

As a result, acreage that would normally be privately owned and generating tax revenue to help fund local services is instead locked away by the Federal Government.

In 1908, President Teddy Roosevelt signed legislation ensuring that impacted communities will receive 25 percent of the receipts for timber harvests occurring on Forest Service lands. Because Montana has some of the most abundant forests, this commitment to robust timber harvesting also helped to provide jobs for thousands of families in my home State.

Sadly, timber harvests have plummeted by 90 percent in many areas due to out-of-balance Federal policies. Montana was previously home to 30 mills. It is now home to just seven. This means far fewer jobs for Montanans.

The Secure Rural Schools program has provided short-term relief, but revitalizing our timber industry is the only permanent solution to the problem President Roosevelt recognized 100 years ago. This is my number one priority as a member of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands. I look forward to championing this issue.

CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS RUN L.A. PROGRAM

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I just want to literally take a minute to congratulate all of the runners and the families and the supporters of the Los Angeles Marathon. But the unique and beautiful thing about the Los Angeles Marathon is that close to 3,000 young people on this past Sunday finished 26.2 miles—26.2 miles. In preparing to do that, millions of miles were walked and run by the children of Los Angeles.

I'd just like to say thank you to the Students Run L.A. program because they literally got my daughter off the couch last October. And Alina Cárdenas ran her first marathon, and never before had she run a marathon or been a runner; so did her little cousin, Kyle Herrera, as well.

So I just want to congratulate and thank all of those young leaders for doing a wonderful job and all of those men and women who helped them get there.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF ANDY ATHENS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a great American and a dear friend, Mr. Andy Athens, who passed away last week at the age of 91.

Since coming to Congress, Andy's counsel and wisdom have been invaluable to me in my role as cochair of the

Hellenic Caucus. His presence will be greatly missed by my colleagues and me on Capitol Hill.

Andy was a veteran of World War II, the chairman of Metron Steel, the first and longest tenured president of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad, and the founder of Orthodox Christian Charities.

Andy's contributions to the Greek Orthodox Church must also not be overlooked. He was a tireless advocate for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and his devotion was an inspiration for all of us in the Orthodox Church. He was truly an example of how Christ instructed us to live.

Mr. Speaker, the Hellenic and Orthodox communities have lost an unparalleled leader, but we can rest assured his dedication and love for America, Greece, Cyprus, and the Orthodox Church will continue in the many lives he touched. May his memory be eternal.

CELEBRATING THE HONORABLE LORETTA L. WOOTTEN

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the many life achievements of the Honorable Loretta L. Wootten, one of Delaware's most devoted public servants. This March as we celebrate the remarkable contributions women have made throughout our Nation's history, I'm proud to recognize Loretta, someone who has broken ground for women in Delaware.

Loretta emerged as a strong leader early in her political career by helping Delaware's own JOE BIDEN win his first bid for the United States Senate in 1972. Since then, she has been a trusted adviser for many Delaware leaders.

In 1986, Loretta became the first woman elected as Register in Chancery in Delaware, a position which she held for four consecutive terms. After retiring in 2000, she once again answered the call of her community by serving as Kent County Clerk of the Peace, which she continues to this day.

In addition to her numerous professional accomplishments, Loretta is a devoted wife to her husband of 51 years and a loving mother and grandmother. She is someone who has earned the respect of everyone in our community and helped make Delaware a better place for future generations. It's a privilege for me to call her a friend and work with her.

□ 1110

BALANCING THE BUDGET

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, the American people saw today that their House

of Representatives is serious in dealing with our crushing debt and deficit.

We took some big steps toward that today. Just minutes ago, we passed a budget that balances within 10 years and yesterday rejected plans that were offered that would never balance a budget. Just minutes ago, we approved a spending plan for the rest of the year that puts us on a path toward balancing that budget.

Mr. Speaker, American families for the past few years had to tighten their belts. Since the beginning of the year, they had to tighten their belts an extra 2 percent with that payroll tax increase in January, and it's about time we did the same belt-tightening in Washington. That's what we did today.

IN RECOGNITION OF ERIN DIMEGLIO

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago, Erin DiMeglio was a freshman at South Plantation High School. She was a manager, a water girl, and a trainer's assistant for the varsity football team.

Last spring, Erin was invited off season to work out and earned a spot on the varsity football team. Then something historic happened. Erin's number was called, and she became the first girl in Florida to ever play quarterback in a regular-season varsity high school game.

She's been featured on TV and radio shows all over the country, but that's not all. Erin, who was a senior in high school, received the Florida Achievement Award from the National Commission on the Status of Women, a designation meant to empower and recognize women statewide for their achievements.

Erin is breaking barriers and inspiring girls and a new generation of trail-blazing women. She said that she's trying to prove that girls can do anything that guys can do. She's right. If you want to do something, go and chase your dream, follow your passion and work hard.

On this Women's History Month, I want to recognize Erin and the strides that women have made.

END GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, recently the government came out with a 106-page regulatory and safety reform plan for ceiling fans. I did not know ceiling fans were such a hazard to America's health, but apparently they are.

So what's going to happen? That \$40 ceiling fan that you've been buying and putting on your back porch will now go to \$400 because we have to keep these

busybody bureaucrats employed. We have to keep them happy because of these hazardous fans.

Now, my friend, Joe “Cut Spending” McCutchen was recently talking to me about the big problem that is too much government, too much spending and interference in our lives. That’s why today I supported the Ryan budget and yesterday the Republican Study Committee budget.

These budgets call for tax reform, for health care reform, for less spending and regulatory reform of job-killing regulations like the new 106-page document on ceiling fans.

Let’s hope the Senate passes a tough budget. But if they do not, with or without that, let’s continue to work on spending cuts, reducing the size of government and ending government interference in our lives.

GOP DOCTORS CAUCUS: THE ANNIVERSARY OF OBAMACARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the majority leader for allowing me to participate in this hour this afternoon. I may well be joined on the floor by some people who wish to speak on the very important occasion of the 3-year anniversary of the signing into law of the President’s takeover of American health care, the so-called, inappropriately titled, Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. I’d just point out that I did attempt to have the word “affordable” stricken from the title 3 years ago, but I was overruled in that endeavor.

It was indeed 3 years ago, March 21, the first day of spring of 2010. The first 3 months of 2010 had seen some pretty unusual activity here in Washington as this bill ground to its eventual rendezvous with destiny in the east room of the White House on the 21st of that month.

Many may recall that during the year of 2009, there was, in fact, at least what gave the semblance of some debate over here in the people’s House, over here in the committees of the House of Representatives. But when this bill got over to the Senate, it was drastically changed, all debate was concluded, and then it was simply a matter of convincing enough Democrats to vote for the Senate bill, and it was eventually signed into law.

I do want to spend some time going through the history of how we got here because I do feel that that is important and people need to understand how a very bad process, a very flawed process gave rise to a very flawed law, which now, 3 years later, we see right on the cusp of the full implementation of this thing, is really going to have a profound and detrimental effect on our country from the standpoint of our economy, our workforce and our job-

creation situation with small businesses. Certainly the practice of medicine itself is going to be negatively impacted by the many pages of regulation that are now proceeding in a torrent from the Federal agencies since the President’s reelection.

First, I want to take a moment and recognize someone who has been a leader on trying to bring to the surface some of the problems contained within the President’s Affordable Care Act, a fellow physician, an anesthesiologist from Maryland. I want to recognize the gentleman from Maryland for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you very much, and I appreciate you yielding some time to me on this important occasion.

As the doctor from Texas has said, Mr. Speaker, we are going to “celebrate”—and I put that in quotes—the third anniversary of the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

I will tell you a lot of things haven’t changed in the past 3 years unfortunately, even though we were promised that things would. For instance, as many Americans know, we were promised that premiums were going to go down magically. What did we find? Premiums went up. They continued to rise. The Affordable Care Act was the wrong solution if the problem was rising health care premiums.

Now, other things have happened in the past 3 years that really haven’t changed much. One is that the American people still don’t like the Affordable Care Act. We know that in poll after poll after poll, a clear majority of Americans wish this bill just simply didn’t exist, yet it still does.

More seriously than even that, over the past 3 years we’ve had a jobless recovery, and a large part of the blame has to be on some of the policies that were put in place 3 years ago, the cornerstone of which was the Affordable Care Act.

We know, for instance, that there’s a new term in the United States now. We thought the 49ers were a team that played in the Super Bowl. No. Now the 49ers are those small businesses that don’t have 50 employees yet, created by people who want to grow businesses, who want to employ people, but they know if they hire that 50th employee, a whole lot of the Affordable Care Act and its mandates and regulations and costs and taxes kick in. So they’re going to be stuck at 49 employees.

As some of them say, instead of hiring that 50th or 51st or 60th employee, they’ll buy a piece of equipment, they’ll find some other way, they’ll stop growing that business rather than bring upon themselves the effect of the Affordable Care Act.

Now, we know that it doesn’t stop there. America is the land of opportunity. This is why people strive to come to this country. There is a ladder of opportunity. You get on that bottom rung and you keep on climbing in this country, and the sky is the limit.

Mr. Speaker, one problem with the Affordable Care Act is it’s knocking

people off the bottom rung. They’re trying to get on, and they’re on that bottom rung and they’re getting knocked off. What do I mean by that?

□ 1120

Last year, the President, for instance, bragged on 230,000 new jobs. What the President didn’t mention is there were actually over 300,000 part-time jobs created and about 100,000 full-time jobs lost. We created jobs. We created part-time jobs. I don’t know about you, Mr. Speaker, but, for me, that’s not economic recovery. That’s not economic growth. That’s not the job creation this country deserves.

We have to ask ourselves: Why would employers stop hiring full time and now hire part time? It’s a simple answer. The Affordable Care Act makes it unaffordable for those employers to hire a full-time employee because they know, if they hire a full-time employee, they bring all the rules and regulations and mandates and taxes of the Affordable Care Act into their businesses. So what’s their solution? They don’t hire the 50th employee, and the employees they hire are part time.

Now, I would offer that’s not the way to get out of this economic mess we’re in and that we ought to be for job creation. We all know that the problem with the Affordable Care Act is that it has destroyed and it is continuing to destroy jobs. Honestly, the jobs that it destroys the most are the jobs for the people who need them the most—for the people who are on that bottom rung or who are starting to get on that second rung of the ladder and are getting knocked off.

This isn’t the kind of recovery America deserves, but it’s a logical conclusion from a bill that was poorly thought-out. We remember what the passage of that bill looked like—the deals that had to be made in order to make it a single-party bill. Remember, this was not a bipartisan effort. This was not getting everybody together—all Americans of all political parties and all ideas—and saying, How do we solve this problem in the best way that can unite us? This was a bill to advance a political agenda; and, unfortunately, it caught up the American economy in that agenda.

As the doctor from Texas, I’m sure, is going to talk about, it didn’t have to be this way. There are many other ways to solve the problems that we have.

Mr. Speaker, we have problems with health care in this country. We know that it costs more than other countries. We know, for instance, that someone who has a preexisting condition does have difficulty finding insurance coverage. Yet we also know that the majority of States solve that problem at the State level. They don’t need the big hand of Washington reaching into the States and imposing a solution in their States that simply may not work—in this case, imposing a solution on these States and the businessmen