

gas prices and energy prices, and create American jobs. It's time to stop the delays of the Keystone XL pipeline.

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today we're considering the Republican's latest attack on workers' rights. Republicans are calling this bill the Working Families Flexibility Act, but a more appropriate name would be the More Work, Less Pay Act. This bill is bad for middle class families and would make life worse for workers.

It would essentially end the 40-hour workweek by permitting employers to not pay overtime to workers who exceed 40 hours per week. Instead, it would allow employers to hold earned comp time in their control. It would allow employers to refuse the right of workers to take time off to help a family member in need or attend a parent-teacher conference. That's wrong, Mr. Speaker.

Productivity of our Nation's workers is at an all-time high, yet again we see efforts to whittle down the rights of hardworking families.

Instead of focusing on attacking workers, maybe we should focus on creating good-paying jobs. That's what our constituents want. That's what Americans want.

REINING IN REGULATION TO HELP JOBS RECOVER

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, America's workers and families are in a jobs depression. Since 2009, 9.5 million people have dropped out of the workforce. America's workforce participation rate is the lowest since Jimmy Carter was President. Millions looking for full-time work can find only part-time jobs.

Overreaching Federal regulation is a big reason for this jobs disaster. The Obama administration's onslaught of new major regulation is unprecedented. Every day, Federal agencies erect more roadblocks to economic growth and a jobs recovery.

The House Judiciary Committee is working hard to provide relief. It passed the REINS Act last month and is at work on other groundbreaking legislation to reduce unneeded regulation. This legislation is critical to the growth and recovery America needs, and the Judiciary Committee will do all it can to achieve it.

□ 1210

CANCEL THE SEQUESTER ACT

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. It has now been 857 days since I arrived in Congress, and the Republican leadership has still not allowed a single vote on serious legislation to address our unemployment crisis.

The nightmare of joblessness is destroying the American Dream.

When I was graduating from college, my American Dream was owning a home and starting a family, while, for the class of 2013, the American Dream means just having a job—any job—to make ends meet. By eliminating public sector jobs during a time of high unemployment, the sequester is killing the American Dream. It's up to us to cancel the sequester and ensure that America is again a land of opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, let's bring H.R. 900, the Cancel the Sequester Act, to the floor for a vote to end this shame. Our mantra should be jobs, jobs, jobs.

AMERICAN AND SOUTH KOREAN ALLIANCE

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

Mr. GARRETT. I rise to speak about the strong relationship between the United States and South Korea, one of our most important relationships, for South Korea is one of America's closest allies in Asia and, indeed, in the entire world. Since the Korean war in the 1950s, the U.S. and South Korea have stood side by side in the name of democracy and liberty and to face down the forces of tyranny and oppression and dictatorship from North Korea and the broader world.

All you need to do is to compare North and South Korea to understand how successful South Korea has been and how much of a failure the Kim regime in the North has been.

South Korea is the world's 15th-largest economy and Asia's fourth-largest. Companies like Samsung, Kia, and LG are major, globally known brands, while Seoul ranks as one of the great cities of the world. South Korea is a vibrant, open society with an equally vibrant and open political system.

Now take North Korea. North Korea is a kleptocratic, vicious dictatorship that tramples on the most basic rights of its citizens, all in the name of glorifying the Kim family and its cadre of jack-booted thugs. There is no freedom of choice, no freedom of religion, and no freedom to dissent from the line of the Kim regime. For the average North Korean, there is only poverty, despotism, and no hope as the regime squanders its resources on its bloated military and dangerous nuclear program.

THE MIRA LOMA SCIENCE BOWL WIN

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

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, last week, a team from Mira Loma

High School in Sacramento won the National Science Bowl for the third time since 2009. Hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Science Bowl was created to encourage students to enter science and mathematics careers.

I want to congratulate these talented and hardworking students from my home district. They represent America's future. They are our country's next generation of innovators. We must continue to inspire our students to excel in fields like science and math. We need to make science cool.

To Jack Gurev, Daniel Shen, Siddharth Trehan, and Saaket Agrawal, you guys make us proud.

And, Coach James Hill, keep inspiring the next generation to go into science and math. It's cool.

OBAMA'S VISIT TO TEXAS SHOULD FOCUS ON ENERGY

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Tomorrow, the President of the United States will be traveling to the great State of Texas to talk jobs. I am proud that the President recognizes Texas as a leading job-producing State and that he understands what it is to create jobs and retain a robust economy.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, The Wall Street Journal had an interesting article—it's on my chart up here—about the energy boom in Texas. It stated that Texas produces as much oil as the next four oil-producing States combined. The Lone Star State now pumps nearly 2 million barrels a day.

Now, the President's tour only has one stop in Texas, south of Austin, which is unfortunate. I would like to invite the President to come to my energy-rich district along the Texas gulf coast and see what job creation really looks like. If the President wants to create jobs, there is a project—the Keystone pipeline to be exact—that has been waiting 1,692 days to do just that.

I encourage and welcome President Obama to come to my district so he can talk with local business leaders who want the Keystone pipeline.

That's the way it is from where I sit. I'm RANDY WEBER.

THE CAMARILLO SPRINGS WILDFIRE AND THE HEROISM OF THE FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Last week, Ventura County endured one of the largest wildfires in our county's history. The Camarillo Springs wildfire burned over 28,000 acres, damaging some homes and buildings and threatening many neighborhoods in Ventura County.

I rise today to thank more than 1,800 firefighters and first responders who

worked around the clock to control the blaze and who, in so doing, saved every single life and prevented the potentially massive destruction of personal property. Despite high heat, dry temperatures, and very windy conditions, firefighters in Ventura County joined others from throughout the State to successfully contain the fire quickly and without any loss of life.

I am so proud of our first responders and of our brave firefighters. All of Ventura County is so very grateful for their heroic dedication to our continued safety.

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, we will be voting on the House floor for the Working Families Flexibility Act. This legislation will allow private sector employers to empower their workforce by allowing them to choose compensation in the form of paid time off or in cash wages.

Now let me tell you a story about Karen and her family.

Karen works hour after hour to meet the family needs, to make ends meet, and to provide for her two children. Sometimes there just does not seem to be enough hours in the day. When school starts up, she can never have enough hours with Matt and Sarah to support them in their extracurricular activities. Instead of being able to use her overtime for time instead of wages, she has to take time off without pay. Federal law mandates that Karen take money when what she really values is time with the family.

Folks, the key word when discussing this bill is "choice." This is not a mandate on our job creators. Let me repeat that: this is not a mandate. This is a step toward letting hardworking Americans decide what is best for them and getting government out of their lives.

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the so-called Working Families Flexibility Act. Mr. Speaker, this is a wolf in sheep's clothing—a guise to pressure employees to work more and get paid less.

H.R. 1406, which I like to call "Paying Working Families Less Act," cuts overtime pay and eliminates all flexibility. Rather than pay overtime when the work is performed, this bill provides that the employers have up to a year to pay an employee his overtime, essentially providing employers unauthorized, interest-free loans. This bill will hurt working class families and wage workers who depend on their

overtime to pay their rent, their grocery bills, their heating and water bills. They can't afford to wait a year for pay that they have rightfully earned.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a worker or a family friendly bill, as some of my colleagues are leading this body to believe. Rather, it is a blatant attempt to dismantle the Fair Labor Standards Act and roll back workers' rights 100 years. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill. We should be strengthening the fair labor laws and standards for working men and women, not destroying them.

□ 1220

FULL FAITH AND CREDIT ACT

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the President vowed to veto the Full Faith and Credit Act, charging that it would "result in Congress refusing to pay obligations it has already agreed to."

I challenge the President to name one Member of Congress who has ever suggested that this is an acceptable substitute for not paying our other bills. His reliance on this falsehood is a measure of the bankruptcy of his argument.

Delaying payments on our other obligations would do enormous damage. But one thing could do even more damage, and that is the threat of defaulting on our sovereign debt. H.R. 807 takes that threat off the table and assures credit markets that their investments in the United States are absolutely guaranteed, no matter what political storms are raging in Washington.

One would think that a President who has run up more debt than almost all of his predecessors combined would understand the importance of guaranteeing the credit that supports that debt.

INVEST IN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Safe Climate Caucus to highlight the fact that investing in sustainable energy technologies won't only move the Nation towards a clean energy future, but it will also grow our economy.

In order to prevent the worst impacts of climate change, we must transition to lower carbon energy systems. Making the necessary investments in the Nation's smart grid is one way to facilitate this transition. Smart grid investments are already producing real economic benefits.

The Department of Energy recently released a report on the economic im-

pact of Recovery Act investments in the smart grid. The report found that for every million dollars of direct spending on smart grid, the Nation's GDP increased by \$2.5 million. In addition, a wide variety of industrial sectors have benefited from these smart grid investments.

Mr. Speaker, climate change is a real threat to our way of life, and there's no time to waste. Fortunately, if we take action now, we can cut pollution while growing our economy.

THE IMPACT OF OBAMACARE

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, this past week, I was back in my district, like the other Members were, talking with folks about how Washington is affecting their families. One of the biggest concerns I heard was how ObamaCare could impact their lives.

It turns out the health care law seems to be anything but affordable and more of a problem than a solution. For example, since it was signed into law in 2010, the administration hasn't been completely transparent about the new health care exchanges. The exchanges are just over 6 months from implementation, and we still know very little about how they will operate.

There's also the impact the law could have on jobs. The CBO estimates ObamaCare will become a \$1 trillion tax hike. These tax hikes could hurt small businesses across Alabama and across the country as employers cut hours to avoid covering employees' health care. In fact, according to a study by the Hudson Institute, over 54,000 jobs in Alabama related to the hospitality, restaurant, and leisure industries are at risk because of the health care law.

I voted against this bill because of these concerns and more, and I also voted to repeal it time and time again. It's looking like a train wreck of a law, and we need to stop it.

NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of our teachers during National Teacher Appreciation Week.

Across the country, we trust teachers with our most valuable resource: our children.

Our teachers serve as role models and mentors to our kids, helping them to reach their potential; and in New Jersey, we have among the most talented teachers in the country.

It was because of the mentorship of my teachers in high school that I applied for college and eventually became a teacher myself, and it is because of my experience in the classroom that I