

transportation investments. With sequestration, we will lose both construction jobs and potential new investments in our business parks.

In Itasca, veterans who would sacrifice everything for our Nation wonder why Congress can't come together and stop the cuts that will hurt this country they love so much. They didn't go home until they got their mission accomplished, and we shouldn't go home until we revolve this self-inflicted crisis.

Both parties agreed to the sequester. The time for finger-pointing and assigning blame is over. We should immediately vote on and pass commonsense measures like stopping Medicare fraud, ending subsidies for oil and gas industries, and ending tax loopholes for large corporations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up House Resolution 699, a balanced bill to replace the sequester with spending cuts and revenues, a measure that would save thousands of jobs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, we are now less than 48 hours from sweeping and irresponsible, across-the-board budget cuts that will go into effect on Friday. These cuts will weaken our military, harm our border security, undermine economic recovery, and hurt southern Arizona families.

We must work together. We can, I am confident, craft a rational, bipartisan solution to reduce the debt so these cuts can be avoided.

Last week I stood with officials from the University of Arizona, the city of Tucson, law enforcement, Border Patrol agents, civilian employees of the airbase and the garrison at Fort Huachuca, and local health care groups and community agencies to demand that we take action on sequestration.

The critical services that these groups and individuals and countless others provide to Arizonans will be cut because Congress has not come together with a commonsense solution. In my districts, these cuts mean longer wait times at the border and ports of entry, and less security between them. This is absolutely unacceptable.

Sequestration hurts the ability of returning veterans to find a job. This is also unacceptable.

And as I've said before, I'm willing to work here with all of my colleagues to find a middle ground. We owe our communities a budget, one that balances new revenues, eliminates ineffective programs and allows vital services to continue.

We should not recess tomorrow. We should stay here and do our job.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, as a freshman here on the House floor just 2 years ago, it does my heart good to see my freshman colleagues coming down from the other side of the aisle, because I came down with that same vision 2 years ago to work together to address the big issues that are out there.

I serve on the Budget Committee, Mr. Speaker, and for fiscal year 2013, we're going to post a \$1 trillion annual deficit. This sequester that every Member is rightly concerned about is \$85 billion, less than one-tenth the magnitude of the decisions we really need to make to get America back on fiscal track.

Is the sequester anybody's idea of the right way to do it? I don't believe that it is.

Is everyone's idea of the right way to do it to deal with that part of the budget that we don't do in discretionary spending? The big two-thirds, that mandatory spending that we have to come together on to deal with? And the answer is absolutely, yes.

I stand ready to work with my freshman colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do those big things that need to be done. But Mr. Speaker, we have raised taxes already in 2013. The CBO reports that an additional \$1 trillion will come into the Treasury over the next 10 years.

What we need is not more taxes. What we need are responsible spending cuts, Mr. Speaker.

SEQUESTRATION

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. The House majority should bring legislation to this floor that will prevent the automatic, across-the-board cuts that will occur on Friday. These dangerous, indiscriminate cuts threaten our economy and vital services for our children, for women, for seniors, small businessmen, and our servicemembers in uniform.

Today, we are spending \$12 billion less on labor, health, and education programs than we were in 2002. And because of the cuts we made in the Budget Control Act, we will be spending \$21 billion less on these programs in 2022. And yet, despite these already made cuts the sequester will gut labor, health, and education programs by nearly another \$7 billion this year.

The results? Over 10,000 fewer people in my State will get the assistance they need to find jobs. Over 1,500 fewer Connecticut children will see vaccines for diseases. And 8,000 disadvantaged students will lose access to educational services. This will also relieve teachers and teacher aides of their jobs, thereby raising unemployment.

This is in addition to cuts that will impact food safety inspection, Meals on Wheels for seniors, support for public safety officers, and to keep air traffic controllers on the job.

I ask unanimous consent to bring up my colleague Mr. VAN HOLLEN's Stop the Sequester Job Loss Now Act. It replaces sequestration with a balanced, bipartisan approach to deficit reduction.

We have a responsibility in this body: pass a budget that protects the middle class, our seniors, and the most vulnerable—and we have to act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

□ 1620

HOUSE VOTED TWICE TO REPEAL THE SEQUESTER

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. What I want to remind the people of is that this House has twice passed legislation to repeal the sequester. The Senate has not done anything. Quite honestly, they have just chosen not to do their job over there.

The President has yet to give us a written proposal. But this House, the people's House, twice voted to repeal the sequester with responsible spending cuts.

THE SEQUESTER

(Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Time is short, Mr. Speaker. March 1 is just a few hours away, and the Republicans refuse to bring forward a balanced plan to replace the meat-ax approach to governing known as sequestration.

My constituents have been clear with me: We should stop the blame game, and we must stop this sequester from happening. New Mexicans are worried. They know what happens if we don't stop the sequester:

More than 750,000 jobs are at risk just this year.

Almost 10,000 New Mexicans won't be able to get the help and skills they need to find a job.

Small businesses, the backbone of our economy, won't be able to get the loans that they need to expand and grow.

Just in New Mexico, almost 7,000 civilian furloughs from the Defense Department, resulting in \$42 million less in gross pay for those employees, forcing middle class families to deal with losses equal to one mortgage payment or more.

Lastly, one of my State's and district's largest employers, Sandia National Laboratories, has implemented a

hiring freeze. This move will stunt economic growth and be devastating to New Mexico's economy.

I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 699, a balanced bill to replace the sequester with spending cuts and revenue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. I rise today to tell the story of how northern California communities that I represent will be harmed by sequestration.

Travis Air Force Base in my district makes sure that the equipment and personnel that our military needs are delivered quickly and safely around the world. They're the world's first responder when disaster strikes. Thirty-two hundred civilians will be furloughed beginning next week. They will have a loss of some \$30 million of income over the next 6 months.

Near Marysville, California, Beale Air Force Base operates an intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance mission that supplies our Nation's military with timely information to save American lives on the battlefield. Fourteen hundred civilians will be furloughed, with \$13 million in lost wages.

Families and their income are important. But so is national security, which will be compromised by sequestration.

Yuba City, one of the major places in the United States prone to flood problems, will see their critical levee protection that the Army Corps of Engineers is working on delayed and not completed for next winter's floods.

The University of California-Davis will similarly be harmed.

It's time to end sequestration, and I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 699 be brought up for a vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

THE EFFECT OF SEQUESTRATION ON THE MILITARY

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

Mr. PETERS of California. Tomorrow is the last day we have to avoid sequester. I've spoken on the House floor about how San Diego will be disproportionately affected. Today, I want to address our national security.

Almost one in four jobs in San Diego County are defense related. Nearly 25 percent of defense contractors are small businesses. Already, shipbuilding and maintenance contracts have been canceled, including 10 ship repairs in

San Diego. Manufacturing companies that rely on defense funding could lose 223,000 jobs. Neglecting ship repairs will not only lead to job loss and threaten morale—it undermines our national security and our readiness.

Mr. Speaker, let's prove to San Diego and the America people that Congress is not broken. Let's work together to find a solution that doesn't compromise our national security and that balances fiscal responsibility with economic growth.

SEQUESTER

(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 urge my colleagues to come together and avoid sequestration. Make no mistake: These cuts aren't just fodder for newspaper headlines. They are real. They are deep. And they will hurt.

Back home in my district in Taunton, Massachusetts, we have an active chapter of Jumpstart, a national literacy organization that pairs community volunteers with low-income preschool children. They operate in tandem with the local Head Start. If sequestration happens, over 70,000 children across the country could lose access to Head Start—1,500 in Massachusetts—jeopardizing the ability of Jumpstart to continue offering their services. On top of that, the organization is run on the hard work of volunteers, most of whom come through Federal work-study programs—800 jobs lost in Massachusetts alone—or AmeriCorps—\$38 million in cuts across the board.

Those are big numbers. But for a moment forget the numbers. The numbers are just a succinct way of saying there's a 4-year-old girl in Taunton, Massachusetts, whose single mother depends on Jumpstart to get her child up to speed for kindergarten while she works two jobs to keep food on the table.

Our budget is in difficult shape. It will require tough choices to clean up. But they have to be smart choices, worthy of our constituents back home who put their faith and trust in each and every one of us.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. The once inconceivable now seems to be becoming the inevitable. On Friday, the sequester, a plan designed to never be implemented, will be triggered. And now the question among the papers and pundits is exactly how bad sequester will turn out to be. My question is: Why aren't we debating how to stop it? Why are we not working together on a balanced fiscal plan? We all know it's

not the right thing to do. We all know it's not the smart thing to do.

My constituents in San Diego and everyone outside of D.C. knows that it's harmful. San Diegan air traffic controllers, our Border Patrol officers, and civilian defense personnel put on leave, making us less safe and less efficient? San Diegan senior citizens, many who have served our country, sent messages stating that they will not be able to receive the meals they depend on.

San Diego teachers furloughed, disrupting our children's education? Blindly taking an ax to our budget is not a solution, it's a problem.

With that, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 699, a balanced bill to replace the sequester with spending cuts and revenues.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Starting Friday, careless and devastating across-the-board spending cuts will hit America's economy and stifle our recovery. But the only thing my colleagues on the other side of the aisle can say is: It's about time.

Do we need to address our Nation's deficit? Absolutely. But cutting 750,000 American jobs, food safety inspections, and health care benefits for our 9/11 first responders isn't the right way to do it. The U.S. can't lead the world in medical research if we aren't funding the National Institutes of Health. We can't protect ourselves from cybersecurity threats if the very people who work on this issue are laid off. And we can't expect our children to compete in tomorrow's global economy if we deny them access to critical programs like Head Start today.

It doesn't have to be this way. Democrats and President Obama have a solution. Our plan will put an end to the slash-and-burn cuts and replace it with reductions to our deficit through the closure of tax loopholes and an end to wasteful spending.

So, Mr. Speaker, there's a way out. There's another path forward that will ensure we protect investments in our Nation's future.

I will ask that tomorrow the Speaker ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 699, a balanced plan to reduce our deficit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, such a request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

□ 1630

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1