

We need to come to a compromise that will prevent these indiscriminate cuts, and keep our economy on track and growing.

ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, over 100,000 victims of gun violence last year, many of them children. What has this House done to prevent other children from being added to this tragic tally? Nothing, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely nothing.

Ninety percent of Americans support effective background checks—90 percent. So when does this Chamber, the people's House, work for the 10 percent? Opponents have said that background checks will not stop every incidence of gun violence. Well, true. They would, unfortunately, not stop all future acts of gun violence, anymore than other laws stop all illegal behavior—but it would stop some. It would save the lives of some of our children. It would be all of us saying we have a moral duty to ensure that those purchasing handguns are not an established threat to our families, and it would be the start of a comprehensive approach to protecting our families.

Congress plays politics on so many issues. Let's not play politics with the lives of so many innocent Americans.

APPOINT BUDGET CONFEREES

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, my constituents and the American people deserve a budget. One of our principal duties in Congress is to pass a budget. Yet Congress has already missed the legal deadline this year because the Republican leadership has not yet appointed conferees to continue budget deliberations.

Yesterday, I joined many of my colleagues in signing a resolution calling on the GOP leadership to appoint conferees to a conference committee to continue working on the fiscal year 2014 budget.

After years of calling for regular order and for the Senate to pass a budget, which they did in March, I now find it ironic that Republicans are dragging their feet and stalling budget negotiations by refusing to appoint conferees.

We certainly have differences of opinion regarding budget priorities, Mr. Speaker; but that's no excuse for continued dysfunction and delay.

I ask you to appoint conferees today, and let's work to find a bipartisan compromise on a budget. Democrats stand ready to act to pass a budget that grows our economy, creates jobs, strengthens the middle class, and replaces the reckless, across-the-board sequester cuts.

UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read into the RECORD a letter that I received today from a 7-year-old in my district:

Dear Congresswoman Kuster. My name is Noah Dutille. I am a second grader at Plymouth Elementary School. I am hoping that you will help make sure no other kids are hurt by guns. Thank you for your service. Sincerely, Noah.

In my district, 90 percent of my constituents support universal background checks, including 75 percent of those who are members of the National Rifle Association. Mr. Speaker, 6.5 million guns sold each year in the United States are sold by unlicensed private sellers, including online and gun show sales, and 40-50 percent of all gun sales have no criminal background check. In fact, a recent national survey of inmates revealed that 80 percent of those who used a handgun in a crime acquired it through a private transfer.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Noah and all of the families in my district, I ask that we schedule a vote to keep our families safe.

BUDGET CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, repeatedly, Republicans have reprimanded Senate Democrats, claiming budget negotiations have stalled because the Senate has failed to pass a budget. Now, Senate Democrats have done their part. Republican leaders in the House must do the same by convening a conference committee to resolve our budget differences openly and honestly. That is a procedure that the Congress has always followed. That is regular order.

The best interests of the American people shouldn't have to sit on the back burner any longer. Unemployment remains too high, wages are stagnant, and sequestration is taking its toll. We need to address our country's challenges and create jobs, reduce the deficit, and strengthen our middle class while creating ladders of opportunity for those to climb into the middle class.

These are our top priorities. Sometimes these priorities get lost in the shuffle of partisan bickering. I urge Republican leadership to follow regular order and create a conference committee now.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, opponents of comprehensive immigration

reform will do anything to stop progress in today's world. Now they're using the terrorist attacks in Boston to somehow draw some connection between those events and the problems that really plague our immigration system. There is no connection, but problems still remain.

We still have to secure our borders. We still have to make sure that employers are only employing legal Americans. We still have 11 million undocumented people in this country. We don't know why they're here or who they are. We still need seasonal workers for many economic activities. We still need highly skilled workers—engineers and technicians—some of whom have been trained here but cannot work here. We still have people overstaying their visas, and we still have the problem that we need to increase the flow of immigration to stimulate our economy.

Delaying immigration reform will only weaken our economy and make us less safe. It is much better that we know everyone who is in our country, why they're here, and make sure they're paying taxes and contributing to American society. We need to pass immigration reform now.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I and 19 of my colleagues wrote to the Energy and Commerce Committee urging them to engage us in a debate on the House floor as to what our national policy should be in response to climate change. That request has been met with silence, but that's a more preferable response than the 53 votes that the House undertook during the last session to block the Obama administration from using its existing authority to address climate change.

In fact, for the year 2012, when this House voted to overturn a scientific finding that, in fact, climate change was occurring, we experienced the warmest year on record. More than half of this Nation's counties were declared Federal disaster areas, due mostly to drought, but also to extreme weather events. We experienced the second worst year of extreme weather events. In fact, Hurricane Sandy cost the Federal Government more than \$65 billion and took the lives of 147 Americans, and we experienced the third worst year for wildland fires; more than 9 million acres were burned.

These severe temperatures and extreme weather events we are experiencing all fit the predictive pattern of global climate change. Our failure to take action dooms future generations to ever more powerful and destructive weather events, altered coastlines, more devastating droughts and

wildland fires, and greater food scarcity. It's time to take action on climate change.

□ 1230

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1071) to specify the size of the precious-metal blanks that will be used in the production of the National Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coins.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1071

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SIZE OF PRECIOUS-METAL BLANKS.

Section 3(a) of the National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act (Public Law 112-152) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “have” and inserting “be struck on a planchet having a”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “have a” and inserting “be struck on a planchet having a”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) and the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on H.R. 1071.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1071, introduced by our colleague from New York (Mr. HANNA), along with Mr. DOYLE and Mr. GIBSON, two other Representatives from the State of New York.

This is a two-line amendment of the most technical sort. It amends the National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act, sponsored by Mr. HANNA and Mr. DOYLE, and passed last

year by this Congress. The legislation calls for the Mint to strike and issue next year's coins in commemoration of the Hall of Fame's 75th anniversary.

The coin will be domed, Mr. Speaker, the first of that kind ever done by the Mint. As they did the technical work of preparing to produce the coin, the Mint discovered that using a standard coin blank and stamping the center part into a dome drew the edges of the coin inward a few thousandths of an inch; not a big deal, but enough to be out of spec with the finished size of the coin designated in the legislation.

To avoid making a coin not in compliance with the law, or having to purchase expensive custom coin blanks, this bill simply eliminates the requirement for the finished size and specification that the coins be struck on standard commemorative coin blanks. The result will be a less expensive coin and less work for the Mint.

This is truly a technical amendment, Mr. Speaker. I urge its quick passage.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1071. The bill corrects the specification of the precious metal blanks to be used by the U.S. Mint in making the National Baseball Hall of Fame coins which Congress authorized last term. This correction will result in a cost savings, permitting the U.S. Mint to implement the design specifications using standard-sized blanks and produce the coins by January 2014, the required deadline.

Last Congress, I voted in favor of minting the National Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coin. Proceeds from the coin will go to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, to help fulfill its mission of preserving history, honoring excellence, and connecting generations through the rich history of our national pastime.

One of the most popular exhibits at the Hall of Fame is that of Jackie Robinson, who broke the color barrier in 1947, bringing his amazing skills from the Negro League to win Rookie of the Year his first year. He led the Brooklyn Dodgers to 6 pennants in 10 seasons, including their own World Series in 1955. He was the 1949 National League Most Valuable Player. Jackie Robinson was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1962, after his phenomenal career. Most importantly, he showed tremendous grace and poise as he integrated the major leagues and served as an inspiration to so many of us in generations to come. The number he wore—42—as a Brooklyn Dodger has been retired in his honor, and no other ball player can wear that number again.

Baseball is also a wonderful pastime in my own district of Birmingham, Alabama, where we have a minor league team, the Birmingham Barons, and enjoy the baseball.

I ask for passage of H.R. 1071 and urge my colleagues to approve this bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HANNA), who is the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. HANNA. I thank the chairman emeritus for yielding and for his strong support of the National Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coin bill.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Mint is working hard to produce spectacular coins next year honoring the National Baseball Hall of Fame's 75th anniversary.

As called for in the legislation I authored in last year's Congress, the coin will be unique in the history of the Mint. It will be domed, with the back of the coin depicting stitches that appear on a major league baseball.

In doing the production work, the Mint discovered that the work to make the coin domed would make the finished coin slightly smaller than the standard finished commemorative coin. I am pleased the Mint has brought this to our attention and asked that we do a technical amendment to allow them to use standard coin blanks, instead of having to secure expensive custom ones.

Since all production costs of commemorative coins are passed on to the consumer, this will keep the cost of these coins down for baseball fans around the world who want to commemorate 75 years of collecting, displaying, and honoring our national pastime.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill that actually saves money and effort, and I urge its immediate passage.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON).

Mr. GIBSON. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And it's a great privilege to rise today in support of this bill.

I'm proud to represent Cooperstown in upstate New York, home of the Baseball Hall of Fame. Baseball, America's pastime, is something that unites us and I think also something that engenders hope throughout our country, the feeling that we all have in April, the possibility that our team could go all the way and win the World Series, something, indeed, that unites us.

A coin is a fitting way to honor the Hall of Fame and also help our efforts for tourism in central New York. And this bill and this coin are able to do all that at no cost to the taxpayer.

I might also say that this competition where we now have children from across the country that are involved in this competition to provide the best design is, I think, going to kindle even more support for baseball. And so I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I thank Mr. HANNA for his leadership and the chairman for the opportunity to speak this morning in support of it.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my New York colleagues for