

officials who keep moving the goalpost and keep assuring us that everything is fine when in reality it keeps failing.

It is time we remove the rose-colored glasses and get to the facts.

WOMEN AND THE SHRIVER REPORT

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

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, one of the most common stories I hear from my constituents is the struggle to survive from paycheck to paycheck and to support their families.

Maria Shriver's new report detailing the economic challenges for women in America is in the news this week, and its findings are shocking.

We face the alarming reality that one in three women either live in poverty or are right on the brink. Two-thirds of the primary or co-breadwinners in American families are women, yet women earn just 77 cents for every dollar earned by men performing the same jobs.

Ensuring that men and women receive equal pay for equal work isn't just a matter of fairness; it is a matter of economic necessity. Especially in these tough economic times, smaller paychecks and lack of paid family leave for women make it harder for mothers to support their families, purchase health care, send their kids to college, and save for retirement.

Congress must take the next step and institute new policies that support women and their families.

As a Nation, we can and must do better.

POLARIS PROJECT, CINDY MCCAIN, AND CLEAR CHANNEL—SUPER TEAM TO FIGHT TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, modern day slavery of children will not end without public awareness.

So in conjunction with the Polaris Project and Cindy McCain, Clear Channel is donating billboard space around Phoenix to inform the people of Arizona about the despicable crime of human trafficking.

Human trafficking increases around major sporting events such as the Super Bowl. New Jersey is getting ready for this year's Super Bowl by doing all they can to fight human trafficking. Arizona is working to bring awareness a year before their Super Bowl.

Human sex slavery happens right here in America. Until we acknowledge the fact that young girls are being sold on the streets, this despicable crime will continue.

I commend Clear Channel and activists and organizations, like Cindy

McCain and the Polaris Project, in their fight against human trafficking.

We need to rescue the victims and put the slave traders and their cohorts in crime, the child abusing consumers, behind bars.

And that's just the way it is.

PREVENTING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IN IRAN

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, the recent developments in our diplomatic efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons have been among the most promising in history.

In the interim, Iran has agreed to stop enriching uranium above the necessary level for energy production, dilute its existing stockpile, and allow unprecedented access to its nuclear facilities.

During the next 6 months, the administration and the international community will continue working toward a more comprehensive, verifiable agreement that enforces prevention and advances peace in the region. Already there are devastating consequences for Iran if it does not comply with the agreement.

The progress achieved thus far demonstrates that diplomacy is working. Congressional action now could jeopardize that progress, undermine the diplomatic process, and weaken our Nation's position in future negotiations.

As an American first, but also as a Jewish American, I strongly support Israel's security and our Nation's commitment to preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

I also fully support advancing peace and stability in the Middle East through diplomacy whenever possible.

Madam Speaker, we are in the midst of a historic opportunity to prevent nuclear proliferation in Iran, but it is fragile. Congressional interference at such a sensitive time is a high-risk, no-reward proposition.

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WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN?

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

Mr. MESSER. Madam Speaker, next week, our Nation will mark 41 years since the Supreme Court legalized abortion with the *ROE v. WADE* decision. During that time, more than 50 million children have been denied their God-given right to life.

Think about that.

How different might our world have been had those children been born? One might have cured cancer or have been the teacher for your son or daughter. We will never know, but we do know they all matter. They all matter to their Creator. They all would have mattered to their friends and families.

As a Nation, we must recommit ourselves to defending the God-given right to life so we are not still wondering what might have been 40 years from now.

EUGENE'S UNEMPLOYMENT STORY

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, as we debate how to extend unemployment benefits—and I certainly hope we will have that debate—we must remember what this vital lifeline means to real people.

Just recently, I held a roundtable discussion with local San Diegans in my district who are struggling to find work. In listening to their stories, I was struck by what a difference these essential benefits make.

Eugene, for example, was employed in the health care industry until June of 2012. When his lifeline was cut off shortly after Christmas, Eugene noted how “confidence falls, financial pressures mount, anxiety increases, and we begin to take desperate measures just to survive.” He added that these Federal extensions do make a difference, particularly in the case of having stable housing.

It is unfair to let this happen. After all, these benefits were earned by people who have worked and paid into the system. They should be able to put their full energies into getting a job; but if you can't afford housing, if you can't afford transportation to work, then that is nearly impossible to do. We should do the right thing for Eugene and for over 1 million fellow Americans by extending this lifeline now.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BISON NATION

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

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, North Dakota is known for having the strongest economy and the lowest unemployment rate in the Nation. We are also known as the home of North Dakota State University, or “Bison Nation” as we like to call it.

While millions of football fans spent the first weekend of the new year probably hoping for global warming and while contemplating what a “polar vortex” is, hearty Bison football fans watched and cheered as their beloved Thundering Herd earned a third consecutive Division I Football National Championship by handily defeating Towson 35-7, capping a perfect 15 and 0 win last season with an explanation mark. The route to three FCS championships includes a record-setting 24 consecutive victories and a 3-year win-loss record of 43 and 2.

Yes, my little State in the middle of the North American continent produces food for a hungry world, energy

for a growing economy, technology and industrial products, and enough economic opportunity that every NDSU graduate could not possibly take advantage of. But, today, Madam Speaker, I salute the best FCS football program in the United States with a hearty congratulations and a Go Bison.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, as we continue on our economic recovery and debate about raising the minimum wage for hardworking Americans, I want to talk today about raising the standard of living for women in America.

According to the latest BLS report, the monthly job gains were filled entirely by women in our country. This may seem like great news, but please understand that women's recent gains have been concentrated in low-wage sectors, like retail or hospitality. Women still tend to be driven away from the manufacturing sector, which, on average, pays 17 percent higher than non-manufacturing jobs. As a result, the pay gap between women and men in our country continues to be an issue.

Before Republicans deny an extension of unemployment benefits to job-seeking women everywhere, we need to take a multi-faceted, bipartisan approach to solving the pay and job discrepancies. That includes increasing access to STEM education for women and getting them more interested in these manufacturing careers. We have a manufacturing gap in this country that needs to be filled, and women can help do it.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI'S DONNA SHALALA

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donna Shalala, the former Secretary of Health and Human Services and the president of my alma mater, the University of Miami.

President Shalala is the recipient of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Sand in My Shoes Award, which is given to community leaders who have shown through their exceptional contributions that south Florida really is the best place in which to live and work. Under Donna's leadership, the University of Miami has grown in quality and prominence and is ranked not only as the best university in Florida, but is consistently in the top 50 nationwide; and its undergraduate, sports, law, and medical programs are recognized as some of the best in the country.

President Shalala's achievements at the "U" have strengthened and ad-

vanced our unique, diverse, and remarkable community. Donna Shalala is a true champion of south Florida.

Congrats, Donna, and Go Canes.

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. MICHAEL S. GREEN

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

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with pride and pleasure to congratulate Dr. Michael S. Green, professor of history at the College of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas, on his recent selection as the recipient of the American Historical Association's 2013 Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Award.

The AHA, which is the leading professional organization in the country dedicated to the study and testing of history, awards this prize only once a year to recognize outstanding teaching and advocacy for history. This is the first time ever that this prestigious award has gone to a community college professor. Dr. Green's vitae is too extensive and impressive to be described in 1 minute, so I will include additional information in my extended remarks for the RECORD.

Meantime, let me just say that I can imagine no one more deserving of this award. I commend Dr. Green for this distinction, and I am proud to have him as a friend, a colleague, and a constituent in District One.

CONGRESS MUST EXTEND EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of H.R. 3824, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act.

It is unencumbered; it is unconditional; and we could put that on the floor today to extend unemployment benefits for all of those Americans—1.3 million of them—who lost their unemployment benefits as of December 28. In the couple of weeks since then, another 218,700 Americans have also lost their unemployment benefits. We are talking about a modest benefit here, Madam Speaker, \$313 a week, on average, to pay for food, housing and gas to look for a job.

Over the holidays, I spent some time with unemployed workers at our local electrical union; and every time a job appears, 200 workers show up to try to get that job. These people are hard-working, and they have earned the benefit.

It is time to put H.R. 3824 on the floor today. Americans must be saying, Come on, Congress, get your act together, and pass an extended unemployment bill.

FLEET AND CLIMATE

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, improving the fuel efficiency of our cars and trucks is one of the most important things that we can do to fight climate change.

Thanks to an executive order signed by President Obama, the Federal vehicle fleet is becoming more efficient. By 2020, it will reduce petroleum use by 30 percent, saving money and cleaning the air.

But the United States Postal Service, which owns and operates the world's largest civilian fleet, is exempt from this critical effort; and it is headed in the wrong direction on fossil fuel consumption as 141,000 of their vehicles, nearly three-quarters of their delivery fleet, are aging Grumman LLVs, the old mail truck that we see in our neighborhoods every day. Most get less than 10 miles to the gallon, and they are reaching the end of their operational life span. To save money and cut emissions, the postal service desperately needs a modern, efficient fleet.

That is why I am introducing the FLEET Act, the Federal Leadership in Energy Efficient Transportation, in order to close the fuel efficiency gap between the postal service and other modern, fuel-efficient fleets. A quarter of our Nation's greenhouse gas emissions are emitted from the transportation sector. It is time to take our worst fleet and make it into our best fleet.

BIOFUELS SHOULD BE A NATIONAL PRIORITY

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the Environmental Protection Agency's recent proposal to lower the number of biofuels in our gasoline. Every year, the EPA is required to provide guidelines to oil refineries on the number of biofuels to blend into the fuel we pump into our vehicles. While the EPA has the authority to reduce the number of biofuels, it never has before.

Lowering the number of biofuels simply defies common sense. This isn't just a proposal that will hurt Illinois' rural farmers or our communities in the rural areas, but the economy at large in my home State. It also builds a brick wall in the middle of our Nation's path toward energy independence. It threatens to drive up prices at the gasoline pump, and it risks jobs in an industry that really offers real promise.

The administration's proposal doesn't even maintain the status quo—it moves us backward—and I see that as unacceptable. I am proud to lead a