Shop in Williamsville, are looking for a shot at this marketplace; but they need our help. After all, small businesses that export their goods and services are one-third less

likely to fail than companies that do not export. Therefore, I'm urging every Member of Congress to work with their local businesses to help expose them to the amazing opportunities that await them if they are willing to leap into the global marketplace. I put our products and our businesses up against any global competitor anytime, anywhere.

□ 1210

HONORING CALHOUN YELLOW JACKETS

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the undefeated Calhoun High School football team, the Yellow Jackets, who in my district won their first-ever Georgia High School Association Class AA State championship with a 27-24 win against the Buford High School Wolves last Friday, and give a special shout-out to Superintendent Dr. Michele Taylor and Principal Greg Green.

For the past 4 years, Calhoun has played Buford in the State championship, and this year, in truly nail-biting fashion, Calhoun prevailed in overtime on a 32-yard field goal by Adam Griffith.

Mr. Speaker, Buford is one of the best teams in the country, led by my friends Coach Jess Simpson and Athletic Director Dexter Wood. And it would have set a record had it won its fifth straight State championship, but Calhoun was finally able to stop them.

My congratulations to head Coach Hal Lamb and his staff, the outstanding young athletes and their families, and the whole high school community on this great victory. You've made us all proud. Go Yellow Jackets.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will consider the Iran Threat Reduction Act to bolster sanctions on the Iranian regime. It is time.

As the International Atomic Energy Agency recently reported, Iran could have a bomb within a year and is pursuing the means to trigger and deliver a nuclear weapon. We are out of time and have no choice but to enact the severest of sanctions in order to protect our ally Israel, our troops, and the entire region. And as the Israeli Prime Minister warned, there is nothing to stop Iran from exporting the bomb.

This bill will put in place debilitating sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran, which finances the nuclear program. The sanctions would deny those who do business with Iran Central Bank access to American markets. We are out of time, and we are running out of options. This bill gives us more of both.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 1905, cut off the Central Bank of Iran, and send a message that a nuclear Iran is unacceptable.

BLOCK THE IMF FROM BAILING OUT EUROPE

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, America is drowning in a sea of debt. But instead of addressing our own financial problems here at home, there is talk of another bailout—not for America, but for Europe.

Recent reports indicate that the International Monetary Fund, of which the U.S. is the leading contributor, may intervene to bail out failing European countries.

Washington needs to be focusing on policies that grow the U.S. economy and create jobs here, not shipping hard-earned tax dollars overseas. For this reason, I have cosponsored legislation to block the IMF from sending \$108 billion in U.S. funds for a European bailout. I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me in this effort. Taxpayer dollars should not be used to bail out Europe. We need to take care of America first.

LET'S VOTE ON A CLEAN UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS BILL

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, we're running out of time. Just in California, where I come from, 356,000 Californians are at risk of losing critical unemployment benefits because this Congress has failed to act. These aren't just 356,000 strangers; these are our friends, these are our neighbors, these are our families. These are proud Americans who through no fault of their own have lost their jobs. They want to work, but because this Congress has failed to act, jobs are hard to find. And instead of just voting on extending these unemployment benefits, my Republican friends have asked us to approve other unrelated controversial items in this bill.

What I'm saying to my Republican friends is, can't we just vote on the unemployment benefits by themselves? Can't we debate the oil pipeline later? Do we have to gut clean air laws to extend benefits? Let's vote on this on its own and give Americans some hope.

NATIONAL GUARD'S 375TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to wish a very happy birthday to our National Guard. As the only active

noncommissioned officer in Congress, this anniversary is a landmark that I am personally very proud of.

Three hundred seventy-five years ago today, on December 13, 1636, the Massachusetts General Court in Salem declared that all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60 were required to join the militia. These men were called upon when needed, and we proudly continue this tradition of citizen service.

Today our National Guard soldiers are called upon to serve both here in our communities and around the world in support of our current overseas operations. Our Nation's citizen soldiers dedicate themselves to the defense of our Nation both here and abroad. I personally would like to thank all of my fellow Guardsmen for the job they are doing, and thank you to all of our men and women in uniform, and especially their families.

Thank you, happy birthday, and God bless.

LIHEAP

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

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, the weather is cold in the Northeast. This year is no exception. In October, we had a huge snowstorm, an emergency declaration. Residents of the northern States—Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont—are over 80 percent dependent on heating oil. And we've depended—in the case of New Hampshire, 47,200 people—on the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. It is imperative that this program be adequately funded this year.

Mr. Speaker, the President, in his budget submission this year, proposed to cut LIHEAP funding by 50 percent. I urge our appropriators to do better than that this year because there are a lot of people in the Northeast that need this funding this year.

I urge support for adequate funding for low income energy assistance.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Human Rights Day.

This past Saturday, I was honored to speak in commemoration of Human Rights Day, a day chosen to honor the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The declaration was the world's first bill of rights.

When many from all corners of the globe were fighting for basic freedoms—freedom of speech, freedom of religion, people from fear and repression—the declaration assured them that they were fighting the good fight and they were on the right side of history.

Today I stand to recognize the men and women who are still fighting for these freedoms, including the seven democracy and land rights activists and 15 youth activists who have been illegally detained by the Vietnamese Government.

All individuals deserve the right to peacefully express their concerns. I call on my colleagues to stand side by side with these brave individuals and raise their voice in demanding that the Government of Vietnam release all prisoners of conscience and uphold their commitment to human rights for all.

□ 1220

CREATING 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, today the House will vote to extend critical provisions to help those seeking jobs, and we will do so without hurting job creators or adding to our national debt. Today's Tax Relief and Job Creation Act also extends the payroll tax holiday, preventing a tax increase on millions of Americans. I'm also very glad to see that we extend the doc fix for 2 years, preventing cuts that could lead many doctors to stop seeing Medicare patients. The bill also shows that the government doesn't have to spend money to create jobs; much of the time it just has to get out of the way.

The State Department has already declared that the planned route of the Keystone pipeline is the safest option, that the contractor is taking every safety precaution. We can see more than 120,000 jobs directly and indirectly created without a dime of taxpayer money.

Our bill proves that you don't need to raise taxes on some Americans to create jobs and provide essential benefits. We don't need to hurt job creators or add to future burdens in order to do the right thing.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY AND PROVIDING TAX RELIEF FOR MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, like so many of my colleagues, I think we should prevent 160 million taxpayers from getting a lump of coal and a tax hike this year, but we should not undermine Social Security.

Last year, it was a mistake to take the 2 percent tax cut from Social Security and say we'll cover the losses from general funds. We should not allow a 1-year mistake to become a permanent attack on Social Security and on the livelihood of its beneficiaries.

Social Security should not be used as a rainy day fund or a political bar-

gaining chip. It should not be like another government agency that some years has a good budget and some years has the budget voted away.

President Roosevelt described it best. He said, "We put these payroll contributions there so as to give the contributors a legal, moral, and political right to collect their pensions. With those taxes in there, no damn politician can ever scrap my Social Security program."

Now, here's a way to handle the problem and to keep the mechanism of Social Security intact: Make the changes within the existing system. Let's cut the payroll tax for 160 million Americans but make up the lost revenue by temporarily eliminating the cap on wages taxed.

As much as we need economic stimulus now, we need Social Security for generations to come.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHAFFETZ). The Chair will remind Members to heed the gavel.

THE JOBS BILL

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, Americans have made their lists for the holidays. Drum roll, please.

Number 10, pass the doc fix for doctors who treat Medicare patients;

Number 9, continue the payroll tax holiday for American workers;

Number 8, approve the Keystone pipeline in the name of creating jobs;

Number 7, extend and reform employment benefits;

Number 6, repayment of subsidies and reduce all fraud, waste, and abuse;

Number 5, prevent the EPA from destroying jobs by onerous boiler MACT regulation;

Number 4, allow businesses to expense their costly purchases;

Number 3, include spectrum auctions for more broadband services;

Number 2, do all of this without adding to the deficit; and

Number 1, please create American jobs.

To my colleagues, don't be a grinch. Please help grant America's holiday wishes.

And to the President, make this your list, check it twice. America wants and needs jobs for the holidays.

HUNGER IN AMERICA

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we're the richest, most prosperous nation in the world, but 49 million Americans went hungry in 2009; 16 million were children. These numbers would be higher if it weren't for programs like