

people will be able to find important resources, including ways to access food assistance if they need help; an online gallery of artists, politicians, teachers, writers, and business and community leaders who once needed help through SNAP, the primary Federal antihunger safety program that we have in this country; and also, you see a list of partners who are helping combat hunger through this film. Most importantly, it outlines ways that people can help make hunger a national priority, and it includes specific actions that people can take in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, we've had a number of strong antihunger partners over the years, but this is the first time in recent memory that there is a dedicated effort to end hunger tied directly to a mainstream film that is nationally garnering critical acclaim.

The social action plan is based on a simple concept: that people will be moved by individual stories and the facts about hunger documented in this film. When they hear the information, they will want to take action. They will be moved to act in a meaningful way.

Through this Web site, people can take part in simple actions, like contacting their elected officials or volunteering to work with local organizations that are making a difference in their communities, organizations like FRAC, Feeding America, Share Our Strength, Bread for the World, DC Central Kitchen, AmpleHarvest.org, WhyHunger, and Wholesome Wave, just to name a few of the 30 organizations allied with this film.

There is also a book, Mr. Speaker, that accompanies the film that is also of the same name, "A Place at the Table," that explains the issue of hunger and goes over the many ways that each of us can end hunger now.

As I've said over and over again, Mr. Speaker, hunger is a political condition, one that requires action by concerned Americans. Over the past few weeks, we have seen how so many Americans care about this problem and want to be part of the solution to end hunger now.

And I would, once again, Mr. Speaker, urge the President of the United States to take a leadership role, to organize a White House Conference on Food and Nutrition to devise a plan to end hunger now.

Mr. Speaker, with partners like those behind "A Place at the Table," along with their social action plan, we can make a real difference. We can end hunger now.

And it is also my hope, Mr. Speaker, that this Congress will step up to the plate and join in the effort to end hunger now. It is our moral obligation. It is the right thing to do. Now is the time.

"RYANOMICS"—THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, "Ryanomics," the House Republican budget, the so-called path to prosperity, is based upon a fanciful theory of trickle-down economics. This is a well-worn idea that belies the facts that we've seen proven time and time again.

That truth is that giving tax breaks and hollowing out the Tax Code with loopholes for the wealthy, while cutting spending for the social safety net and the poor, while cutting everything else that makes America great, that somehow this is going to create prosperity for all. Indeed, the Republicans have played from this same playbook before, and it has failed.

□ 1020

It has failed again, and it continues to fail. This was an economic theory first proposed by the American hero, Ronald Reagan. They called it Reaganomics. Trickle-down economics is what they liked to say: it would trickle down to the poor. George Herbert Walker Bush called it "voodoo economics." I think he was right on with that because in practicing voodoo, they just ask you to believe. And that's what Ryanomics is proposing for us to do. The numbers just don't add up.

Today, we only have to look at Europe to see the terrible effects of severe austerity. The Republican prescription of cut, cut, cut has been tried, tried, tried repeatedly across Europe and has only exacerbated the problems over there. Now, under the guise of balancing the budget in 10 years, we've got Ryanomics II, or Turbo Ryanomics. They're going to take \$15 trillion and balance the budget in 10 years, doubling down on a theory that Americans rejected just last year. Four or 5 months ago, we rejected Ryanomics; but here we have Ryanomics II, or Turbo Ryanomics.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not here to solely criticize the path that Republicans have charted for this House with their budget priorities. In fact, I agree with them that Congress must make difficult choices about future spending. The problem is that all too often this body asks very little of the rich and the powerful, handing out tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires like candy, doing this at the expense of the middle class and the poor. You have seen the income disparity between the top 2 percent and the middle class. The gap continues to widen.

Shared sacrifice should truly be that. It should be something that all Americans share in. Why does Congress continue to give tax breaks to big corporations that outsource jobs but fail to invest in education and scientific research that would help the American economy by creating jobs and reducing unemployment? Why would they con-

tinue to give tax breaks to those who don't need them, rather than educating the next generation of workers so that this country can continue to compete and be at the top of the global economy?

Despite the fact that trickle-down economics has been roundly criticized and discredited, my colleagues across the aisle choose to double down on what hasn't worked, and they want to continue to relentlessly cut, cut, cut the programs and the services that Americans depend on every day and which help drive our economy. I believe we must reduce our debt—and we must do that in a responsible and sensible way that slows spending over time. We can no longer leave working Americans behind while we allow the wealthy to walk away with the largest share of national prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the CPC, the CBC, and the Democratic budgets that keep our promises and invest in what works to grow the middle class.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 24 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all who call upon Your name. Send Your Spirit to fill their hearts with those divine gifts You have prepared for them.

May Your grace find expression in their compassion for the weak and the poor among us, and may Your mercy encourage goodwill in all they do and accomplish this day.

As the Members of the people's House face the demands of our time, grant them and us all Your peace and strength, that we might act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COFFMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SELECTIVE SERVICE

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, in 1972, I volunteered to serve in the United States Army at a time when young men were still being drafted into our military. The last draftees were inducted into the United States Army in 1973, and 2 years later, given the success of the all-volunteer Army, the requirement for young men to register with Selective Service ended.

In a symbolic show of strength to the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan, President Jimmy Carter asked Congress to reinstate the Selective Service System in 1980. Congress did so, and to this day all males are required by law to register with the Selective Service System within 30 days of their 18th birthday. However, despite the first gulf war, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, conscription has never been considered as a viable option by our military.

Mr. Speaker, my bill, H.R. 978, will end the registration requirement and dismantle the outdated Selective Service bureaucracy—saving the taxpayers over \$24 million a year—and I urge its adoption.

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the Buffalo River is identified by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative as one of 43 areas of concern in the Great Lakes watershed. In 2011, a coalition of corporate and community partners teamed up with State and local governments to begin a multimillion-dollar cleanup of the Buffalo River. Unfortunately, sequestration and uncertainty about a new Federal budget threaten to delay this project.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes are a unique national treasure with global significance. They are the largest source of surface freshwater on Earth, containing 20 percent of the world's supply. They contain 95 percent of America's freshwater, and they support 1.5 million jobs and \$62 billion in wages in the shipping, recreation, and fishing industries.

Preservation of our Great Lakes has both environmental and economic impacts and has always enjoyed bipartisan support. We cannot afford to allow sequestration to halt critical projects like the Buffalo River cleanup. I urge my colleagues to repeal the sequester and protect funding for the Great Lakes restoration.

REFUNDABLE CHILD TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, each year, billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars are wasted due to abuse of the \$1,000 refundable child tax credit. Instead of hitting up taxpayers for even more taxes, Washington needs to go after these billions of dollars that are fraudulently wasted.

It's time to end this sham. That's why I have reintroduced commonsense legislation, H.R. 556, that stops this abuse by requiring tax filers to provide their Social Security number in order to receive this tax credit, just like we do for the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Congress' nonpartisan tax scorekeeper, the Joint Committee on Taxation, has found that my bill would save taxpayers an estimated \$24.4 billion over the next 10 years. With the dire need to get our fiscal house in order, this simple, commonsense fix can go a long way toward protecting precious taxpayer dollars by stamping out waste, fraud, and abuse. It's time to get this done.

RYAN BUDGET

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the House Budget Committee, I understand well the challenges of budgeting for our Nation's future. Unfortunately, the budget introduced by House Republicans this week fails at its most fundamental tasks: protecting the middle class and laying

the groundwork for strong economic growth.

As it has for the last 2 years, the Ryan budget once again makes deep cuts to Medicare, as it also repeals a host of Federal measures making health insurance affordable for middle class families. It replaces the security of Medicare with a voucher that will lose its value over time—driving many middle class seniors into poverty—and makes deep cuts to education, transportation and infrastructure, and public health and safety, gutting society's basic functions without which businesses can't find educated workers, move their products to market, or operate safely.

Voters roundly rejected this approach only a few months ago. I call on my colleagues to reject this budget and join me in supporting a balanced approach to deficit reduction.

□ 1210

COAL

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I was recently visiting with my constituents in Nicholas County, Kentucky, when I learned about the latest casualty in the Obama administration's war on coal. Joy Global, a manufacturer of underground mining equipment, operates a plant in neighboring Bourbon County. The news had just broken that Joy Global plans to cease all operations and manufacturing at that plant. The story of Joy Global is timely in light of President Obama's nomination of Gina McCarthy to lead the Environmental Protection Agency.

I wish those who are responsible for the war on coal could have been with me that Friday morning. It's easy to sit in Washington and issue regulations when you don't have to confront the human cost.

The Obama administration's war on coal cost more than 3,000 well-paying coal miner jobs in Kentucky last year. Thousands of families potentially went from healthy incomes to food stamps. But this administration doesn't appear to care.

The coal industry supports 19,000 full-time jobs in Kentucky while providing our State with the Nation's fourth lowest utility rates. Mr. Speaker, it's time the administration put people ahead of its radical agenda.

OPPOSING THE CLOSING OF THE IRVINGTON, TEXAS, POST OFFICE

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my frustration and disappointment with the Postal Service's decision to close the Irvington Station Post Office that