

most basic step that must be taken towards reining in historically high levels of spending and massive government growth.

It is time for the Senate to do their job.

CANCER RESEARCH

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I bring to this House and the Nation great news from Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo. Roswell Park is the first comprehensive cancer institute in the entire Nation.

Today, they are launching a clinical trial to test the use of a cancer vaccine as therapy to kill cancer cells and to prevent a relapse of the disease. The vaccine is designed to boost the body's immune system to fight and destroy cancer cells.

The vaccine has shown early promise in treating ovarian, bladder, brain, and breast cancer. The vaccine's exciting potential is a direct result of many years of cancer research. For cancer research to be effective, it has to be sustained over the longer term. It can't stop and start because you lose promising research and promising researchers.

So my message to Congress today is that the only failure in cancer research is when you quit or you're forced to quit because of a lack of funding. I urge my colleagues to fully fund cancer research in the 2012 budget.

SENATE MUST PASS A BUDGET

(Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today is day 1,000; 1,000 days since the Senate Democrats last passed a budget.

To put that in perspective, I asked my Twitter followers and my Facebook friends to tell me what they've done in the last 1,000 days. I'd like to share some of the comments.

One says, Between my home and my small business, over 60 monthly budgets have been taken care of, and they are getting harder and harder to balance.

Another said, Cut our family debt by \$60,000 in 1 year, removed two car payments, and finished my bachelor's degree while working full time being a father and getting ready for a business launch.

Another said, Finished 75 college credits, watched over 100 films, directed 16 hours of TV, and tutored over 1,000 hours.

Final one. My son made one overseas deployment, started his second one, finished his master's degree at Georgia Tech since the last budget.

Mr. Speaker, one thing is very clear: The American people are working hard. The House of Representatives, we are

working hard with 27 jobs bills and counting fast. The only question, Mr. Speaker, is when will the Senate join us.

PRIORITIES AS A CONGRESS

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

Ms. FUDGE. Today I rise to address the importance of setting our priorities as a Congress.

It seems that some of my colleagues have lost sight of what is important. We should be focused on putting teachers, firefighters, and construction workers back to work; creating jobs by investing in infrastructure; improving America's schools; giving the middle class a tax cut; putting money in the pockets of consumers; helping small businesses thrive and grow; keeping Americans in their homes; committing to our veterans and making sure they can get jobs when they return from duty; protecting Social Security and Medicare; and making sure we are investing in this great Nation so our children have an opportunity to get ahead.

It's time we take a step back and re-evaluate our priorities. The American people deserve it.

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support National School Choice Week.

School choice means empowering families to make the best decision for their students and helping them learn in an environment that best suits their child's needs and interests. We must work to ensure that every student has access to quality, public education, but some families may choose alternatives like charter schools, private schools, or home schools.

State and local governments, as well as the Federal Government, should do their part to pass legislation making it easier for students to choose the school that best suits them.

My wife and I have tried to choose the schooling that is best for our children, and I trust that our decision will help them have the best education possible.

I want all families and all students to have that same opportunity, choosing the education forum that best suits their students.

YEARLONG EXTENSION OF MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for every single

job that is created, there are four people waiting for that job. So I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to voice my support for a yearlong extension of the payroll tax cut for middle class Americans.

Unfortunately, my Republican colleagues tried until the very last minute to raise taxes on the middle class just before the holidays. But the American people spoke up and let the Congress know that they would not stand for it.

We cannot wait for another last-minute fix. We need a yearlong extension of the payroll taxes and unemployment insurance now. We cannot afford to take more risks with the incomes of more than 160 million Americans the way the Republicans did in 2011.

Remember, we need to create jobs. There are four people for every one job there is. That means we need more jobs. That means we need to support the President's jobs bill.

□ 1220

BUDGET

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to speak about something that is nearly 3 years in the making. Some 1,000 days ago, in April of 2009, the Senate passed a budget, and that's the last time we've seen any attempt from them to set Washington's agenda and rein in government spending.

Without a budget, how can government set its priorities? Without priorities, how can American citizens have any confidence in how their tax dollars are being used? The short answer is they can't.

With a \$15 trillion debt, the United States faces its greatest fiscal challenge in history. Washington must find a way to get its finances in order while preserving programs for our seniors, protecting our services for future generations, and providing our economy with the certainty to create much needed jobs in America.

The House will soon pass a budget that does this, and I urge the President to call for action during tonight's State of the Union address.

HONORING JANUARY 28 GROUP

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, January 28 at noon, Iraq war veterans will be honored by a returning heroes parade in downtown St. Louis. This is significant not only because these war veterans deserve this welcome home, but because St. Louis is the first city in the Nation to hold such an event.

The organizers are simply called the January 28 Group, a grassroots organization which launched a social network

campaign to raise awareness and money to stage the parade and a veterans' resource event to follow. The January 28 Group is partnering with St. Louis-based veterans service organizations, including The Mission Continues, which works to help veterans transfer their military leadership skills to civilian life.

They say Missouri is the "Show-Me" State, but this time the compassionate and patriotic people of St. Louis are showing the Nation just how quickly you can mobilize to give back to those who have given so much to our Nation.

I salute you all, and wish you success for the returning heroes parade at noon this coming Saturday, January 28, in downtown St. Louis.

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING A BUDGET

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, there are consequences of not having a budget. One of them is you don't make proper plans. How else can you explain the Obama administration going so long and crying so loudly, Gee, we can't find \$10 billion to cut, much less \$100 billion? We certainly aren't going to cut a trillion even though we increase spending by a trillion.

And we find out last week from the Obama OMB that there is \$687 billion sitting in accounts that's been appropriated. It's unobligated. It's unspent, sitting there, and they're still demanding more and more money.

America can't afford it. It's time to claw back the money before it's spent on other Solyndras and to give us a budget at the other end of the building.

CLEAN ENERGY IN MAINE

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk for a minute about some exciting developments in clean energy in my State of Maine.

Last week, Energy Secretary Chu released a report detailing the enormous potential for tidal energy off of U.S. coasts. There is enough there to meet up to one-third of our needs, and he singled out Maine, saying, "These resources can create new industries and new jobs in America."

He's right, and we're proving it. The Ocean Renewable Power Company of Portland is building a tidal power project in Maine that, if all goes as planned, will start producing clean, American-made electricity as early as this summer.

Meanwhile, we're welcoming one of the biggest energy companies in the world to our State. Statoil from Norway is considering a pilot project of large-scale wind turbines that would produce clean electricity while floating out of view off our coast. Experts say

up to 15,000 jobs can be created in my State by offshore wind, good-paying American jobs that will help us regain our energy independence.

This is good news off our coast, Mr. Speaker, for Maine and our country.

VISION OF AN AMERICA BUILT TO LAST

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, the President will deliver the State of the Union tonight. I expect to hear his vision of an America built to last.

Mr. Speaker, let's listen together. Let's remember together. We must remember how and why we are the greatest Nation in the world. We must remember those American values that built this Nation. We must remember how, in building this Nation, the middle class emerged and how they are our backbone and how they are our foundation.

Hard work, pride, and being a just and fair Nation is what makes us great. Let us look to the past. Remember its lessons to build the future.

FUTURE OF MIDDLE CLASS

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the State of the Union address tonight is going to be very important, and I agree with President Obama that this is a make-or-break moment for the middle class and those trying to reach it.

And what's at stake is the very survival of the basic American promise that if you work hard, you can do well enough to raise a family, own a home, and put a little bit away for retirement. We can either settle for a country where a shrinking number of people do really well while more Americans barely get by, or we can build a Nation where everyone gets a fair shot, he says, everyone does their fair share and everyone plays by the same rules.

We found out today that, especially when it comes to taxes, there really are different rules for the rich. Mitt Romney released his taxes. He made \$42 million over the last 2 years and paid at about a 14.5 percent rate because most of his income is in capital gains.

Look at the tax brackets. If you make \$8,500 as a single person, you're in a 15-percent tax bracket. Is that fair? I don't think so.

AMERICANS LIVING ON EDGE TODAY

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Too many of our fellow Americans are living on the

edge today and have been for far too long. The last thing they need is another showdown at the Not-OK Corral.

They need jobs. They need to save or go back into their homes. And for those who have been living in poverty or those who used to be in the middle class but are now struggling to survive below the poverty level, they need us to help provide the opportunity to help lift them and their families out of poverty and to a better life. Our President is coming to us tonight to again offer us some opportunities to do all of these things and more and to restore our country's economic health.

So let's not put our fellow Americans through another cliffhanger on things that are important to their well-being. Let us pass the payroll and unemployment insurance extension, fix the Medicare payment issue without drama, and come together to work on the bipartisan measures that the President will ask us to pass for our people and our country.

INCLUDE PUERTO RICO IN SSI PROGRAM

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

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation that would extend the SSI program to Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and Guam.

SSI provides cash assistance to blind, disabled, or elderly individuals who have limited or no income. Although SSI applies in the States, it does not apply in Puerto Rico, which instead receives a block grant to assist its most vulnerable residents.

Of all the disparities that Puerto Rico faces because of its territory status, this is perhaps the most harmful. Puerto Rico's annual grant is about \$35 million. By contrast, the Nation's poorest State, with almost 1 million fewer residents, received over \$740 million in SSI funding in 2010.

While in the States beneficiaries receive about \$500 each month, Puerto Rico residents receive only \$70. Residents of Puerto Rico are American citizens, but when it comes to SSI, their citizenship is second class.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support this bill.

□ 1230

RETURN "SESAME STREET" TO PALESTINIAN AIRWAVES

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I brought a friend to the floor with me today. As we all know, this is Elmo. This guy taught us our 1, 2, 3s, but he also taught us tolerance and understanding. For the past several years, he's been doing the same thing for children in the Palestinian territories. Because of "Sesame Street" in Palestine,