

It seems the people who would be disenfranchised by voter ID laws would be unlawful voters or dead people.

The DOJ is on the wrong side of justice again.

And that's just the way it is.

STOP THE ENDLESS POLITICAL GAMES

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

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, this "do nothing" Republican Tea Party Congress is killing jobs with its endless political games. This week's gimmick vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act is a meaningless vote to deny millions of Americans health care.

Meanwhile, the House's failure to pass an extension of the wind energy tax credit to producers of all American energy is killing jobs. Thirty-seven thousand American jobs in the wind energy sector are at risk.

Minnesota is a leader in wind energy production, but because of its refusal to act, this Congress is causing businesses to lay people off, killing jobs, and harming our clean energy future. The wind energy tax credit supports clean energy developers, manufacturers, and construction companies in America and in Minnesota.

This Republican Tea Party Congress needs to stop the gimmicks, stop killing jobs, and, instead, immediately pass the wind energy tax credit to save jobs and to create more American jobs.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT CONTINUES TO HURT PATIENTS AND DOCTORS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today The Dallas Morning News and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram carried stories that only 31 percent of Texas doctors are accepting new patients who rely on Medicaid. In 2010, the last time the survey was taken, it was 42 percent. In the year 2000, it was 67 percent.

The Texas Medical Association conducted the survey and attributes the dropping numbers to a low reimbursement rate for physicians and increasing red tape. Doctors appear to be losing patience with government-funded health plans and government-run health care in general.

You know, shortly after the Supreme Court decision, all of the cable talk shows talked about it's free riders that are driving up the cost of health care in this country. No, it's not. The biggest freeloader is the Federal Government.

The Federal Government, with its Medicare and Medicaid programs being structured the way they are, is actually causing the cost of health care to skyrocket in this country, and that's

something that needs to stop. They're freeloading on an underfunded program, and it's costing us money. And more importantly, it's inexcusably hurting patients.

The Affordable Care Act is a bad law. We all knew it was bad law when it passed. It was written by lobbyists in secret down at the White House. It was a rough draft passed by the Senate that got forced to the House.

This House is going to hold a repeal vote this week. I suspect it will pass. I urge the Senate to take up and pass this repeal vote so we can get on to the important business of reforming the system in this country.

SUGAR, RICE, AND SOYBEAN INDUSTRY SUPPORT

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, as the House Agriculture Committee considers farm bill legislation, I rise in strong support of responsible policies for all of our agriculture producers, especially the sugar, rice, and soybean industries.

Our no-cost sugar program has kept sugar supplies stable in this country, while allowing for industry expansion under the 2008 farm bill.

Last week, the St. Mary Parish Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution highlighting the critical importance of the sugar industry to south Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I will enter it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD later.

The sugar industry contributes \$3.5 billion annually to Louisiana's economy, while supplying more than 16,000 jobs.

I'm pleased to see the chairman's initial draft language also includes multiple risk management options benefiting south Louisiana rice and soybean farmers. The chairman recognizes that a one-size-fits-all policy for our Nation's diverse agricultural economy is not feasible. I applaud their effort to work with all commodity groups to come up with an excellent final product in this farm bill.

As the farm bill moves forward in the House, I urge my colleagues to support policies that will work for all agriculture producers—not just some, but all—including Louisiana farmers.

□ 1410

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2012

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

Mr. GUINTA. I rise today to add my voice to those calling for the passage of H.R. 4114, which would give a cost-of-living adjustment to our disabled military veterans.

My State, New Hampshire, has one of the largest per capita veteran popu-

lations of any State in our Nation. Nearly 128,000 former servicemen and women call the Granite State home. As its name indicates, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act would provide a much-needed benefit increase, starting this December 1, for qualifying disabled veterans. It provides an increase similar to what Social Security recipients receive.

Our disabled veterans made a special sacrifice during their time in uniform, and they now live with the result of that sacrifice each and every day. Increasing their monthly benefit checks is a small price for a grateful Nation to pay. Our military Armed Forces answered the call when our country needed them most, and I believe that we must now be there for them.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in passing this important cost-of-living increase for the disabled men and women who gave so much to our country.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 4 p.m.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
July 6, 2012.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: I herewith tender to you my resignation from the office of United States Representative for Michigan's 11th Congressional District effective midnight tonight, Friday, July 6, 2012.

Sincerely,

THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
July 6, 2012.

Governor RICK SNYDER,
Lansing, MI.

DEAR GOVERNOR SNYDER: I herewith tender to you my resignation from the office of United States Representative for Michigan's 11th Congressional District effective midnight tonight, Friday, July 6, 2012.

Sincerely,

THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of

the resignation of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER), the whole number of the House is 432.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

VETERAN SKILLS TO JOBS ACT

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4155) to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4155

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Skills to Jobs Act”.

SEC. 2. CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT MILITARY TRAINING FOR ISSUANCE OF A FEDERAL LICENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each Federal licensing authority shall consider and may accept, in the case of any individual applying for a license, any relevant training received by such individual while serving as a member of the armed forces, for the purpose of satisfying the requirements for such license.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act—

(1) the term “license” means a license, certification, or other grant of permission to engage in a particular activity;

(2) the term “Federal licensing authority” means a department, agency, or other entity of the Government having authority to issue a license;

(3) the term “armed forces” has the meaning given such term by section 2101(2) of title 5, United States Code; and

(4) the term “Government” means the Government of the United States.

SEC. 3. REGULATIONS.

The head of each Federal licensing authority shall—

(1) with respect to any license a licensing authority grants or is empowered to grant as of the date of enactment of this Act, prescribe any regulations necessary to carry out this Act not later than 180 days after such date; and

(2) with respect to any license of a licensing authority not constituted or not empowered to grant the license as of the date of enactment of this Act, prescribe any regulations necessary to carry out this Act not later than 180 days after the date on which the agency is so constituted or empowered, as the case may be.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We are here today to discuss H.R. 4155, the Veteran Skills to Jobs Act, introduced by Mr. DENHAM of California. I really appreciate the approach that this is taking with jobs and the economic environment as such. This is a commonsense, good measure. I think it is widely supported on both sides of the aisle, and I would urge my colleagues to pass it.

Essentially, H.R. 4155 ensures that applicants for Federal licenses receive credit for relevant training completed while serving as a member of the Armed Forces. While most licenses are issued by the States, the Federal Government does grant a number of licenses, most notably in the aerospace, communications, and maritime sectors.

After 40 months with the unemployment rate above 8 percent, we must do more to help create jobs; and with the unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans at 12.7 percent, we must better support our veterans as they transition to the civilian workforce.

In April, the Defense Business Board issued a report recommending Federal agencies review military training as a qualification for their respective program requirements. H.R. 4155 is in line with this recommendation.

The bill provides some certainty to veterans during their transition from the military by ensuring their training is taken into account when applying for Federal licenses. The bill does not infringe on the jurisdiction of the licensing agency. Instead, it leaves the agency free to determine whether military training is sufficient to meet license requirements.

H.R. 4155 will reduce the licensing burden for qualified veterans, enabling them to more quickly re-enter the workforce and ease their transition to civilian life.

Again, I appreciate the work of Mr. DENHAM, Mr. WALZ, and others in a bipartisan way to introduce this bill, and I would urge my colleagues to support it.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4155 and yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the sponsors of H.R. 4155, especially Mr. DENHAM and Mr. WALZ, for their dedicated service to our Nation while in uniform and for their

commitment to supporting our veterans here in Congress.

I deeply value and appreciate the sacrifices made by the men and women in our Armed Forces, and I'm proud to represent thousands of them who reside in the 11th District of Virginia, a district that takes military service very seriously and holds it in high esteem.

I believe that we here in Congress have a sacred duty, Mr. Speaker, to provide for their well-being. For that reason, I strongly support efforts to expedite the transition of our Nation's warriors to civilian life. We need to do all we can to help these dedicated veterans find gainful employment. It's a shameful fact that the men and women who volunteer to safeguard our country are having so much trouble finding steady, good-paying jobs. A double-digit unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans—almost double the national average—is simply unacceptable.

Transitioning to civilian life is difficult under any circumstance; however, this hardship is compounded when veterans cannot easily translate their military skills into careers in the Federal or private sector workforce through no fault of their own.

In addition, there's the task of educating employers to better understand that so much of military training is readily transferrable to civilian job requirements in the private sector.

We need to do better for our veterans, and I believe H.R. 4155 is a strong step in that direction. It would require each agency with Federal licensing authority to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses. This will help our returning servicemembers get credit for their military training towards a license which they can use to get Federal or private sector jobs and reintegrate into civilian life.

The Federal Government, private sector employers, and our economy will benefit by being able to take full advantage of their talent, unique skills, and experience as veterans.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate has already passed an identical version of this non-controversial, but important, bill by unanimous consent. I urge all Members to support this bill that will enable our Nation's veterans to get back to work.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California, the sponsor of the bill, Mr. DENHAM.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support legislation I authored, H.R. 4155, the Veteran Skills to Jobs Act.

America is blessed with the strongest, most capable and professional military in the world. Unfortunately for many of our veterans, transitioning from service means a battle with joblessness. And as my friend from Utah explained, the unemployment rate is 12.7 percent; but for our young veterans, it's 29.1 percent for those that are under the age of 25.