

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.

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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

just how important radio is in keeping us informed. He filed with the FCC to open a radio station but joined the Army shortly after to serve his country in the Pacific. Before leaving, he gave his application to his father and said:

If I'm lucky enough to get back, I'll want that radio station for Columbia.

Mr. McKay returned home in 1946, and started WKRM. Its success allowed him to open three more stations.

In addition to broadcasting, Mr. McKay chaired the Maury Regional Hospital Board of Trustees, was a founding member of the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters, and served on the boards of numerous charities in Columbia. He retired in 2008 after 62 years in the broadcasting industry. In his work and personal life, he has always followed the highest Christian principles.

PREVENTING STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE INCREASE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in less than 3 weeks, student loan interest rates will double for millions of the country's neediest students, going from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent, unless Congress takes decisive action to maintain the current interest rate.

The rising cost of a college education is driving many young Americans to assume historically high levels of student debt. With college tuition growing rapidly, the doors of opportunity are closing on today's students. The problem will only get worse if Congress does not act soon.

With the job market still recovering, we should not be asking students with the greatest need to be burdened by higher loan costs. Making college more affordable is one of the best investments our Nation can make in America's economic future. We must craft a long-term solution for student debt—and it must be now—as part of a comprehensive approach at lowering the cost of college, but time is running out to block the July rate hike. We don't need the sham that we passed a few weeks ago that makes the situation worse.

Providing affordable education should not be a partisan issue. This is a student issue, and it affects young people across this Nation of all political persuasions and in all congressional districts.

CONGRATULATING SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES

(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, I rise today to congratulate

an extraordinary group of 21 students who have been chosen as future leaders of our Armed Forces. These students have received appointments from the prestigious United States service academies.

Eight received appointments from the Air Force—my personal favorite; four from the Naval Academy; another eight from the Military Academy; and one from the Merchant Marines.

I am proud of this group. They will get one of the finest educations available and really learn the meaning of duty, honor, commitment, and sacrifice to this great Nation. America has the finest fighting men and women in the world, and these students who are the best and the brightest are needed now more than ever. I'm confident they'll represent the Third District of Texas well.

I salute each one for the endeavor they are about to undertake. God bless them and God bless the United States of America.

ENSURING FOOD SECURITY

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I represent the San Joaquin Valley of California where our business is growing healthy, safe foods. It's the breadbasket of America.

But even in our agriculturally rich region, many of the same families who labor to produce these crops struggle to feed their children. This is part of the tragedy of hunger in America.

I have witnessed firsthand the challenges these families face living on the average SNAP benefit, which is \$4.50 per day.

While I am a strong supporter of passing a farm bill, I have serious concerns about what the proposed cuts mean for 16.2 million children nationwide who are faced with hunger. We must and we can do better. I hope we pass the farm bill in the House next week. And if so, I will be fighting to make sure that these children have a seat at the table when we go to conference with the Senate.

Budget choices are a reflection of our priorities. In a time of such economic hardship, we can and we must make sure that those most vulnerable in our society are fed properly.

WASHINGTON BOOMS AT COUNTRY'S EXPENSE

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, as I travel my district back home, folks tell stories about how the Obama economy is failing families, young people, seniors, workers, and future generations. Too many western Pennsylvanians are unemployed, underemployed, or have given up looking for work.

Just last week, we learned that a Pennsylvania coal company was forced to lay off over 100 miners and other employees. These hardworking men and women are mothers and fathers. They have fallen victim to the stagnant economy and President Obama's war on coal.

While the rest of the country is struggling, however, Washington, D.C. is booming. In fact, the suburbs here surrounding our capital include seven of the 10 richest counties in the country. It's easy for politicians and unelected Federal elites to spend recklessly and regulate carelessly when they are safely ensconced here in Washington. Their wasteful spending and onerous regulations have created a boomtown bubble and left the rest of the country behind.

It's past time for this to change. Hardworking Americans need Washington to stop booming so the rest of the country has a chance to grow, prosper, and add jobs.

NO BUDGET, NO PAY

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

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, last year, I ran for Congress on No Budget, No Pay: the concept that if Congress does not pass a budget and do its job, we should not be paid. In so doing, I joined my Republican colleagues here in the House in being critical of the Democrats in the Senate who had not passed a budget for 4 years. As a result of our actions, we forced the Senate to pass their budget, and we in the House have passed our own.

Now, according to our rules and centuries of practice, we are supposed to have a conference to reconcile the Senate and House budgets so we can approve a compromise and forward a congressional budget to the President for his signature.

When I go home, I hear a sense of urgency from San Diegans about balancing the budget and ending the sequester. But too many in Washington, D.C., who are well paid and comfortable seem to care more about politics than about helping the American families and businesses that are struggling. Now is the time to honor the American people by doing our jobs.

Mr. Speaker, please appoint conferees now so we can pass a Federal budget and get on with our work.

MEDICARE PART D

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of this Chamber to a government program that is under budget and immensely popular. In 2003 when Medicare part D