

Mr. KUCINICH. A New Year's deal for New Year's Day—or is it Groundhog Day? Because like the movie "Groundhog Day," this government in 2 months will arrive at another crisis of debt, of spending, and taxes.

Our debt-based economic system, with its exponential growth of debt due to compounded interest, consigns us to massive unemployment, threatens the social safety net, a deteriorated infrastructure, a psychology of poverty amidst plenty, austerity. Congress must regain its full power accorded under the Constitution, article I, section 8, to coin, to create money, to invest in our Nation interest-free, to put America back to work. Why go into debt borrowing money from China, Japan, South Korea, when we have the constitutional authority to protect our economic sovereignty and to ensure America's long-term fiscal health?

The endless cycle of increasing taxes and cutting spending will not work because the debt keeps ballooning with compounding interest. It is time for a new American monetary policy to climb out of poverty and debt. Reforms are outlined in the National Emergency Employment Defense Act, H.R. 2990. It's the NEED Act.

Let's regain control of America's destiny.

#### SPENDING ANONYMOUS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's New Year's Day 2013. What an excellent time for Congress to make at least one New Year's resolution.

Congress is addicted to spending money. Maybe Congress should join Spending Anonymous. Here is the 12-step plan:

One, Congress should admit it's addicted to spending someone else's money;

Two, make a list of the wasteful spending;

Three, pass a yearly budget and a constitutional balanced budget amendment;

Four, stop giving money to countries that hate us;

Five, have the resolve not to spend money we don't have;

Six, don't contribute to the addiction by taking more money away from Americans;

Seven, don't borrow any more money from China;

Eight, don't make excuses for our addiction;

Nine, don't blame others for the addiction;

Ten, run Congress like most people run their family budgets;

Eleven, remember, we are to do the will of the people;

Twelve, have a support group and meet regularly to confess our addiction.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should join Spending Anonymous.

And that's just the way it is.

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. In the early 19th century, 4 million slaves resided in the South, public opinion in the North began to oppose it, States resisted by ceding from the Union, and a brutal civil war ensued.

In order to end slavery and the war, President Lincoln on September 22, 1862, issued a preliminary emancipation proclamation directing all rebelling States to free their slaves and return to the Union in 100 days.

Lincoln made it clear: should they fail to do so, he would use his authority as Commander in Chief to end slavery. States failed to act, and Lincoln signed the proclamation January 1, 1863.

More than 200,000 lives were lost in the war. Lincoln lost his own life with an assassin's bullet following reelection. This is American history that every individual must understand and appreciate.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we commemorate 150 years of freedom for African American citizens.

#### GET IT RIGHT AND DON'T ACT IN HASTE

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

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, the Senate passed a fiscal cliff bill this morning without time for Senators to adequately consider it and, more importantly, without giving the American people time to understand it and share their insight with Congress.

Senator MITCH MCCONNELL observed, "This shouldn't be the model for how we do things around here," and then the Senate proceeded like a bull in a china closet anyway.

The Senate boasts it is America's deliberative body. Today, that claim rings hollow.

Mr. Speaker, the House must postpone this vote until Congress and the American people have time to study and evaluate this extraordinarily complex legislation and its impact on taxes, revenue, the economy, our debt, and a myriad of other issues. It is better to get it right than to act in haste.

Mr. Speaker, if we vote on the Senate fiscal cliff bill today, I will vote against it because this is not the way to do the people's business. I will not condone with my vote a process that denies the American people an opportunity to participate in their Republic on issues of this magnitude.

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#### A LOST OPPORTUNITY FOR REFORM

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. The agreement we are expected to vote on, perhaps as early as this afternoon, has many commendable and important items. Unfortunately, too many are short term; much is left out; and most important, we are losing an opportunity for reform.

We cannot continue to have, by far, the world's largest and most expensive military, the world's lowest taxes, the most expensive and inefficient health care system, and continue to allow our country's infrastructure to fall apart all while America grows and ages.

This agreement represents absolutely the least we could have done under these circumstances and tragically institutionalizes for the next Congress the madness of short-term frenzy around artificial deadlines that drives the American public crazy.

Not only can we do better; we must do better. This flawed, partial plan is not just a lost opportunity; it represents a real setback.

#### THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

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

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, this is the last time I'll have the opportunity to address my colleagues as I wind up a 20-year career in the House of Representatives on January 3. I want to thank my constituents for giving me the honor and the opportunity to fulfill the dreams of a 10-year-old child who dreamed about becoming a Member of the House of Representatives.

Twenty years ago, almost to the date when I was first sworn in, our family visited the Emancipation Proclamation at Archives. It's open again today. He was from my State. He served our State. In the incredible speech that he gave at Gettysburg, he talked about people coming here to do the unfinished work. That's the job of all of us as Members of Congress is to do the unfinished work as Lincoln saw it—the unfinished work not only to bind the wounds of the Nation but to keep America together. That's the charge that we have continually is to keep America together.

God bless you and thank you for the opportunity to serve.

#### THE AMERICAN ECONOMY NEEDS TO GROW

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the people in this Chamber who do all the complaining about spending, the record

clearly shows, voted for all the spending that they complain about: two wars that took \$1 trillion out of the American economy, unfunded tax cuts that created the worst economy in 60 years, and an unpaid drug prescription program that will cost \$730 billion over the next 10 years.

Moreover, the House Republican budget for 2013 spends \$900 billion more than it takes in in revenues. That Republican budget imbalance will require raising the debt ceiling early this year. Raising the debt ceiling does not authorize you to spend more money. It authorizes you to pay back the money that you've already spent. Republicans in this House voted for it, and they have a moral obligation to repay that money.

Mr. Speaker, the American economy needs to grow much more than the projected 2 percent for 2013. Two percent growth is not enough to sustain the current level of employment. The American economy needs robust growth at 3 to 4 percent, growth that can only come from investments in education, road and bridge building, research. We need to do nation-building not in Afghanistan, not in Iraq, but nation-building at home, here in America.

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#### LET'S FIND A BETTER WAY FORWARD

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

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, what do we know with certainty about the bill which passed the Senate? We know it has bipartisan support, and that's encouraging. I'm a Republican who has been making the case that revenues must rise. This bill does that; and if it becomes law, it provides some certainty to our Tax Code, which would surely help our economy.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, we also know with certainty that it fails to address the mortal threat facing our country—uncontrolled spending. It fails to reflect the balanced approach that was advocated by our President. So we find ourselves again with a bill that reflects not financial wisdom but the seductive spirit that pervades this town. The time to confront our spending addiction is not now. It's later, they say—we'll do the right thing then.

In lacking knowledge, political courage—or both—leaders in Washington continue to overpromise. They're like salespeople who tell their customers they can have a \$30,000 car but only pay \$18,000 for it. Who doesn't like that deal? The truth—and what we know with certainty—is that the full cost, indeed, will be paid by their children, the next generation of Americans.

There is a better way forward, Mr. Speaker, for Americans. Let's find it.

#### E PLURIBUS UNUM

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

Mr. COHEN. We've heard from a colleague of mine on the Democratic side who sounds like he's not going to vote for this bill, and we've heard it from a couple of folks on the other side. Well, I'm going to vote for it, not because I think it's all the best sugar and spice and everything nice, but because, for one thing, I believe our President and our Vice President know what they can get in a negotiated deal with the Republican side in the Senate and what might pass this House as well, and they know what our country needs.

My district can't afford to wait a few days and have the stock market go down 300 points tomorrow if we don't get together and do something, and the people in my district need unemployment compensation and need to know in the future that they're going to have the low-income earned tax credit and college credit.

It's important that we keep this country moving in the right direction and away from another recession. "E Pluribus Unum" is not just on our bills, but it's what we are as legislators. We are one of 435 and one of 535, including the Senate. We need to come together and work together for the betterment of the country.

This isn't the perfect deal, but it's the deal we got, and it's the deal I'm going to support. I hope that my colleagues will resolve to give the President and the Vice President the benefit of the doubt as the year goes on and as I do today.

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#### FUTURE GENERATIONS DESERVE BETTER

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Last night was the first time in my life that I've sat at my desk as we went into a new year, but it gave me a chance to contemplate what we're about.

We're going into a new year as the first generation who did not ask the question: What can we do? What can we sacrifice to make future generations have a better life than we have? Instead, we asked: How much can we eke up taxes a little bit so that we can keep spending 58 cents to get a dollar's worth of wasteful, bloated government so that our children and grandchildren can pay 42 cents of every dollar that we waste on ourselves?

Is that any way to start the new year?

We're taking up a bill that will not do anything to cut spending. I am embarrassed for this generation. The future generations deserve better.

#### A HOUSE DIVIDED WILL NOT STAND

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

Mr. FATTAH. It's a new year. For my youngest children, both will grow 1 year older this year. My daughter Chandler will turn 10, and my teenager, Cameron, will turn 15. Today, we know the birthday of the Emancipation Proclamation as we celebrate it here in Washington. Our country, hopefully, gains maturity as we go forward.

We were reminded a long time ago that a House divided would not stand. We have to come together, and we should put away some of the nonsense of attacking the President for spending when our Founders when writing the Constitution gave the Congress control over the spending. In article I, section 9, clause 7, we control the spending. So if we want to back away from spending, we need to look in the mirror. In terms of this agreement, rather than curse the darkness, we should look at those who have lit the candle. When we can have a bipartisan vote of 89 Senators start this year off and move our country forward, we should rally behind them.

I ask my colleagues to vote in favor of the agreement in order to move away from the cliff and continue to move our country towards greatness.

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#### A SMALL FINGER IN A DIKE WITH HUNDREDS OF HOLES

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

Mr. ISSA. I wish I could say that this was a proud moment, a moment in which we started the year off right, in which the 1st of January was the first of a great many good things. It isn't. We're kicking the can down the road. Worse than that, when faced with a mountain of debt that we were heading for, like an airplane, did we climb over it? No. What we're going to do in the present plan is put another nearly trillion dollars' worth of debt on the American people.

Time is running out to change the direction because that trillion dollars isn't just a problem for the next generation. It's a problem for corporate America, and it's a problem for every American. The trillion dollars we spend and waste this year is \$1 trillion that we will have to bear for the rest of our lives.

Mr. Speaker, I may vote for what comes on the floor. I certainly will vote for a bill, which I'm going to manage in a few minutes, to hold down the growth of spending in the government; but I'll tell you, I won't do it thinking we've accomplished anything here today other than the smallest finger in a dike that, in fact, has hundreds of holes in it.