

say there's nothing we can do in the short-term. Well, there is.

Seventy percent of the oil futures, the supply of oil, is owned by speculators on Wall Street and other places around the world—70 percent. The head of ExxonMobil testified that about \$38 a barrel is due to speculation. That's the head of ExxonMobil. He says we're paying 38 bucks a barrel for speculators on Wall Street.

Goldman Sachs says, well, it's only \$22 to \$28 a barrel. Let's take the lowest number, \$22 a barrel. That would lower regular gas by 64 cents a gallon if we got rid of the speculators.

I've proposed a tax of 1/100 of 1 cent per transaction that would drive most of these speculators out of the market and raise some revenues.

It's time to get rid of the speculators, provide price relief to Americans, and then we can talk about a long-term plan for energy self-sufficiency.

THE JOBS ACT

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, the President's policies have failed and, indeed, made our economy worse. For three straight years, unemployment has been above 8 percent, and the Congressional Budget Office predicts now that will last through 2014, the worst period of sustained high unemployment since the Great Depression.

America has a deficit of jobs because America's job creators have a deficit of confidence in this administration. New business startups are at an almost 17-year low, and that's why House Republicans have a plan for America's job creators that will help ease the President's job-killing policies.

Our plan will continue to unfold this week when the House votes on the actual JOBS Act to help small businesses and entrepreneurs access vital equity capital and put Americans back to work. The bill does exactly what the President's own job council recommends. It's time, for once, to work together to pass the bipartisan JOBS Act and give the American people the jobs and recovery they deserve.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, last night we lost a world leader, a father, a grandfather, a brother, an uncle, a great leader who consistently brought light to human suffering taking place around the world and what we here in Washington, D.C., can do for it.

It is with a heavy heart that I rise today in memory and in honor of Congressman DON PAYNE, a brilliant leader, former chair of the Africa Sub-

committee on Foreign Affairs, and to do what I'm sure he would be doing if he were with us today, speak out against the massacres taking place in Sudan.

These killings are taking place in the Sudanese state of South Kordofan, outside the view of this Congress, and most Americans are unaware of this humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in the same region where we saw bloodshed in Darfur for many, many years.

Madam Speaker, on this day of mourning for Representative PAYNE, I know he would want us to recommit ourselves to act to prevent further bloodshed and suffering in Sudan.

My thoughts and my prayers are with Congressman PAYNE's family, his friends, and his constituents. May his legacy live forever. I will deeply miss his wise counsel and his friendship.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, today the House of Representatives lost a distinguished Member who served with honor for more than two decades. I had the pleasure of working with DONALD PAYNE many times over the years. He had an incredible heart for Africa and suffering people in every corner of the continent.

From Morocco to South Africa, he was a tireless advocate for freedom and self-determination. We worked together speaking on behalf of the Sahrawi people in Western Sahara. Representative PAYNE watched Western Sahara closely, working toward a peaceful resolution that would allow for a free referendum that could establish self-government.

We also worked together in 2007 to recognize the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the British slave trade and to honor the legacy of William Wilberforce.

And in one amazing episode, he risked his life seeking peace in Sudan and nearly had his plane shot down in 2009.

DONALD PAYNE never missed an opportunity to advocate on behalf of the oppressed, and his work has had a lasting impact on the human rights of people around the world. I'm proud to have fought the good fight alongside of him. He will be missed.

GAS PRICES ARE KILLING THE AMERICAN CONSUMER

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

Mr. WELCH. Gas prices are killing the American consumer. They're doing real damage to small businesses.

In my State, Cabot Creamery, which has fixed price contracts to deliver

cheese, very important to farmers, very important to that business, price of gas going up a dollar, it's like another \$135,000 off their bottom line.

There are long-term issues we've got to address, but you know what? There's stuff we can do in the short term. The futures market has been flipped upside down. It should be serving end users like airlines, fuel dealers. Instead, it's been taken over by speculators.

Goldman Sachs study says about \$23 on the price of a barrel of oil is attributable to speculation. That's about 56 cents when you go to fill up your pickup truck, about an extra 15 bucks just for the speculation premium.

Past Presidents have used the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to spook the speculators, to send a shot across their bow that they're going to be on the wrong side, the losing side of these trades. Let's use the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to give some relief to our consumers and to our small businesses.

THE JOBS ACT

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

Ms. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, I received a letter from a young constituent who is a vigorous Boy Scout and a great citizen, Matthew Barbuti from Yorktown Heights, New York. He's only in sixth grade, but he's very concerned about our economy. And he wrote to me, "If the economy doesn't turn around, our country will no longer be a world leader, and the American people will suffer."

Matthew, you are exactly right. We do have a tremendous job ahead of us, and we are working here, all of us together, for you and for all the kids in this country who need a future, the kind of dreams that we have been privileged to dream.

So this week, we're bringing to the House floor the JOBS Act, part of a whole package of jobs bills that we've been sending to our colleagues in the Senate, and we certainly hope that, with Democratic and Republican support, and with the President's support of this bill as well, we'll be able to activate that economy to create the kind of jobs and opportunities that all of us need throughout this country, no matter where we come from.

Thank you, Matthew, for your common sense.

THE GOP'S ASSAULT ON WOMEN

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, Rush Limbaugh's appalling attack on Georgetown student Sandra Fluke is no isolated incident, but part of a broader GOP assault on women's health.

Republicans have ushered in Women's History Month with legislation to

allow employers and insurance companies to deny women needed health coverage. But let's also take a look at their recent record on issues important to women's health.

Last year, Republicans voted to end Federal funding for Planned Parenthood, the largest provider of reproductive health services in the United States. They voted to eliminate funding for Title X family planning which, for 40 years, has provided family planning services, cancer screenings, and other preventive health services to low-income women.

And with their attempt to repeal the health care reform law, Republicans voted to allow insurance companies to, once again, deny women coverage if they've ever been pregnant, had a C-section, or been the victim of domestic violence.

Madam Speaker, Republicans' idea of Women's History Month is reenacting the women's equality fight of 100 years ago.

I call on my GOP colleagues to join us here in the 21st century, where women not only raise families, they have jobs, and they even wear pants.

CONGRATULATING BRIDGET BROWN ON RECEIVING THE 2012 SELF-ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR CHAMPION OF CHANGE AWARD

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, hundreds of advocates from across the country traveled to Capitol Hill last week to raise awareness on behalf of the National Down Syndrome Society. Today I rise to congratulate one of those individuals, Bridget Brown, who is being honored with the 2012 Self-Advocate of the Year Champion of Change Award.

A resident of Darien, Illinois, Bridget has helped to empower and inspire thousands of others with Down Syndrome to lead full and successful lives. A role model, mentor, and national speaker, she graduated from high school in 2005 after becoming the first person with Down Syndrome to be included in her school district. She helped to promote among Illinois educators the concept of inclusion, and launched her own advocacy organization called Butterflies for Change.

I applaud Bridget for her amazing work at the local and national level to help others achieve their full potential. She has made her State and her community proud, and I wish Bridget continued success in her efforts on behalf of the more than 400,000 Americans with Down Syndrome.

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PROTECT AMERICAN MANUFACTURING

(Ms. BALDWIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4105, a bill that would allow us to protect American manufacturing, including Wisconsin's paper industry, from unfair Chinese trade practices.

The simple fact is that China is cheating. Chinese manufacturers are not outcompeting American manufacturers. Chinese companies receive direct subsidies from their government to help them undercut American businesses. We've seen the result this has had on our manufacturing base, and in my home State of Wisconsin, particularly on our paper industry.

In the paper sector alone, China has provided more than \$33.1 billion in subsidies from 2002 to 2009 and is now the world's largest producer of paper and paper products. Hardworking American businesses in these and other sectors rely on countervailing duties to combat these illegal subsidies and help them keep their doors open.

Last month, I introduced bipartisan legislation to ensure the Department of Commerce has the legal authority to impose these countervailing duties on subsidized imports from countries like China. I am very proud to see that legislation incorporated in the larger bill before us later today, and I urge my colleagues to vote "aye."

WELCOMING ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

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

Mr. YODER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on his visit to the United States and to reaffirm our commitment to our strongest ally, Israel.

As Prime Minister Netanyahu visits our Nation, Israel presently stands in the shadow of a threatening neighbor who is intent on producing nuclear weapons.

Israel must remain the master of its fate and be able to defend itself against Iran. Iran's nuclear program is unequivocally a threat to Israel's existence and a threat to stability throughout the whole Middle East region and throughout the whole world by way of proliferation. There is no telling who Iran may sell their enriched uranium to; but their state policy of sponsoring groups that promote terrorism, it's not hard to speculate on the dire consequences.

Madam Speaker, as we work together to combat global terrorism and those that would threaten peace, democracy, and stability in the world, we must stand strong behind our ally Israel.

WOMEN WAIT AS POLITICIANS DEBATE THEIR CARE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have a headline here this morning that indicates, "Women Wait as Politicians Debate Their Care."

This is not a story about accusations or calling college coeds prostitutes and, if you will, sluts and other negative words. This is about women's access to health care, and I'm sad to even say those words, but we see them broadcast across America's Federal airwaves by talk show entertainers like Rush Limbaugh. This young woman's name is Kimberly Moore, who is caught in a conflict in the State of Texas with the Women's Health Program that is funded by Medicaid and the decision of the State of Texas to evict Planned Parenthood from caring for women like Kimberly, a single mother working part time, who can't afford health care.

Between judges who want to accuse our President of dastardly things through jokes and the idea of keeping women away from access to health care, that should not resolve around their choice of contraceptives, but plain old health care, it's time for us to stand with the women of America and the decent people of America, to stand with this President, to stand with the idea of providing women health care, and to stand against those who are in States where they want to reject Planned Parenthood for simply giving health care access to women and to stand against divisive corrosive language.

AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I have visited the State of Israel. I have walked the streets of Jerusalem, and I have seen firsthand the beauty of its people, its culture, and its incredible history and heritage.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reminded us of that heritage last night as he addressed a crowd of thousands, and I know he is on Capitol Hill again today sending the same message: serious threats have been made towards Israel, and Israel must take threats seriously, especially when dealing with a madman working toward a nuclear weapon.

No one wants a war in an area where world peace rests on such a delicate balance. No one wants to have to initiate unnecessary aggression. I have supported sanctions. I have supported resolutions of disapproval. I want to believe that Iran's offer today to allow U.N. weapons inspectors in means that they have nothing to hide.

If our friends in Israel decide to act, I know it will not be a decision made lightly nor without good reason. I urge my colleagues to join me in affirming our support of Israel, not just to stand behind her but to stand beside her.