

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

to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that 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 that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2013.

In 2012, the Government of Belarus continued its crackdown against political opposition, civil society, and independent media. The September 23 elections failed to meet international standards. The government arbitrarily arrested, detained, and imprisoned citizens for criticizing officials or for participating in demonstrations; imprisoned at least one human rights activist on manufactured charges; and prevented independent media from disseminating information and materials. These actions show that the Government of Belarus has not taken steps forward in the development of democratic governance and respect for human rights.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions, to commit human rights abuses related to political repression, and to engage in public corruption continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 13, 2013.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1960, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 260 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 260

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes. No further general debate shall be in order.

SEC. 2. (a) In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Armed Services now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amend-

ment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-13, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived.

(b) No amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution.

(c) Each amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(d) All points of order against amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The original proponent of an amendment included in such amendments en bloc may insert a statement in the Congressional Record immediately before the disposition of the amendments en bloc.

SEC. 4. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

□ 1250

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 260 is a structured rule that provides House consideration of amendments to this year's National Defense Authorization Act.

As I explained when I was down here yesterday, the Rules Committee receives hundreds of amendments to the NDAA every single year. This time we had 299 amendments to make our way through.

While the volume of amendments was massive, the Rules Committee evaluated each and every one in developing this rule. We were not able to make every amendment in order, but I believe this rule will allow for the exhaustive debate of a vast majority of the issues presented in committee.

Yesterday's rule provided for 1 hour of general debate on the underlying bill, H.R. 1960. Today, we're considering a structured rule that provides Members of the House with the opportunity to have copious and free-flowing debate on many of the issues contained in the underlying legislation.

As a member of both the Rules Committee and the Armed Services Committee, I know how complicated and far-reaching the National Defense Authorization Act can be. I've sat through multiple subcommittee marks on this legislation. We had a nearly 16-hour-long full committee markup on this bill, a meeting that started early Wednesday and lasted into Thursday morning. And now we've had two Rules Committee hearings on this bill, including yesterday's hearing, which took almost 10 hours from start to finish.

Having spent as much time with this legislation as I have, I can promise you this: the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2014 is a good bill. That's why the Armed Services Committee passed it with an overwhelming vote of 59-2. And we need to acknowledge Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for fostering such a bipartisan and collaborative approach. This rule is the next step in that transparent and cooperative process.

Of the 299 amendments that we received in the Rules Committee, H. Res. 260 makes 172 of them in order. To use a technical term, that's a lot of amendments. Despite that, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will remind us that even with 172 amendments allowed on the floor, it's still not an open rule; and, clearly, they're right. But let me assure you that this is also a fair and inclusive rule.

Having considered each of the amendments that was offered in the Rules Committee, I can honestly say that what we have here today is a rule that gives the House the opportunity to debate all of the major topics contained in the underlying legislation without duplicating efforts and having multiple amendments on the same issue.