

the deficiencies in supervision of his case, our view—based on our knowledge from regular program reviews in the field and other ongoing communication with field offices from around the country—is that David Renz was not supervised in a manner typical of federal probation and pretrial services practices. The vast majority of the 200,000 defendants and offenders supervised every year remain arrest-free and comply with the conditions imposed by their supervising court. In instances where they are returned to prison, it is most often for technical violations (such as refusing to participate in treatment or associating with a known felon) rather than for new crimes. Such success does not come easily when dealing with high-risk defendants and offenders, and reflects the hard work of many dedicated employees of the Judiciary.

Probation officers carry out their duties pursuant to statutes enacted by Congress and policies approved by the Judicial Conference. The AO is responsible for, among other things, investigating the work of probation and pretrial services offices and advising courts about Judicial Conference policies and best practices. As you know, the AO initiated an investigation into the handling of the Renz case shortly after learning of his rearrest. On April 9, 2013, a report based on that investigation—which included a number of findings that you cited in your letters—was submitted to the chief judge of the Northern District of New York, who directly supervises the probation office in that district. The chief judge has the authority to take personnel action and make other changes. We also re-submitted to the chief judge an earlier “program review” report, describing the work of the probation office in 2010. In the interest of transparency and public awareness, the court posted the report on their website.

We reported to the chief judge that the probation office failed to make desired changes following the 2010 program review but, in consultation with the chief judge and the AO, the probation office has made substantial changes in response to our findings and recommendations in the 2013 report. Those changes have included dismissing and demoting certain probation office personnel, reorganizing the office's location monitoring unit, retraining staff, and inviting in a technical assistance team from the AO for consultation and training. In addition, the probation office indicated that it will cooperate fully with cyclical reinvestigations to be conducted (as funding permits) by the AO.

Nonetheless, the AO is in the process of re-examining policy for and reviewing the operations of probation and pretrial services offices with respect to location monitoring. We appreciate your offer to introduce supportive legislation. At this time, the Judicial Conference does not have legislative recommendations related to the location monitoring program. After we complete our policy review, we may seek assistance from Congress. Of note, we will need to work within available funding. Funding for salaries and operations in the probation and pretrial services system has been reduced 14 percent this fiscal year, and resources for location monitoring, mental health and substance abuse treatment have been cut 20 percent. We are bracing for even larger reductions next year, and the vacancy rate in probation and pretrial services offices now stands at 25 percent. Your continued support of our appropriation request is much appreciated.

The AO remains committed to public safety, and we appreciate your interest in our federal probation and pretrial services functions. If we may be of additional assistance,

please do not hesitate to call our Office of Legislative Affairs at 202-502-1700.

Sincerely,

THOMAS F. HOGAN,
Director.

GITMO UNIVERSITY ON THE CARIBBEAN

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, “English as a second language,” “Pashto to English,” “Arabic to English,” “art,” “life skills,” “computers,” “personal health and wellness,” “finance and business”—sounds like courses at a swanky New England university, but these are just a few classes offered at Gitmo University on the Caribbean.

That's not all.

These terrorists get training in resume writing and interviewing. Are they going someplace? And what do they put on that resume—“professional bomb maker”?

If they get bored with classes, they can meander over to the “detainee library” with its 17,000 books, video games and CDs.

More still.

Terrorists have access to the fancy, new taxpayer-funded \$750,000 soccer field—play volleyball, basketball, table tennis, and even foosball. Lastly, they get cultural religious training—ironic since the radicals kill in the name of religion.

Mr. Speaker, why does the government spend millions to train and entertain those who kill Americans?

However, this is just another day for the 166 terrorist trainers, financiers and Osama bin Laden bodyguards at Gitmo University on the Caribbean.

And that's just the way it is.

NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

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

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the national unemployment report was released for this past May.

While some Americans were able to find low-paying jobs, I remain extremely disappointed with this sluggish economic recovery. For example, parts of my district in the Central Valley are still suffering from 30 percent unemployment. This is simply unacceptable.

The economic downturn, caused by burdensome regulatory policies at the State and Federal levels, cannot continue. Our communities should be growing, our businesses should be expanding, and our families should be able to provide better lives for their children. This can be done by allowing safe oil and natural gas exploration and by providing a clean, reliable water supply for Central Valley farmers, farm workers and their communities.

My constituents have faced chronic unemployment for too long. It is time for Washington bureaucrats to get out of the way and to let America prosper.

JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY AND THE NSA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I am very pleased today to say that Members have joined me in introducing H. Res. 268, which is observing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, which is going to be this Wednesday, June 19.

I hope that all of those across America will understand the meaning of Juneteenth, which is to express a celebration for the freeing of the slaves, which did not come to the southwestern States, like Texas, until almost 2 years later. That was 1865 after 1863.

Mr. Speaker, I want to quickly change the topic and indicate that I believe it's important to get an understanding of the individual who has allegedly been providing the leaks from the NSA. I have been restrained as to call him anything until the laws determine who he is, but I do believe that we are now tipping the scales of fairness when more and more is coming out in a foreign country, and I do believe something has to be done.

I will be introducing legislation on the reduction of private-intel utilization, an explanation of FISA Court opinions and strengthening the FISA Court because I believe that it is extremely important in strengthening the public trust and in strengthening the rights of the American people. We have to do it, and we have to be able to find this gentleman quickly so that the intelligence that will protect Americans will be done.

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ENTANGLING ALLIANCES

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I realize that there are many in schools that are not taught as much history as they should now because they're teaching to this ridiculous test, but it is important we learn from history.

Right now in Syria, we have rebels that are backed by al Qaeda. And this administration, and even some in this building, want to rush to the aid of the al Qaeda-backed rebels, while there are others that say, well, maybe we'd be better off if Assad stayed in power. It's a lose-lose situation for the United States, and when that's the case, it's time to stay out.

Maybe early on, before al Qaeda got so powerful, it would have been time to do something; but when it is a national security risk, when we get involved in

an entangling situation like that, it's time to look back.

What caused World War I? Entangling alliances.

Does entangling alliances involving Russia and so many other countries in Syria ring bells?

It's time the bells rang and we stayed out.

REGULATORY REFORM AND REGULATORY RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in another of a series of Republican freshman class Special Orders, this time to focus on our Nation's need for regulatory reform and regulatory relief.

As an American and a parent, I value the role of responsible regulations. Many regulations were designed with personal safety in mind, and these regulations make our workforce stronger. All too often, however, the Federal Government designs regulations that are often unnecessary and achieve little or no benefit at a very high cost. These regulations directly impact the hardworking men and women of northeast Georgia and across the Nation. Over the next hour, my colleagues and I will discuss the growing problem of regulation and why our Nation's economy so desperately needs regulatory relief.

I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the president of our freshman class, my dear friend and a tireless worker on this issue as well, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER).

Mr. MESSER. I want to thank my good friend from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for recognizing me and for leading this Republican freshman class Special Order on the need for regulatory reform.

I also want to commend him and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO) for their initiative in creating the Freshman Regulatory Reform Working Group, of which I am pleased to be a member.

A recent editorial written by George Washington University Professor Jonathan Turley declared that:

Our carefully constructed system of checks and balances is being negated by the rise of a fourth branch, an administrative state of sprawling departments and agencies that govern with increasing autonomy and decreasing transparency.

The voice of the American people is marginalized when this so-called fourth state of government, our Federal agencies, fail to follow the wishes of their elected representatives or make policy in the absence of direction by Congress. And the American people are paying the price of this regulatory maze created by this unelected government.

For example, the Heritage Foundation has found that annual regulatory costs increased by more than \$23.5 billion during President Obama's fourth year in office. The total cost of regulations during the President's first term were nearly \$70 billion, a level unmatched by any previous administration.

It's time to unshackle America from the stranglehold these regulations have on our economy.

I again want to thank Mr. COLLINS and Mr. YOHIO for leading efforts among the freshman Republicans to eliminate and streamline burdensome Federal regulations. I look forward to working with them and all Members of the House to help create jobs by allowing America's businesses to grow and innovate by reining in the unelected bureaucracy standing in their way.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from Indiana.

I think you bring up a great point, and that's the issue of an unelected bureaucracy that is forcing sometimes businesses who just want to create, want to expand, and want to do those things. I appreciate your interest in this, and we are going to continue this fight because this matters to real people. This matters to Main Street. And when we matter to Main Street, then people understand what we're trying to do up here, and I think they then begin to have confidence that Washington has their best interest at heart.

Mr. MESSER. I would just add, sometimes I think this comes from both sides. In other words, there are times when laws passed by Congress are intentionally vague so that the bureaucracy steps in and leaders are able to say, Hey, blame it on those regulators.

I think we have a responsibility to make sure that we're making laws specific enough and simple enough to be understood by the American people.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I agree with that, and I thank the gentleman from Indiana. I appreciate his work on this.

It's now my pleasure to introduce someone who not only has come to Congress fired up about the issues that are going on, but has become my co-chair on this regulatory working group and bringing forth, I believe, a fresh perspective from Florida.

It is now my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO).

Mr. YOHIO. I thank my good friend from Georgia for yielding, and I appreciate the comments.

I'd like to title this talk, "Burden-some Regulations: The Dysfunctional Government Tax."

More than \$14,000 every year, that's what the average American family loses out on because of Federal regulations either in taxes or lower wages because their employers are carrying that burden.

How do we even get all these regulations, more than 6,000 regulations just this year? It happens when the executive branch goes around Congress to create their own policies. Some people call this "legislation through regulation." I call it the "dysfunctional government tax." It's the \$40 a day every American has to pay because the executive branch won't go through Congress. It won't work with those of us who are here tonight because we were sent here by the people.

In more places in my district, you could take your spouse out for a nice dinner for \$40. A person could fill up their gas tank and a minivan for about \$40, or you could take your children to a matinee movie on the weekends for \$40.

When I'm at home in my district, I hear from people who own their own business and from people who just care about their work, about how Federal regulations are making it harder to make ends meet. We're going to talk about a few of these regulations tonight, but let me tell you about a few stories from north central Florida.

There's a lumber company in my district that has to aim lower. By that I mean versus aiming higher to expand their business. This is because of the burden of the Affordable Care Act. It's too great to bear. They would love nothing more than to hire more people, more workers, or buy that extra piece of equipment, but there's no telling what the compliance cost of the ACA will be.

Not only that, these poor folks are subject to the rules and perhaps fines based on the discretion or interpretation of whatever inspector happens upon them that day. There is no certainty. And I think that's one of the biggest roles that we have to do is create certainty in the environment of the workplace so that businesses can go forward and expand their businesses. To create a stable economy, we need a stable environment for businesses to work in. The overregulation we've seen in recent years creates neither.

Yet another example comes from a watermelon grower in my district and an interpretation of a rule from the Food Safety Modernization Act, commonly called FSMA. This rule says that the use of water bottles cannot be used by workers in the field when they are picking the melons. I don't know if words can describe just how hot and humid it gets in Florida during this time of year, but it gets pretty darn hot. Not allowing water in the fields is tantamount to cruel and unusual punishment.

Even more ridiculous are the posters that have to be placed on site that talk about the risk of heat stroke. What you see here is a poster that's put up