

taxes on the middle class because a small but very loud minority in their conference wanted to prove a point. Now we're back at it again. They want to prevent \$1,500 from being in the hands of the middle class.

My fellow Democrats and I want to keep money in the hands of hard-working Americans by supporting the extension of the payroll tax holiday. We cannot afford to take more risks with the income of 160 million working Americans. In fact, the no-jobs agenda of the Republican Conference has pushed to continue tax cuts for the wealthiest of Americans while not giving breaks to working Americans and the middle class.

I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle if they will please come to the table for a strong and working middle class of America.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS FIGHTING MANDATE

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I think that there are millions of Americans today, many American Catholics, who listened intently to the debate that took place on the ObamaCare bill. They weren't really sure about it, but they kept hanging on to a couple of things: If you like what you have, you can keep it, is what the President said. They have found out that's not the way it turned out.

Well, when it came to all of the guidelines that were coming from HHS, don't worry about these. They'll never be mandates. They're just going to be guidelines. They're there for information and instruction.

Well, that didn't come about either, because what has happened, the Catholic organizations and schools and hospitals are being mandated by the Federal Government to violate their religious beliefs and to meet the Federal mandate of providing contraceptives, abortion services, and sterilization services, all in the name of a health care policy.

This is something that needs to be reversed. I stand with the millions of Americans who are fighting this mandate.

EXTEND PAYROLL TAX HOLIDAY

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, our constituents are saying: Here they go again. Don't they get anything right?

What they're talking about is the fact that the payroll tax, the extension of unemployment, and the extension of the SGR, that's all coming up again. Again. After the fiasco of last December, you would have thought we learned our lesson.

Look at what the payroll tax means—160 million will risk losing. They'll have about a \$1,500 tax increase. For those in Hawaii, 700,000 will suffer a \$1,120 a year reduction. What are we doing?

The SGR will increase the cost to our elderly, a 27-percent reduction to their doctor. We call it in Hawaii our kapunas, those who are very important to us. Look at what we are risking for them.

Instead, the focus seems to be: How do we keep money for the ultrarich, that 1 percent? Think about it. The middle class can use the \$1,120 in Hawaii. Let's do it right.

□ 1230

SPEAK UP, AMERICA

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

Mr. RANGEL. Well, I think I have some good news. Most Americans believe that when the Congress does not do what they want to happen that they can wait until Election Day, and then they remind us that we let them down. Certainly, I remember when this unemployment compensation and the holiday for taxpayers, as well as the payment of our doctors, was coming up a couple years ago, and it was almost Christmastime. Democrats really thought that, because of the Republican majority, and because they just felt that unemployed people getting compensation meant that they wouldn't look for work, or that they weren't paying enough taxes, or that they didn't want to deal with the question of the doctors—but still, after all of this battle, when the American people spoke up, they didn't wait until Election Day. They got on the phone. They called their House Members, Republicans and Democrats. They called everybody to say that they could not afford a sharp increase in their payroll deductions.

So, do it again, because it really works. You're going to get these extensions. All you have to do is call and demand that you get what you deserve.

THE SMARTER APPROACH TO NUCLEAR EXPENDITURES (SANE) ACT

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

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, America's nuclear weapons budget is locked into a Cold War time machine. It doesn't reflect our 21st century security needs. It makes no sense. It is insane. It's insane to spend \$10 billion building new plants to make uranium and plutonium for new nuclear bombs when we're cutting our nuclear arsenal and the plants we have now work just fine. It's insane that we're going to spend \$84 billion for up to 14 new nu-

clear submarines when just one submarine with 96 nuclear bombs on board can blow up every major city in Iran, China, and North Korea.

It's an insane strategy, but it's America's current plan. And that's why we need a SANE approach to our nuclear weapons budget. Today, I am introducing the SANE Act—the Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures Act—with 34 of my colleagues. The SANE Act cuts \$100 billion in spending over the next 10 years on outdated, wasteful nuclear weapons programs over the next 10 years.

Let's cut new nuclear weapons, not the poor, the sick, the children, and the elderly of our country. Support and cosponsor the SANE Act.

REPUBLICAN HYPOCRISY

(Ms. CLARKE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, today we find ourselves in the unfortunate and familiar position of running out the clock on the American people.

The Republican majority seems to have no problem moving Heaven and Earth to preserve tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. However, they seem content to allow taxes to rise for the working poor and middle class. The majority's orthodoxy that tax cuts solve every problem seems not to extend to those that need it the most. This tax hypocrisy has not gone unnoticed by the American people.

Madam Speaker, the 112th Congress has not passed one job-creating bill in the face of this stubbornly high unemployment. And instead of addressing the jobs crisis, they are continuing their assault on the unemployed by threatening to cut off aid to those who would rather have a job in the first place.

I urge the majority to put aside election-year politics and pass a long-term payroll tax extension and extend unemployment benefits, especially in light of their failure to address the need for more job opportunity.

REPUBLICANS PLAY POLITICS WHILE PEOPLE ARE HURTING

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, the clock is ticking, Republicans are playing games, and people are hurting. Republicans care more about their singular goal of defeating Obama in November than helping people that are hurting and helping the middle class. This latest chapter on the extension of unemployment benefit adds to an already sordid and sad story.

Last December, Republicans threatened to lay off over 1 million Americans by refusing to extend unemployment benefits. House Republicans are now pushing a plan that would reduce

unemployment benefits for 3 million Americans who lost their jobs through no fault of their own. This plan is wrong. It's wrong for the middle class, and it's wrong for people who are trying to find jobs.

It is time that the Republican majority brought a real jobs plan to this floor that will create real jobs and put the American people to work. When they're working, our economy is fine. When they're working, our small businesses are fine. Rather than acknowledge these facts and these realities, Republicans in Congress seem intent on blaming the unemployed for unemployment.

ASSAULT ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, just a couple of weeks ago, this administration announced a position that amounts to an assault on religious liberty in this country. Their narrow definition of what constitutes religious action, religious belief, and whether or not the Federal Government can cause you to take actions against your own conscience is a serious matter that ought not to be determined by the Friday release of a decision made by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

This is an issue that goes beyond the Catholic Church and Catholic institution. It goes to the essence of the First Amendment protections contained in the Constitution with respect to religious freedom. We had better understand exactly how important this issue is, and we had better understand how it has to be addressed directly and cannot be compromised by saying we're not going to take away your religious liberty for a year. That is not a compromise. That is a form of political extortion.

IRAN'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, even as we stand here today, the centrifuges continue to spin in Iran, and their illicit nuclear weapons program forges ahead.

Yet, they are more isolated today than they have ever been. I commend President Obama for his Executive order freezing the assets of the Central Bank of Iran and making it impossible to do business both with Iran and with the United States. I thank our Asian allies for reducing purchases of crude oil and slashing trade with Iran, and I commend our European allies, as well, for banning the import of Iranian crude. The Iranian economy is in shambles. As a result of these international efforts, its currency is plummeting and inflation is skyrocketing.

I urge my colleagues, our friends across the way in the Senate, to pass tighter sanctions still to tighten the economic noose on the ayatollahs and to force them to give up their illicit nuclear ambitions. We must stand with the Iranian people even as their human rights are crushed by the Revolutionary Guard. In their quest for democracy, we stand with them. Our efforts are paying off, Madam Speaker, we cannot let up.

EXPEDITED LEGISLATIVE LINE-ITEM VETO AND RESCISSIONS ACT OF 2012

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 540 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 540

Resolved, That 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. 3521) to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for a legislative line-item veto to expedite consideration of rescissions, 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 among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget and Representative Simpson of Idaho or his designee. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendments recommended by the Committees on the Budget and Rules now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 112-12. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of February 9, 2012, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules, as though under clause 1(c) of rule XV, relating to a measure addressing securities trading based on non-public information.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

□ 1240

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my good friend from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I'm pleased to be down here with you today, Madam Speaker, because what we have an opportunity to do with this rule is bring another in a series of 10 fundamental reforms to the congressional budgeting process.

Today, House Resolution 540 provides a structured rule for consideration of H.R. 3521, the Expedited Line-Item Veto and Rescissions Act. And yet again today, with this rule we have made in order every single amendment by either Republicans or Democrats that was germane to the underlying legislation to give us an opportunity to make this bill better.

Now, to be fair, Madam Speaker, H.R. 3521 is another example of bipartisanship in this House. It was introduced and sponsored by both the Republican chairman of the Budget Committee, PAUL RYAN, and the Democratic ranking member, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, another opportunity of things that we can do here in this new Congress to bring common sense to our budgeting process.

It's a bipartisan attempt, Madam Speaker, to provide both Congress and the President with all of the tools necessary to get our fiscal challenges under control. It exemplifies what can happen here in this body when we're willing to listen to folks back home and come together to try to make a difference here in Congress.

In the 111th Congress, Madam Speaker, nondefense discretionary spending was increased by almost 25 percent. This Congress, this body, working with the Senate, increased nondefense discretionary spending by almost 25 percent. Now, if your constituents are like mine, Madam Speaker, had they had that budget around their family dinner table, they could have found some items that they could have done without. In exchange for not putting their children and their grandchildren further and further and further in the hole, further and further and further under the mountain of debt that this country has run up, they could have found some things to cut.