

to give something towards reducing our debt and deficits. Starting in 2006, during the Bush Administration, I began advocating for a bipartisan commission—the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission—to identify budget reforms that could win the support of both Republicans and Democrats. The Simpson-Bowles Commission, appointed in 2010, was formed largely in response to efforts in the House and Senate to advance the SAFE Commission. The commission's co-chairs, former Senator Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles, ultimately produced a package of bipartisan reforms that was serious and effective.

Unfortunately, President Obama and congressional leadership have spent the last three years running away from the Simpson-Bowles recommendations. When my colleagues and I have brought legislation to the floor of the House based on these recommendations, the efforts have fallen short due to a lack of support from both Republican and Democrat leadership. I believe their misguided opposition represents a failure of leadership that they will come to regret in the years ahead, as our budget challenges grow more and more dire.

To date, we have instead been presented with tepid proposals that fail to meaningfully impact our debt, or proposals, like this budget, that embrace a vision for budget reform that stands little chance of passing and becoming law.

This year, President Obama has retreated from even modest budget reforms that he has proposed in the past, such as chained CPI. I believe history will not look kindly on his failure to lead efforts to bring both parties together around meaningful reforms to address this existential national threat. His failure to lead over the last five years is directly reflected in the budget that the House has passed today, which reflects a conservative blueprint for budget reform rather than reforms based on bipartisan consensus.

There's a certain irony that the budget approved today continues to draw from only one section of the Simpson-Bowles framework: making our federal workforce contribute more towards its retirement and taking steps towards ending the defined benefit retirement plan. Yet again, the Congress is targeting just one group of Americans for additional sacrifice—just as has been done for offsets in past budget agreements. This flies in the face of the Simpson-Bowles vision of shared sacrifice among all Americans in fixing our debt and deficit and, as I have said many times, is just wrong. To cite the Simpson-Bowles recommendations as an excuse to single out additional cuts to federal employees is disingenuous and inappropriate.

My colleagues often forget that while there are many federal employees in the capital region, it is worth noting that more than 85 percent of the workforce is outside of Washington. They also may not realize that more than 65 percent of all federal employees work in agencies that support our national defense capabilities as we continue to fight the War on Terror.

The first American killed in Afghanistan, Mike Spann, was a CIA agent and a constituent from my congressional district. CIA, FBI, DEA agents, and State Department employees are serving side-by-side with our military in the fight against the Taliban.

Federal employees include the Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents who are working to stop the flow of illegal immigrants and drugs across our borders.

They are the medical researchers at NIH working to develop cures for cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's and autism. They are the VA doctors and nurses treating veterans from World War II to the present day. They are the NASA astronauts and engineers working to support the International Space Station and build our nation's exploration program. These are just a few examples of the hardworking people that serve our country each day that this budget unfairly targets.

I am also concerned with a provision in the budget that would only replace one federal employee for every three vacancies. Do we really want to cut the number of FBI and Border Patrol agents and VA doctors by two-thirds? This proposal amounts to an indiscriminate sequestration of the federal workforce. While there may be some agencies where reductions are necessary, I do not support this indiscriminate approach of doing so. Taken together, these proposals on federal employees may very well undermine the federal workforce.

It is often said that budgets are about choices, and I fear that yet another year will go by where we fail to make the tough choices—yet tough choices that members from both parties can support—to make real progress in confronting our debt and deficit. Until the president and congressional leadership start to incorporate the Simpson-Bowles recommendations, or a bold plan like this that gets control of the debt and deficit, into their budgets, we will likely never address the structural reforms that must be made to responsibly get our nation's fiscal house in order. This should be done in a manner that involves shared sacrifice from all Americans, not just certain groups of Americans.

I am proud to have served on the House Appropriations Committee for most of my tenure in the Congress, where each year we produce appropriations bills that make tough choices, yet the bills often pass with bipartisan support. Over the last several years, the full Appropriations Committee has made more than \$100 billion in cuts to discretionary spending. The Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee, which I chair, has contributed more than \$12 billion towards those cuts. But we approached these cuts in a responsible manner and I am proud that we have often had bipartisan support for the bills we produce. It can be done, but it requires leadership.

Mr. Chair, this budget is constructive for advancing the debate about our nation's fiscal challenges, and my vote today reflects my support for the process. But until this Congress passes a budget based on the bipartisan reforms recommended by the Simpson-Bowles recommendations, it is unlikely we will ever make real progress towards reducing our debt and deficit in a substantial way. It's time for leadership—from the president and both Republicans and Democrats in Congress—to deal with this issue.

## A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF WIGGSY SIVERTSEN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to express our deepest gratitude and heartfelt congratulations to Wiggys Sivertsen on the occasion of her retirement from San Jose State University where she has been a Personal Counselor and Licensed Clinical Social Worker for forty five years.

Wiggys Sivertsen has given generously of her time and considerable talent to the students at San Jose State, supporting them in their personal struggles and helping them achieve their professional goals. The student evaluations on an online site speak volumes about this extraordinary woman. "Awesome teacher and subject! Best class I have ever taken in college." "Concerned/outgoing/extremely funny/sensitive. Busy woman that will make time for you." These are only two of many, many outstanding evaluations.

Wiggys Sivertsen earned a Bachelor's degree from San Jose State University and a Master's degree in Social Work from Tulane University. In the early 1980's, Wiggys, fearless and ahead of her time, cofounded Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC) to advocate for members of the LGBT community to address burgeoning discrimination against the LGBT community. She envisioned and designed BAYMEC to educate our communities and advocate for the rights of all.

Wiggys has spent thousands of hours lobbying elected officials for hate-crime legislation, marriage equality, and other LGBT rights. In addition to BAYMEC, she founded two other LGBT advocacy groups: Advocates for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Youth, a legal organization; and Open Mind Network, Inc, an organization which is an educational platform to inform organized groups of the legitimate rights of LGBT communities. She has also worked side-by-side with several community organizations and law enforcement to achieve these goals.

Wiggys's contributions to our country have been recognized by the Civil Liberties Union "Don Edwards Defender of Constitutional Liberty" Award, and the California State Special Recognition Award for Service to the Lesbian and Gay Community. She was also recognized by the San Jose Mercury News as one of "The Millennium 100, Pillars of Their Communities".

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in thanking Wiggys Sivertsen for her extraordinary career as an educator at San Jose State University, and for her unswerving commitment to social justice for all, particularly the civil rights of the LGBT community. Her contributions will live on as her lasting legacy, and we honor her for strengthening our community immeasurably and making our country a more just and equitable one.

## TRIBUTE TO TIMOTHY WHIPPLE

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2014*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Timothy Whipple of Iowa Economic Development Authority in Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Timothy in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Whipple for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Timothy on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

## COLUMBIA REGIONAL CENTER OF INNOVATION

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2014*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable economic partnership under way in the Pacific Northwest, where the Columbia River Gorge joins the states of Oregon and Washington. This initiative, the Columbia Gorge Regional Center of Innovation, is aimed at streamlining the region's education to prepare its students for the modern workforce, in turn, bringing economic growth and development to the region.

With economies originally based firmly in agriculture and natural resources, communities within the Columbia Gorge have become a center for a burgeoning technology sector, anchored by a Google data center in The Dalles, Oregon, and a Boeing subsidiary, Insitu, in Bingen, Washington. Quality of life, outdoor recreation, and natural beauty helped attract those employers.

While regional prosperity beckons, challenges remain. The cost of housing in the area makes it difficult for persons on low to moderate incomes to live where they work. There are significant infrastructure concerns, most notably two interstate bridges serving the central Columbia Gorge. And most importantly, the continued growth of the region's technology sector requires a skilled workforce. This is a special challenge in a region where 80,000 people are dispersed over a rural area

roughly the size of Massachusetts. Innovation, creativity and collaboration are essential to address these common challenges.

The Columbia Gorge Regional Center of Innovation is a cross-sector partnership that brings together private industry, economic development, a regional housing authority, workforce training, K-12 school districts, early childhood education, community colleges, the land-grant universities of Oregon and Washington, and other regional public and private universities to find solutions to these challenges. The result of this partnership is improved cooperation across the state line; innovative strategies to construct "attainable housing" for the region's workforce and tackle infrastructure concerns; and promoting job creation through improved access to industry-specific skills.

This dialogue will continue on Friday, April 18, when the first-ever Columbia Gorge Education and Industry Summit takes place on The Dalles Campus of Columbia Gorge Community College, and on May 16, 2014, when the first-ever Columbia Gorge Bi-State Legislative Summit will bring together state lawmakers from Salem and Olympia. The goal is to recognize the Columbia Gorge as a bi-state region with common concerns, which can best be resolved through improved cooperation across the state boundary in partnership with the federal government, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, and the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending local leaders of the bi-state Columbia Gorge for their innovation and courage in addressing the economic challenges that still confront their region. Their hard work deserves our recognition.

## WORKER'S MEMORIAL DAY RESOLUTION

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2014*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on April 28, millions of workers worldwide come together to recognize Worker's Memorial Day. Worker's Memorial Day commemorates those who have been injured or killed on the job. My own family experienced tough times when my Dad was permanently injured in a workplace fall when I was very young.

Over the past several decades in the United States we have made great progress in preventing injuries and deaths at the workplace. However, there is still work to be done as each year more than 5,000 Americans are killed due to workplace related injuries, and millions more experience occupational injuries and illnesses. Work related accidents are still too common in the United States. An average 16 Americans are killed each day due to workplace injuries. It is clear we must continue work towards ensuring that every workplace is a safe one.

While in the United States we have improved workplace safety in recent decades, the numbers across the globe are overwhelming. It is estimated that nearly 2 million workers die each year due to work related accidents or diseases worldwide. More people are killed due to workplace injury or disease than are killed in war.

As a member of Congress, I will continue to fight for workplace safety. I'm also committed to recognizing Worker's Memorial Day and the millions of workers across the world who have given their lives while on the job. That is why I'm proud to have co-introduced a resolution honoring Worker's Memorial Day with Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. We must continue to honor the millions of men and women who have given their lives for the continued progress of humankind. As long as I'm in office, I will continue to work towards strengthening the middle class and advocating for workplace safety.

## RECOGNIZING THE ALARMING MORTALITY RATE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN BREAST CANCER PATIENTS RESOLUTION

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2014*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, April has been designated Minority Health Awareness Month, and I want to shine a spotlight on a crucial minority women's healthcare issue—the alarming mortality rate of African-American women from breast cancer. In the last few months, both the New York Times and Los Angeles Times featured articles about the disparity in mortality rates between African-American and white women with breast cancer.

The New York Times wrote "After her doctor told her two months ago that she had breast cancer, Debrah Reid, a 58-year-old dance teacher, drove straight to a funeral home. She began planning a burial with the funeral director and his wife, even requesting a pink coffin. . . 'I was just going to sit down and die.'" That is heartbreaking.

Much progress has been made over the last two decades to increase awareness, screening, and treatment of breast cancer, but unfortunately this progress has not been made for all women. In the 1980s, the mortality rate for African-American and white women were nearly identical.

Today, shockingly, African-American women are 40 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than white women. Much of this difference results from a lack of screening, access to life-saving treatments, and quality of treatment.

Additionally, the higher difference in the death rate from breast cancer varies by region. In my city of Los Angeles, sadly, an African-American woman with breast cancer is 70 percent more likely to die than a white woman. This is not true in other cities, such as New York, where the disparity is nominal. Clearly, this demonstrates that public health improvements can be made to improve the survival rates for African-American women.

Therefore, I am introducing a resolution to highlight the high mortality rate for African-American women confronting breast cancer. My hope is that this resolution will bring awareness to this injustice to ensure that quality screening and treatment is available for all women, regardless of race. This is an issue of life and death and we must take every action available to ensure that every woman has access to the resources and treatment she needs to survive.