

hardworking Americans holding the bag.

In the year before I took office, we lost nearly 5 million private sector jobs. And we lost almost another 4 million before our policies were in full effect.

Those are the facts. But so are these: In the last 23 months, businesses have created 3.7 million jobs. Last year, they created the most jobs since 2005. American manufacturers are hiring again, creating jobs for the first time since the late 1990s. And we have put in place new rules to hold Wall Street accountable, so a crisis like this never happens again.

Some, however, still advocate going back to the same economic policies that stacked the deck against middle-class Americans for way too many years. And their philosophy is simple: We are better off when everybody is left to fend for themselves and play by their own rules.

That philosophy is wrong. The more Americans who succeed, the more America succeeds. These are not Democratic values or Republican values. They are American values. And we have to reclaim them.

This is a make-or-break moment for the middle class, and for all those who are working to get into the middle class. It is a moment when we can go back to the ways of the past—to growing deficits, stagnant incomes and job growth, declining opportunity, and rising inequality—or we can make a break from the past. We can build an economy by restoring our greatest strengths: American manufacturing, American energy, skills for American workers, and a renewal of American values—an economy built to last.

When it comes to the deficit, we have already agreed to more than \$2 trillion in cuts and savings. But we need to do more, and that means making choices. Right now, we are poised to spend nearly \$1 trillion more on what was supposed to be a temporary tax break for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans. Right now, because of loopholes and shelters in the tax code, a quarter of all millionaires pay lower tax rates than millions of middle-class households. I believe that tax reform should follow the Buffett Rule. If you make more than \$1 million a year, you should not pay less than 30 percent in taxes. In fact, if you are earning a million dollars a year, you should not get special tax subsidies or deductions. On the other hand, if you make under \$250,000 a year, like 98 percent of American families do, your taxes should not go up.

Americans know that this generation's success is only possible because past generations felt a responsibility to each other, and to the future of their country. Now it is our turn. Now it falls to us to live up to that same sense of shared responsibility.

This year's *Economic Report of the President*, prepared by the Council of Economic Advisers, describes the emer-

gency rescue measures taken to end the recession and support the ongoing recovery, and lays out a blueprint for an economy built to last. It explains how we are restoring our strengths as a Nation—our innovative economy, our strong manufacturing base, and our workers—by investing in the technologies of the future, in companies that create jobs here in America, and in education and training programs that will prepare our workers for the jobs of tomorrow. We must ensure that these investments benefit everyone and increase opportunity for all Americans or we risk threatening one of the features that defines us as a Nation—that America is a country in which anyone can do well, regardless of how they start out.

No one built this country on their own. This Nation is great because we built it together. If we remember that truth today, join together in common purpose, and maintain our common resolve, then I am as confident as ever that our economic future is hopeful and strong.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 2012.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3630) to provide incentives for the creation of jobs, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2118. A bill to remove unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats from seniors' personal health decisions by repealing the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Mark William Lippert, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

*Navy nomination of Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III, to be Admiral.

Air Force nomination of Col. Michael A. Meyer, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Michael J. Basia, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. John E. Hyten, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Sean L. Murphy, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Charles E. Potter, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Harris J. Kline, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Richard M. Erikson, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Robert G. Kenny, to be Major General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brigadier General Gary M. Batinich and ending with Brigadier General George F. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 15, 2011.

Air Force nominations beginning with Colonel Jeffrey K. Barnson and ending with Colonel James P. Scanlan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 16, 2011. (minus 1 nominee: Colonel Stephen J. Linsenmeyer, Jr.)

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Craig A. Franklin, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Stephen P. Mueller, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr., to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Col. Susan A. Davidson, to be Brigadier General.

Army nominations beginning with Colonel Jon S. Lehr and ending with Colonel Burdett K. Thompson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2011.

Army nomination of Col. Wendul G. Hagler II, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Daniel B. Allyn, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Leslie A. Purser, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Col. Mary E. Link, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Col. Richard C. Gross, to be Brigadier General, Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nominations beginning with Colonel Patricia M. Anslow and ending with Colonel Michael R. Zerbonia, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 6, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Brigadier General Robbie L. Asher and ending with Brigadier General Charles W. Whittington, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 6, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Colonel John C. Harris, Jr., and ending with Colonel Dana L. McDaniel, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 6, 2012.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Timothy A. Reisch, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Gregory A. Lusk, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Col. John DiNapoli, to be Brigadier General.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Brigadier General Steven W. Busby and ending with Brigadier General Gregg A. Sturdevant, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Bruce W. Clingan, to be Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. John W. Miller, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Philip H. Cullom, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Charles W. Martoglio, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. William R. Burke, to be Vice Admiral.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORD on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar, that these nominations lie at

the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nominations beginning with Kirk W. Albertson and ending with Marsha M. Yasuda, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 1, 2011.

Air Force nominations beginning with David M. Barns and ending with Eric L. Whitmore, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 1, 2011.

Air Force nominations beginning with Barbara B. Acevedo and ending with Christy Lynn Zahn, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 1, 2011.

Air Force nominations beginning with Clinton E. Abell and ending with Stephen P. Wolf, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 1, 2011.

Air Force nominations beginning with John P. Ditter and ending with Steven E. West, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 1, 2011.

Air Force nominations beginning with Allena H. E. Burge Smiley and ending with Jerome M. Teclaw, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Leon S. Barringer and ending with Paul E. Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Mark W. Duff and ending with Keith C. Tang, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Kenneth D. Carr and ending with Gregory S. Stringer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Patrick Michael Carpenter and ending with Kevin N. Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Joseph J. Albano and ending with Richard J. Tipton, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Michael A. Battle and ending with David W. Tooker, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Ann E. Alexander and ending with David L. Wells, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brenda K. Ames and ending with Joseph A. Wenzell, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Javier A. Abreu and ending with Mark A. Weiskircher, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Carl P. Bhend and ending with Allyson M. Yamaki, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Broadus Z. Atkins and ending with Kenneth C. Y. Yu, which nominations were received

by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Steven J. Acevedo and ending with Heather L. Yun, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Cara A. Aghajanian and ending with Michael A. Zaccardo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Mudasir A. Abro and ending with Shauna C. Zorich, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Air Force nomination of Oscar Fonseca, to be Major.

Air Force nominations beginning with Thomas G. Duffett and ending with Thomas S. Garrido, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 1, 2012.

Air Force nomination of Michael W. Paulus, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Benjamin G. Hughes, to be Major.

Air Force nominations beginning with Michelle S. Flores and ending with Molly F. George, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 1, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Amory S. Balucating and ending with Ramothea L. Webster, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 1, 2012.

Air Force nominations beginning with Darrin L. Barritt and ending with Klis T. Zannis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 1, 2012.

Army nomination of Judith M. Dickert, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Hazel P. Haynes, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Larissa G. Coon, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Stefanie D. Last and ending with Timothy R. Tolbert, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Joseph T. Nora and ending with William D. O'Connell, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Mark J. Cappone and ending with Charles D. Zimmerman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Lance D. Clawson and ending with Christopher L. Rozelle, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Mark N. Brown and ending with Brian C. Trapani, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Scott T. Ayers and ending with Amber J. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Raymond R. Adams III and ending with Madeline F. Yanford, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Stephen K. Aiton and ending with D005059, which nominations were received by the Senate and

appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with James H. Adams III and ending with G001034, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Josslyn L. Aberle and ending with D002143, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Army nomination of Jorge M. Ruano-Rossil, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Scott W. Marlin, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Richard T. Mull, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Kelly E. Carlen, to be Major.

Army nomination of David C. Hatch, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Peter V. Huynh and ending with Michael J. Rakow, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 1, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Michael A. Abell and ending with Brian F. Wertzler, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 1, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Charles H. Buxton and ending with Thomas M. Vickers, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 1, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Thomas Able and ending with Christopher J. Wood, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 1, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Paul B. Allen, Sr. and ending with D011029, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 1, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Katie Barry and ending with Kimberly S. Yore, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 1, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Carol H. Adams and ending with Tomasz Zielinski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 1, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Corebrians A. Abraham and ending with Renee E. Zmijski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 1, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Wallace S. Bonds and ending with James H. Treece, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 6, 2012.

Army nominations beginning with Daniel P. Bordelon and ending with Michelle M. Rose, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 6, 2012.

Marine Corps nomination of Craig J. Shell, to be Major.

Marine Corps nomination of Jeffrey S. Lacorte, to be Major.

Marine Corps nomination of Russell B. Cromley, to be Major.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Christopher P. Douglas and ending with Shawn A. Harris, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Richard Canedo and ending with Matthew C. Frazier, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Marine Corps nomination of Brian T. Thompson, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of Brian J. Corris, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of Kevin R. Williams, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of Christopher J. Cox, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Leonard R. Domitrovits and ending with Robert A. Petersen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Jerry R. Copley and ending with James R. Towney, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Christopher J. Albright and ending with Christopher M. Osmun, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Winston D. Boyd II and ending with Moses A. Thomas, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Stuart M. Barker and ending with Gregory E. Wrubluski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Ladaniel Dayzie and ending with Agileo J. Ylanan, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Arlington A. Finch, Jr. and ending with Kevin M. Tscherch, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Marine Corps nomination of Timothy T. Rybinski, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Navy nomination of Willis E. Everett, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of James T. Gilson, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Christopher A. Martino, to be Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Kenneth B. Hockycko and ending with Adejose R. Mckoy, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 1, 2012.

Navy nomination of John A. Lang, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of David A. Czachorowski, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Kelly P. Coffey, to be Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Jason A. Althouse and ending with Joshua L. Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 1, 2012.

Navy nomination of James Gilford III, to be Lieutenant Commander.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CONRAD, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 2123. A bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to extend funding for family-to-family health information centers to help families of children with disabilities or special health care needs make informed choices about health care for their children; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 2124. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to authorize and support the creation of cardiomyopathy education, awareness, and risk assessment materials and resources by the Secretary of Health and Human Services through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the dissemination of such materials and resources by State educational agencies to identify more at-risk families; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2125. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify the designation of accreditation organizations for orthotics and prosthetics, to apply accreditation and licensure requirements to suppliers of such devices and items for purposes of payment under the Medicare program, and to modify the payment rules for such devices and items under such program to account for practitioner qualifications and complexity of care; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2126. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to extend and improve the milk income loss contract program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2127. A bill to protect State and local witnesses from tampering and retaliation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BEGICH, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2128. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to clarify that all veterans programs are exempt from sequestration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2129. A bill to provide for reforming and consolidating agencies of the Federal Government to improve efficiency and effectiveness; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 2130. A bill to direct the Secretary of Interior to establish a veterans conservation corps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 546

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and for other purposes.

S. 1734

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Georgia

(Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1734, a bill to provide incentives for the development of qualified infectious disease products.

S. 1763

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1763, a bill to decrease the incidence of violent crimes against Indian women, to strengthen the capacity of Indian tribes to exercise the sovereign authority of Indian tribes to respond to violent crimes committed against Indian women, and to ensure that perpetrators of violent crimes committed against Indian women are held accountable for that criminal behavior, and for other purposes.

S. 1845

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1845, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an energy investment credit for energy storage property connected to the grid, and for other purposes.

S. 1853

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1853, a bill to recalculate and restore retirement annuity obligations of the United States Postal Service, eliminate the requirement that the United States Postal Service pre-fund the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, place restrictions on the closure of postal facilities, create incentives for innovation for the United States Postal Service, to maintain levels of postal service, and for other purposes.

S. 1884

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1884, a bill to provide States with incentives to require elementary schools and secondary schools to maintain, and permit school personnel to administer, epinephrine at schools.

S. 1925

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1925, a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

S. 1981

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1981, a bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

S. 2122

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2122, a bill to clarify the definition of navigable waters, and for other purposes.