

Mr. DOLD. Madam Speaker, this school year marks the 50th anniversary for Glenbrook South High School in Glenview, Illinois. I want to congratulate Glenbrook South on this impressive achievement.

Over the past five decades, over 27,000 students have graduated and are now proud alums. Glenbrook South has a rich tradition of preparing students to be future leaders, including two of my team members here in Washington, D.C.

Glenbrook South has received many accolades over the years, and that is due in large part to the dynamic teachers, the families who support the school, and the talented students who work hard to excel in academics, sports, music, debate, and more.

I have had the privilege of visiting with the students at Glenbrook South and talking with them about how their government works. I am deeply impressed with the students' insights and their desire to get involved and make the world a better place.

Congratulations to Glenbrook South High School on your achievement. I know there will be many more to come.

And that's just the way it is.

STOCK ACT

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge our colleagues to support the STOCK Act when it comes up later today.

The STOCK Act is the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act. It essentially bans Members of Congress from using their position and information that is not available to the general public for their own personal gain, such as purchasing stocks based upon information we learn from a briefing here on Capitol Hill.

Public office is a public trust, and rules that apply to our neighbors and Americans all across the country should equally apply to Members of Congress.

I'd like to congratulate my colleagues, Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER from New York and Congressman TIM WALZ from Minnesota, who have worked on this legislation year in and year out.

Colleagues, we should all vote in favor of the STOCK Act.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING TRANSPARENCY ACT

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the House for passing the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act earlier this week. This much-needed reform will increase transparency and accuracy in budgeting for Federal credit programs like

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. In addition, this reform will require fair value accounting for Federal programs that make direct loans or loan guarantees.

Earlier this year with the Solyndra debacle, we found out that when Washington makes a bet the American taxpayer is often left with the bill. The Federal Government should consider fair value and market risk before betting on companies like Solyndra.

Since the financial crisis began, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have become the financial responsibility of the Federal Government. However, the Office of Management and Budget has not accounted for the Fannie and Freddie burden. This bill will fix that mistake.

If we're going to get out of this financial mess, we have to be honest about how much we're really spending. This is a commonsense reform that will help lawmakers be better stewards of our hardworking constituents' tax dollars.

EXTEND PAYROLL TAX CUT

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

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today because I believe this Congress needs to stop playing blame games and start working together to reignite the American Dream by helping our Nation's small businesses and entrepreneurs and empowering a thriving middle class.

Small businesses are the pulse of the American enterprise and the creators of jobs and economic growth up and down Main Streets across the United States of America. Entrepreneurs are the dreamers, movers, shakers, and builders that help take ideas and inventions and turn them into the manufacturing jobs of the future.

And a thriving middle class, well, that's the underpinning of support to make reigniting the American Dream even possible. A strong middle class leads to a strong America. The best functioning democracies around the world share one thing in common—a thriving middle class.

So, Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to enact policies and legislation that achieve these ends: to reignite the American Dream by building up our small businesses, encouraging our entrepreneurs, and empowering our middle class. We can start by extending the payroll tax cut for the remainder of the year without delay and without games.

I look forward to continuing to work toward these ends throughout the year.

□ 0910

AN ASSAULT ON THE FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, those who say that conservative opposition

to the Obama administration's rules on forcing religious groups to provide birth control coverage in their insurance plans is an assault on women are wrong and shortsighted. That rule is an assault on all Americans and on the First Amendment of the Constitution.

It reminds me of a famous quote attributed to Pastor Martin Niemöller:

First they came for the Communists, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Communist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak out because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak out because I was a Protestant.

Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak out for me.

Madam Speaker, we have to speak out on this issue. It is an assault on the First Amendment. It's an assault on the rights of all Americans.

IT'S TIME TO GET TO WORK

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, Members, when the U.S. economy is showing signs of progress, our House majority's threatening to take 2 percent of the gross national product out of our economy, killing the gains we've made, and doing it on the backs of the people who need help the most, the middle class and the unemployed.

Even though we were able to extend the payroll tax cut, unemployment insurance, and also the Medicare physician payments for just 2 months, millions of Americans dodged an average of \$1,500 from a GOP tax hike. Now it's time to get to work and pass a year-long extension of these three important programs.

We cannot afford to take more risks with the incomes of 160 million Americans the way the House majority did at the end of 2011.

SUPPORT THE STOCK ACT

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the STOCK Act, Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act, which strengthens current House rules banning Members of Congress from profiting financially from their position. It is absolutely unacceptable for those in any branch of government—the legislative, the judiciary, or the executive branch—to profit from nonpublic information.

Insider trading is not only unethical; it is illegal no matter who you are. But if it takes a stronger, tougher bill to set the record straight, then so be it. The American people elected us in good faith to lead, and we must do everything in our power to protect that trust.

The bill enhances transparency, something we've continually strived for in this 112th Congress, and I am proud to support the bill. I hope my colleagues will join me in passing this into law.

STOP TRADING ON CONGRESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE ACT OF 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2038) to prohibit Members of Congress and employees of Congress from using nonpublic information derived from their official positions for personal benefit, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

S. 2038

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act of 2012" or the "STOCK Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **MEMBER OF CONGRESS.**—The term "Member of Congress" means a member of the Senate or House of Representatives, a Delegate to the House of Representatives, and the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico.

(2) **EMPLOYEE OF CONGRESS.**—The term "employee of Congress" means—

(A) any individual (other than a Member of Congress), whose compensation is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives; and

(B) any other officer or employee of the legislative branch (as defined in section 109(11) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 109(11))).

(3) **EXECUTIVE BRANCH EMPLOYEE.**—The term "executive branch employee"—

(A) has the meaning given the term "employee" under section 2105 of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) includes—
(i) the President;
(ii) the Vice President; and
(iii) an employee of the United States Postal Service or the Postal Regulatory Commission.

(4) **JUDICIAL OFFICER.**—The term "judicial officer" has the meaning given that term under section 109(10) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 109(10)).

(5) **JUDICIAL EMPLOYEE.**—The term "judicial employee" has the meaning given that term in section 109(8) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 109(8)).

(6) **SUPERVISING ETHICS OFFICE.**—The term "supervising ethics office" has the meaning given that term in section 109(18) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 109(18)).

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF NONPUBLIC INFORMATION FOR PRIVATE PROFIT.

The Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate and the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives shall issue interpretive guidance of the relevant rules of each chamber, including rules on conflicts of interest and gifts, clarifying that a Member of Congress and an employee of Congress may not use nonpublic information derived from such person's position as a Member of Congress or employee of Congress or gained from the performance of such person's official responsibilities as a means for making a private profit.

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION OF INSIDER TRADING.

(a) **AFFIRMATION OF NONEXEMPTION.**—Members of Congress and employees of Congress are

not exempt from the insider trading prohibitions arising under the securities laws, including section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 10b-5 thereunder.

(b) **DUTY.**—

(1) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the amendment made by this subsection is to affirm a duty arising from a relationship of trust and confidence owed by each Member of Congress and each employee of Congress.

(2) **AMENDMENT.**—Section 21A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78u-1) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) **DUTY OF MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF CONGRESS.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the rule of construction under section 10 of the STOCK Act and solely for purposes of the insider trading prohibitions arising under this Act, including section 10(b) and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, each Member of Congress or employee of Congress owes a duty arising from a relationship of trust and confidence to the Congress, the United States Government, and the citizens of the United States with respect to material, nonpublic information derived from such person's position as a Member of Congress or employee of Congress or gained from the performance of such person's official responsibilities.

"(2) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection—

"(A) the term 'Member of Congress' means a member of the Senate or House of Representatives, a Delegate to the House of Representatives, and the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico; and

"(B) the term 'employee of Congress' means—

"(i) any individual (other than a Member of Congress), whose compensation is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives; and

"(ii) any other officer or employee of the legislative branch (as defined in section 109(11) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 109(11))).

"(3) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to impair or limit the construction of the existing antifraud provisions of the securities laws or the authority of the Commission under those provisions."

SEC. 5. CONFORMING CHANGES TO THE COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT.

Section 4c(a) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 6c(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(A) by inserting "or any Member of Congress or employee of Congress (as such terms are defined under section 2 of the STOCK Act) or any judicial officer or judicial employee (as such terms are defined, respectively, under section 2 of the STOCK Act)" after "Federal Government" the first place it appears;

(B) by inserting "Member, officer," after "position of the"; and

(C) by inserting "or by Congress or by the judiciary" before "in a manner"; and

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(i) by inserting "or any Member of Congress or employee of Congress or any judicial officer or judicial employee" after "Federal Government" the first place it appears;

(ii) by inserting "Member, officer," after "position of the"; and

(iii) by inserting "or by Congress or by the judiciary" before "in a manner";

(B) in subparagraph (B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting "or any Member of Congress or employee of Congress or any judicial officer or judicial employee" after "Federal Government"; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting "or by Congress or by the judiciary"—

(I) before "that may affect"; and

(II) before "in a manner"; and

(ii) in clause (iii), by inserting "to Congress, any Member of Congress, any employee of Congress, any judicial officer, or any judicial employee," after "Federal Government,".

SEC. 6. PROMPT REPORTING OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS.

(a) **REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—Section 103 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 103) is amended by adding at the end the following subsection:

"(1) Not later than 30 days after receiving notification of any transaction required to be reported under section 102(a)(5)(B), but in no case later than 45 days after such transaction, the following persons, if required to file a report under any subsection of section 101, subject to any waivers and exclusions, shall file a report of the transaction:

"(1) The President.

"(2) The Vice President.

"(3) Each officer or employee in the executive branch, including a special Government employee as defined in section 202 of title 18, United States Code, who occupies a position classified above GS-15 of the General Schedule or, in the case of positions not under the General Schedule, for which the rate of basic pay is equal to or greater than 120 percent of the minimum rate of basic pay payable for GS-15 of the General Schedule; each member of a uniformed service whose pay grade is at or in excess of O-7 under section 201 of title 37, United States Code; and each officer or employee in any other position determined by the Director of the Office of Government Ethics to be of equal classification.

"(4) Each employee appointed pursuant to section 3105 of title 5, United States Code.

"(5) Any employee not described in paragraph (3) who is in a position in the executive branch which is excepted from the competitive service by reason of being of a confidential or policymaking character, except that the Director of the Office of Government Ethics may, by regulation, exclude from the application of this paragraph any individual, or group of individuals, who are in such positions, but only in cases in which the Director determines such exclusion would not affect adversely the integrity of the Government or the public's confidence in the integrity of the Government;

"(6) The Postmaster General, the Deputy Postmaster General, each Governor of the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service and each officer or employee of the United States Postal Service or Postal Regulatory Commission who occupies a position for which the rate of basic pay is equal to or greater than 120 percent of the minimum rate of basic pay payable for GS-15 of the General Schedule.

"(7) The Director of the Office of Government Ethics and each designated agency ethics official.

"(8) Any civilian employee not described in paragraph (3), employed in the Executive Office of the President (other than a special government employee) who holds a commission of appointment from the President.

"(9) A Member of Congress, as defined under section 109(12).

"(10) An officer or employee of the Congress, as defined under section 109(13)."

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to transactions occurring on or after the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7. REPORT ON POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

(a) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States, in consultation with the Congressional Research Service, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on the