

SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, and WIC.

We have a hunger crisis in America, and we are not doing enough to prevent this terrible scourge.

During this holiday season, the House and Senate Hunger Caucuses are sponsoring the Hour for Hunger event. Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON and I are encouraging every Member of this House to volunteer 1 hour to highlight efforts in their districts to fight hunger. Visit a food bank or a food pantry, host a food drive. It's not hard, but it's important and effective.

Finally, I want to urge the White House to host a Conference on Food and Nutrition so we can develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated national strategy to end hunger in America once and for all.

Hunger is a political condition. All we need now is the political will to end it.

APPROVE THE KEYSTONE PIPELINE

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Millions of Americans are jobless. In response, the House of Representatives has passed more than 20 jobs bills.

This past July, the North American-Made Energy Security Act urged President Obama to issue a final permitting decision on the Keystone pipeline, which will connect Canada's rich oil sands to the U.S. refineries along the gulf coast.

Our dependence on Middle East oil is a security and economic challenge that we must overcome.

The proposed pipeline would consist of over 1,700 miles capable of delivering more than half a million barrels of crude oil each day. In my home State of Oklahoma, this pipeline project is expected to add \$1.2 billion in economic impact.

This pipeline presents a unique chance for America to truly cull back our precarious dependence on Middle East oil while also adding tremendous economic activity to our stagnant economy.

In early November of this year, the Obama administration made an unacceptable political decision to punt the approval of the Keystone pipeline until after the Presidential election. A few weeks ago, I formally asked the Secretary of State to at least approve the southern route of the pipeline from Cushing, Oklahoma, to the gulf. Our country has waited for Presidential approval for 3 years.

VOTE AGAINST H.R. 3630

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, the Republican plan to extend the payroll tax

is deeply flawed in many ways, but perhaps the most egregious are the fundamental changes it would make to some of our Nation's core institutions without any discussion or debate.

It would cut unemployment insurance benefits for 1 million Americans and impose new restrictive limits on workers who've been laid off. It would require millions of seniors to pay more for health care by slashing funding designed to lower costs. It would roll back essential EPA rules to keep our air clean, and it would actually increase the deficit by almost \$26 billion over 10 years, according to the CBO.

The vast majority of Americans want the wealthiest to pay their fair share so we can get the country back on track and preserve government institutions. We need a reasonable solution to keep middle class tax cuts in place and maintain funding for Social Security.

Republicans are saying, sure, we'll give you a tax cut, but we're going to slash your husband's unemployment benefits in order to pay for it. That's not a way for families to preserve their standard of living.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want a government that is fair and just, not one that promotes economic imbalance and cynicism.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 3630.

FARMERS CONFRONTED BY OUT-OF-CONTROL REGULATION

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, last week the Illinois Farm Bureau Federation polled its members about the long-term challenges confronting them. It shouldn't surprise anyone that the number one thing that they named is government regulation. After all, Washington bureaucrats too often know nothing about rural America and challenges confronting our farming families. They've sought to burden them with new regulations on everything from spilt milk to dust.

But while those bureaucrats are trying to generate more regulations, here in the House we're working hard to cut it back. This year, we have passed numerous pieces of legislation to roll back the most egregious rules proposed by the EPA and others to ensure that America's family farmers have the regulatory certainty they need to survive and thrive over the next decade and beyond.

Now it's time for the Senate to act.

WE DON'T LEARN FROM HISTORY

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I don't know what's the matter with us when we don't learn from history.

After the Great Depression, we passed the Social Security Act. Two

major components: One is to keep our seniors safe in their years of retirement, and the second, to provide for those who may become unemployed through no fault of their own.

The bill that we're being asked to vote on today is going to cut unemployment, cut unemployment, the extended portion, which people have come to rely on for those who are looking for work and can't get it, and we're cutting the emergency portion of it as well by eliminating tiers.

But, Mr. Speaker, more than anything else, the part that just bothers me and forces me to speak is that we are going to make people qualify for unemployment. They've got to have a high school diploma or a GED equivalent.

Mr. Speaker, my father went to the ninth grade. He worked through his whole life. Imagine someone like him, and there are many people like my father, that will not qualify for unemployment, will not qualify because they didn't have a high school diploma.

□ 1230

LEFT TURN, BY TIM GROSECLOSE

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Professor Tim Groseclose of UCLA has recently published a book, "Left Turn, How Liberal Media Bias Distorts the American Mind." He uses clearly defined quantitative measures to evaluate the bias of media outlets.

In "Left Turn," he scientifically measures the political content of media outlets and converts that content into a slant quotient of an outlet. To measure the bias, he compares slant quotients of news outlets to the political quotients of the typical American voter and political leaders.

Groseclose concludes that the great majority of all national media outlets have a liberal bias. He also points out the conservative bias of a very few outlets, but he determined their conservative bias is less than the liberal bias of most national media.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Groseclose also cites evidence that the media has shifted the political views of Americans and caused them to be more liberal. So media bias is both real and unfortunate.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud recent actions taken by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to better inform American consumers. Created last year by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform law, the

CFPB's mission is to take the tricks and traps out of financial products we use every day like credit cards and mortgages.

So even though GOP Senators are filibustering the confirmation of the agency's top official, the Bureau is already at work on behalf of consumers. This project, Know Before You Owe, aims to simplify credit card agreements and student loan disclosure forms so consumers know exactly what they're getting into when they borrow.

Importantly, CFPB is asking consumers for their input on this important task. So I encourage all citizens to visit consumerfinance.gov to share their experiences about credit cards and loan agreements. Consumers can also file complaints about credit card companies or mortgage services and learn how to protect themselves from financial scams.

For the first time, we have a dedicated watchdog looking out exclusively for the interests of consumers. I urge all American consumers to take advantage of these great new resources.

TYPE 1 JUVENILE DIABETES

(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, yesterday in Leawood, Kansas, I had the privilege to meet with a bright, energetic young man named Garrett. Garrett is 4 years old and suffers from type 1 juvenile diabetes.

Garrett's story is touching, and it is all too familiar to families across this country who struggle with the stress and strain of juvenile diabetes and the constant concern about the right diet, the right insulin levels, about the highest quality of life for their children.

Last month, I was pleased to hear the Food and Drug Administration issue new guidelines aimed at helping speed up the development of artificial pancreas systems.

Mr. Speaker, it's clear that we as a country need to continue to do all that we can to help bright children like Garrett who need better tools to manage their disease and prevent life threatening and costly complications.

A RESPONSIBLE TAX EXTENDER PACKAGE

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, 160 million Americans stand on the brink of a tax hike. Republicans in Congress need to get serious about working together on a bipartisan package to extend the payroll taxes for the middle class and renew unemployment benefits.

The Republican extender package reduces eligibility for unemployment benefits by 40 weeks. It would require everyone receiving benefits to have a GED. My dad, who only had a third-

grade education, would not be eligible. And it cuts \$21 billion from affordable health care programs, causing 170,000 Americans to become uninsured.

Republicans are asking seniors to pay more for their Medicare, and they're asking the Federal employees to have serious cuts or salaries frozen until the year 2015. Yet they refuse to ask millionaires and billionaires to pay one more cent. No taxes, no jobs.

Let's pass a responsible plan to extend the payroll tax and unemployment benefits before it's too late.

TIME FOR CHANGE ON TAX EXTENDER

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, Joyce Timmons from Suitland, Maryland, called my office to say that the extra money in her paycheck from the soon-to-expire payroll tax cut is important to her and her family.

Joyce and 160 million workers are wondering why my Republican colleagues are now for raising taxes on working people before they were against raising taxes. That's right. The Republicans oppose extending the payroll tax cut except by blackmail.

By extending the tax cut, working people like Joyce Timmons would receive, on average, a thousand dollars next year. It's not a \$10,000 bet; it's real money in the economy.

Republicans go out of their way to block job creation and protect tax cuts for the 1 percenters, but they want to raise taxes for the 99 percenters. And they won't stop there.

More than a million Americans have been out of work for a really long time, including 25,000 Marylanders; yet Republicans want to be the grinch who stole Christmas by denying an unemployment check so that people who want to work but can't find work can buy groceries, pay rent and utilities, and tide their families over.

Republicans want to go home for the holidays, but they want working people to pay more in taxes next year and lose out on an unemployment check.

The Grinch became a good guy; Scrooge found a heart; even Mr. Potter changed his tune. It's time for Republicans to change too.

HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. This weekend I attended a senior citizen party and we had a dance contest, and two people would hold a stick and others would try to go under it. And the disk jockey would ask the question: How low can you go? Can you go to the floor?

And I submit that if we refuse to provide unemployment tax extensions, I'd

have to ask the Congress: How low can you go? Can you go to the floor?

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 13, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 13, 2011 at 9:48 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 1801.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3630, MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 491 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 491

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3630) to provide incentives for the creation of jobs, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) 90 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

POINT OF ORDER

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I raise a point of order against H. Res. 491 because the resolution violates Section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act.

The resolution contains a waiver of all points of order against consideration of the bill, which includes a waiver of section 425 of the Congressional Budget Act, which causes a violation of section 426(a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Wisconsin makes a point of order that the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The gentlewoman has met the threshold burden under the rule, and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes of debate on the question of