

policies from this administration. They are hurting America.

#### PAYROLL TAX CUT EXTENSION

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, we are now in the month of February. In less than 4 weeks, the 2-week payroll tax cut extension, which House Republicans begrudgingly agreed to, will expire.

To avoid the same dramatic standoff that threatened a \$1,400 tax increase for the average Massachusetts family, we must work together and adopt a yearlong extension of this vital tax credit rather than waiting till the last minute yet again.

Failure to extend the payroll tax cut to the end of the year would not only severely impact already overstretched households around the country, but would also dramatically undermine our still fragile economic recovery.

Families have already made their budgets for this year. They are counting on this extension to pay their bills, heat their homes, and meet other needs. Let's not let them down.

#### PBGC SHOULD RESTORE DELPHI SALARIED RETIREES PENSIONS

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

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today our colleagues at the Education and Workforce Committee held a subcommittee hearing looking into the challenges facing the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

Perhaps one of the greatest challenges facing the PBGC is transparency. The PBGC will not release even the most basic documents explaining the denial of the full earned pension benefits of the Delphi salaried retirees. Perhaps it is because of the many conflicts of interest that existed between the Treasury Department and the PBGC.

When these pensions were turned over to the PBGC, approximately 20,000 current and future salaried retirees were subjected to benefit cuts of up to 70 percent. The hardworking taxpayers whose tax dollars were used to pay for the auto bailouts deserve to know who made these decisions to cut these pensions and why they are made.

#### NFL BLACKOUT UNACCEPTABLE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, tens of millions of Americans will gather with family and friends to watch the Super Bowl. Many from my western New York community will be among them. Unfortunately, western

New York families do not always have the opportunity to watch their hometown team, the Buffalo Bills.

The NFL's blackout rule prohibits the broadcast of a game in a team's home market if the game has not been sold out within 72 hours of the kickoff. In Buffalo, this meant that this past season almost half of the Bills games were blacked out. This is unacceptable. We have a strong and enthusiastic fan base; but with one of the largest football stadiums in the National Football League, Buffalo must sell 6,000 more tickets than the league's average to avoid a blackout.

I have sent a letter to NFL Commissioner Goodell, along with my colleagues Congresswoman KATHY HOCHUL, Congressman ROSS, and Congresswoman BROWN, asking for an end to this unfair policy. It is time for the league to update this regulation, taking into account factors like stadium and media market size and, most importantly, the tough financial situation millions of families across the Nation find themselves in.

□ 1210

#### STOCK ACT

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, Washington is failing the American people. Our leaders need to be held to the highest standard, and that means obeying the same laws that everyone else has to live under.

I'm pleased to report progress on an important bill that I cosponsored; it's called the STOCK Act. It would prohibit inside trading by any Member of Congress.

This bill is now starting to move in the Senate, and I intend to fight to ensure its swift passage. No one in government should profit from private information obtained through their position. Serving the people is a privilege and it's an honor, not an opportunity for personal gain.

#### SUSAN G. KOMEN HALTS PARTNERSHIP WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, today is a sad day. In an effort to strip women of the right to choose, anti-choice groups have blocked access to life-saving cancer screenings.

The Nation's leading breast cancer charity, Susan G. Komen, announced it will no longer partner with Planned Parenthood, the Nation's leading women's health care provider. This fight has pitted two of our Nation's premier and important women's health care groups wrongly against each other.

We on either side of the Capitol and in these Chambers must remember that

rhetoric has real-world consequences. For the health of all women across America, this issue must be resolved quickly and the collaborative relationship between these two great institutions restored. Until then, lives are at stake, sadly, for political gain.

#### CONSCIENCE RIGHTS

(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, institutions across the country are facing an impossible choice: Do they continue in their mission to provide for their employees, or do they violate their conscience?

When the Affordable Care Act passed, there was no thought in the minds of many Catholics that the law would eventually force them into such a terrible choice. In fact, my former colleague from Pennsylvania, Kathy Dahlkemper, recently came out and said, I would have never voted for the final version of the bill if I expected the Obama administration to force Catholic hospitals and Catholic colleges and universities to pay for contraception.

I might add, this rule that will go into effect on August 12 includes not only contraceptives, but abortifacients, drugs like Ella and Plan B, as well as sterilization services.

Catholic and other religious organizations have cared for the sick and educated Americans of all religions since the founding of our Republic, and they've done this because their conscience compels them to show their love to all mankind. Never before has the Federal Government compelled them to violate their conscience in such a terrible way. There are fundamental questions about life and morality that the government has no business forcing on organizations and individuals. To force them to violate their conscience is wrong.

#### PROMPT SHORT SALE DECISION ACT

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to advocate an aggressive response to the housing crisis.

Last year, 30 percent of California homeowners with mortgages were underwater. That's one of the highest rates in the country. To improve our economy, we must fix the broken housing market. Large banks simply wait out short-sale offers, which kills the process.

Back home, I hear from people who are trying to secure short sales and have to wait for months or longer to get a decision from their lender. That's absolutely unacceptable. Banks need to treat people fairly, which is why I'm a cosponsor of H.R. 1498, the Prompt Decision for Qualification of Short Sale Act. This is a bipartisan bill that requires lenders to make a decision within 45 days to approve or disapprove a

short sale. This bill simply makes sure that prospective homeowners receive a decision from their banks in time to be useable.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation so we can break up the housing market logjam.

#### LET'S GET TO WORK ON CREATING JOBS AND STRENGTHENING MIDDLE CLASS

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, if Congress does not act soon, 160 million Americans will see a tax increase at the end of the month. Working families in my district rely on the payroll tax cut to make their mortgage payments or put food on the table. We need to get to work right now on extending the payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance for a full year.

Fourteen million Americans are without jobs. Families need our help; they are hurting. But instead of working together to create jobs, Republicans continue to push a partisan agenda that further divides us.

This week, we have yet another bill to repeal the health care reform. Let's stop these misguided bills. Let's get to work on the agenda that creates jobs and strengthens the middle class. We must work together.

#### AN AMERICA BUILT TO LAST

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, last week we were in this Chamber listening to the President deliver a State of the Union address, the blueprint for an America built to last. We took away different points from that speech. Many will speak to his initiatives which address American manufacturing, a new and innovative energy source, educating and creating a more skillful workforce. I took away that this blueprint for an America built to last will be successful because of its foundation, the foundation which is the people of this great Nation.

The President is putting his faith in the people. He is putting his faith in their values, uniquely American values. He is putting his faith in those values which created and motivated the creation of the middle class, the middle class which is the backbone of this great Nation. That is why we will have an America built to last.

#### CRYSTAL SUGAR LOCK-OUT

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, 1,300 Minnesota workers have been denied their basic and most fundamental right to work and support their families.

That's right, yesterday marked the 6-month anniversary of workers at the American Crystal Sugar factory in Moorhead being locked out. Many of these people have worked for the factory their whole lives. Their parents worked there, Mr. Speaker, and their grandparents worked there, too.

These workers have gone to work and have gone to bat for the company. These workers, Mr. Speaker, stood shoulder to shoulder with the company to fight for a better sugar program in the farm bill just because that's how dedicated they are. But what have they got in return? They've gotten locked out. They're not on strike. They're locked out because they will not accept an unfair take-it-or-leave-it contract. These workers even vowed not to strike because they know how important their work is, but they have been locked out even though they have agreed to a no-strike guarantee.

It's wrong, Mr. Speaker. These 1,300 folks deserve better from this company, and I think the time is now for the company to negotiate.

#### WORST TRANSPORTATION BILL IN HISTORY OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, at this moment, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is working on what is arguably the worst transportation bill in the history of Congress—just when we need the best. It's not just wrong sized with too few resources from the wrong sources. It fails to protect the integrity of the trust fund, inviting opposition from budget hawks.

It reverses 20 years of transportation reform by attacking the cheapest way to develop highway capacity in most communities, transit and cycling. It even eliminates the Safe Routes to School program for our children.

I hope my staff heard wrong that the committee chair will deny participation to anybody who asks for a vote on a provision, not just in committee, but will not even be able to offer an amendment on the floor. Let's get back to the bipartisan tradition to have infrastructure that America needs.

#### NO-JOBS REPUBLICAN AGENDA

(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, I rise today to ask this Tea Party Republican majority to do something to create jobs.

Last week, the President presented a positive plan to create jobs, but all the American people hear from the Tea Party Republican Party is the same old no-jobs agenda from this no-show Republican Congress.

The economy is improving, but there are still 14 million Americans without jobs. Yet the Republican Congress hardly even shows up for work. Congress met only 6 days of the month of January—6 days in 1 month.

We need to come to work and pass President Obama's jobs plan, level the playing field, force the rich to pay their fair share of our Nation's debt, and put an end to rewarding businesses that ship jobs overseas.

□ 1220

#### MAKING LAWS THAT MAKE LIVES BETTER

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, for my constituents and I, the work here in Congress is about making laws that make lives better. Last week, our President came to this Chamber and laid out a blueprint to build an America that lasts. That blueprint focuses on manufacturing, education, worker training, clean energy, and ensuring that every American plays by the same set of rules and pays their fair share. By building from the ground up, by focusing on working people, we can build an economy that lasts.

My friends on the other side offer a different path. It's a top-down approach with big tax breaks for the wealthy and subsidies for Big Oil at the expense of new technology and innovators. But we know what happens when you use all of your resources and materials at the top of the building. It topples over.

#### FRANK BUCKLES WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL ACT

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women who served and sacrificed in World War I. 2014 will be the centennial anniversary of the Great War, and it's my hope that a grateful Nation will come together to pay tribute to the heroes who fought for liberty and freedom almost 100 years ago.

I urge my colleagues to support the Frank Buckles World War I Memorial Act, which would establish a commission to ensure a proper national observance of this historic occasion. Kansas City, which has a long tradition dating back to 1921 of honoring World War I and its legacy, is home to the outstanding National World War I Museum. I ask my colleagues to join in our support of designating this museum the National World War I Memorial.

It's my hope that over the next 2 years, we can come together and recognize the ideals and values that our country's bravest so exemplified in the First World War, and that we continue to uphold today.