

VETERANS EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the original GI Bill was one of the most significant pieces of legislation in American history. It is responsible for providing education to a generation of veterans—the right to rise—and it transformed our Nation's economy from an industrial-based economy to a knowledge-based economy.

Unfortunately, the GI Bill today sets forth limits for using these educational benefits. After leaving service, many veterans must postpone further education to support families or are unable to work due to lengthy rehabilitation from service-related injuries.

GI Bill benefits should not come with an expiration date. We should provide our veterans greater flexibility. That's why I've introduced the Veterans Education Flexibility Act. This legislation would remove the expiration date for veterans in order for them to take advantage of the GI Bill's educational benefits, and it would retroactively restore benefits to individuals whose benefits have already expired.

Mr. Speaker, caring for our veterans is more than thanking them for their service. On behalf of a good and generous Nation, we must restore the promise to and the potential of every returning veteran.

OBAMACARE

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

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today not only as a Member of Congress but as a concerned American.

As a country, we cannot continue to ignore ObamaCare's impact on jobs and small businesses. This past Friday, our Nation witnessed yet another rise in the unemployment rate. Why is it becoming increasingly difficult for nearly 12 million Americans to secure jobs?

When you attack a small business, you attack the backbone of our economy.

American employers are struggling to manage this job-killing health care law. Health care now tops the concerns facing small business owners like myself. We will have to make the tough choice of whether to comply with the health care mandate or to reject it. This is yet another regulation that is choking our economy at a time when we should be creating more jobs.

ObamaCare also empowers the scandal-plagued IRS—an agency that, in 2010 alone, administered \$17 billion in improper payments to the earned income tax credit.

Where is the recovery America was promised? It is time we put America back in business.

CALIFORNIA AVOCADO APPRECIATION MONTH

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my State's most important agricultural assets—the California avocado. This June, during the peak of the avocado growing season, we celebrate California Avocado Appreciation Month.

California avocados are both an economic driver as well as a healthy sodium- and cholesterol-free food option. Throughout California, family farms produce 90 percent of the Nation's avocados, and many of these farms and avocado groves are in my home in Ventura County. Growers in Ventura County are leading the way in avocado agriculture, and they are true stewards of the land. It is this stewardship and their hard work that makes the future of the California avocado so bright and Ventura County one of the most beautiful places in the country to live and work.

I look forward to joining my colleagues to further strengthen this important economic driver for California and for our country.

□ 1210

AMERICAN ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, the Motor Capital of Michigan currently has the second-highest gas prices in the country at over \$4 per gallon. Sadly, this reality is just another painful and needed reminder for the Senate and the President to work with the House in passing an all-of-the-above approach that expands American energy production, creates jobs, boosts manufacturing, makes energy more affordable, and allows America to be America.

The U.S. is a treasure trove of natural resources. New practices allow producers to easily extract natural gas, coal, and oil from the ground while doing it cheaper, safer, and with less disruption to the landscape.

Energy production also creates jobs. The Keystone XL pipeline project alone would create tens of thousands of jobs. The State Department declares it environmentally safe. Labor unions agree it will create jobs. Last month, the House passed H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act, to clear the remaining barriers to construction of the project. But the administration refuses to move forward. Why? America deserves better.

The President and the Senate must join our efforts to help hardworking taxpayers and create jobs, create an economy, and allow America to be America.

MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, the men and women who serve our country every day have to worry about the fate of losing a limb or losing their life facing the enemy, but they shouldn't have to worry about the insidious sexual assaults from their very own, nor should they have to live in the shadows of fear and intimidation and retaliation by their abuser.

According to our Department of Defense, 26,000 servicemen and service-women who serve our country were sexually assaulted in the military in 2012. That's more than 70 servicewomen and servicemen sexually assaulted every single day in our military. That's a scary statistic.

But what's even scarier is, due to a culture heavy on retaliation and light on prosecution, only 3,374 of those cases were even reported. This is a pervasive crisis that threatens the moral underpinnings of our military. We must take urgent action now.

I actually support the underlying changes of the defense bill that we're going to be voting on this week.

Congress should create a transparent and fair system that ensures the safety of our men and women in the armed services who have sacrificed enough.

SMALL AIRCRAFT REVITALIZATION ACT

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

Mr. POMPEO. Economic growth of just over 1½ percent is unsatisfactory. We all want a better economy and better jobs.

In south central Kansas, the aviation manufacturing industry has been hit particularly hard. Machinists, engineers, small business owners, and families are very worried about what their future might hold.

That's why I've offered bipartisan legislation offered in the Senate by Senator KLOBUCHAR which will reduce the burden on manufacturers who are building airplanes in the United States of America, trying to compete with global companies all across the world.

The Small Aircraft Revitalization Act, H.R. 1848, would greatly reduce that burden and help manufacturers all across south central Kansas and indeed all across America to get their products to market faster so that we can compete and provide aircraft, great tools for all businesses, to compete all around the world. It will replace an outdated certification system and greatly ease the burden on those who are trying to build these great products here in the United States.

This bill would ensure that this industry can continue to thrive in the years and decades ahead.

JOBS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, in the 6 months since we've convened the 113th Congress, the legislative branch has passed only 13 bills that have become law, but none of these is focused on the most urgent issue facing families all across our country: jobs and the economy.

This is wrong.

With so many people still out of work and middle class families struggling to achieve economic security, the same old broken Washington political games need to stop.

The American people have had enough of congressional dysfunction and gridlock in Washington. They want Republicans to come to the table and work with Democrats to pass legislation to put our country back to work. That's why I'm adding my voice to a growing list of Members from both parties who want leaders in the House and Senate to set aside the issues that divide us and take immediate action that will create jobs, prevent an unnecessary interest rate hike on student loans, and help our small business owners succeed.

Let's come together not as Democrats and Republicans but as Americans and get our country moving together. Let's work together to confront the big challenges facing our country. The American people deserve nothing less.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1960, the National Defense Authorization Act.

While our brave Armed Forces continue to fight for our national security, it is vitally important that Congress ensures their economic security.

Even during times of tight budgets and spending cuts, it is our responsibility to give adequate support all the way from the joint chiefs to the newest recruits. This also includes stricter penalties for personal misconduct and greater protection for victims of assault.

Texas' 25th District is home to Fort Hood, one of the largest military installations in the world. These soldiers, and all who wear the uniform, need to know their Congress is behind them, giving them the best armored trucks you can drive, the best planes you can fly, the best weapons you can fire, and the best ammunition you can use. We need to have an unbeatable military readiness and the highest quality of life possible for the greatest military in the history of the world.

Even with restrained resources, this bill will support and protect our troops

and their families and provide the American people with the peace they deserve.

In God we trust.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, climate change is already taking a devastating effect on our planet. We're seeing its evidence in everything from Hurricane Sandy to more extreme droughts and wildfires, but we must not forget that we live on a blue planet—so climate change is an ocean issue, as well.

The same greenhouse gases that are changing our climate are also changing our oceans. Our oceans absorb a tremendous amount of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. So as carbon pollution increases, so too does the acidity of the oceans.

Ocean acidification is threatening the survival of entire food chains and ocean ecosystems that we all depend upon for food, for jobs, and recreation.

Mr. Speaker, our window of opportunity to address this problem is quickly closing. And with every day we fail to act, we further jeopardize the future of ocean resources.

The President has declared this month as National Oceans Month. And last weekend, the international community celebrated World Oceans Day.

Let's live up to this challenge. Let's take action on commonsense measures for healthy and productive oceans now and into the future.

ST. MARY-OF-THE-WOODS COLLEGE

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone in the history of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, located in my district.

As an early leader in distance learning, St. Mary-of-the-Woods College is celebrating its 40th anniversary of providing quality distance education for students across the Nation.

The program began with the bold vision of Sister Jeanne Knoerle, then-president of the college, as a way to educate women who needed a nontraditional way to earn a college degree and was expanded in 2005 to provide access to men. Known today as Woods Online, it is one of the largest online degree programs in Indiana. More than 800 students are currently enrolled in the program from 33 States and across the globe.

I would like to congratulate St. Mary-of-the-Woods College on the longevity of this program and thank them for their innovative efforts in offering a nontraditional means for students to achieve their educational goals.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, in the Judiciary Committee today, we will be considering an immigration enforcement bill that is as controversial as it is downright dangerous.

While the Senate is working in good faith towards real immigration reform, some of my colleagues continue to push partisan legislation that does nothing to fix our broken immigration system or get us any closer to real reform.

If my colleagues will indulge me, I'd like to say a few words in Spanish.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

In the Judiciary Committee today, we will be considering legislation that is as controversial as it is dangerous.

It would give unprecedented powers to local police, essentially giving them the same authority as immigration officials.

While the Senate continues to work toward a compromise, some of our colleagues continue to offer legislation that does nothing to protect our national security, does nothing to grow our economy, and does nothing to fix our immigration system.

We cannot allow a handful of Members of Congress to play politics instead of taking seriously the goal of passing immigration reform.

Hoy, en el comité judicial, vamos a considerar legislación que es tanto controversial como peligrosa.

Le daría poderes sin precedentes a la policía local, esencialmente dándole la misma autoridad de agentes de inmigración.

Mientras que el Senado continúa trabajando hacia un compromiso, algunos de nuestros colegas siguen proponiendo legislación que no protege nuestra seguridad nacional, no ayuda a crecer nuestra economía, y no arregla nuestro sistema de inmigración.

No podemos permitir que algunos congresistas jueguen política en vez de tomar en serio la meta de pasar una reforma migratoria.

Our Nation cannot afford to play partisan politics. Now is the time for real immigration reform.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida will provide the Clerk a translation of his remarks.

□ 1220

CONGRATULATING BOB MCKAY

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bob McKay, a lifelong resident of Maury County, Tennessee, who was recently inducted in the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame.

On December 7, 1941, Mr. McKay listened to the radio accounts of the attacks on Pearl Harbor, and realized