

I am very frustrated by the inaction of the House Republican conferees and how their obstructionism is negatively affecting job creation in this country. The current transportation extension expires at the end of this month. We are in the height of the summer construction season, and we are losing the opportunity to get these jobs going and the construction and the manufacturing industries back to work.

One surefire way to create jobs is to invest in our country's infrastructure, but House Republicans are obstructing it at every turn. Last month, we were forced to pass a 10th temporary extension of highway funding because of the GOP's inaction. This is my 20th year here, and this is the first time that this bill has been held up because of partisanship.

This inaction only increases the instability for the construction industry, and it makes it impossible for State and local governments to plan long term.

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

(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, according to the Social Security trustees, the Social Security Disability program is expected to exhaust its trust fund in just 4 years. If the fund is exhausted and if nothing is done, only around 80 percent of the benefits will be paid out. Over 11 million Americans could be impacted.

Again, we have another government entitlement program headed towards bankruptcy. This is a program that costs as much as the annual budgets of the Departments of Agriculture, Homeland Security, Commerce, Labor, Interior, and Justice combined. I know how important this program is to many of my own constituents. With regard to Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and the disability program, tens of millions of people rely on these programs, but they are not structurally sound.

Doing nothing is not the answer, and taking funds from the general revenue does nothing to provide the long-term stability that we need. We need real innovative reform that fixes our problems, that saves and strengthens these programs without piling up debt. If we don't act to save and strengthen these programs, our creditors will make the decisions for us down the road. We need to address these problems in a bipartisan manner. One party can't do it alone.

ANTHONY ANDERSON, A RISING JUNIOR AT LA SALLE ACADEMY

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

Mr. CICILLINE. I rise today to honor Anthony Anderson, a rising junior at LaSalle Academy in my home State of Rhode Island.

Earlier this year, Anthony was awarded a Gold Medal from the National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for a self-portrait he submitted focused on the issue of bullying. Anthony has been recognized each year by the National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards since he was in the seventh grade, and this month, Anthony's painting is on display at an art gallery in New York City.

His family and his art teacher at LaSalle were invited to Carnegie Hall last week for a ceremony honoring his work and the work of other Gold Medal winners from across our Nation.

I congratulate Anthony on his impressive accomplishments and join Rhode Islanders all across our State in wishing him continued success in the years ahead.

HONORING RECIPIENTS OF THE SMALL BUSINESS WEEK AWARDS

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, too often people in Washington forget that it's our small businesses that create jobs, not government. These men and women are doing the most important work to bring about economic recovery and growth. In fact, over the past 17 years, small businesses have created an impressive 65 percent of all new American jobs.

So today, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the successes of our local job creators, including two individuals from my district who are being recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Congratulations to Kathy Xuan, the CEO of PARC Corporation, which is a plastics recycling company in Romeoville, Illinois, on being named Exporter of the Year. I also offer a hearty salute to Mike Rohan, the President of All Trust Home Care, Incorporated, which is in Hinsdale, Illinois, who has earned the Entrepreneurial Success of the Year Award.

These achievements are an important reminder to Congress that we must put politics aside and work together to create an environment where leaders like Mike and Kathy can do what they do best—create jobs.

STOPPING THE STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE HIKE

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. American innovators contribute to an economy second to none and provide a strategic advantage in national security. But from where will the advancements of tomorrow come?

The U.S. ranks 27th in the world in graduates with science and engineering

degrees, so the last thing Congress should do is make education less affordable. Yet that's exactly what will happen on June 30 if Congress fails to act. Interest rates on student loans will double, hiking the yearly payments by \$1,000 for more than 7 million students in this country.

April's Republican ruse of tying student loan interest rates to the evisceration of preventative health care for women and children was an unconscionable partisan ploy. No parent should be forced to choose between his child's health and education. No woman should have to choose between breast cancer screening and a student loan.

Lowered interest rates were the result of bipartisan cooperation between a Democratic Congress and a Republican President. We must stop the interest rate hike in a responsible and bipartisan manner, and I urge speedy action.

IN HONOR OF GAYLEN BYKER

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

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I wish you could meet my friend, Dr. Gaylen Byker, a truly renaissance man who was born in Iowa but raised in Hudsonville, Michigan, which is in my district, where he grew up in a family that was very entrepreneurial and very politically involved. His father actually served as a State senator, Gary Byker.

Gaylen attended Calvin College, where he is now President, and earned a BA with concentrations in philosophy, English, political science, and speech, with a minor in Russian. He also entered the Army in 1967 and served in Vietnam, and he was discharged with the rank of captain. He went on to earn a law degree at the University of Michigan and then his master's degree in world politics at Michigan as well. After that, he decided he needed to get his Ph.D. in international relations from Pennsylvania.

He then served and worked at an energy exploration company out of Houston. He worked on Wall Street, both on energy as well as in derivatives and futures. He then served as a lawyer in Philadelphia. He has been involved in numerous organizations and volunteer opportunities, including the Ruffed Grouse Society of the United States.

He is an avid hunter—and a pretty good shot as well, I might add. He became president of Calvin College in 1995, where he has served it since then for the last 17 years. Gaylen is truly a person who has left a place better than when he found it.

Dr. Byker, we just want to say thank you for your service to Calvin College in the greater community in west Michigan.

AMERICAN CRYSTAL SUGAR FACTORY LOCKOUT

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

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to what is a very serious problem for the families of at least 1,300 workers, 900 of whom live in my home State of Minnesota. They've been in a labor dispute with their company. On Friday, there is a chance to go back to the bargaining table to come up with a good settlement.

Now, these workers, they didn't go on strike. They've been locked out. They've been locked out for 10 months at the American Crystal Sugar Factory in Moorhead, Minnesota. Many of these people have worked at this factory their entire lives and are really good, solid members of their community. These workers have gone to work, and they've actually stood up and gone to bat for the company, particularly regarding the sugar program, and in countless other ways as well. These workers even vowed not to go on strike because they know how important their work is to the company and to the community. The only thing they've done wrong is they haven't been able to pay their higher health insurance costs, which is the real crux of the negotiation.

This Friday, the sides are going back to the bargaining table for the first time in 4 months. I commend both labor and management for getting back to the table. But, Madam Speaker, I urge management to listen carefully to the pleas of these workers and to come up with a fair settlement.

□ 1220

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

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

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in 2009, the Obama administration said that unemployment would never reach 8 percent if the stimulus was approved. Well, it was. And 3 years later and \$1.2 trillion in spending, unemployment has remained above 8 percent for 40 consecutive months, the longest span since the Great Depression. Even more alarming is that the 8 percent doesn't illustrate how grim the situation really is.

More than 500,000 more Americans are out of work today than they were when President Obama took office in 2009, and the percentage of Americans working is at a 30-year low. Unemployment would be even higher if it were not for the grit and the resolve of the American people themselves. With these numbers, it's clear that President Obama's agenda has failed, and it's making the economy worse.

House Republicans have a plan. They have a plan for America's job creators

to help turn this economy around. It's time for the President and it's time for the Senate Democrats to stop blocking jobs for Americans and to join us in helping get Americans back to work.

68TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLIED INVASION OF EUROPE

(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 mark the 68th anniversary of the Allied expeditionary forces landing in Normandy, France, at the start of the end of World War II. The allied invasion of Europe was led by a native Kansan born in Abilene and a truly great American hero, former-President General Dwight "Ike" Eisenhower.

On the morning of June 6, 1944, General Eisenhower inspired his men to fight for the values of liberty and freedom, stating:

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped, and battle hardened. He will fight savagely.

Our homefronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned. The free men of the world are marching together to victory.

Good luck. And let us beseech the blessings of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

We all remember the tremendous sacrifices the Greatest Generation gave for the cause of freedom and liberty as we mark this solemn anniversary today.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, I'm here to ask that the Republican budget respect our seniors.

We've got to ask ourselves why are we giving those who make over a million dollars about \$394,000 on average in tax cuts and those making between \$20,000 and \$30,000 get \$129. Why? And why is it that there is about \$3 trillion in breaks that we're giving to Big Business, Big Oil, gas, and the super rich? Why are we doing that?

Then there is an effort in the Republican budget to change Medicare to the voucher program. This is why AARP says, "Republicans are shifting the cost to our seniors and ending the Medicare guarantee, that guarantee that many of them rely upon." And our Congressional Budget Office agrees with this.

The attacks on the Affordable Care Act by the Republicans also are going to set us back. That act closes the doughnut hole for seniors' prescription drugs. It also allows them to have preventive health care, and we're taking that away, too.

Madam Speaker, let's just respect our seniors, and not do what we're doing.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the further consideration of H.R. 5325, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 667 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5325.

Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) kindly take the chair.

□ 1224

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes, with Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, June 5, 2012, the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) had been disposed of, and the bill had been read through page 56, line 24.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia for the purpose of engaging in a colloquy.

Mr. HURT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In Virginia's Fifth District, State and local officials have been working diligently to attract new businesses to create new jobs in Southside, Virginia. In Henry County, a county located in Virginia's Fifth District, local officials have identified a 200-acre site that has the potential to attract major economic development opportunities at a time when the Martinsville-Henry County area suffers from the highest unemployment rate in Virginia—15 percent and 10 percent respectively.

Unfortunately, Federal regulators, including the Army Corps of Engineers, have resisted moving forward with this important initiative and stalled the