

Across this country, the things that will happen in Vermont are going to happen to all our kids and their parents. In Vermont, 20,000 kids are going to have their loan's expense go up \$1,000. That's when the cost of education has gone up 27 percent in the past 5 years. Vermont has the seventh highest student loan debt in the country. Sixty-three percent of our kids, when they graduate, it's \$29,000 that they start out owing. We are first when it comes to debt-to-income ratio—82 percent. It's brutal.

What is this about? It's about our priorities. In a low interest rate environment, government borrowing at 2 percent, we are going to charge nearly 7 percent to our kids. That's almost like usury. It is also a reflection of our priorities.

There is a way we could extend this, as we should. Why do we shovel taxpayer money to oil companies that have \$1 trillion in profits in the past 10 years? It is unnecessary.

Around kitchen tables in Vermont, people are trying to figure out who is going to college and how our kids are going to get started.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS PROMOTE JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, according to an editorial in this week's Wall Street Journal:

President Obama's climate speech on Tuesday was grandiose even for him, but its surreal nature was its particular hallmark. Mr. Obama's "climate action plan" adds up to one of the most extensive reorganizations of the U.S. economy imposed through administrative fiat and raw executive power. But over his 6,500-word address, he articulated no such goal for the unemployment rate or GDP.

An energy policy, including higher taxes, more out-of-control spending, and increased government control of our daily lives will not promote jobs. It is a war on jobs. American families need job creation, a clean environment, economic certainty, and hope for future generations.

Today, House Republicans will vote on an all-of-the-above energy bill that will create jobs, increase access to our own energy resources, and stimulate our weak economy. It is time for the Senate and the President to support our efforts for American families to reach their full potential.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

□ 0910

A WEEK OF MOMENTOUS EVENTS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. This is a momentous week—a path to citizenship passing in the Senate, the Supreme Court striking down DOMA, and, on Tuesday, President Obama recommitting his administration to deal with the moral imperative of climate change.

All around us the evidence is mounting—with extreme weather events, drought, flooding, wildfires, shrinking polar ice caps, invasive plants and pests our farmers have never seen before.

The President outlined new administrative initiatives because Congress is incapable of acting. Sadly, the House of Representatives is led by climate skeptics, climate deniers, and climate cowards.

My hope is, if the Republicans in the House won't allow action, they will at least stay out of the President's way. Protecting the planet and our grandchildren's future ought not to be bringing out the worst in us but the best.

REPEAL CAFE STANDARDS

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, at a time when millions of Americans are out of work and the cost of living continues to rise, the President could not be more out of touch with reality.

For example, President Obama has continued pushing for car manufacturers to produce vehicles that get 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025 through the EPA's Corporate Average Fuel Economy program. What he doesn't understand is that CAFE standards are expensive for manufacturers, increase the cost for consumers, and have caused a significant decrease in vehicle safety by forcing manufacturers to downsize and to use lighter materials in production.

Fuel efficiency has been and always will be important to consumers. Consumer demand is incentive enough for producers to make fuel-efficient vehicles. Some families might trade off miles per gallon for greater safety or more leg room.

The bottom line is that the people should make these decisions, not the Federal Government. The President needs to understand that Americans can make informed purchases without restricting our freedom to choose. That's why I've introduced H.R. 2445, a bill to repeal the CAFE standards.

I hope my colleagues will join me in standing up for the free market by repealing these destructive government regulations.

In God we trust.

IRS ABUSE OF POWER

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it turns out that the targeting of

conservative groups by the IRS was just the beginning of a much bigger problem.

Every week since, we learn something new about how the IRS has abused its power, and this week is no different. Wine, diet pills, romance novels, and even X-rated movies were purchased with government credit cards. Lavish spending isn't the only problem. New reports tell us that the IRS sent nearly \$50 million of taxpayer money to "unauthorized aliens."

Mr. Speaker, folks in my district have had enough, and so have I. They work hard for their money, only to have a Federal agency like the IRS run wild with it and offer no apologies. Every person at the IRS should be held accountable for their actions, and we need to put reforms in place to make sure that taxpayer money isn't misused in the future.

TYRANNY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, the President decided to raise energy prices on all Americans, which adversely affects the poor the most—and he didn't ask Congress.

The President decided to unilaterally reduce our strategic nuclear deterrent when more countries than ever have nuclear weapons. No treaty. That would require the consent of the Senate.

The President has decided which health insurance plans the people are allowed to have. The President didn't ask Congress—or the people for that matter.

The list goes on.

In America, we are either moving more towards liberty or more towards tyranny. I think we should ask ourselves what tyranny would look like in the United States of America:

An executive branch that picks and chooses which laws it wants to enforce; a judicial branch that would allow it to do so on the grounds that the executive branch did not defend the laws in court; the legislative branch would have very limited power because they turned it all over to the President; and the people would feel like they had no representation.

The President told us he was going to fundamentally transform America, and I think that is exactly what he is doing.

ENVIRONMENTAL MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two dear friends and dedicated public servants—State Representative John Fernandes and State

Senator Richard Moore from Milford, Massachusetts.

Representative Fernandes and Senator Moore are being honored this week with a prestigious Environmental Merit Award from the EPA for their tremendous work they have done to combat phosphorus pollution in their communities.

When studies showed that the phosphorus levels in the Charles River at nearly double the healthy standards, these two men immediately recognized the dangerous impact this would have on the region's cities and towns. They came up with a simple, direct, and creative solution that worked for families and businesses alike. Most importantly, they got it through the State house and the executive chamber, delivering real results in record time for their constituents.

That's par for the course for these two local leaders, who have proven time and again that they are the best of the best when it comes to public service.

As dedicated as they are diligent, as creative as they are compassionate, they seek every day to do better and more for their communities they represent. I am honored to work with them, to recognize them, and to call them friends.

PANCREATIC CANCER

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in recent years, the medical research community has made great strides in treating cancer. However, not every form of cancer has shown the same progress. Some forms remain just as deadly as they were decades ago.

Among the deadliest is pancreatic cancer, with a survival rate of only 6 percent. By comparison, the survival rate of all forms of cancer is now 68 percent, up from 49 percent in 1975. Last year, Congress passed and the President signed the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act, a bill to focus research on pancreatic cancer and other problematic types of the disease.

With new plans to attack the disease and new resources, we can make progress. I met recently with a constituent who is battling the disease and with another who has lost multiple family members to it, and they have hope despite the tough road ahead.

With newly focused work, we will hopefully see new therapies and new drugs attack pancreatic cancer in the coming years, greatly improving the rate of survival.

SENATE PASSAGE OF IMMIGRATION BILL

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

Mr. VARGAS. I rise today to speak on the pressing and important issue of immigration reform.

Yesterday, the Senate took a necessary step forward in the effort to enact comprehensive immigration reform. Now it is imperative that the House put politics aside and that we work together to reach a compromise that will benefit our country, strengthen our economy, and allow 11 million people to step out of the shadows.

The House must enact immigration reform that is fair and reflects the highest values of our Nation. We are a country of immigrants, and how we treat those who aspire to be citizens reflects our democracy's commitment to uphold the moral principles upon which our Nation was built.

I urge the Republican leadership to bring the Senate bill to the House so we can finish the crucial work the Senate began and finally fix our immigration system.

I also want to thank all of the faith groups that keep praying for all of us to pass a comprehensive bill. It is obviously working.

OFFSHORE ENERGY AND JOBS ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 2231.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 274 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2231.

Will the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER) kindly take the chair.

□ 0917

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2231) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to increase energy exploration and production on the Outer Continental Shelf, provide for equitable revenue sharing for all coastal States, implement the reorganization of the functions of the former Minerals Management Service into distinct and separate agencies, and for other purposes, with Mr. YODER (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, June 27, 2013, amendment No. 7, printed in part B of House Report 113-131, offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGELL), had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. DEFAZIO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part B of House Report 113-131.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

TITLE —MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS SEC. —01. PROHIBITION ON LEASING IN BRISTOL BAY OFF THE COAST OF ALASKA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or any other law, the Secretary of the Interior may not issue any oil and gas lease for any area of the outer Continental Shelf (as that term is defined in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.)) in Bristol Bay off the coast of Alaska.

(b) OFFSET.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, title III of this Act shall have no force or effect.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 274, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is to remove from the bill provisions that would mandate leasing off of the fabulous Bristol Bay area of Alaska.

Now, I've said this bill is a little bit like Groundhog Day because we have passed it before, and we talked about that yesterday, but this is about a bizarre version of Groundhog Day and why I am forced to offer this amendment.

□ 0920

Actually, after the Exxon Valdez oil spill, I traveled up to the spill with then-Subcommittee Chairman GEORGE MILLER and saw what an extraordinary mess had been created, something that in those cold waters is very difficult to deal with and very persistent and caused tremendous damage to the fisheries. Congress chose then, in 1989, under President George H.W. Bush, to revoke the leases in the Bristol Bay area in order to protect this \$2 billion a year fishery.

In fact, the American people, the taxpayers of the United States of America, paid \$100 million to buy back those leases that had been sold in the 1980s. That moratorium remained in place until then-President George W. Bush lifted the moratorium.

The Obama administration has done the right thing and reversed George W. Bush's decision and excluded Bristol Bay from drilling in the 2012-2017 OCS leasing program. So we had the first President Bush agree that a permanent protection of that area was warranted because of the \$2-billion-a-year renewable fishery and other precious resources, the cold water, the difficult conditions. George W. Bush then reversed that, and President Obama has reinstated a moratorium.