

Our national security is being weakened as Army training rotations are being canceled; earlier this year nearly one-third of Air Force squadrons were grounded; and maintenance on equipment and facilities is being deferred.

More than 600,000 civilian Defense employees (85 percent) were furloughed this summer for more than one week, meaning a pay cut of more than \$1 billion.

\$37 billion in cuts to defense this fiscal year is harming economic growth and our military readiness.

HEALTH

Cutting \$1.5 billion from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) means less research into preventing, treating, and curing diseases that affect millions of Americans, like cancer, diabetes, and heart disease.

A \$285 million cut for the Centers for Disease Control is limiting their ability to detect and combat disease outbreaks like pandemic influenza; plan for public health emergencies; and facilitate immunizations that keep you and your family healthy.

Cutting NIH by \$6.7 billion will hold back life-saving research.

SENIORS

More than 5 million fewer meals are available for low-income seniors through Meals on Wheels and related programs.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND JOB-CREATING INVESTMENTS

Community Development Block Grants to ensure decent affordable housing, provide services to the most vulnerable, and create jobs by expanding and retaining businesses cut to lowest level in its history.

Clean energy and efficiency research are cut by nearly one-half and breakthrough cutting edge advanced energy research cut 81 percent from 2013 enacted level.

Major job-creating investments in highways, transit, railways, bridges and ports through the TIGER program would be eliminated, while putting modernization of the air traffic control system at risk.

EPA cut by more than 1/3 and grants to local communities for clean water and drinking water slashed.

It is time for Congress to reject a continuation of these draconian cuts and replace the sequester with a balanced package that demands additional revenue, including closing corporate tax loopholes.

Instead of continuing sequestration levels of funding, and trying for the 42nd time to defund, delay, or impede the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, we need to work together to develop a balanced and responsible plan that makes the necessary investments that will generate economic growth and create jobs that will enable Americans to live a middle class life.

We should reject this resolution and adopt the substitute resolution offered by my colleague, Congressman VAN HOLLEN, the Ranking Member of the Budget Committee.

The Van Hollen Alternative is superior to the resolution before us because it eliminates the sequester's immediate, excessive, and irresponsible cuts to vital investments and replaces these with a roughly 50/50 combination of targeted spending cuts and limits on tax breaks to reduce the deficit in a balanced way.

Moreover, the proposal achieves over \$75 billion more in deficit reduction than the sequester would have achieved.

I urge all members of the House to join me in voting to reject this irresponsible resolution that will not create jobs, places our economic recovery at risk, threatens the health security of millions of Americans, and jeopardizes the creditworthiness of our nation.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS
RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I oppose this flawed continuing resolution, H.J. Res. 59. As the Congress lurches from self-imposed crisis to self-imposed crisis, it is easy to understand why members of the public shake their heads in disgust at the inability of the government to do the important work of America to help Americans.

Today we go through another farce—the 43rd time we will vote to stop the Affordable Care Act. It's another gimmick. It's another charade to appease the Tea Party.

This bill takes a slightly different tack than the others that have tried to kill health care reform. The attempt to defund Obamacare is tied to the legislation that would fund the federal government. On October 1st, the government will shut down if a budget is not passed before then.

One of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle said, "We've got to play the game." Running our country is not a game. Shutting down the government is not a game. It's the height of irresponsibility.

This bill will not become law, I am very sure. The House Republicans know that this is a terrible idea, but they are proceeding with it evidently with the expectation it will fail. But they seem not to care that shutting down the government puts in jeopardy our servicemembers, our veterans, those who are experiencing hard times as our economy is still in the midst of recovery. It puts children's health care in peril. Talk about absurdity.

Once again the House Republicans have decided to put party ideology above the needs of the American people. Once again the House Republicans have made senseless accommodations to the callous and vociferous shouting of those who simply don't care how devastating shutting down the government is to Americans.

The radical games need to stop. We have played them over and over again. Playing with American lives is not what a responsible government does.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS
RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.J. Res 59, the Con-

tinuing Appropriations Resolution of 2014. With only ten days left until funding for the government expires, it shocks me that we are considering legislation that will do nothing to solve our problems. This is yet another political stunt by my friends on the other side of the aisle who clearly want the government to be shut down, and it should be rejected.

Our economy is recovering, but much more work needs to be done. A government shutdown would destroy all that progress and would cause much damage to middle class families across our nation. Social Security beneficiaries would not get their checks, veterans services would be cut, and every American would feel the impact. Furthermore, this resolution continues the misguided policy of sequestration. If this continues it will cost our economy 1.6 million jobs in 2014 and will prohibit our nation from making critical investments in education and life saving medical research. Democrats have an alternative that ends the sequester in a responsible manner and keeps the government running for the next year. My friends on the other side of the aisle do nothing but slow our nation's recovery with these futile efforts. Government funding remains in jeopardy. These stunts provide only further uncertainty for our businesses, left unable to hire workers, expand facilities, or make any of the necessary decisions to prosper in this economic environment. Madam Speaker, I plead with you to work with us in a bipartisan manner rather than wasting precious floor time on a bill that is going nowhere.

We all know my friends on the other side of the aisle oppose Obamacare. They have already voted 41 times in this House to repeal or undermine the law, and this bill increases this number to 42 by defunding Obamacare entirely. The American people spoke just last year in the elections, and the Supreme Court has spoken as well: Obamacare is the law of the land, and this effort is not going anywhere. In less than 2 weeks time, people who have never had access to health insurance for their entire lives will be able to purchase an affordable plan that gives them the health coverage they deserve. Even if you oppose the President, you should agree that this is a reasonable goal to have. And this bill goes beyond just defunding the parts of the law they don't like. It would let insurance companies deny coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, they could drop coverage when people get sick, and would prevent young Americans from staying on their parents plan until age 26. We should not turn back the clock when we are so close to making real, measurable progress. I look forward to full implementation of the law in the coming weeks so the American people can receive the full benefits of Obamacare.

In closing, this is a waste of our time. With such little time left to avoid a government shutdown, I would expect the Majority in this body to work with us in a bipartisan manner rather than continuing to play political games. I know we can come together to prevent a government shutdown and prevent miserable harm from being inflicted on the American people. But today, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this misguided bill.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 1ST ANNUAL TRI-CITY LATINO FESTIVAL IN COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the start of a new tradition in Columbus, Georgia, the 1st Annual Tri-City Latino Festival, which will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2013 at the South Commons at 400 4th Street in Columbus, Georgia. The festival is being supported by the tri-city area of Columbus, Georgia, Fort Benning, Georgia and Phenix City, Alabama. The festival will celebrate diversity within the Latino cultures found in the tri-city communities.

The Tri-City Latino Festival came about from a vision to unite people from all walks of life for one unique purpose. This dream was shared by Harold "Lefty" Encarnacion and Evelyn "Mimi" Woodson and together, they began working to make it a reality. They brought on Carlos Huertas and created a board of members to form a plan of action. Unfortunately, a number of difficulties arose and the board faded out of existence. But the original members were persistent. After overcoming these obstacles, they formed a new group and consulted with Columbus Mayor Teresa Tomlinson, who was enthusiastic about supporting the event.

Unfortunately, another obstacle presented itself and the event had to be cancelled again. However, the group brought on Roberto "Tito" Aron to contribute his talents and expertise. The group consulted with the Panamanian Association of Columbus, Georgia, who was thrilled to sponsor the event, and the planning continued in full force, culminating in this magnificent occasion.

The Tri-City Latino Festival will kick off with a 5k Run at 10 a.m. There will be an opening ceremony at noon, followed by a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu tournament, Señorita beauty contest, Zumba demonstration and dominoes tournament. There will also be art displays by local high schools and a Kid's Zone for children. In the evening, there will be a main show by an international recording artist, followed by cultural dances, a dance contest, and performances by local and international musical groups. It is sure to be a day filled with innovative, vibrant and enjoyable displays of Latino art, talent and culture.

The tri-city area has long had an exigent need for an event such as this. A large number of Hispanic countries are represented in the tri-city area, and this is a great opportunity to educate the community about them and celebrate the vibrant and diverse cultures.

Our nation is struggling today because of inefficient and ineffective laws from the past, a disagreement about how to address the consequences, and a divided interest in what is best for the future of America. These incongruities have a harsh effect on the lives of millions of people every day. A mother worries she will be separated from her children, a father puts in long, grueling hours of hard labor just to put food on the table, a high school graduate is denied the chance to go to college, all because they are unable to become citizens or legal residents of the country they call home.

In the past year, our nation has taken a step forward in trying to repair our immigration system and lay the groundwork for a prosperous future. We cannot afford to lose the momentum we've gained and many working immigrant families cannot afford to continue to live in uncertainty. It is imperative that we continue working to keep the American dream in reach for all those who seek it.

A Spanish proverb often cited says, "A mal tiempo, buena cara" or "in bad weather, a head held high." I believe this proverb is very accurate of the Latino people here in our area. In the face of adversity, they keep their good spirits and work harder, push longer, and believe greater.

I am proud to be a part of an area that thrives on its diversity and unites members of the community to honor the struggle, sacrifice and success of their ancestors from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. This partnership between Columbus, Phenix City and Fort Benning has fostered the spirit of community that is so deeply anchored in these ancestral roots.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting the residents of Columbus and Fort Benning, Georgia and Phenix City, Alabama as they come together to celebrate the first Annual Tri-City Latino Festival. This spirited celebration is sure to be the beginning of a great tradition that brings people of all walks of life together to celebrate diversity, to rejoice at how far we have come as a society, and to reflect upon how far we have yet to go.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,503,812,337.79. We've added \$6,111,626,763,424.71 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

**IN HONOR OF HOOSIER HERO,
OFFICER ROD BRADWAY**

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2013

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart, as I grieve with the City of Indianapolis and the entire law enforcement community. Last Friday, we lost a man of valor.

While responding to a domestic call, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Officer Rod Bradway was tragically killed. When Officer Bradway heard a desperate cry for help, he acted without hesitation or fear to save a life, and in so doing, he sacrificed his own.

Confronting danger to protect all of us was nothing new for Officer Bradway, who had already received the department's Medal of

Bravery and who also served as a firefighter and EMT. We should all aspire to Officer Bradway's level of courage and heroism.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending prayers to Officer Bradway's wife and family and ask that they honor his life by remembering to always uplift their local law enforcement officers and give gratitude for their sacrifices.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2013

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position on a vote cast on September 18, 2013. The vote was on passage of H.R. 761, the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act.

On rollcall vote No. 471, I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "no."

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 24, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 25

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the "Terrorism Risk Insurance Act" (TRIA), focusing on the state of the terrorism risk insurance market.

SD-538

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the need to invest in America's infrastructure and preserve Federal transportation funding.

SD-406

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the state of the American senior, focusing on the changing retirement landscape for baby boomers.

SD-562