

was passed, it was hotly contested, and rightly so. The Medicare Modernization Act represented one of the largest expansions of Medicare since its creation.

However, what cannot be contested is part D's success. Premiums are far below projections—less than half the \$61 monthly premium originally projected. Benefits packages are actually expanding, giving seniors more coverage and options. The CBO has confirmed that the increased usage of prescription drugs by seniors is offset by savings in medical services.

Medicare part D is keeping our seniors healthy for less, and they love it: 96 percent say their coverage works well.

The benefits of competition, prevention, and consumer choice have been tested and proven. It begs the question: When will we apply these principles to other Federal health care programs? And why is the President trying to cripple part D through price controls and new taxes when it is performing well?

□ 1230

#### RECOGNIZING THE RECENT OPENING OF FOREST HILL MEMORIAL PARK

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent opening of the Forest Hill Memorial Park in the 33rd Congressional District. The park was opened for all citizens to honor the military service contributions of our men and women in uniform.

This special memorial park includes the engraved names of the local brave men and women who served in all branches of the U.S. military. There's also a monument honoring local prisoners of war and missing soldiers, and a monument honoring Forest Hill public safety officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

I attended the dedication ceremony for the park on Memorial Day, and I can personally attest to the fact that it truly honors the veterans of Forest Hill and the surrounding communities across the United States. I commend Forest Hill elected officials who worked tirelessly to bring such a park to the north Texas community.

#### CONSEQUENCES OF OBAMACARE

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the terrible consequences ObamaCare is having on working families. In my district, Zionsville Community School Corporation was forced to cut hours for substitute teachers, instructional assistants, and other staff because of the employer mandates.

Recently, one Indiana school administrator who had just cut coaches', aides', and assistants' hours asked, "Did they really think about the seventh- and eighth-grade basketball coach or the substitute teacher or the part-time instructional aide" when they wrote this law?

Schools shouldn't be forced to cut back on services for kids because Washington is too stubborn to roll back a failed initiative.

While 12 million Americans are still looking for a job, schools are cutting hours and, consequently, people's pay. A recent study by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce found that ObamaCare is the number one concern for small businesses, and soon our children and families will learn it's the number one concern for school systems.

Mr. Speaker, this law is hurting our students, our school systems, its workers, and our economy. We must repeal it.

#### STUDENT LOANS

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

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for American students.

Sierra Curian is a sophomore studying biology and chemistry at the University of Utah. Monday, I had the privilege of sitting down with Sierra and several Utah college students to talk about their experiences and why it is so important that Congress come together to solve the current student loan debate.

Not surprisingly, Sierra and the other students I spoke with are very concerned about the prospect of student loan interest rates doubling on July 1. What impressed me the most was listening to the aspirations of these students, many of which I promised to share here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Sierra shared her hopes of becoming a large animal vet, hoping to specialize in equine medicine and research. Her dedication and determination toward this goal are apparent. Aside from being a full-time student, she works with large animals at a nearby clinic.

Sierra, along with over 110,000 students in Utah, is relying on subsidized student loans to help pay for education. As a sophomore, she has time to choose whether to continue her schooling by pursuing a doctor of veterinary medicine degree, but she has worries about what a higher interest rate could mean if she decides to continue her schooling.

Education is the key to opportunity. Our public policies should make sure everyone in America has the opportunity to pursue their dream.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded not to traffic the

well while another Member is under recognition.

#### JOB

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

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind the United States Senate that although this country has turned a corner on the economy, there are millions of Americans who are out of work. And as we inch closer every day towards the implementation of ObamaCare, these businesses are at risk. Jobs are on the line, Mr. Speaker. Precious employment hours are on the line.

There are steps this House has taken over the last 2½ years. We have voted almost 40 times to repeal and replace ObamaCare with something special. We've passed bills here in the House for over 400 votes, and those bills to help small businesses have withered on the vine in the Senate.

So while the White House continues to stumble from scandal to scandal, it's still incumbent upon the President to show leadership as it relates to jobs. There are bills waiting for consideration in the Senate that will make a very real difference to the American people.

The House has done and will continue to do everything possible to put American people back to work, and this cannot be done alone. We need the Senate and the President to work with us, Mr. Speaker.

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give voice to the thousands of men and women who have been sexually assaulted while serving their country in our Armed Forces. The Pentagon estimates that as many as 26,000 service-members were sexually assaulted last year. That's 70 assaults a day. But only 13 percent of the victims have reported the crime because of fear of retaliation.

We must establish a culture in our military that has zero tolerance for sexual assault; a culture that protects, not intimidates, victims; that prosecutes, not excuses, perpetrators; and that denounces, not ignores, sexual violence. We must make it a priority to end this unfathomable crime within our military and provide victims with the care that they need and deserve.

Next week, I will introduce the National Guard Military Sexual Trauma Parity Act to ensure that victims of sexual trauma in the National Guard also have access to the resources and services they need.

## STUDENT LOAN RATE HIKES

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is disappointing that President Obama and Senate Democrats cannot agree with Republicans in the House on a simple issue like preventing student loan rates from doubling. Although a bipartisan vote in the House passed the Smarter Solutions for Students Act, the President and Senate have panned this common-ground approach.

The Smarter Solutions for Students Act is a simple plan, ready-made for bipartisan compromise, as it was patterned after President Obama's own budget proposal. Politicizing the coming student loan interest rate hike is not an option if we are serious about a July 1 solution.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to build off of the Smarter Solutions for Students Act proposal and commit to a long-term solution for students that eliminates the Washington guessing game from the rate-setting equation.

Ignoring the common ground Republicans already share with President Obama puts politics ahead of students.

## AS YOU DID TO THE LEAST OF THEM

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, the American people need to understand what's happening on the floor of the House this week with respect to the farm bill. Now, it's a complicated thing with agricultural subsidies, commodity treatments, and food stamps. And here's where the American public needs to pay attention, because the Republican majority in this Chamber is using unprecedented and massive cuts to food stamps to get an agriculture bill passed.

What are food stamps?

Food stamps are about \$4.50 a day to hungry children and to vulnerable seniors.

I'm not going to dignify this amoral effort with a counterargument. I'm just going to observe that I'm standing under 4 words: "In God we trust."

I'm going to observe that the minister this morning opened the House with a prayer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and I will say two things:

Proverbs 22:9: Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.

Matthew 25:37: Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or thirsty and give you drink? And the King will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it to the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.

## REPUBLICAN SOLUTIONS FOR JOBS

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

Mrs. NOEM. Madam Speaker, the Democrats who run Washington, D.C., continue to lead this country down an irresponsible path: a ceaseless march of regulations out of Washington threatens to choke off American innovation; government spending continues at unsustainable levels; and the specter of ObamaCare, it looms large over every sector of our economy.

Is it any wonder that we continue to see stagnant job numbers like those released last week? Nearly 12 million Americans are out of work, 4.4 million of them with no job for 6 months or more.

Simply put, it's not fair. It's not fair to any American, which is why House Republicans are committed to securing the future for all Americans. We have a plan to create jobs and expand opportunity, and we'll do it by growing the economy, not by growing the government.

□ 1240

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand with the families of those who fell in Sandy Hook who are here on this campus today to talk about unfinished business. I stand with them in mourning for those of their family members who died by senseless gun violence and thousands who have died since.

I will soon leave this House to go to read the names of those who have died in Sandy Hook and beg my colleagues for once to come together and vote for universal background checks and gun storage laws that simply provide safety and security for our children—unfinished business.

I stand here today, as well, to restore the trust to the American people about their privacy rights and civil liberties and ask my colleagues in a very bipartisan manner to rein in the number of private contractors—70 percent of the intelligence budget—and I intend to introduce legislation that will hopefully find an opportunity for bipartisan, thoughtful efforts to bring back the trust of the American people.

Madam Speaker, we have unfinished business. I stand here to finish it.

## REPUBLICAN SOLUTIONS FOR JOBS

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Last week's jobs report was yet another stark reminder that our economy has far from recovered. Nearly 12 million Americans remain out of work, and 4.4 million people have been out of work for 6 months or more; and these are more than just numbers that come out of some monthly Bureau of Labor statistics. These

are our fellow Americans. These are our friends and our family. These are our neighbors and our kids. These are the folks next door. And they—each and every one of them—deserve better.

House Republicans have passed legislation that helps working families maintain that crucial work-life balance. We've passed a long-term fix to the student loan programs to make life better for our recent grads.

These are real solutions, and they're all a part of the House Republican plan to create jobs and secure our future.

## IMMIGRATION REFORM EQUALS JOBS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it has been 893 days since I arrived in Congress, and the Republican leadership has not allowed a single vote on serious legislation to address our unemployment crisis; but there's no shortage of policies to solve this crisis.

One of the best things we can do to create jobs is to pass immigration reform. When we bring undocumented workers in from the shadows where they're abused and paid below minimum wage, we boost wages for all Americans.

A recent study by the Center for American Progress shows that granting legal status to undocumented workers would create up to 159,000 jobs per year over the next 5 years. By empowering undocumented people to earn higher wages, immigration reform will enable people to spend more on food, clothing, and housing. This strengthens the American economy, builds our tax base, and creates jobs.

Immigration reform is not only about justice. It's about jobs, jobs, jobs.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS AND POLICIES OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BELARUS AND OTHER PERSONS TO UNDERMINE BELARUS'S DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES OR INSTITUTIONS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-36)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROTHFUS) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed: *To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits