

grants provide eligible communities with funding to increase economic activity and create jobs.

Many regions, including western New York, have benefited from the availability of Community Development Block Grants to support neighborhood reinvestment, affordable housing, and economic development.

Mr. Speaker, this program has a strong history of bipartisan support since its creation by President Gerald Ford in 1974. Shamefully, the amount funded this year is actually \$1 billion less than what was allocated to the program 39 years ago.

I'm proud to have joined over 100 of my House colleagues to express concern with this funding cut and urge Community Development Block Grant funding to be fully restored. These cuts, that come at the expense of our local communities, would have a negative impact on the national economy.

OBAMACARE EMPLOYMENT

(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, every week I hear from constituents who are being hurt by the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. The law is imposing new costs on businesses and workers, reducing take-home pay, reducing the number of jobs available, and reducing the number of hours employees are working.

Survey after survey confirms that the anecdotes I hear from back home are true for Americans across the country. A survey of 300 accountants finds that employers are holding back on hiring workers and that some are even paring back their payrolls.

CNBC reports that doctors are skeptical and confused about the implementation of the law. Workers, doctors, and employers have every right to be confused since the Affordable Care Act is being implemented haphazardly and without regard to the law as it is written. Beneficiaries will sign up for subsidies without income verification.

We don't truly know what we'll get until October, but we can say with confidence that it won't be what the President promised years ago. Americans won't be saving \$2,500 a year, many will lose the coverage they have, and others will have to switch to a new doctor.

Many promises have already been broken, and more disappointment is bound to happen.

OFFENSIVE REMARKS ABOUT DREAMERS

(Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, recently, one of our Republican colleagues made remarks about the Hispanic community and

children that have no place in our public discourse. These words offend DREAMers, who have been brought to this country through no fault of their own, and they offend our entire Nation.

In talking about DREAMers, Representative STEVE KING said:

For every one who's a valedictorian, there's another 100 out there who weigh 130 pounds, and they've got calves the size of cantaloupes because they are hauling 75 pounds of marijuana across the desert.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know what's more disappointing, that the most extreme voices in the Republican Conference continue to make appalling comments about the Hispanic community or that the rest of my Republican colleagues are silent on this kind of offensive and outrageous rhetoric.

At a time when we should be working together to address our broken immigration system, these hateful words only seek to divide rather than bring people together to find common ground.

It's no wonder that the American people continue to see House Republicans as out of touch when comments like these are made.

ENERGY VISION 2020

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Energy Vision 2020, it's an all-American, all-of-the-above energy vision that puts our Nation on the path to energy independence and security.

How? We don't take anything off the table. We harvest and explore all of our energy options, not stifle them. We do this through real regulatory reform, cutting red tape, and empowering private market innovation.

We work to keep our projects and technologies safe. If a venture is dangerous or environmentally unsafe, then say "no." But the key is, "no" can't be the final answer.

Regulatory agencies must become partners in progress with America's industries and businesses, striving to reach our full potential and finding the answers we need to get there.

There will be opponents to progress. Environmental extremists will throw their tired rhetoric around with no basis in scientific fact. But we can't sit idly by, letting America remain dependent on foreign energy sources and letting other countries seize our businesses and innovation opportunities.

Energy 2020 will get us focused. It's the next great horizon of American exceptionalism.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it's now been 934 days since I came to Congress and there has not been a sin-

gle vote on serious legislation to address our unemployment crisis.

Amidst the distractions, amidst the scandals, amidst the tragedies, the single overriding focus of the American people remains the same: jobs and the economy. The polls speak volumes.

Mr. Speaker, today I'm taking an important step to end distractions and get the Congress back to work for the people, for the unemployed, for the suffering. Today, I am reintroducing President Obama's American Jobs Act, which expired last year without even reaching the House floor. The American Jobs Act is popular for a reason: independent analysts have shown it would create 1.9 million jobs.

Mr. Speaker, bring this bill to a vote and you will restore public trust in the Congress of the United States of America. The American Jobs Act deserves a vote. Mr. Speaker, our mantra should be: jobs, jobs, jobs.

OBAMACARE

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

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, more than 100,000 Arkansans work in retail, restaurant, lodging, and other service sectors. These service industries have helped keep the American economy afloat in recent years.

From restaurants like U.S. Cafe in Dardanelle, where I flipped burgers and fried fish as a teenager, to the convention hotels in Hot Springs, Arkansans rely on service industries every day as both employees and customers.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration's many failed policies are imperiling our service sector. Nowhere is this more true than with ObamaCare. Service-oriented companies often have large and shifting workforces, they operate on extremely thin margins, and they cannot thrive on uncertainty. ObamaCare brings nothing but uncertainty.

The House took an important step last week by voting to delay both the employer and the individual mandates in ObamaCare, but the only real solution is to repeal this awful law. Otherwise, service-sector employees and businesses will suffer continued setbacks, which means our economy will suffer yet another blow.

DEFENDING FREEDOMS PROJECT: NABEEL RAJAB

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss a Bahraini prisoner of conscience, Nabeel Rajab, a prominent human rights activist and the president of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights. Nabeel Rajab was sentenced to 3 years in jail simply for engaging in nonviolent political protests.

Nabeel Rajab is not alone. Scores of prisoners are incarcerated in Bahrain because they have called for meaningful reforms. Nabeel Rajab's abusive treatment by Bahraini security forces starkly contradicts Bahrain's pronouncements of full-fledged support for human rights.

I ask for the immediate release of Nabeel Rajab and seek the full support of Congress and the Obama administration.

Nabeel Rajab is a focus of the Defending Freedoms Project, a collaborative initiative spearheaded by the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission that invites Members of Congress to stand up for prisoners of conscience around the world through various actions. Today, I invite my colleagues to take part in this important nonpartisan opportunity. Our voices can make a difference in the release of these prisoners.

DAINES SPEAKS IN SUPPORT OF AMASH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, after spending 12 years in the technology sector—more specifically, cloud computing—I know firsthand the power that data holds. I also understand the potential for abuse and the threats to Americans' civil liberties that come with mass collections of data.

Recent reports of the NSA blanket collection of Americans' phone records demonstrate the serious need for reforms to protect liberty and prevent abuse. That's why I'm proud to support Congressman AMASH's amendment to prevent the NSA from using the Patriot Act to collect the records of Americans who are not subject to a Patriot Act investigation.

This amendment helps protect law-abiding Americans from government overreach. The status quo is not unacceptable, and I hope this amendment will be a driving force for much-needed reforms and greater transparency and accountability.

We've seen what Big Government looks like. No one would have thought that the IRS would turn against the American people, and yet here we are. We must always be vigilant and guarded against the overreach of power.

I will continue fighting to defend liberty. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and stand for Americans' Fourth Amendment protections.

SAINT ANNE CATHOLIC PARISH 40TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, Saint Anne Catholic Parish in Union City is celebrating its 40th anniversary festival.

Saint Anne was founded in 1860 as a mission in the old Alvarado District before the city of Union City even existed. The current parish was established in 1973 and has been serving the surrounding community ever since.

Today, Saint Anne is one of the largest parishes in my congressional district, with over 5,000 parishioners, led by my friend, Father Geoffrey Baraan. With Father Geoffrey's guidance, Saint Anne helps serve the ethnically and culturally diverse community of Union City, and it helps ensure that the church lives up to its core mission, to "lead with compassion."

Through its parishioners, youth ministry, and hardworking staff, Saint Anne continues to help the homeless and the hungry of its community. This annual festival serves as a celebration and a reminder of the hard work and selfless service that went into building Saint Anne's. The funds raised during the festival will help the church continue to serve with collaboration, fellowship, and stewardship.

I wish Saint Anne all the best and hope they have a great 40th anniversary festival.

LACEY ACT

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, an American can be tried in a U.S. court and sent to an American prison for violating an obscure foreign law. Yes, you heard that right. That has already happened under a little-known provision in the Lacey Act.

The Lacey Act became the law in 1900 as a good protection against poachers, but it's been expanded since. Now, if you unknowingly import a product that violates a regulation from an exporting country, you can end up in a U.S. Federal courtroom and sent to a Federal prison.

One seafood importer spent 6 years in jail for importing lobsters that violated a regulation in Honduras. A few lobster tails were too small, and they were shipped in plastic instead of cardboard. Even the Honduran Government said these rules were obsolete.

Then Gibson Guitar had to pay \$350,000 to settle Federal charges that the company bought wood from Madagascar that was a sixth of an inch too thick.

It's time to end unreasonable and unconstitutional prosecutions of Americans on American soil for obscure foreign laws. The Lacey Act violates the rule of law and it needs to be changed.

DEROGATORY STATEMENTS REGARDING DREAMERS

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, America expects Members of Congress to exemplify what is great about our coun-

try. They expect us to represent virtues of tolerance, respect, and intelligence. Generalizations about children, about entire races of people are intolerant, disrespectful, and not very intelligent. Our country expects better from us. Recent comments made by one colleague across the aisle are far below those expectations.

Forget for a moment that the DREAM Act is the right thing to do and will help grow our economy. Forget that most DREAMers are the best and the brightest of our country, and that passing the DREAM Act will increase DREAMers' earnings by an aggregate of 19 percent, totaling \$148 billion in wages by 2030, triggering more spending on goods and services throughout our economy and generating \$181 billion in increased economic growth by 2030, creating millions of jobs for Americans. Forget that providing a strong incentive for DREAMers to further their education will add 223,000 college diplomas to the workforce and open doors to better paying jobs. Forget all that, and remember that these are children and young adults. These are human beings. They deserve better than the derogatory statements of my Republican colleague. The American people deserve better.

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COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government is not the master puppeteer of higher education, though a litany of burdensome regulations suggest that's what it's angling for.

We all want college to be more affordable and we want to ensure students throughout the country who work hard have the opportunity to attend a high-quality school. But Federal attempts to regulate those goals into existence unilaterally are counterproductive and costly.

Restrictive regulations stifle pioneering institutions at a time when forward-thinking solutions are desperately needed to meet the changing demands of an increasingly diverse American student body.

With less punitive Federal intervention, Congress will be able to work carefully with students, families, educators, and higher learning institutions to address the issues of college affordability, accountability, and transparency during the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

The administration should think outside the box with us so that education can be more accessible and affordable. We should start by reducing the size of the costly regulatory footprint in higher education.