

gas taxes' buying power is about 40 percent below that in 1993.

If those taxes had been adjusted to keep pace with the consumer price index, for example, the tax on gasoline, which is currently 18.4 cents per gallon, would be about 30 cents per gallon, and the tax on diesel fuel, currently 24.4 cents per gallon, would be about 40 cents per gallon.

Other factors, such as increases in fuel efficiency, have reduced demand for fuel, causing the fund's overall revenues to fall.

Rather than proposing a bill that guarantees a long-term funding mechanism, such as an increased gas tax, the House brought to the floor legislation to fund highway projects for 8 months with a series of accounting gimmicks and one-time fund transfers.

The highway bill passed in the last Congress only authorized funding for two years. For two years we have known that this problem was coming, yet the House Ways & Means Committee has not had a single hearing on transportation finance.

We need to act to invest in our nation's transportation system, but under this bill we are simply dodging a problem. A real solution will require the political courage and leadership that we have failed to demonstrate here in the House, today.

HONORING JOSEPH "BUDDY" GIGLIOTTI, RECIPIENT OF AGC NYS

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joseph "Buddy" Gigliotti as a recipient of the Associated General Contractors New York State S.I.R. Award.

The S.I.R. Award is AGC of America's highest honor and it recognizes those who exemplify the AGC motto of Skill, Integrity, and Responsibility. In receiving the S.I.R. Award, Mr. Gigliotti joins the ranks of the true greats of AGC NYS and the construction industry in New York—including, most recently, Jeff Zogg; Marty Galasso, Sr.; and Richard Forrestel.

Mr. Gigliotti is a past President of the AGC NYS Chapter, and has become one of the industry's most respected leaders. We are well aware of the significant contributions he has made to the construction industry in New York State.

A lifelong resident of Utica, New York, Mr. Gigliotti joined Allied Chemicals in 1975 as the New York Area manager. After its merger with Barrett Industries, he served as Barrett's Marketing Manager. In his role, Mr. Gigliotti provided strategic consulting and sales strategy development, eventually helping Barrett become a national leader in transportation infrastructure construction. In 1990, Mr. Gigliotti left Barrett and continues to provide strategic consulting to companies under his firm, JGK Associates. He currently works for Lancaster Development, playing a key role in its marketing efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly congratulate Mr. Joseph "Buddy" Gigliotti on this special occasion.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,603,731,782,433.70. We've added \$6,976,854,733,520.62 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE POMPEO

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 380, 382, 383, 384, 386, 387, and 401 I was unavoidably absent.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 418 I mistakenly voted "no" when my intention was to vote "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for two rollcall votes on Wednesday, July 16, 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner: rollcall vote No. 415—Fleming of Louisiana Amendment No. 1—"no," and rollcall vote No. 416—Gosar of Arizona Amendment—"no."

HONORING THE HEROIC SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER PERRY RENN

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it is with a burdened heart I rise today to honor the life of a truly outstanding public servant, Officer Perry Renn. For more than three decades

Officer Renn served his country and the City of Indianapolis with courage and integrity. Tragically, Officer Renn was killed in the line of duty on July 5, 2014.

Officer Perry Renn protected the citizens of Indianapolis for 21 years as a member of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. A career police officer, Renn made the conscious decision every day to place himself in harm's way to make Indianapolis a safer and more prosperous city. It was in this pursuit that he ultimately gave his life. On the night of his passing, Officer Renn was responding to a call of shots being fired in a residential neighborhood.

Day after day, Officer Renn displayed the compassion and integrity of a true public servant. After graduating from East High School in Phoenix, AZ, he began a 10 year enlistment in the United States Army's 82nd Airborne Division. During this time, Renn served his country as a paratrooper and jumpmaster. He served two tours in Korea and also helped to restore constitutional government to the island nation of Grenada during the 1983 liberation of the country, Operation Urgent Fury.

Yet another example of Officer Renn's heroism was shown in 2003 when he received the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department's Medal of Bravery for preventing an armed man from taking his own life. Every single day, Officer Renn displayed his admirable character and passion for helping others.

Few men and women are brave enough to answer the call of duty like Officer Renn. When he pinned on his badge the evening of July 5, no one could have dreamed that he would give his life so selflessly protecting the city he called home. As a former Deputy Mayor of Indianapolis and a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I am forever grateful to Officer Renn and to police forces all across the nation who work tirelessly to protect and serve their fellow Americans.

Officer Renn is a hero. His lifetime of service to the United States of America and the City of Indianapolis will never be forgotten. My condolences and well wishes go out to his wife, Lynn, and Officer Renn's entire family during this difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with them.

HOUSE'S FAILURE TO CONSIDER HR 5051: THE PROTECT WOMEN'S HEALTH FROM CORPORATE INTERFERENCE ACT (NOT MY BOSS' BUSINESS ACT)

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, if anyone had told me that at the beginning of my career that I would fight 40 years for the right for contraception, I would never have believed it. We thought *Griswold v. Connecticut* had settled this, but no. It's been a constant war to control women, which is exactly what this is about.

Now, this audacious Supreme Court, which never fails to surprise, decided that bosses can tell you what kind of healthcare you can have and whether or not you can practice contraception. More specifically, the 5 men on this court decided whether women can have equal access to contraception.

And let's not forget, for male employees of these firms, their wives and daughters who are on their healthcare coverage will also be discriminated against and treated differently.

The stupidity of this Supreme Court decision is that it completely overlooks the fact that 58 percent of the women who get prescription oral contraceptives do it not just for birth control, but for another medical reason, such as endometriosis, ovarian cysts, or Polycystic Ovary Syndrome. Even those women will be out of luck, which means they don't have the same rights as all those men who buy Viagra. That's still covered.

The most dangerous thing that has happened here is that this court has set a precedent for the nearly 48 cases currently working their way through the courts filed by for-profit companies about contraception coverage. Those 48 cases now have this decision as legal precedent.

It is not beyond the realm of possibility that the idea of blood transfusions, vaccinations, and treatment for HIV/AIDS would no longer be covered. With this court, we are pedaling backward to the 19th century but I've got news for the five men on the court behind this decision: the women of America don't want to go! And this bill helps ensure that we don't.

H.R. 5051, The Protect Women's Health from Corporate Interference Act—also called the "Not My Boss's Business Act"—would ensure that an employer that provides a group health plan for its employees does not deny coverage of a specific health care item or service to its employees or covered dependents of employees where that coverage is mandated by Federal law.

The bill specifically states the Religious Freedom Restoration Act does not excuse or relieve this duty, and allows for the existing exemption for houses of worship and accommodation for religious non-profit organizations that do not wish to provide coverage of contraceptives.

The women of this country don't want a court or anyone else to determine that they are second-class citizens, and this bill would put an end to that. And what we need is a vote. We're all here today to call on Speaker BOEHNER to bring this to the floor. Wouldn't that be something?

Mr. Speaker, the House has been given two opportunities to defeat the previous question: once on Tuesday, and another today. Both times, we offered an amendment to the rule that would have given Members an opportunity to consider reversing the damage done by the recent Hobby Lobby Supreme Court decision. Both times, the House has rejected this measure.

No employer should have the right to limit the health choices of its employees—male or female. It is pure discrimination, when 99 percent of women in this country have used some form of birth control during their lifetime—but now have to literally go to unreasonable measures to simply secure the fundamental health care they need.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on July 15, 2014, I was unavoidably detained from votes due to a

conflict. Had I been present on the House floor I would have voted as follows: "no" on rollcall No. 408, H. Res. 669, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5021, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014.

I would have voted as follows on amendments to H.R. 5016, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2015: "aye" on rollcall No. 409, the Jackson Lee Amendment; "no" on rollcall No. 410, the Roskam Amendment; "aye" on rollcall No. 411, the Moore Amendment; and "aye" on rollcall No. 412, the Waters Amendment.

RECOGNIZING MS. DOROTHY
PARKS FOR HER 50 YEARS OF
DEDICATED AND FAITHFUL
SERVICE

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dorothy Parks. I had the honor and privilege of working with Ms. Parks in Plattsburgh, NY for more than 30 years. She works hard every day, diligently and happily performing the tasks she is assigned.

This month will mark her 50th year at the firm where we both worked, she having started there on July 13, 1964. During her five decades at the firm, Ms. Parks earned the respect of all who came to trust and depend on her, including myself. She has guided many new staff and young lawyers, teaching us the ropes, if you will, with a smile and a gentle hand.

While working for the firm, Ms. Parks raised four children and now has six loving grandchildren for whom she is a dedicated grandparent.

Ms. Parks' employer, Stafford, Piller, Murnane, Kelleher and Trombley, will be recognizing her successful 50 year career later this month with a celebratory luncheon.

H.R. 5016, "FINANCIAL SERVICES
AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 5016, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act.

The bill cut too deeply into many important services—including an insane \$340 million cut to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). No business cripples its account receivables department and neither should we. The Congressional Budget Office has found that cutting the IRS's ability to enforce tax law ultimately costs more in lost revenue than the money saved in the initial cut. This is simply bad policy that does not save the government money.

I was pleased to see the rejection of an amendment offered by Representative FLEMING, which would have rolled back the Administration's guidance to banks seeking to provide services to state-legal marijuana busi-

nesses, and the adoption of an amendment offered by Representative HECK, which will increase access to these services. These were two strong votes to stop forcing state-legal marijuana businesses to operate only in cash, a situation that is unsafe and invites illegal activity. This was a victory for commonsense reform.

This was a rare bright spot, however, in otherwise reckless legislation that slows the enactment of effective financial regulations, reduces our ability to collect much-needed revenue and meddles in the affairs of the D.C. government. It was for these reasons that I opposed this legislation and was disappointed to see it pass.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "PRO-
TECTING EMPLOYEES AND RE-
TIREEES IN MUNICIPAL BANK-
RUPTCIES ACT OF 2014"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, when a municipality files for bankruptcy, its employees and retirees who have devoted their lives to public service—such as police officers, firefighters, sanitation workers and office personnel—risk having their hard-earned wages, pensions and health benefits cut or even eliminated.

This is why I am introducing the "Protecting Employees and Retirees in Municipal Bankruptcies Act of 2014." This legislation strengthens protections for employees and retirees under chapter 9 municipality bankruptcy cases by: (1) clarifying the criteria that a municipality must meet before it can obtain chapter 9 bankruptcy relief; (2) ensuring that the interests of employees and retirees are represented in the chapter 9 case; and (3) imposing heightened standards that a municipality must meet before it may modify any collective bargaining agreement or retiree benefit.

While many municipalities often work to limit the impact of budget cuts on their employees and retirees, as was recently demonstrated in the chapter 9 plan of adjustment recently approved by Detroit's public employees and retirees, other municipalities could try to use current bankruptcy law to set aside collective bargaining agreements and retiree protections.

My legislation addresses this risk by requiring the municipality to engage in meaningful good faith negotiations with their employees and retirees before the municipality can apply for chapter 9 bankruptcy relief. This measure would also expedite the appellate review process of whether a municipality has complied with this and other requirements. And, the bill ensures employees and retirees have a say in any plan that would modify their benefits.

SECTION-BY-SECTION EXPLANATION

Sec. 1. Short Title. Section 1 of the bill sets forth the short title of the bill as the "Protecting Employees and Retirees in Municipal Bankruptcies Act of 2014."

Sec. 2. Determination of Municipality Eligibility To Be a Debtor Under Chapter 9 of Title II of the United States Code. A municipality can petition to be a debtor under chapter 9, a specialized form of bankruptcy relief, only if a bankruptcy court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the municipality satisfies certain criteria specified