

education. That is why I am so pleased that President Obama is visiting my alma mater today, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He will call on Congress to focus on keeping student loans affordable for Nevada's families as we approach the July 1 deadline when student loans will double.

Mr. Speaker, right now families across the country are sitting around their kitchen tables anxiously figuring out how to give their children the opportunity to go to college. They're counting on this Congress to stop worrying about protecting Wall Street corporations and Big Oil companies for just a few minutes and help their sons and daughters go to college.

I hope that we're up for this challenge.

COMMEMORATING THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, our Nation remembered and commemorated the 68th anniversary of D-day, the World War II allied invasion of Normandy, France, and the beginning of the liberation of Europe from the forces of tyranny.

Today, I want to commemorate another historical World War II battle—70 years ago, the Battle of Midway, when the United States Navy struck back at imperial Japan, turning the tide in the Pacific and paving the way toward a great American victory at sea.

Six months earlier, Japanese planes infamously attacked Pearl Harbor, drawing the United States into that war. Yet our Navy recovered quickly and mobilized under the leadership of Admiral Ernest King, from the port city of Lorain, Ohio, on Lake Erie, and Admiral Chester Nimitz.

With the odds against them, our U.S. Navy boldly struck back at the Battle of Midway. Over 4 days, the Japanese lost all four of the large carriers that had attacked Pearl Harbor, not to mention a heavy cruiser, 248 carrier-based aircraft, and more than 3,000 men. The United States lost one carrier, the Yorktown, one destroyer, and 340 men.

Today, we commemorate this major historic achievement of our Navy. We honor the sacrifice of those who fought for us and died for us, and we express abiding gratitude for the bravery and dedication of all who fought in this battle in service to our Nation and freedom's cause.

Today, the free world remembers the Battle of Midway.

□ 1220

HONORING JOHAN SANTANA

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I have often said that I'm truly partisan about one thing, not Democrats versus Republicans, but Mets fans versus everyone else in the country.

Last Friday, Mr. Speaker, the Mets had something worth saluting. Johan Santana threw the first no-hitter in the history of my beloved New York Mets. Now, more important than a no-hitter is the lessons it teaches all Americans.

Johan Santana had surgery that they thought would end his career. He didn't give up on himself; he didn't give up on New York. He's never given up on his roots in Venezuela, didn't give up on the children of Venezuela that he supports through his foundation. He hasn't given up on the children of 9/11 that he supports through Tuesday's Children.

It's not the no-hitter that counts, Mr. Speaker. It is the spirit and the determination and the dedication of Johan Santana. That is what makes me a baseball fan. That is what makes baseball America's pastime, and I am very pleased and proud to salute Johan Santana and Mets fans everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, let's go Mets.

STUDENT DEBT

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, in just 23 days, the interest rates on Stafford student loans will double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. Now, one of the few things that we agree on in this Congress is that the low interest rates should be extended, yet we've been unable to get across the goal line.

Congress needs to find the moral imagination and the will to get this done before July 1. Every day we wait, we're imposing an immense amount of anxiety on students, parents, and the economy.

Take Brian, from Grand Isle. He has \$100,000 in student loans. He's got two daughters; they each have \$20,000 in debt. His third daughter is in school with tuition costs that are up to \$40,000.

Brian is working 65 hours a week, but he can't keep up. He can't even begin to think about retirement. It's not an option. He's just trying to get from day to day and afford to keep his daughter in college.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has 23 days. We're running out of time.

PROTECT MEDICAL INNOVATION

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, as a Representative of the great State of Minnesota, I stand here in support of my colleague Representative ERIK PAULSEN's bill to eliminate and repeal the medical device tax on the new ObamaCare legislation.

Our State of Minnesota is home to over 400 medical device manufacturers. We have over 35,000 people that are employed in this important industry that benefits all of the United States, 35,000 people. That about fills the Twins' Target Field. That's a lot of people who potentially could lose jobs in our home State.

I refuse to see a single job lost in Minnesota or in any of our States in our great country due to the legislation known as ObamaCare. Without repealing the medical device tax, jobs will be lost and also the costs of health care will go up.

I urge my colleagues to get behind ERIK PAULSEN's important piece of legislation. I know I will.

CAMPAIGN SPENDING

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, big money from corporations and billionaires is corrupting Washington and hurting the middle class. To make matters worse, 2 years ago the Supreme Court decided in the Citizens United case to open up campaign spending to secret, unlimited donations, possibly even from foreign sources.

Let's be clear: a handful of corporations and billionaires are trying to buy elections and control of our government. We need new rules to make Washington work for the middle class. We need to limit political contributions, and the public has a right to know who is paying for political ads.

Hey, because of Citizens United, our government is for sale. We need to stand shoulder to shoulder to stop Big Money from destroying our democracy.

HONORING WINONA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Winona, Minnesota Area Chamber of Commerce on their centennial celebration.

On April 22, 1912, at the then-urging of then-President Taft, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce was established by a gathering of 700 delegates from across the country, including innovative people from Winona, Minnesota.

Even before the national chamber was formed, those very people in Winona had the foresight to establish their own local association of community and business leaders that would give rise to that great city on the Mississippi. While the last 100 years have seen many changes, one constant in the Winona community has been the chamber.

Since its inception, the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce has been working to ensure local small business owners have the tools they need to succeed.

While it's important to note their rich history, the Winona chamber also has an eye on the future. By offering low-cost or free educational programs for young professionals in leadership, microenterprise and business management, the local chamber works to ensure future small business owners will continue to have the tools to succeed.

Today I pay tribute to the foresight and leadership and wish the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce a happy 100th anniversary. Here's to another 100 years of promoting opportunity, small business growth and community involvement in Winona, Minnesota.

NATIONAL OCEANS MONTH

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, the oceans on either side of the United States defined this great country, and these oceans are in trouble. They are so big and so vast with so many aspects not understood that it's hard for people to comprehend that they are in trouble.

Without the ocean, we wouldn't have the air we breathe or much of the protein we eat. It is our world's largest public trust, and it is essential to human life as we know it.

It captures one-third of our carbon emissions, hosts millions of species, and offers limitless recreational and educational opportunities worldwide. Yet over 14 billion pounds of trash end up in our ocean and our beaches each year.

Therefore, I urge the Nation to celebrate National Oceans Month and honor World Oceans Day, which is tomorrow, by taking advantage of activities of the Capitol Hill Ocean Week.

This summer get wet, go to the beach, clean it up. Clean up the polluted rivers that flow into our oceans, and get in there and volunteer and learn more about the ocean resources upon which we so undeniably rely and how you can work to protect them.

I thank all those who have come to Washington for Capitol Hill Ocean Week. We need political friends. The ocean needs political friends.

BAN ON CORPORATE EXPENDITURES IN FEDERAL CAMPAIGNS

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago in Citizens United, the Supreme Court overturned two decades of precedents to strike down the ban on corporate expenditures in Federal campaigns. This opened the floodgates and allows corporations to spend unlimited funds, so now money comes from a handful of billionaires looking to wield their influence, and no one has to know who they are.

Campaigns like the one in Wisconsin and many others are being bought with

that money instead of being decided by an honestly and factually informed public, as they should be. Romney's secretly funded PAC alone spent \$46 million before Memorial Day to sway your opinion, and it will continue to spend even more.

We have to end the influence of the secret money on our elections. That's why I am a cosponsor of the DISCLOSE Act, which will restore accountability in our elections. Americans want and deserve a more open and honest political process. Republicans blocked that bill in 2010. The GOP needs to listen to Americans and bring the DISCLOSE Act to the floor.

The American public has a right to know who is paying for campaign ads that they will be swamped with this election cycle, and they need to know sooner rather than later.

□ 1230

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the extension of student loan interest rates. Student loans have been an essential tool for many students and families who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford the soaring costs of college tuition. However, in a few short weeks, Federal student loan interest rates are set to double from 3.4 to 6.8 percent, making the dream of attaining college even more difficult for millions of students and families.

We need to act now. It is our responsibility to ensure that all children have the ability to pursue higher education. The cost of attending college has gone up almost 30 percent in the last 10 years. We cannot afford to ignore struggling students across this Nation. In these uncertain economic times, we can make no greater investment than in education. More and more jobs require some sort of post-secondary education, and by 2018, just 6 years from now, 63 percent of employment opportunities will demand an education beyond high school.

It is pathological partisanship that is preventing us from dealing with this important issue.

PASS THE DISCLOSE ACT

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a great and noble President, Abraham Lincoln, proclaimed that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth. It was government of the people, by the people, for the people, that gave us Social Security and Medicare.

But I regret to inform you today, Mr. Speaker, that government of the peo-

ple, by the people, for the people is at risk—and it is at risk because there is a new concept that is evolving. It is government of the money, by the money, for the money. It is the notion that he who has the gold rules, changing the Golden Rule, Father.

I want you to know, dear friends, that if we do nothing, we will find ourselves with a new form of government. The Republic is at risk. We must do something about government of the money, by the money, for the money.

The DISCLOSE Act is one thing that we can do. We must act and pass the DISCLOSE Act.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 436, HEALTH CARE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2012, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5882, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 679 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 679

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 436) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 112-23, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) 90 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5882) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and except pro forma amendments offered at any time by the chair or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or