

Cougars, the NAIA national football champions.

WE NEED 1-YEAR EXTENSION

(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. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Peter Isberg, president of the National Payroll Reporting Consortium, Inc., expressed concern over the Senate-proposed payroll tax plan which offers only a 2-month extension instead of the yearlong extension passed last week by the House. In a letter written to several Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, Isberg stated that, "insufficient lead time could create substantial problems, confusion, and costs affecting a significant percentage of U.S. employers and employees."

House Republicans are willing to work for a yearlong extension now instead of passing a 2-month fix that will confuse American taxpayers, medical providers, and small business owners. It is necessary for both Houses of Congress to work together to extend the payroll tax cut for a full year. At a time of continued record unemployment, we should be working to help small businesses create jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. We are grateful for our servicemembers, military families, and veterans who were successful in Iraq.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

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

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, student loan debt is too high and I'm asking this Congress—I'm demanding that this Congress—cut it down.

Student loan debt will soon approach \$1 trillion; and as our graduates are struggling to pay off this debt, this debt is robbing them of their future, and it's costing this country jobs. That's why I will soon introduce this bill to responsibly reduce student loan debt, to make repayment simpler and fairer, and to give our graduates a chance that they deserve—a chance to enjoy the American Dream.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT GRIFFIN III ON WINNING THE HEISMAN TROPHY

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, last week, I dropped a resolution commending Robert Griffin III for winning the 2011 Heisman Trophy.

Robert Griffin, a student of Baylor University, is one of the outstanding Americans in this country, an amazing young man who graduated from high school at Copperas Cove, Texas, in my district.

He graduated in 2008, went off to Baylor University to play football and to go to school. He graduated from Baylor University in 2010. I think that alone is pretty fantastic. He went on to be the quarterback of the Baylor football team, leading them to the best season that they've had in generations. They are ranked number 12 in the Bowl Championship Series.

This is a young man whose mother and father are sergeants in the Army. He was born overseas while they were serving. He now is the Heisman Trophy winner, has been named the outstanding player in the country, and he is not only outstanding as a student but he is outstanding as a player and as a human being.

He chose Baylor University because he wanted to go to a good Christian school. This young man won the Davey O'Brien Award. He is the kind of role model that we want our children to aspire to be. He is hardworking, with a good work ethic. He believes in his fellow players. He cares, he leads, and he wins. This young man should be commended. Within 2 years from now, he will have a master's degree and a law degree in addition to his bachelor's degree, and he still has one more year of eligibility. I would say this is the kind of kid we all wish our kid could grow up to be.

I want to commend his parents, the people of Copperas Cove, and the State of Texas for producing this fine young football player. We call him RG3.

□ 0910

TODAY IS AN OUTRAGE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is outrageous that the House Republicans will not allow the Senate bill to come up today that would extend the payroll tax cut, that would provide unemployment benefits for so many million Americans that are out of work, and also allow seniors to have their Medicaid reimbursement paid to their doctors so the doctors will accept Medicare.

I cannot believe that, at the end of the year now, is this the Christmas present? Is this the New Year's gift that we're going to give to the American people, that their taxes are going to be raised, that they're not going to be able to have unemployment insurance if they're unemployed?

And what does this mean for the economy, Mr. Speaker? Do the House Republicans want to send a message to the President right now when the economy is actually starting to improve slightly? This could easily send us back

and make the economy go back into a tailspin. Do they dislike the President so much that they would risk the economy for that?

I cannot believe that we're not going to have an opportunity today to vote on the Senate bill and to make sure that these things are extended, particularly the payroll tax cut, because that is very important for the economy. It's very important for small businesses. It is an outrage, Mr. Speaker.

MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE

(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. It's amazing, Mr. Speaker. Those that now claim that we're opposed to increasing the sales tax holiday for 1 year actually voted against it just a few weeks ago, but we're here today to make sure that taxes on 160 million Americans don't go up on January 1. We're here to stop politics as usual in Washington. President Obama called for a 1-year extension of the payroll tax holiday, and we're here to do exactly that.

Job creators need economic certainty to create jobs, and to do that, we must extend the payroll tax holiday for 1 year. Kicking the can down the road only introduces more uncertainty into our economy. Payroll experts say that this is going to hurt small businesses.

Enough of these Washington gimmicks. The House already voted to extend the payroll tax holiday for a full year for all hardworking Americans, but the Senate Democrats opposed our bipartisan bill.

Senate Democrats have a clear choice to make: continue the game of Washington politics as usual or join with House Republicans to stop a tax increase on 160 million Americans. I urge them to make the right choice.

ANYTHING LESS THAN CERTAINTY IS UNACCEPTABLE

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in support of a long-term extension for an important middle class tax cut for American families that are struggling in these difficult economic times to make ends meet.

We've been elected by the people to do their work and provide the conditions for the private sector to get this economy back on track and put Americans back to work. This work includes stable, predictable policy from Washington, and that includes tax policy. A 2-month extension does not provide any certainty to families or to small business job creators.

The House and President Obama agree that a 12-month extension of the payroll tax cut must be enacted. Therefore, I ask that Leader REID and the

Senate come back to town and join us in passing a long-term extension of the payroll tax cut. Anything less is unacceptable.

SUPPORT SENATE SOLUTION

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, it is so unfortunate that today we find ourselves continuing to argue over whether or not an extension of the middle class tax cut should take place now as opposed to continuing to try to load the bill up with poison pills, cutting off people's unemployment insurance, and getting into an argument with the Senate.

The proposal after a year of deliberations that the Republicans came up with was rejected in the Senate on a bipartisan basis. Another bill was passed overwhelmingly to give us a 2-month extension so that we can continue to try to work out a long-term solution to a middle class tax cut without accepting poison pills.

But now what we see is the Republicans choose to turn down that compromise that brought the Senate together, that can bring this House together, to refuse to let us have a vote on that measure because they know there will be bipartisan support for that measure in this House.

We can come together and, in this holiday season, give American middle class families the security that they will have a continuation of the tax cut on January 1, but that's not what the Republicans are going to do. They're going to throw families and our economy into chaos for the sake of trying to make political points.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 3630, MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 501, SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING ANY FINAL MEASURE TO EXTEND CERTAIN EXPIRING PROVISIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 502 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 502

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order, without intervention of any point of order or question of consideration, to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3630) to provide incentives for the creation of jobs, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendments thereto, and to consider in the House a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Ways and

Means or his designee that the House disagree to the Senate amendments and request a conference with the Senate thereon. The Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order, without intervention of any point of order or question of consideration, to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 501) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding any final measure to extend the payroll tax holiday, extend Federally funded unemployment insurance benefits, or prevent decreases in reimbursement for physicians who provide care to Medicare beneficiaries. The resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

SEC. 3. During consideration of a motion to instruct conferees pending their appointment to a conference on H.R. 3630, the previous question shall be considered as ordered to its adoption without intervening motion except one hour of debate under clause 7(b) of rule XXII. Such motion shall be considered as read and shall not be subject to any question of consideration.

SEC. 4. During consideration of a motion specified in the first section of this resolution or section 3 of this resolution, the chair may—

(a) notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, postpone further consideration of the motion to such time as may be designated by the Speaker as though under clause 1(c) of rule XIX; and

(b) postpone the question of adoption of the motion as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

SEC. 5. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of January 17, 2012.

SEC. 6. It shall be in order at any time through the calendar day of January 15, 2012, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1(c) of rule XV.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself as much time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. House Resolution 502 provides for a motion to go to conference on H.R. 3630 and for a closed ruled on H. Res. 501.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this rule and the underlying bill.

□ 0920

To be honest, Mr. Speaker, being here today is almost ridiculous because last week the House passed a very good bill, and the three major components of it are very simple:

Payroll tax extension, a holiday—not a 60-day holiday, but a 1-year payroll tax extension that is paid for;

Unemployment insurance; we addressed unemployment insurance in a very compassionate way, working as the President has suggested. We need to cut it by 20 weeks over time. So our House, in a bipartisan fashion, is working to take it from 99 weeks to 59 weeks, holding in truth the spirit of our President;

Finally, the doc fix. If we're going to keep Medicare and the recipients of Medicare whole, we have to address the reimbursement rates of the doctors. This doc fix stops an almost 30 percent cut in the reimbursement rate.

But beyond that, we decided that it is time to create American jobs. So the Keystone pipeline that creates more than 20,000 jobs is in this bill. But not only do we want to create jobs, we want to save jobs, and so you think of the Boiler MACT that saves more jobs than the pipeline creates. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, our friends on the left want to continue to hold the middle class hostage because they have a plan to continue to raise taxes as they have over the last year.

As a matter of fact, in 2010, in one bill only, Mr. Speaker, they raised taxes on the middle class, and this year, because we're moving into an election year, they decided it's time to remember the American middle class. Last year, they were taxing that middle class and taxing that middle class and taxing that middle class.

Let me give you a few examples:

A new \$123 billion of taxes on the middle class in investment income; a hike in Medicare payroll taxes with \$86 billion passed through to the middle class.

I don't know why this year all of a sudden they want to talk about tax breaks for the middle class and only give them 60 days, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the middle class deserves certainty, and our bill gives them certainty. We say for 1 year we need to extend to the middle class, people who are struggling every day to make their ends meet.

Our friends on the left are getting ready for campaign season, so what they're really concerned about is themselves. But what we've said is, when you take into consideration that a person who needs a medical device must now pay a pass-through tax upwards of \$20 billion, that's not compassionate. That's not fair, Mr. Speaker.