

helps small businesses and entrepreneurs, and that's exactly what the JOBS Act does. We're presented with an opportunity to act in a truly bipartisan fashion that will promote job growth across our Nation. So we should join together, I believe, as Republicans and Democrats, House and Senate, to give the President the piece of legislation so he can sign it into law.

CASSIUS S. WILLIAMS

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Today, I rise to congratulate Cassius S. Williams, a dear friend, who is the recipient of North Carolina State University's Watauga Medal Award.

Each year, NC State honors alumni for outstanding contributions to the university by bestowing on them the Watauga Medal Award.

Recipients of this historic award understand the enormous value of education, and their commitment to that idea has generated immeasurable prosperity for communities across America.

Watauga Medal Award recipients are candles in the dark, men and women of great purpose who have injected their talents into the lifeblood of North Carolina State University.

Mr. Speaker, this week Cassius S. Williams of Greenville, North Carolina, joined the ranks of great servants as its newest honoree. Without a doubt, his work will continue to foster a better education for our children that will create a brighter future for North Carolina.

The House of Representatives appreciates Cassius Williams.

□ 1210

MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO STAND BY ISRAEL

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the opportunity to meet with many of my constituents who were here to advocate for continued support for Israel. I had the opportunity to listen to Prime Minister Netanyahu's remarks on the importance of the American-Israeli alliance and friendship. I'm here to tell them today that I could not agree more, and that at no time has the bond between our countries been more important.

In an increasingly uncertain and unstable region in the world, Israel has proven time and again to be a steadfast friend. In a region governed at best by fledgling democracies with uncertain futures and at worst by brutal authoritarian dictatorships, Israel is a champion of democracy and freedom.

But today Israel is surrounded by increasingly unstable neighbors. Just over the horizon, they're faced with an

Iranian regime that threatens them with annihilation.

In these circumstances, we must do what is right and stand with our friends and allies, the Israeli people. I've been proud to do so in this Chamber, and I will continue to do so in the weeks and months ahead.

CREATE JOBS

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, 56 percent of Americans think that creating new jobs should be Congress' number 1 priority, but since taking control of the House, the Republicans have yet to pass one single jobs bill.

Republicans have been more interested in obstructing than finding solutions. They said "no" to the American Jobs Act. Then they introduced a transportation bill that would cut 550,000 jobs. Now with gas prices on the rise, they refuse to roll up their sleeves and get to work.

We should be voting today on legislation to cut billions in tax breaks for big oil companies, crack down on speculators who are inflating prices at the pump, and invest in new sources such as solar energy and new energy. But instead, we have more of the same partisan gridlock from the Party of No.

Our constituents deserve more. America deserves more. Let's get to work now. Lower the gas prices and create jobs.

HIGH ENERGY PRICES

(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, today I rise to call attention to the millions of families and small business owners across America who are feeling the impact of high energy prices.

According to AAA, the national average of a gallon of gasoline currently stands at \$3.77, with no sign of relief in the near future. Couple this with higher utility rates, and Americans are struggling under the weight of ever-increasing energy costs. Yet Washington continues to attempt to pile more regulations and higher taxes on energy producers in this country.

Let's be clear: higher energy taxes, more utility mandates, and bigger regulatory burdens drive up the cost of energy production. Washington will not lower energy costs for Americans by placing further roadblocks in the way of energy production in this country.

As workers sit idly waiting to construct the Keystone pipeline and utility and energy producers work to remove government burdens and barriers, the American people are losing. It's time we get the Federal Government out of the way and work together towards bipartisan solutions that get America producing domestic sources of energy in all forms.

Let's lower energy costs for all Americans, and let's get our economy growing again.

GAS PRICES

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, have you been to the gas station recently and been shocked? Gas is above \$4 a gallon, in many parts of the country, and climbing. That's 29 cents more than only a month ago. Families everywhere are feeling the pinch.

But why?

It doesn't make sense. Supply is up. We've quadrupled U.S. drilling rigs over the past 3 years. Oil production is at its highest in a decade. Last year, the import of oil fell to its lowest level in 16 years.

The answer is Wall Street speculators who buy oil and hoard it. They take it off the market and lower supply until the price goes way up. Then they sell it and make a killing off the American people. That's not fair.

We can't drill our way out of this problem. We must end Wall Street speculation, end subsidies for the oil companies, and end the political rhetoric. Let's have real solutions to the problems.

AFTER-BIRTH ABORTION

(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, on February 23, the Journal of Medical Ethics published an article, entitled, "After-birth abortion: why should the baby live?"

The authors argue that an infant child can be killed since they do not have the same moral status as a "person." They go even further to say that adoption is not always in the best interest of an unwanted child.

The furor over this article has been immense. Unfortunately, the editors defend publishing this article on the basis that there should be reasoned engagement on the subject.

This article may have the form of scholarly argument, but its substance is madness. The authors maintain that a baby can only be granted personhood through the recognition of other human beings. They fundamentally reject something that we all hold dear: that all men are endowed by their Creator with the right to life.

A healthy amount of anger over this article is not only natural but also right. It is shocking and sad to see such destructive arguments given credence in a premier medical journal.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this is supposed to be the people's House, but for 428 days of Republican leadership, the American people have been stuck on the outside looking in. House Tea Party Republicans have locked millions of Americans out of this economy and thrown away the key.

Republicans have gambled on tax cuts for millionaires, oil companies, and special interests and fought to lay off droves of teachers, cops, and firefighters, all in an effort to see President Obama and our recovery fail.

Now, after 2 years of private sector job growth under President Obama, Republicans claim that they now have a jobs plan. Well, I'm going to tell you, rooting against the President, hoping that he will fail, is not a jobs plan. That's called sabotage.

Republicans have defaulted on their promises to the American people that they would work to create jobs. Instead, they have started a war against women's health.

How much longer will Americans with no jobs, no hope, and no money have to wait before the Republicans pass a jobs bill?

THE BENEFITS OF CONTRACEPTION

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, at a speak-out on women's right to birth control, I solicited comments from the huge audience that attended, and here are a few.

Reverend Luke Pepper writes:

As a Christian and as a minister, I believe that it is important and necessary that we promote the quality of health care and livelihood of the families in this country. Providing access and availability of quality contraception to women is the right and moral thing to do.

A young anonymous woman wrote:

I'm a virgin. I take birth control because I have polycystic ovary syndrome, and it will reduce my risk of uterine cancer.

Diane writes:

My oldest son is on the autism spectrum. Nearly 6 years after he was born, my husband and I judged our family ready to support and nurture a second child. If, through the lack of access to birth control, we had been forced to risk an unplanned pregnancy before we were ready, we would not have had the resources—financial or emotional—to give our older son the care and support he needed that enabled him to become the fine young man he is. Nor would we have been able to devote full care and attention to his beloved young brother.

TRIBUTE TO JAN DOMENE

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay

tribute to a true champion for education, Jan Harp Domene, who passed away this past Monday.

Jan was a fervent advocate for children. She was serving our community for more than 35 years with the Parent Teacher Association, and she eventually became the head of the PTA in 2007, the National PTA.

During her time with the PTA, Jan facilitated collaborative partnerships with many education, health, safety, and child advocacy groups to benefit children and provide valuable resources to PTA members. As President, she raised the level of parent involvement nationwide by increasing PTA membership and also by accessing very diverse communities.

Jan Harp Domene was the product of public schools in Orange County, and she knew firsthand the intricate needs of our community and children. After serving as the national president of the PTA, she returned to Anaheim and became a trustee on our Anaheim Union High School board.

She was a role model. She actually was a family friend. I remember, as a young child, my mother would get calls from Jan if I was out of line.

Both locally and nationally, we are better off because of Jan, and I am honored, and I hope that my colleagues will honor her, also.

□ 1220

THE ROAD TO ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, we need a multiyear, adequately funded transportation authorization before it expires at the end of this month.

There is no question but gas prices are too high, but when the speculation subsides and when the world's oil price starts to decline, the price at the pump won't go down proportionately because it will be seized by the big oil companies as an opportunity to further pad their profits. That's when we need to implement a substantially but gradually funded Federal gas tax. That's what we need to fund our Nation's infrastructure that has deteriorated for the last 20 years while the gas tax has not been increased.

That's what we need to do, Mr. Speaker, because the fact is that the big oil companies have been taking us for a ride on a pothole-filled highway. It's time to get into an energy-efficient vehicle and on the road to economic prosperity and energy independence.

SUPPORT THE DISCLOSE ACT

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

Ms. HAHN. I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman TED POE, for

giving a shout-out to the PORTS Caucus, showing this country that we can work together on issues that matter to the people of America.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday was Super Tuesday, but this year's campaign has been anything but super. Thanks to the Supreme Court's misguided decision in the Citizens United case, a handful of Super PACs, funded by billionaires and special interest groups, have dominated this year's elections. But it doesn't have to be this way. Four years ago, the Republican nominee for President, JOHN MCCAIN, was a leading voice in reforming how we pay for campaigns. In this body, Republican Chris Shays fought to clean up elections.

That's why I've come to the floor today, to ask my Republican friends to join with me and with people like JOHN MCCAIN and Chris Shays in supporting the DISCLOSE Act, a law that would shine a very bright light on these Super PACs. This law would let us know who is paying for these ads, and it would require these invisible power brokers to appear in their ads just like the candidates do. If we came together to change this, it really would be super.

NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY

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

Mr. CHANDLER. I rise today to honor the third annual celebration of National Teach Ag Day, on March 15, which is a day designed to raise awareness of the need for more agriculture teachers. It encourages people to consider a career as an agriculture teacher, and it celebrates the positive contributions these teachers make in their schools and communities.

Every day, agriculture teachers help students develop the skills necessary to become leaders and contributing members of society. These educators teach by doing, not just by telling. And by sharing their passion with young people, they prepare students for successful careers, whether they choose to go into the field of agriculture or not. There are currently over 10,000 agriculture teachers serving almost 1 million students in all 50 States and in Puerto Rico, but it is estimated that there will be hundreds of unfilled positions across the United States this year.

National Teach Ag Day is a nationwide effort to bring attention to the need for more agriculture educators in the U.S. and to raise awareness of the valuable role these teachers fill in our schools and communities.

GAS PRICES

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. I want to talk today about gas prices.

I represent a poor, rural congressional district where, unlike in the big