

who are burdened by student-loan debt. A solution is on the way. I am working on bills that will responsibly forgive certain student loans and provide every student-loan borrower with basic consumer protections by enacting a student-loan borrower bill of rights.

I urge every Member of Congress to help our American families get out of this debt so they can live better lives and create jobs for America.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET: HIGHER TAXES, MORE DEBT

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for 3 years, Americans have watched the President as he has tried to borrow and spend his way out of an economic recession. His failed policies have failed this Nation with unemployment still over 8 percent.

The Washington Examiner stated:

What this country needs is an honest leader who will tell the truth about our entitlement spending crisis and identify real reforms. But Obama's latest budget does none of that. Instead, he offers double doses of deficits, tax hikes, and crony capitalism. America deserves better.

Over the past year, House Republicans have passed dozens of pieces of legislation that decrease spending, provide tax cuts, and encourage job creation through private sector job growth. I urge the President and the liberal Senate to work with House Republicans to support legislation that promotes jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

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

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, from Buffalo to Rochester, New York, people in my district want to get back to work. They just need the opportunity. That's why during budget hearings yesterday with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, I posed the question: Can our government be doing more to make sure that our limited Federal procurement dollars are being spent on jobs in manufacturing right back here in America?

The answer is, yes. They want to work with us, and we need to work together to make more of our limited dollars spent in companies that have a higher percentage of the American workforce right here making our defense systems and our products for the Department of Homeland Security. My policy is to give more preferences to those businesses based on the percentage of workers in America.

We need to have a policy that is going to reward those companies and

not penalize them. We need to create more opportunities for manufacturing right here in America and in my district in upstate New York.

So I look forward to working collaboratively. I'm going to introduce legislation that I expect to be bipartisan in nature. Who could not agree that we could do more to make it in America?

BUILDING BETTER BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS ACT OF 2012

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

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, when small businesses compete for government contracts, the government saves billions of dollars, and thousands of private sector jobs are created through these investments. However, the process of contracting can be needlessly time-consuming and onerous for small businesses to navigate. Last year, the Federal Government failed to meet the requirement for contracts awarded to small businesses. This complicated procurement procedure is hindering job creation and slowing our economic recovery.

Last week I introduced—along with my colleague, Representative JUDY CHU from California—H.R. 3985, Building Better Business Partnerships Act of 2012. H.R. 3985 focuses on improving and streamlining mentor-protege programs which pair new businesses looking to increase their government contracts with more experienced businesses. My bill will make mentor-protege programs more efficient and successful by placing the SBA in charge of overseeing and setting standards for programs based on what we know works. Ultimately, H.R. 3985 will make it easier for small business firms to compete.

□ 1210

WE ARE AT A CROSSROAD IN AMERICA

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. We are at a crossroad in America where we must decide if we're going to continue building economic recovery on the backs of middle- and low-income families, or whether we're going to ask wealthy Americans to join in the sacrifice by paying their fair share.

Too many Americans have already made sacrifices to aid our slow moving economy and reduce the deficit. The military had to scale back, Federal workers had to take a pay freeze, health care providers had to take a pay cut, but we have not required those who can actually afford it to share in the sacrifice.

Changing our Nation's tax policies is not about redistribution of wealth; it's about fairness, doing what's best for

the American people. If those who can afford it don't make the sacrifice, the survival of America will be affected.

The President's budget will ensure that those who have been blessed with a portfolio that has multiplied under the Bush tax cuts will no longer be the primary beneficiaries of tax cuts and policies.

I urge my colleagues to insist that all Americans, including the rich, share the pain of this recovery.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PROPOSED BUDGET IS DEBT ON ARRIVAL

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the President released his budget for next year. It fails to reduce the national debt by one penny. That's why it's already being called "debt on arrival."

Under this budget, for the fourth consecutive year, our Nation's deficit will be measured in the trillions of dollars. Let me repeat that. For four consecutive years, trillions of dollars in deficit.

Failure to address our mounting debt crisis puts us on the same course as Greece. We need to act, and act now. Repeating the reckless spending patterns of the past defies common sense.

It's time for Washington to make the tough choices necessary to balance the budget for taxpayers today and future generations. The American people deserve nothing less.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT OBAMA'S COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING INNOVATION

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, the catchword is "innovation." President Obama has made it clear that on the road to economic recovery we must also make long-term investments in American innovation.

In his FY 2013 budget proposal, President Obama reasserted his commitment to an agenda that supports startups and small businesses, where new jobs are created. President Obama proposed to expand tax relief while eliminating regulations that prevent aspiring entrepreneurs from getting the financing that is needed to grow.

The President's budget also calls for a \$2.2 billion investment to support advanced manufacturing research and development programs to assist our business community throughout the country. President Obama's budget also creates a manufacturing capacity for vital defense technologies and dramatically improves production and distribution of manufactured goods.

Mr. Speaker, I commend President Obama for his commitment to keeping

America the global frontrunner in innovation.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S 2013 BUDGET REQUEST

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

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the President sent his fiscal year 2013 budget request to Congress. It's been roundly panned as being "not serious," "inadequate," and "political."

But, Mr. Speaker, I want the American people to understand, in addition to all these assessments, the President's budget request is downright dangerous. House Republicans have begun a serious conversation with the American people about our debt, our out-of-control Federal spending, the unsustainability of mandatory spending, as well as our future.

But it's past time for this President and his party in Congress to join us in honestly acknowledging the real challenges facing our Nation and offering realistic solutions to put America back on the path to prosperity to ensure that our best days are still in front of us.

Sadly, the President's lack of leadership on these critical issues endangers not only the current economic recovery but the very future of our great Republic.

EFFECTS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, the health care reform effort signed into law by President Obama in 2010 contains important new benefits for our seniors and Medicare recipients that have already started to take effect.

Nearly 3.6 million seniors in the doughnut hole have already saved \$2.1 billion on their prescription drugs. Twenty-four million people with Medicare have already taken advantage of free preventive services.

Additional reforms such as a prohibition of lifetime caps on insurance expenditures will soon be made available to our seniors, thanks to health care reform. Nothing in health reform reduces Medicare benefits for seniors.

Health care reform achieves Medicare savings by cracking down on inefficiency, fraud, and waste in Medicare, targeted at private health insurance companies and providers, not beneficiaries. This is how government should operate: by demanding efficiency, accountability, and protecting taxpayer dollars.

JOB-KILLING REGULATIONS

(Mr. QUAYLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, in just this past year approximately 79,000 pages of regulations were printed in the Federal Register. The cost to comply with our regulatory enterprise exceeds \$1 trillion per year.

Now this past August, the Department of Labor issued its final rule governing the non-displacement of qualified workers under service contracts. Under this rule, when a government contract is given to a new firm, the company is required to first offer employment to the previous contractor's workers.

The administration claims this rule will help government efficiency, but it gives a preference to union employees and limits the ability of the firm to negotiate and hire the workers that it actually wants. This rule will impact thousands of employers and billions in government contracting.

By piling on new hoops for employers to jump through, we are simply increasing costs that are passed on to taxpayers. Regulatory compliance costs are a hidden tax borne by us all. The administration must stop this myriad of job-killing regulations.

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of American Heart Month. February, you know, is not just about Valentine's Day, but it's also a month designated to raise awareness of heart disease, especially its impact and effects on women.

Heart disease is the number one cause of death for women. And most Americans, including over 90 percent of primary care physicians, are not even aware that heart disease kills more women each year than men.

We have lost far too many of our loved ones to heart disease. I dare say each of us knows someone, a dear friend or a family member, affected by it. And that's why I reintroduced H.R. 3526, the Heart for Women Act, to increase awareness of and access to care for those impacted by heart disease.

I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and join me in the battle against heart disease.

A GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, why do we say that the President's health care law is a government takeover? Because, under the law, the government can force religious organizations to violate their conscience. Because, under the law, the Independent Payment Advisory Board can cut Medicare

reimbursements without the consent of Congress.

This same board could start running with minimal congressional oversight, given the President's attempt to broaden the definition of a recess.

It is a government takeover because the minimum essential benefits package will effectively dictate the level of coverage for every health care plan in the Nation. It is a government takeover because the United States Preventive Services Task Force will determine what services have to be provided without any copayment.

Finally, when the government can force you to purchase a service that it firmly controls, it's a government takeover. The list could go on and on. Clearly, the Federal Government is now in the driver's seat. The President's health care law is already failing, which is why we need to end it before it's fully implemented.

□ 1220

MEDICARE

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 1, Medicare physician payments will be slashed by 27 percent, badly impacting seniors' access to health care. We must act now to make sure that doesn't happen.

A few months ago, I had the opportunity to speak to World War II veterans from Missouri who visited Washington to see the memorial to their service. They spoke to me about how, during their crisis, Americans pulled together to meet the great challenges of their time. That's the can-do attitude we need now. We should stop using the lives and health of our seniors as political bargaining chips.

Plain and simple, paying doctors for doing their job, keeping seniors' access to health care should not be a partisan issue. It should be an American value we can all rally around.

I call on my colleagues to work together to keep access to Medicare services strong. That's an American value.

NANNY STATES

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

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, a year or two ago, some local bureaucrat in Oregon shut down a 7-year-old girl's lemonade stand because she had not paid the \$120 required to get a restaurant license. The bureaucrat's supervisor defended the action because some government officials will never admit a mistake. Fortunately, elected officials got the action rescinded and let the little girl operate her lemonade stand.

I thought about this when I heard that Big Brother had struck once again