

environmental protection, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid while corporations and the top 1 percent would get tax cuts of nearly \$3 trillion over the next decade. This is not how to protect a democracy.

GOVERNMENT GONE WILD

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the President has finally given us his balanced plan to allegedly avoid the fiscal cliff. He wants to raise taxes by \$1.6 trillion. He wants another stimulus package of \$50 billion. He wants the authority to raise the debt ceiling without asking Congress for approval.

Say it isn't so, Mr. Speaker.

This tax hike will hurt small businesses, which provide 67 percent of the jobs in this country. That may fund the government for a short time. Then what's the plan? Stimulus 2.0. Because the first stimulus worked so well? That was a disaster as well. We have a \$16 trillion deficit, and the President wants to spend more money. Are you kidding me? Spending is the problem. We don't need more of it. Lastly, he wants the power to raise the debt ceiling without congressional approval.

The administration cannot unilaterally issue an edict like a monarchy. Congress, Congress, Congress is in charge of the purse. The government has gone wild.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING LOCAL FIRST CHICAGO

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, the impact that independent, locally owned businesses have on our communities comes as no surprise. The lasting economic, social, and environmental outcomes are essential to the growth and sustainability of our neighborhoods.

More than 7 years ago, a not-for-profit organization called Local First Chicago was formed with one purpose in mind: to educate citizens, community groups, and policymakers about the positive impacts of choosing locally owned businesses. It is a network of locally owned, independent businesses, community organizations, and citizens that has grown to more than 3,000 local business owners. Studies have shown that shifting just a small percentage of our shopping dollars to locally owned businesses could keep millions in our communities.

This is something to think about as the holiday season approaches. Instead of going to a chain, why not branch out and get your coffee at Safari cafe on Southport? Why not get a hot dog at Gene and Jude's in River Grove? Buy a few holiday gifts at a family owned shop as well.

Local businesses are what help build thriving communities. I am honored to have organizations such as Local First Chicago fighting for ours.

THE NEED FOR TAX REFORM

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, the time has come for Congress to enact comprehensive tax reform and to reduce Federal spending in order to create jobs and boost the economy.

Our Nation is facing significant challenges—a weak economy, record deficits, and a Federal Government we can't afford. Many northern Michigan citizens fear for the future of our Republic. The American people deserve solutions to these problems, and comprehensive tax reform is a key part of these solutions.

President Obama has made it clear that his preference is to raise taxes on families and businesses, but that plan won't fix our national debt. It won't improve the economy. Instead, Congress should focus on tax reform and real significant spending reductions.

The American people have chosen divided government, and with that comes a responsibility for us to work together and fix the problems our Nation faces. So I urge my colleagues and the President to work together to resolve this fiscal crisis and to do what's best for the American people.

RENEW THE WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, one of the many challenges that Congress will face during the ongoing negotiations of the fiscal cliff is whether or not to renew the wind production tax credit, which expires at the end of this year. Investing in renewable energy is key to creating new jobs, reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and promoting economic growth.

In Pennsylvania, the wind industry supports 4,000 jobs and powers 180,000 homes, including in the Pittsburgh area. The uncertainty surrounding the looming deadline to renew the PTC has already forced some companies to lay off employees, and if we let it expire thousands more hardworking Americans will be out of work. Two wind farm projects in western Pennsylvania were already canceled this year.

This is an issue on which both sides can come together to do what is right for our country. Letting the PTC expire would damage the competitiveness of the United States and the global economy, so I urge my colleagues to extend this vital job-creating tax credit before it expires.

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SOCIAL SECURITY CRISIS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, back in 2007, then-candidate Obama said the Nation is facing "a Social Security crisis." And he was right. Unfortunately, 5 years later, as we deal with a looming fiscal cliff, some in the President's own party are denying the fiscal reality when it comes to Social Security. Here are the facts:

Social Security is the government's most expensive program. Since 2010, it has been bleeding cash, and over the next 10 years, it will do so to the tune of nearly \$1 trillion. As a recent USA Today editorial put it, Social Security is indeed contributing to our deficit. To say otherwise is to lie to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans want, need, and deserve that we work together to address our fiscal challenges. We owe it to current and future beneficiaries to secure this critical safety net. We can make Social Security solvent forever. Let's do it.

THANKING GENEVA B. STALLINGS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

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

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Geneva B. Stallings, an outstanding Augustan who has devoted over 50 years of service to the Richmond County school system. For six decades, Mrs. Stallings has been a leader in the educational community in Augusta. She understands that equal educational opportunity is equal economic opportunity, and she's worked to see to it that all children, regardless of economic circumstance, received a quality education.

Mrs. Stallings has served as a classroom teacher, as a reading coordinator, and as the longest serving director of the Title I pre-K department. In fact, the Board of Education recognized her service by naming the Title I Parent Information Resource Center the Geneva B. Stallings Title I Parent Resource Center.

I know I speak for all who know Geneva Stallings in thanking her for her commitment to the education of our children. Mrs. Stallings, you have the appreciation of many grateful Augustans and of this proud Congressman. Thank you for a job well done.

CONGRATULATING NATION OF GEORGIA

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, on October 1, the nation of Georgia successfully elected a new Parliament and

then underwent the country's first peaceful transfer of power via an election since independence. I commend President Saakashvili on his leadership in that transition.

The Georgian people are to be congratulated for a credible election. I am encouraged by Georgia's continued positive attitude toward NATO integration and its determination to be a modern democracy. However, the Georgian Dream coalition must be reminded that the most effective way for Georgia to join NATO is through continued development of democracy and the rule of law.

First, there has been increasing pressure on President Saakashvili to resign prior to the constitutional end of his term in October 2013. While the new majority may see this as a logical next step to finalizing the transfer of power, attempting to coerce a sitting head of state to give up their constitutional mandate before its expiration would run contrary to the principles of democratic governance and the rule of law.

Second, on November 7, the prosecutor's office arrested three members of the resigned government, charged with unspecified abuses of power.

Georgia has made enormous progress in its democratic and political development over the past 2 months, progress which very few predicted would or could happen so quickly and completely. In light of that, I would encourage the new leadership of Georgia to take these concerns seriously. It is incumbent upon the Georgian Government to ensure that the new Parliament consolidates the democratic process, not a political agenda.

AMERICA NEEDS A FARM BILL

(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, it's been 141 days. That's how long it's been since the House Agriculture Committee, on a bipartisan basis, passed the farm bill by a vote of 35-11. That's the high watermark of bipartisanship in this Congress. It represents something that is too lacking in Washington today: a serious attempt at progress through bipartisan work.

We need a farm bill. America needs a farm bill. Our farmers, our folks dependent on nutrition programs, our folks who are farming and want to conserve the land, they're entitled to have Congress act.

You know, it's one thing to vote "yes" and it's one thing to vote "no," but it is unacceptable not to vote at all.

The decision on whether we will vote on a farm bill is up to the leadership. They owe it to each one of us so we can be accountable to the people we represent and give America a farm bill. There is absolutely no excuse for Congress to not even try to do its job, which will occur when a farm bill is brought to the floor.

STEM JOBS ACT OF 2012

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 821, I call up the bill (H.R. 6429) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to promote innovation, investment, and research in the United States, to eliminate the diversity immigrant program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). Pursuant to House Resolution 821, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 112-34, modified by the amendment printed in House Report 112-697, is adopted. The bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 6429

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 "STEM Jobs Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. IMMIGRANT VISAS FOR CERTAIN ADVANCED STEM GRADUATES.

(a) **WORLDWIDE LEVEL OF IMMIGRATION.**—Section 201(d)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(d)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(D)(i) In addition to the increase provided under subparagraph (C), the number computed under this paragraph for fiscal year 2014 and subsequent fiscal years shall be further increased by the number specified in clause (ii), to be used in accordance with paragraphs (6) and (7) of section 203(b), except that—

"(I) immigrant visa numbers made available under this subparagraph but not required for the classes specified in paragraphs (6) and (7) of section 203(b) shall not be counted for purposes of subsection (c)(3)(C); and

"(II) for purposes of paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 203(b), the increase under this subparagraph shall not be counted for purposes of computing any percentage of the worldwide level under this subsection.

"(ii) The number specified in this clause is 55,000, reduced for any fiscal year by the number by which the number of visas under section 201(e) would have been reduced in that year pursuant to section 203(d) of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (8 U.S.C. 1151 note) if section 201(e) had not been repealed by section 3 of the STEM Jobs Act of 2012.

"(iii) Immigrant visa numbers made available under this subparagraph for fiscal year 2014, but not used for the classes specified in paragraphs (6) and (7) of section 203(b) in such year, may be made available in subsequent years as if they were included in the number specified in clause (ii) only to the extent of the cumulative number of petitions under section 204(a)(1)(F), and applications for a labor certification under section 212(a)(5)(A), filed in fiscal year 2014 with respect to aliens seeking a visa under paragraph (6) or (7) of section 203(b) up to, but not exceeding, the number specified in clause (ii) for such year. Such immigrant visa numbers may only be made available in fiscal years after fiscal year 2014 in connection with a petition under section 204(a)(1)(F), or an application for a labor certification under section 212(a)(5)(A), that was filed in fiscal year 2014.

"(iv) Immigrant visa numbers made available under this subparagraph for fiscal year 2015, but not used for the classes specified in paragraphs (6) and (7) of section 203(b) during such year, may be made available in subsequent years as if they were included in the number

specified in clause (ii) only to the extent of the cumulative number of petitions under section 204(a)(1)(F), and applications for a labor certification under section 212(a)(5)(A), filed in fiscal year 2015 with respect to aliens seeking a visa under paragraph (6) or (7) of section 203(b) up to, but not exceeding, the number specified in clause (ii) for such year. Such immigrant visa numbers may only be made available in fiscal years after fiscal year 2015 in connection with a petition under section 204(a)(1)(F), or an application for a labor certification under section 212(a)(5)(A), that was filed in fiscal year 2015.

"(v) Immigrant visa numbers made available under this subparagraph for fiscal year 2016, but not used for the classes specified in paragraphs (6) and (7) of section 203(b) in such year, may be made available in subsequent years as if they were included in the number specified in clause (ii), but only—

"(I) to the extent of the cumulative number of petitions under section 204(a)(1)(F), and applications for a labor certification under section 212(a)(5)(A), filed in fiscal year 2016 with respect to aliens seeking a visa under paragraph (6) or (7) of section 203(b) up to, but not exceeding, the number specified in clause (ii) for such year;

"(II) if the immigrant visa numbers used under this subparagraph for fiscal year 2015 with respect to aliens seeking a visa under paragraph (6) or (7) of section 203(b) were less than the number specified in clause (ii) for such year; and

"(III) if the processing standards set forth in sections 204(a)(1)(F)(ii) and 212(a)(5)(A)(vi) were not met in fiscal year 2016.

Such immigrant visa numbers may only be made available in fiscal years after fiscal year 2016 in connection with a petition under section 204(a)(1)(F), or an application for a labor certification under section 212(a)(5)(A), that was filed in fiscal year 2016.

"(vi) Immigrant visa numbers made available under this subparagraph for fiscal year 2017, but not used for the classes specified in paragraphs (6) and (7) of section 203(b) in such year, may be made available in subsequent years as if they were included in the number specified in clause (ii), but only—

"(I) to the extent of the cumulative number of petitions under section 204(a)(1)(F), and applications for a labor certification under section 212(a)(5)(A), filed in fiscal year 2017 with respect to aliens seeking a visa under paragraph (6) or (7) of section 203(b) up to, but not exceeding, the number specified in clause (ii) for such year;

"(II) if the immigrant visa numbers used under this subparagraph for fiscal year 2016 with respect to aliens seeking a visa under paragraph (6) or (7) of section 203(b) were less than the number specified in clause (ii) for such year; and

"(III) if the processing standards set forth in sections 204(a)(1)(F)(ii) and 212(a)(5)(A)(vi) were not met in fiscal year 2017.

Such immigrant visa numbers may only be made available in fiscal years after fiscal year 2016 in connection with a petition under section 204(a)(1)(F), or an application for a labor certification under section 212(a)(5)(A), that was filed in fiscal year 2017."

(b) **NUMERICAL LIMITATION TO ANY SINGLE FOREIGN STATE.**—Section 202(a)(5)(A) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(a)(5)(A)) is amended by striking "or (5)" and inserting "(5), (6), or (7)".

(c) **PREFERENCE ALLOCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.**—Section 203(b) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (8); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

"(6) **ALIENS HOLDING DOCTORATE DEGREES FROM U.S. DOCTORAL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, OR MATHEMATICS.**—