

# RED TAPE REDUCTION AND SMALL BUSINESS JOB CREATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4078) to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 6.0 percent:

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4078, which would cut critical regulations not with a scalpel but, like many have said, with a nuclear bomb. The transportation authorization bill, MAP-21, which this body passed with a widely bipartisan vote, included many important safety and efficiency regulations, but my amendment to exempt them was not made in order.

If signed into law, this bill would pull the emergency brake and stop safety regulations which were just enacted. One important regulation this bill would block is the installation of seatbelts in motorcoaches. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration believes these seatbelts could reduce the risk of fatalities in rollover crashes by 77 percent. Safety improvements like these will help prevent all too common transportation disasters, like the motorcoach crash in 2007 which killed 7 members of the Bluffton University baseball team in Ohio.

This is just a single example of the critical regulations that H.R. 4078 would halt indiscriminately. I urge the House to reject this bill.

## RECOGNIZING MARION COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2012*

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Marion County Public Schools on having some of America's best high schools. In their inaugural High School Challenge, a ranking of the nation's 19,000 best high schools, the Washington Post named four Marion County high schools—Bellevue High School, Vanguard High School, North Marion High School, and Lake Weir High School—among America's top ten percent of high schools.

In rating high schools, the High School Challenge considers the ratio of college-level tests administered to graduating seniors at a particular high school. The survey looks at the total number of Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) exams given at a school in a single academic year. This rating is intended to indicate the level of a high school's commitment to preparing their students for college, noting that students who face AP, IB, and AICE exams are better prepared for the rigors of college reading lists and examinations.

This is not the first time that Marion County Public Schools have been recognized for their

quality high schools. The U.S. News and World Report rankings of high schools has ranked nationally two Marion County high schools—Vanguard High School and Lake Weir High School—and recognized nationally three others: Bellevue High School, Marion Technical Institute, and West Port High School.

Marion County's dedication to quality high school education is evident from these recognitions. I applaud their commitment to their students and their community. May their example inspire many to follow in their footsteps.

## HONORING ALEXANDER TEVES, HERO AND VICTIM OF THE AU- RORA, COLORADO SHOOTINGS ON JULY 29, 2012

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2012*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Alex Teves, who was killed in the terrible shooting in Aurora, Colorado, not long ago. He died saving his girlfriend's life, pushing her out of the way and covering her with his body as bullets flew around the theater. He was only 24 years old.

At his young age, he was already the kind of person many of us hope to be. Friends, family and everyone who knew him describe him as an extraordinarily warm, generous and sincere man. Beyond the goodness he showed his close friends, he was enthusiastic to meet and get to know everyone, whether they were older, younger, shared his interests or had never spoken with him before. People felt his optimism, his honesty and his genuine kindness as soon as they met him. He made the most of his natural gifts and abilities and made time to help others. He was more than a good example—he was a rare and very good human being.

Every day in high school he wore a white t-shirt and blue jeans, and was so well-known and well-liked that the entire student body held a "Teves Day" each year for everyone else to wear the same. He graduated from the University of Arizona in 2010 and earned his Master's in Counseling Psychology from the University of Denver just this June. He was preparing to dedicate his life to helping those who could benefit from his warmth, his compassion and his wisdom. To anyone tempted to become cynical about our country, our future or our way of life, I say Alex Teves proves them wrong.

Our nation loses someone special to gun violence far too often. In Alex, we lost someone who was not afraid to befriend strangers, not afraid to push himself in the service of others who needed help, and not afraid to give his life for someone he loved. He lived a quiet, everyday kind of heroism that never gets the recognition it deserves and never seeks it. I humbly offer my voice to the many, many others who are grieving for his death today, and offer them as much comfort and support as I can. He was a truly extraordinary person, and those who knew him best will miss him for a very long time. I believe his name will live on as a good, even a great, example for others. He felt a natural instinct to love, help and be good to the people around him, and he

passed it on simply by being himself. He deserves a greater tribute than I can pay him today.

TOM BROWN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2012*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Mr. Tom Brown of Kansas City, Missouri. Mr. Brown has been awarded the Phoenix Community Achievement Leader Award. His years of service to his community make Mr. Brown well qualified and deserving of this honor.

Tom is currently serving as my Chief of Staff, and to see him receive this award for his dedicated service to the community gives me extreme pride. One of Tom's strongest contributions to the area is his work for St. Luke's Hospital, where he is currently a board member. He also serves on the board for St. Luke's Northland Hospital, St. Luke's College and The American Hospital Association's Committee on Governance. He has previously served on the Tri-County Mental Health Services Board and as Clay County Commissioner from 2000–2004.

Tom has been active in many other civic, social, and political groups in Kansas City. He has served as Chairman of the Missouri Lottery Commission and of Safe Haven, Inc., and was a former member of the Missouri Port Authority Commission. Furthermore, Mr. Brown was the secretary of the Clay County Economic Development Corporation and Vice President of Clay/Platte Development Corporation. Mr. Brown's commitment to his community has affected more lives than he may ever know.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in applauding Mr. Tom Brown for his continued commitment to bettering his community. I know Mr. Brown's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking him for his commitment to others and wishing him happiness and good health in his future endeavors.

## NORTHERN NEVADA'S OLYMPIAN

**HON. MARK E. AMODEI**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2012*

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jacob "Jake" Dalton of Reno, Nevada as he represents his country in the 2012 Olympic Games in London as a member of the U.S. men's gymnastics team.

Jake, a 2009 graduate of Spanish Springs High School and scholarship recipient at the University of Oklahoma, has the reputation of a fierce and proven competitor. Only 20 years old, Jake is already a champion, winning two NCAA titles in 2011 and the all-around gold in the Winter Cup Challenge in 2011.

To earn his place on the team, Dalton excelled in the U.S. Olympic trials in San Jose, California, winning both the vault and the floor exercise. His teammates are Jonathan Horton, Danell Leyva, Sam Mikulak, John Orozco, and

alternates Chris Brooks, Steven Legendre, Alex Naddour. This men's gymnastics team is considered the best since 1984 when the United States won gold at the Los Angeles Olympic Games.

Jake, like all other Americans participating in the Olympics, gives our country a great sense of pride. I join my fellow Nevadans and the rest of the country in wishing good luck to Team USA and Jake as he tries to bring home the gold to the Silver State.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

##### HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2012*

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Leadership Alliance. The Leadership Alliance, which includes the 5th District's University of Virginia, is a national academic consortium of leading research universities and minority serving institutions with the mission to develop underrepresented students into outstanding leaders and role models.

In the 20 years since its establishment, the Leadership Alliance has mentored over 2000 undergraduates who have participated in the Summer Research Early Identification Program and over 200 alumni who have obtained their PhD or MD-PhD degrees as Leadership Alliance Doctoral Scholars.

In the 5th District, the University of Virginia has mentored over 15 participants in the Summer Research Early Identification Program and the Summer Undergraduate Research Program in fields ranging from Education to Biomedical Sciences.

I am pleased today to congratulate and commend the Leadership Alliance and the University of Virginia for 20 years of mentoring a diverse and competitive workforce.

#### SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS FOR THE REUNIFICATION OF CYPRUS

##### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2012*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Administration to join in the international effort to reach a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus as a bi-zonal and bi-communal federation. This continued dispute has real regional and global implications. It threatens effective NATO-EU cooperation, affects regional stability, and also remains an obstacle to Turkey, our key partner and ally, gaining full membership to the European Union, which the United States has long supported.

I continue to believe that a just and viable solution to the longstanding Cyprus problem is not only achievable, but also urgent and necessary. The key to the settlement in Cyprus is the renewal of the Partnership between the two equal co-owners and co-founders of the "Republic of Cyprus", as established in 1960: Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots. As a

matter of fact, Turkish Cypriot people have long proven their readiness to renew the Partnership State. In 2004 they demonstrated the necessary political will for a comprehensive solution by voting strongly for the UN Settlement Plan in the separate and simultaneous referendum, a proposal that was overwhelmingly rejected by the Greek Cypriot side.

Since assuming the European Union term presidency on July 1, there is no better time for the Greek Cypriot government to take the long-awaited substantial steps towards a comprehensive settlement with the Turkish Cypriots. I hope this new EU role for Cyprus will not hinder the continuation of reunification talks. In fact, I believe that Cyprus' six-month term in the presidency of the EU brings extra responsibilities to show sincere efforts towards peace.

The international community and the United States will have to answer a fundamental question in the days ahead: Are we going to put in place all necessary efforts in order to reach a comprehensive solution in Cyprus, and thus demonstrate the political will to that effect, or are we going to let an achievable settlement slip away once again, all the while perpetuating the illegitimate and unjust isolation of the Turkish Cypriot people? A continued status quo in Cyprus is not beneficial to any party, and the time is now to solve a dispute that has lasted for more than forty years.

In light of recent actions by Syria and others in the Middle East, Turkey has continued to operate as an important U.S. ally in the region, and all parties acknowledge that Turkey's membership to the European Union cannot be achieved without first tackling these issues in Cyprus. Therefore, all sides should return to the table and set a timeline for action, and this Administration should work with all stakeholders to ensure that any agreement respects human rights and ensures the fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots.

While the people of Cyprus must ultimately decide their own fate, there is no better time for the international community to support such reunification efforts. As all eyes remain on Cyprus during its term with the EU presidency, and continued talks would signal to the world that both parties are committed to establishing a peaceful and prosperous future for all Cypriots.

#### RECOGNIZING NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S JUSTIN GATLIN AS A MEMBER OF THE 2012 UNITED STATES OLYMPIC TEAM

##### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2012*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Northwest Florida's Justin Gatlin as a member of the 2012 United States Olympic Team. Every 4 years, our nation joins together to root on the athletes that represent us at the Summer Olympic Games and for those of us from Northwest Florida, we will be rooting even harder when Justin competes in the 100 meter sprint to bring the gold back home.

From an early age, Justin displayed an incredible God-given talent for track and field. He grew up in Pensacola, Florida and ran

both sprint and hurdles to help lead Woodham High School to a state championship, before accepting a scholarship to the University of Tennessee. At Tennessee, Justin won six consecutive NCAA titles in two years, before turning pro at age 19.

In 2004, Justin qualified for the Olympic Games in Athens, Greece by winning the U.S. Olympic Trials in the 100 meters and finishing runner up in the 200 meters. In Athens, Justin became the youngest ever to win the gold medal in the 100 meters, while also bringing home a silver medal as part of the U.S. 4x100 meter relay team, and a bronze medal in the 200 meters. He followed up his successful Olympic performance a year later by becoming the first American sprinter to win both the 100 and 200 meter races at the national championships since Kirk Baptiste in 1985. That same year he became only the second sprinter in history to win gold medals in the World Championships in the 100 and 200 meters, and his victory in the 100 meters by .17 seconds was the largest winning margin in World Championship history.

After four years away from the track, Justin returned in 2010 to seek another gold medal. He won his first event in 2010 and finished runner up in the 2011 USA Track and Field Championships. In 2012, Justin has already had a successful season, winning the U.S. Olympic Trials in the 100 meters in a personal best 9.80 seconds, proving that he is ready to help the U.S. team go for gold in London this summer. Justin's victory in the Olympic Trials, 8 years after his first Olympic triumph, is an example of the success that can be achieved by working hard even after you reach the pinnacle of your career.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to rise on behalf of Florida's First Congressional District to recognize Northwest Florida's own Justin Gatlin and wish him the best as he represents our country and competes for another Olympic gold medal.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH TASK FORCE ACT

##### HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2012*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Children's Health Task Force Act. As children grow and develop, they are especially vulnerable to environmental health hazards such as air pollution, hazardous chemicals, and lead.

The number of children at risk for lead poisoning alone remains unacceptably high. Today there are 442,000 children with elevated blood levels, yet Congress continues to drastically cut funding for lead poisoning prevention programs. There is simply no safe level of lead exposure for children. Research has shown that lead is damaging to the developing brains of young children and can have harmful long-term effects on behavior and IQ. I believe it is reprehensible to allow this kind of damage to happen to children. This quiet tragedy is entirely preventable, and it is our responsibility to protect our children and make lead poisoning a thing of the past.

In 1997, former President Clinton established by Executive Order an inter-agency task