

COLLEGE TUITION CRISIS

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak about our college tuition crisis. It's a topic of conversation that comes up around kitchen tables all across America. Parents are seeing college tuition creep up year after year, while their income has declined or stagnated and their savings have been squeezed. Parents are worried that their children won't get a shot at the American Dream because they simply cannot afford the cost of higher education.

The President's budget proposal makes it clear that even in these tough budgetary times we cannot shirk our responsibilities to strengthen investments in education. I share his commitment to increasing college affordability and quality. Freezing interest rates on subsidized student loans is something we can do something about right now to help millions of students across the country. Failure to act means that 7 million students could see their interest rates double to 6.8 percent.

I urge my colleagues to work with the President to make sure that this issue gets the time and attention that it deserves.

CATCH INITIATIVE

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Coordinated Approach to Child Health initiative, CATCH, an innovative program being implemented in Houston and across Texas to combat rising rates of childhood obesity.

It's no secret that childhood obesity is a growing problem in our country. Statistics show that 18 percent of elementary schoolchildren are overweight, and the number is growing every year.

The University of Texas School of Public Health created CATCH to help elementary schools, children, and their families adopt healthy eating and physical activity behaviors.

CATCH is a huge success. It's been adopted by more than 2,500 elementary schools in Texas, impacting 800,000 schoolchildren—that's 50 percent of Texas elementary schools. CATCH has received national recognition for being one of the most comprehensive and cost-effective approaches in fighting childhood obesity.

Madam Speaker, I commend all schools in Texas that have adopted this program. They recognize that every child needs to be taught, and every child needs to be taught how to grow up healthy.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO
LOTTIE HARRIS ROLLINS
DUNSTON

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Today, family and friends will gather to celebrate the 100th birthday of Lottie Harris Rollins Dunston, a wonderful human being who has lived in Wake County, North Carolina, her entire life.

"Grandlottie," as she is affectionately called, is the second eldest of 13 siblings, 7 of whom are still living and advanced in age. After working her way through historic Fayetteville State College, she went on to become an elementary teacher, where she shaped young minds for 41 long years.

Today, Grandlottie is a lover of Shakespeare and politics and, most of all, cherishes her independence. So often she can be seen driving her white pickup truck as she shops for her needs with her 5-year-old chocolate lab, Diva.

Madam Speaker, Grandlottie loves her supportive family that includes granddaughter Jacquelyn Rollins Wynn, whose husband serves on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

We pray that Grandlottie continues to enjoy health and happiness for many more years. Happy birthday to you. And most of all, thank you for making North Carolina a better place to live and work.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT
TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. CANSECO. Madam Speaker, when the Democrats passed the unconstitutional government takeover of health care, they cleverly front-loaded some of the provisions but left the most troubling mandates and requirements to be implemented at a later date.

Recently, the Obama administration released its controversial contraception mandate, and Americans got a glance of the looming disaster that the health care law will produce once it actually goes fully into effect. This mandate is one of the first prescribed by the Democrats' government health care takeover, but it will not be the last. Unfortunately, the HHS ruling that ignores religious freedom is just one example of the many disastrous provisions of a top-down, government-controlled health care system.

If Americans did not like this provision, they certainly won't like the IPAB, the Independent Payment Advisory Board, a group of 15 unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats who will control virtually every health care decision.

I urge my colleagues to support commonsense legislation that will protect

the rights of all human life, including the unborn, and to continue working to fully repeal the Democrats' government health care takeover as a whole, as well as the harmful individual provisions that violate our constitutional rights.

WORKING TOGETHER TO EXTEND
PAYROLL TAX CUT AND UNEMPLOYMENT
BENEFITS

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

Ms. HAHN. Madam Speaker, I've come to this floor practically every week for the past few months asking my friends on both sides of the aisle to work together to extend the payroll tax cut and the unemployment benefits for a full year. As we convene this today, it looks like we may have a deal.

To be sure that we follow through, let's remind ourselves what this would mean for Americans:

Working families would see more than \$80 a month in their pockets—almost \$1,000 for the year. It's always good for people to be able to keep more of their money in their own pockets;

And 2.8 million Americans and nearly 500,000 Californians, where I come from, would be able to keep their unemployment benefits, their lifeline during these tough times;

And the doc fix would allow seniors on Medicare to continue to see their own doctors.

I know the ink isn't dry, but I believe this is the type of compromise and governing that our constituents and all of America wants to see us do here in Congress. I want to encourage the leadership on both sides of the aisle to get this deal done, move forward, and create jobs in this great country.

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H.R. 3572, THE CAMERAS IN THE
COURTROOM ACT

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, there's nothing more important to democracy than sunshine. This March among the most historic and momentous cases ever to come before the Supreme Court will be health care.

Many Americans supported health care reform, many opposed it. It was the product of hundreds of hours of debate on this very floor and in committees over many months. While there are a limited number of seats for the public here in the House, thanks to C-SPAN millions of Americans had the opportunity to view those proceedings.

Unfortunately, when the case comes before the Supreme Court, just 50 Americans will be able to witness it. Shouldn't transparency require that the average citizen have an opportunity to view those proceedings?

There is an easy and non-intrusive way: allowing cameras in the Supreme Court.

Along with my Republican colleague, Judge POE, I introduced H.R. 3572, the Cameras in the Courtroom Act, to require televising open Supreme Court proceedings. Sunshine remains the best disinfectant against those who might feel that the black robe of life tenure grants an entire branch of government permanent immunity from accountability.

I urge my colleagues to support this thoughtful act.

THE STOCK ACT

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, last week this House did something that should be common but is getting rarer and rarer. We passed a bipartisan piece of legislation with a vote of 417-2. That was the STOCK Act, the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge bill, making sure that we have the audacity to say Members of Congress should play by the same rules as everyone else, restoring faith in our market. The Senate did the same thing, 96-3.

But I remind you of those famous words from Saturday morning cartoons in "Schoolhouse Rock," I'm just a bill, sitting on Capitol Hill. It's not the law. No conference has been decided yet. The President, while in the State of the Union, from that very perch, said he would sign that bill the very next day, but there's nothing on the horizon bringing it up.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues, and I encourage all Americans to make sure they hold us accountable. Casting that vote for a bill still keeps it a bill. We need to follow through and make it the law of the land.

FORMULA FOR INNOVATION AND JOB CREATION

(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, in the wake of the Obama budget that has been filed this week and has been called everything from a nervous breakdown on paper, to a disaster, to not a serious budget, we get more news this morning.

According to a Gallup poll that has come out this morning, 85 percent of small business owners in this country indicated that they are currently not looking for workers. Asked why, 48 percent said it was due to concern about possible rising health care costs. Forty-six percent said that they were worried about new government regulations because last year this administration gave them about 4,000 new mandates and gave them about 80,000 pages of new Federal regulations.

We need to return to the time-tested formula that always works in this country: less regulation plus less taxation plus less litigation always equals more innovation and more job creation right here in this country.

We know that the total cost of Federal regulation has risen to \$1.75 trillion annually, twice what is collected in Federal income taxes. Let's get on the right track.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT OBAMA'S TAX REFORM PROPOSALS TO CREATE JOBS AND BRING JOBS BACK TO THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, this week President Obama revealed his FY 2013 proposed budget, which introduces important tax reforms to revitalize the economy by boosting job creation and encouraging businesses to bring overseas jobs back to America.

President Obama's proposed budget especially underscores his commitment to provide needed tax relief for America's small businesses. For example, the proposed budget offers a temporary 10 percent tax credit for small businesses that add new jobs and raise workers' salaries.

Madam Speaker, the proposed budget also offers tax incentives for locating jobs in the United States while eliminating tax deductions for shipping jobs overseas and closing tax loopholes that result in outsourcing U.S. jobs to foreign countries.

Madam Speaker, in line with the focus on American manufacturing, President Obama also introduced temporary tax credits to direct some \$20 billion to domestic clean energy manufacturing.

Madam Speaker, I commend President Obama for introducing significant reforms that will put America back to work, return profits to America's private sector, and promote a stronger American economy.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR CIVIL RIGHTS WORKERS

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, this is Black History Month, and I introduced recently a proposal to have a Congressional Gold Medal issued to a cumulative group, the individuals who marched for freedom, sat in, brought about civil rights in our Nation, all the civil rights leaders and workers.

In this Nation, to make it the country that Thomas Jefferson and our Founding Fathers wrote about, it took civil rights workers to protest and demonstrate and sometimes go to jail

to change this country's path and see to it that all people were created equal, and that all people had equal opportunities in this Nation. I think those people deserve recognition because they made America's promise its reality.

To date, we've sent out a letter asking for cosponsors three times to every Member of Congress, and yet we don't have a single Republican with us. This should be a bipartisan effort, and I would ask all my Republican colleagues to ask their LA's to sign on to the Congressional Gold Medal for civil rights workers. It's something we should come together with in a bipartisan fashion because it's as American as apple pie.

OUR ECONOMY IS RECOVERING

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, there's no question that our economy is recovering. The private sector has added jobs for 23 straight months, putting 3.7 million Americans workers back on the job.

Last week, in my district, GE opened its first new manufacturing facility and the first new product line at Louisville's Appliance Park in more than 50 years. Because of our Recovery Act investments, 1,300 workers will be back on the job at Appliance Park, and hundreds of those jobs are coming back from China.

When the private sector can rely on the Federal Government as a partner, jobs and economic growth follow, and that's exactly what we're seeing today in my district and across the country.

We decided we are not going to surrender the lead in innovation to the Chinese and the rest of the world, and as a result, we are revitalizing American manufacturing. We are making it in America, but we can't stop now.

Madam Speaker, as we begin to debate the Federal budget, we must continue to invest in American innovation and ingenuity, the way we have in Louisville and in so many other cities across the country.

WORST TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION BILL IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY

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

Mr. MORAN. Madam Speaker, the House leadership is still scrambling to find the votes to pass what everyone is coming to recognize as the worst transportation authorization bill in this Nation's history. But with gasoline prices approaching \$4 a gallon, House Republicans are falling back on their wrong-headed 2008 campaign slogan of "Drill, Baby, Drill."

It's a cynical ploy, and assumes Americans think that the pain of high