

who run Washington to work with us to cut spending in a responsible way.

Republicans keep fighting for smarter spending cuts and, most of all, for an economy in which young people are afforded the opportunities they deserve.

#### SEQUESTRATION CUTS ARE TAKING EFFECT

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it's now March 5, and sequestration cuts are starting to take effect. Instead of working together to find a compromise that would avoid these automatic spending cuts, House Republicans stood by and watched the March 1 deadline come and go.

Now, \$85 billion in deep, indiscriminate cuts that will eliminate 31,000 Michigan jobs are upon us. These cuts will harm Michigan families and slash programs that my constituents rely on every day. And many of the most dire consequences of the sequester won't be felt immediately. The truth is, due to Republican inaction, the wheels are now in motion, and we are on a course that has real negative impacts on millions of Americans.

Congress should be working to find a bipartisan solution to avoid these indiscriminate cuts. Democrats put forth a plan to stop the sequester. I know, I cosponsored it. House Republicans would not even let it come to the floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, we need to work on an approach that will fix sequestration while reducing the deficit responsibly. I stand ready to act. So do my Democratic colleagues. Let's get to work.

□ 1220

#### CHEN GUANGCHENG

(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, today, Capitol Hill is hosting a great Chinese defender of human rights, blind lawyer Chen Guangcheng. A few moments ago, I had the honor of again meeting with Chen as he continues to advocate for the freedom of the Chinese people. His amazing story of escape from house arrest is a great encouragement for all in China suffering under political persecution. The authorities could not silence him as he sought justice for victims of forced abortions and environmental abuse.

The story of China's rise is not about the success of an autocratic government. It is instead the story of a people whose ingenuity and vigor have finally been unleashed after decades of repression. China has developed not because of smart planning, but because the people have used a relatively small amount of economic freedom to transform their nation. Given more freedom,

I believe there's no limit to how China will grow and how her people will impact the world. We must support Chen and other human rights defenders as they seek justice for their people.

#### GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, as a resident of Louisiana, the sportsman's paradise, I'm a strong supporter of the Second Amendment. However, I do not subscribe to the belief that Congress has no role in responding to the gun violence epidemic plaguing communities like New Orleans, Chicago, and Detroit.

According to the FBI, 1,464 people were killed by a firearm in New Orleans between 2008 and 2011. That's 1,464 families who will never see their loved ones again. We can't afford to do nothing. We can no longer be the do-nothing Congress. We have a moral obligation to reduce the broad epidemic of gun violence in this country.

So I urge my colleagues in Congress to join with me in standing with the victims and families of gun violence to approve legislation that invests in our mental health system, institute more rigorous background checks, and place a ban on assault rifles and high-capacity magazines. Even incremental progress means fewer heart-broken families. I don't want to see another child fall victim to our selfish efforts to preserve what obviously needs to change. I would remind my colleagues that the life we save may be our own.

#### SPENDING PROBLEM IN THIS COUNTRY

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, in January, the President asked hardworking taxpayers to contribute 2 percent more of their hard-earned paychecks to the Federal Government in the form of a payroll tax increase. They had to cut their household budgets by 2 percent. The President's sequester that went into effect last Friday called for a less-than-2-percent decrease in government spending, but the President now thinks that 2 percent is too much to cut from each Federal dollar. We all know the President's sequester is probably not the right way to control spending because it cuts programs across the board without any prioritization. But we all know this country has a spending problem, and we need to get it under control.

I can't help but think if the American people had to just cut 2 percent from their budgets, why can't the Federal Government? If hardworking taxpayers had to figure out how to manage with 2 percent less, can't the Federal Government figure out how to

spend two less pennies out of every Federal dollar?

#### SEQUESTRATION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, because the Congress refuses to compromise, across-the-board spending cuts known as the sequester—and uncertainty around the Federal economy and the budget—are casting a cloud over our entire economy. In New Hampshire, we are already seeing the impacts of these cuts.

Right now, there's a Federal prison in Berlin, New Hampshire, with over 100 open jobs, but funding fights in Washington are preventing Granite Staters from filling them.

There's a Salem company, Micro-Precision Technologies, that wants to hire more workers; but sequestration is creating uncertainty and standing in the way.

There are technicians in New Hampshire's National Guard who want to do their jobs, but deep cuts to defense means they're facing the possibility of furloughs.

These are all examples of businesses that will have to delay hiring and people who will lose their jobs simply because Democrats and Republicans will not compromise. This is not what responsible governing looks like. We owe it to New Hampshire families to work across the aisle, responsibly reduce the deficit, and stop these mindless cuts.

#### CRYING WOLF

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Republicans cry that the President and Democrats are crying wolf about sequester cuts and furloughs. But, the wolf is already biting. In my hand is a furlough notice from the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. In D.C., the U.S. Attorney still handles major local crimes for this big city as well as some of the most important Federal matters, including terrorism suspects.

The U.S. Attorney's notice says there will be up to 14 days—that's 2 weeks—of furlough days for Assistant U.S. Attorneys and other personnel. On furlough days, the notice says, Assistant U.S. Attorneys and other staff are not permitted to even come to the office to volunteer.

Mr. Speaker, the problem with making sequester a budget rather than a prod, as intended, is not the 2 percent sequester cut. It's the compression upfront in a short period of time. The American people who depend on U.S. Attorneys deserve better than a deliberate and avoidable public safety furlough.

## SEQUESTRATION WILL KILL JOBS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I enthusiastically rise to support JOHN CONYERS' H.R. 900, of which I'm an original cosponsor, which is a thoughtful response to legislation that was really hostage-taking, and that is the passage of sequestration almost 2 years ago. Everyone knows it was the need for the debt ceiling to be raised that generated it. But I'm not about excuses. H.R. 900 simply eliminates the sequester provision in the Budget Reconciliation Act. It is thoughtful and allows us to proceed.

However, we will not be able to pass it because our friends on the other side of the aisle are celebrating about the \$85 billion in cuts across the board, hurting seniors, children, and families. And then they want to acknowledge this is the President's fault. Well, the President is willing to not look at poll numbers to be able to fight, to support, and enhance revenues and spending cuts. Thank you, Mr. President, for leading.

For those who say nothing has happened, it's because it has not happened yet, but I will tell you the continuation of sequester is going to hurt the American people and kill jobs. The continuing resolution that devastates those nondiscretionary projects of Head Start and education will also hurt the American people. Let's pass H.R. 900 and begin a process that the American people can buy into and a budget that is fair, with taxes and spending cuts that work on behalf of the American people.

## SEQUESTRATION IS WRONG

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

Mr. GARCIA. Let me begin by saying that the district I have the honor to represent in south Florida is made up of middle class families in neighborhoods like Kendall, Westchester, and the Florida Keys. The families who live in this region don't care about ideological debates of the left or right. They simply know the difference between right and wrong. And, ladies and gentlemen, the sequestration is wrong.

The Keys Reporter reported that over 600 civilian workers at Key West Naval Base will be furloughed. This will hurt small businesses and families. Reports also say funding for work-study programs at schools like Miami Dade College, Florida International University, and Florida Keys Community College will be cut. The Miami Herald reported that air traffic control workers at Opa Locka Airport will be furloughed as of the beginning of April.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to put their differences aside and get to work. I urge the Speaker to bring up

H.R. 699, a balanced bill to replace the sequester with spending cuts and revenues.

□ 1230

## MARY LOU STOTT'S 80TH BIRTHDAY, VISIT TO U.S. CAPITOL

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to rise today to recognize a very special guest from Hawaii who is here visiting us in Washington this week.

One of my constituents, Tracey Stott Kelly, contacted me recently to set up a United States Capitol tour for her mother's 80th birthday. This wasn't like most other requests that we receive. Her mother Mary Lou's birthday wish was to visit the Capitol to see the work of her great-great-grandfather, who was an assistant to Constantino Brumidi. Mr. Brumidi was best known for the murals he painted in the Capitol over a 25-year period, including "The Apotheosis of Washington," the "Frieze of American History," and the walls of the Brumidi Corridors.

So this Friday, Mary Lou and her 'ohana will receive a very unique tour with Dr. Barbara Wolanin, the curator for the Architect of the Capitol, to highlight the beautiful paintings by Brumidi and to bring Mary Lou closer to her very talented great-great-grandfather.

Happy 80th birthday, Mary Lou. And thank you to Dr. Wolanin for helping to make this very special day a reality.

## SEQUESTER

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, the bill before us is a joke. It is only a few sentences, and all it does is ask the President to include in his budget a simple equation that divides the projected deficit by the number of taxpayers. It doesn't take a bill to do this; it just takes a calculator.

If the House Republican Conference wants us to do a math problem for the American people, I can save everyone some time and money. \$845 billion, which is the estimated deficit projected by the CBO, divided by 158 million, which is the number of taxpayers, equals \$5,300. Done.

Can't they do this arithmetic problem on their own? Why are we wasting taxpayers' money to operate this institution as we speak when we can solve this very simple math problem by just doing it. This is all an exercise in political theater.

I shouldn't have to come to the floor to do this. Any of my Republican friends could have called me, and I would have gladly walked them through that simple equation.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents in California's 41st District face an unemployment rate of 11 percent—higher than the national average. They need leadership from Congress to help them find jobs, not gimmicks disguised as legislation.

Our Founders didn't envision Congress assigning math homework. This is not elementary school. If my friends on the other side of the aisle want to talk about numbers, I would be happy to.

Zero, Mr. Speaker: that's the number of jobs this bill creates. Zero: the number or jobs bills the House Republican leadership has brought to the floor in the last 2 months. 750,000: the number of potential job losses if the Republicans refuse to stop the sequester.

## APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913 and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China:

Mr. WALZ, Minnesota.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

## REQUIREMENT IN BUDGET SUBMISSION WITH RESPECT TO THE COST PER TAXPAYER OF THE DEFICIT

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 668) to amend section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, to require that annual budget submissions of the President to Congress provide an estimate of the cost per taxpayer of the deficit, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 668

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. REQUIREMENT IN BUDGET SUBMISSION WITH RESPECT TO THE COST PER TAXPAYER OF THE DEFICIT.

Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) redesignating paragraph (37) (relating to the list of outdated or duplicative plans and reports) as paragraph (39); and

(2) by adding at the end the following: