

audiences in Rhode Island and other localities through exhibitions and collections, arts education, historic preservation, and arts and cultural programming.

It's a true honor to recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Newport Art Museum.

MORE PROOF WE CAN'T TAX OUR WAY TO PROSPERITY

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, a recent report from a respected Illinois think tank found that within 5 years the State of Illinois will have amassed an incredible \$34.8 billion in unpaid bills. This, of course, comes only 1 year after an allegedly temporary tax hike that they were told would help restore the State to fiscal health, but instead has made the State's economy much worse.

Yesterday, the CBO reported that, for the 4th consecutive year, the Federal budget deficit will once again exceed \$1 trillion. This is a mind-boggling number, and it underlines the need for serious fiscal reforms such as the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act that we passed last year.

But, Madam Speaker, I'd like everyone in this Chamber to learn a lesson from my home State of Illinois. We need to learn from the mistakes that they've made. Despite what some people here believe, we can never tax our way to prosperity. Let's heed the warning of the Land of Lincoln and make the tough decisions to break Washington's spending addiction.

RESTORE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, with another deadline approaching, we're reminded again of the debacle that was the end of the last session when Members on the other side stood in the way of extending tax cuts for 160 million Americans and unemployment benefits for millions more. This is really unacceptable.

Madam Speaker, I want to share with you the sentiments of Mary Hill of Maryland. I received a letter from her this week. She's a single mother. She's a construction worker, and she's a member of Laborers' Local 657. She writes to me that she's been out of work for most of the last 3 years. In her first year here, she writes:

I went through all my savings as well as my children's savings. I went from visions of having my skills, education, vocation, certifications, and ethics embraced to receiving food stamps, a medical card, and watching my unemployment run out. I want to work. I need to

work. I work every day as a volunteer organizer. My passion is for myself and others to achieve and live the American Dream. Hard work should be rewarded, and it is rewarding. Nevertheless, my rent is due. I owe credit cards and a student loan. I thought I would own a house by now.

Madam Speaker, we have to restore unemployment benefits for millions of Americans like Mary Hill.

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TIME FOR THE SENATE TO GET TO WORK

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, the American people are rightfully fed up. The Obama Presidency has meant only more power for Washington and more debt for our children and grandchildren, while the Obama economy produces only less confidence for job creators and too few jobs for Americans.

When it comes to fostering job growth, the difference between House Republicans and Senate Democrats for more than a year now has been the difference between action and inaction. Following the House Republican Plan for America's Job Creators, the House has already passed more than 30 bipartisan jobs bills to restore the freedom and confidence of our Nation's job creators to do their job. Unfortunately, 27 of these bipartisan jobs bills are still being ignored or blocked in the do-nothing Democrat Senate.

It's time for Washington Democrats to join our fight to put Americans back to work and get to work enacting those jobs bills.

CALLING ON GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM TO RESPECT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

(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. Madam Speaker, we can see that Vietnam's communist government's escalation of crackdowns has targeted the voices of the conscience such as Paulus Le Son and many other Vietnamese patriots for exercising their rights of free speech and expression.

Recently, I received disturbing reports that another youth activist and Vietnamese songwriter, Viet Khang Tri Minh Vo, was detained and imprisoned by the Vietnamese police and government. Viet Khang's songs question the conscience of the Vietnam police, who have brutally assaulted and arrested demonstrators at peaceful gatherings. It is time for the Government of Vietnam to respect the freedom of expression through the arts and stop these arbitrary arrests and recognize the basic human rights of the individual.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor House Resolution 484, calling on the Vietnamese Government to cease the abuse of vague national security provisions in the Vietnamese penal code, which are used to justify the detention and the abuse of their own citizens.

MEDICAL AND CANCER RESEARCH

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, earlier this week I had the opportunity to participate in a roundtable discussion in western New York on innovations in health care. Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary Bill Corr was in attendance, as were many innovation leaders from my community. My community of Buffalo and western New York has been a real leader in embracing health care innovations to promote the efficient and cost-effective delivery of quality health care services.

Buffalo was the Nation's largest recipient of the Federal Government's Beacon Grant for comprehensive integration of electronic medical records. Buffalo's Roswell Park Cancer Institute, the Nation's first comprehensive cancer center, was recently designated to conduct clinical trials for promising new therapies using vaccines to bolster the body's immune system to fight cancer. The successful result of this clinical trial could fundamentally change the science of cancer research and treatment.

Innovation in health care must be sustained by the Federal Government. Today, the National Institutes of Health rejects nine of 10 applications for promising research due to lack of funding. Ten years ago, 25 percent of the National Cancer Institute's research grants were funded; today, it's 8 percent. The only failure in cancer research is when you quit or you're forced to quit because of lack of funding.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support fully cancer funding.

EXTEND THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I continue to wear a yellow ribbon to remind us of the wonderful troops who were able to come home finally from Iraq.

I want to congratulate the city of St. Louis that introduced and held the first Welcome Home the Troops from Iraq parade on January 28. I look forward to communities around this Nation raising up their voices to say thank you to those who worked and dedicated their lives and their commitment to the freedom of this country. That's why, Madam Speaker, it's so important that we do our work. Not a

minute should we wait to pass the payroll tax extension, unemployment extension, and the ability of our seniors to see their doctors with the Medicare fix for our doctors.

What we say to our soldiers by welcoming them home is all in our acts and our deeds, how we treat their relatives, their friends, and extended family members and community. It's time for Congress to wait not one minute to extend the American Dream to all and provide this benefit to those who are in need.

STOP CUTS IN PUBLIC SPENDING

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

Mr. MORAN. Madam Speaker, this is a wealthy country. Corporate profits are at record highs. By the end of last year, the private sector was expanding at a healthy 4.5 percent annualized pace. But why, then, wasn't economic growth in the most recent quarter even better than the 2.8 percent that the Commerce Department reported last week? As David Leonhardt of *The New York Times* explains, the answer is because the economy is the combination of the private and public sectors. The public sector has been shrinking for the last 1½ years because of cuts in State and local governments and some Federal cuts, especially to the military.

In the fourth-quarter government shrank at an annual rate of 4.5 percent. Over the last 2 years, the private sector grew at an average annual rate of 3.2 percent while the government shrank at an annual rate of 1.4, and the combined result was that economic growth was 2.3%. That's a lot of numbers. But the fact is economic growth and employment growth would have been significantly stronger over the last 2 years without those government cuts.

And that's why we shouldn't be continuing to discourage Federal employment by continuing to freeze their pay, as the majority wants to do today. And it's why we shouldn't be letting unemployment benefits expire for 6 million people. It's why we should let the Bush tax cuts expire. It's a far better alternative than cutting trillions of dollars more in public spending.

IS GOVERNMENT REALLY THE SOURCE OF ALL OUR PROBLEMS?

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

Mr. YARMUTH. You know, we've heard for many years now from the other side the notion that government is the source of all of our problems, government never does anything right, it ought to stop regulating and get out of the way of a very free and open society.

Well, the authors of a new book called "Gardens of Democracy" have a

compelling and undeniable point to make. They write: "There is not a stable, prosperous society on Earth without activist government, extensive regulation, and high, progressive taxation. If less were always better, then the least regulated economies would be the most successful economies. The opposite is true. If minimalist government worked, Somalia would be rich, stable and secure, and Canada would be a hellhole; Afghanistan would be a coveted destination, and Denmark would be like a leper colony."

Now, to be fair, the authors say that our government is often too slow to react, it has all the answers, and it needs to be more flexible and more effective. We all agree with that. What we need to do is find a way to create a government that is efficient, that sets the right direction for our country, and then lets the innovative spirit of this country take hold and find the answers to our problems.

GETTING AMERICA BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. RANGEL. Recently, the President of the United States indicated that he will be sending legislation to the Congress in order to get America back to work. He also indicated that he would use the powers of the executive branch where there was no cooperation from the Congress in what he was trying to do. There's an old African saying, that is, when two elephants fight, only the grass gets hurt. I would certainly hope that the leadership in the House and the Senate take the President up on some of the offers that he has made to educate our young people, to make certain that those people that are about to lose their homes are able to keep them, and to see that we get the type of incentives from manufacturers to have jobs here rather than overseas.

I am certain that those people who watched the Republican debates were missing one thing, and that is jobs. America wants to get back to work. It wants its dignity, it wants its kids to be able to get an education, and it wants to restore the middle class.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 658, FAA REAUTHORIZATION AND REFORM ACT OF 2012

Mr. MICA submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 658) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, to streamline programs, create efficiencies, reduce waste, and improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 112-381)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amend-

ment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 658), to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, to streamline programs, create efficiencies, reduce waste, and improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Amendments to title 49, United States Code.

Sec. 3. Effective date.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATIONS

Subtitle A—Funding of FAA Programs

Sec. 101. Airport planning and development and noise compatibility planning and programs.

Sec. 102. Air navigation facilities and equipment.

Sec. 103. FAA operations.

Sec. 104. Funding for aviation programs.

Sec. 105. Delineation of Next Generation Air Transportation System projects.

Subtitle B—Passenger Facility Charges

Sec. 111. Passenger facility charges.

Sec. 112. GAO study of alternative means of collecting PFCs.

Sec. 113. Qualifications-based selection.

Subtitle C—Fees for FAA Services

Sec. 121. Update on overflights.

Sec. 122. Registration fees.

Subtitle D—Airport Improvement Program Modifications

Sec. 131. Airport master plans.

Sec. 132. AIP definitions.

Sec. 133. Recycling plans for airports.

Sec. 134. Contents of competition plans.

Sec. 135. Grant assurances.

Sec. 136. Agreements granting through-the-fence access to general aviation airports.

Sec. 137. Government share of project costs.

Sec. 138. Allowable project costs.

Sec. 139. Veterans' preference.

Sec. 140. Minority and disadvantaged business participation.

Sec. 141. Special apportionment rules.

Sec. 142. United States territories minimum guarantee.

Sec. 143. Reducing apportionments.

Sec. 144. Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau.

Sec. 145. Use of apportioned amounts.

Sec. 146. Designating current and former military airports.

Sec. 147. Contract tower program.

Sec. 148. Resolution of disputes concerning airport fees.

Sec. 149. Sale of private airports to public sponsors.

Sec. 150. Repeal of certain limitations on Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

Sec. 151. Midway Island Airport.

Sec. 152. Miscellaneous amendments.

Sec. 153. Extension of grant authority for compatible land use planning and projects by State and local governments.

Sec. 154. Priority review of construction projects in cold weather States.