

any agency at the United Nations that admits a nonexistent Palestinian state.

In October 2011, UNESCO chose to welcome Palestine to its membership. It did so, knowing full well that this would trigger U.S. laws that prohibit us from funding any entity at the U.N. that grants membership to the PLO or any other organization that doesn't meet the internationally recognized attributes of statehood.

We must not grant a waiver to UNESCO nor approve any backdoor congressional attempt to provide U.S. funding to UNESCO until it reverses its decision regarding the Palestinian Authority.

We are in an economic tailspin, Mr. Speaker. So why waste \$250 million in U.S. taxpayer money by giving it—wasting it—to UNESCO? It is madness.

ACA SUCCESS STORY

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of over a million Americans who saw their unemployment benefits disappear on December 28. With our economy still struggling and unemployment remaining unacceptably high, now is not the time to take more money out of the pockets of those who are struggling to simply get by.

This week, Republicans would rather continue debating the Affordable Care Act instead of working to get our economy back on track by helping to raise the standard of living for the poorest Americans and provide assistance to the unemployed.

Democrats in the House and the Senate are working to offer solutions here in Washington and back in our districts. In the district I represent, I am helping constituents find jobs by hosting a job fair on January 24. The constituents I serve will have the opportunity to apply for jobs on site, network with employers, and attend professional development workshops.

Mr. Speaker, we need to address the job crisis in America, and Republicans need to get back to the business of fixing our economy.

OBAMACARE PROBLEMS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, just last week I received the following letter from a constituent:

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN FOXX: On December 10, I applied for a Silver level plan and received confirmation the same day that my application was completed. Since then, I've waited for my invoice so I could pay for the insurance. I called on December 23 and waited close to 5 hours on the phone for the next available rep, only to be put on hold for another one and a half hours and finally be told that they had no idea when my invoice would be sent out. As of January 2, 2013, I have not been billed for my new insurance. I have six prescriptions that need to be filled

at the end of the month. When will the program be fixed and operational?

Mr. Speaker, it is a good question and the American people deserve an answer.

UNEMPLOYMENT EXTENSION COMPENSATION

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, it has been 11 days now since 1.3 million Americans have been cut off from their unemployment benefits, an important safety net, and this House has yet to address this crisis. Instead of offering a solution to extend emergency unemployment benefits, House Republicans keep moving the goal posts and changing their position.

What on Earth are we waiting for? Every week that goes by, more and more Rhode Islanders lose their emergency unemployment benefits. The longer we wait to fix this problem, the more serious it becomes for the long-term unemployed.

Fifty years ago today, President Johnson announced his war on poverty. To commemorate that anniversary, this Congress is willing to write off and forget about 1.3 million Americans who are struggling to find work.

What kind of public servants have we become when we take away the last safety net for struggling families 3 days before Christmas? This is shameful.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to bring a bill to the floor to extend emergency unemployment benefits; 1.3 million Americans can't wait another day, another week, or another month for this Congress to act. Let's do the right thing and end this nightmare for those we serve.

HOUSE-PASSED PRO-GROWTH JOBS BILLS

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, a new year brings new perspective and, for many, a fresh start. Many of my hard-working constituents hope this year will bring a healthy economy with increased opportunities.

My House colleagues and I didn't need a new year to make this our goal. Last year, we passed dozens of bills, making job creation and expanding opportunity our central focus. This included bills to make energy more affordable, to repeal ObamaCare and to expand education for students and job-seekers. If the Senate would only act on these measures, we could offer more opportunities for our constituents today: bills like the Energy Consumers Relief Act, halting major new regulations that increase prices and hurt the economy; the Northern Route Approval Act, to finally approve the Keystone pipeline and immediately create thou-

sands of good-paying jobs; or the SKILLS Act, to eliminate and streamline dozens of overlapping Federal programs and to help connect job-seekers with the skills they need.

I look forward, Mr. Speaker, to continued work with my colleagues, supporting additional measures to strengthen our economy, to provide more opportunity for all, and to put Americans back to work.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker and House Republicans, happy new year. You look great, but we have failed to address the issues of the people who are unemployed. I call upon all of us today to remember that many people, as we sit here, are facing fiscal devastation.

The social safety net is used to purchase very basic necessities, such as food and rent; and many Americans are treading now, just staying above the water. There were 1.3 million Americans who were without unemployment insurance as of December 28. In another few weeks, 1.9 million more will join them, and 174,000 of them are from Texas.

I know that we have not really thought about this seriously. I know that so much time was spent in attempting to overturn the Affordable Care Act that we forgot that there are people we have failed to provide jobs for who are now unemployed and whom we cannot forget.

This is not just their problem. This is our problem. Please join me in making sure that we restore their safety net.

THE QUALIFIED MORTGAGE RULE

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I stand regarding the qualified mortgage rule that will go into effect this Friday. This rule is going to have a devastating effect on the housing industry.

Once again, the long hand of the Federal Government goes out to dictate policy to the financial industry on whom they should make loans to. Once again, we face another crisis in the housing industry. The Federal Government, frankly, was one of the major culprits in the housing demise that we have just gone through, making easy credit for borrowers. Now they are telling financial institutions clearly the wrong direction in which to go. We need the markets to work. The Federal Government has proven also that they sure cannot handle health care through ObamaCare.

Why do we think that the government knows best when it comes to telling community banks and others who

they should make their loans to? Fifty percent of the loans made in 2013 will not be made for 2014 with these guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, we call for this rule to be delayed for a year to allow Congress to improve it.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, last month, many of us stood here and pleaded with Speaker BOEHNER to act to extend unemployment insurance for 1.3 million hurting Americans, including over 213,000 in California alone.

Everyday Americans, people like Vincent, who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, will be devastated if we do not right this wrong. Vincent is 57 and worked at Bank of America in my home State of California. He says that he has interviewed with other organizations since being laid off but that he has not found a job. He has not given up, but Vincent worries that he may have to start sleeping in his car and going to food pantries since losing his unemployment benefits on December 28.

Mr. Speaker, we have the ability to help these people. Congress has extended unemployment insurance time and time again with wide bipartisan support because it was the right thing to do. As human beings and as legislators, we must do that again.

Earlier, many of us stood with President Johnson's daughter Lynda Johnson Robb as we marked the 50th anniversary of President Johnson's declaration of an unconditional war on poverty; and in this ongoing war on poverty, extending unemployment benefits to Americans who have lost their jobs is one of our greatest weapons.

CONGRATULATIONS, MAYOR PIKE AND MAYOR DAN

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

Mr. STEWART. To my fellow Members and my fellow Americans, I wish you all a successful and blessed new year.

Mr. Speaker, before we begin the political battles of the year, I would like to take a moment to congratulate the newly elected officials in Utah's Second Congressional District, specifically Jon Pike, the new mayor of St. George in Washington County. I look forward to working with Mayor Pike to continue to grow the economy and to create new jobs.

I also want to take a moment to specifically thank Mayor Dan McArthur, who tirelessly served the people of St. George for more than 20 years. Under his tenure, the population nearly tripled in size, and the city had an expansion and the creation of many new

businesses, great new infrastructure, a beautiful new airport, and the transformation of Dixie State College into a 4-year university.

Mayor Dan is a true representative of the Dixie spirit. His volunteerism was shown in 2005 when they had severe flooding along the Virgin River. He and other city council members joined other citizens in sandbagging the river to prevent severe damage and more flooding.

I am pleased to call Mayor Dan a friend, and I am grateful for his fine example and for his many years of service. I wish him and his family the very best in their future endeavors.

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ENDING POVERTY TODAY

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, during President Lyndon Baines Johnson's State of the Union address 50 years ago, he declared a war on poverty to create an opportunity for families and Americans to have stability in economic development, health care, and education. Fifty years later, I stand on this House floor with his daughter, Lynda Johnson Robb.

There are 46 million families living in poverty and 16.5 million of them children. I say today: Let's end this war on poverty. Let's support \$40 billion for SNAP. Let's make a difference in the lives of Americans. We deserve to provide them the opportunity to have that opportunity that President Lyndon Baines Johnson talked about.

Thank you to his daughter for reminding us of his legacy. Thank you to the Congressional Black Caucus and Congresswoman BARBARA LEE for leading our charge in making a difference.

I ask all Democrats and Republicans to join me today to pledge that we will take care of those children and families living in poverty as we move forward.

START WORKING FOR WORKING AMERICANS

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of talk today about the importance of unemployment benefits. The truth is that too many Americans are out of work. But my constituents don't just need jobs; they need good-paying jobs.

The President touts the job gains in our economy. Unfortunately, many of the jobs gained over the past several years aren't the kind needed to get Hoosiers back on their feet. They are the kind that require long hours of work for little pay, with few or no benefits. They are the kind whose paychecks don't go as far as they used to because necessities like gas, food, edu-

cation, and health care cost more and more. They are the kind where people work harder but fall farther behind. That is not the America I grew up in.

My America—our America—is one where those who work hard and play by the rules can afford the basic necessities of life and then have a little left over for wants, not just needs.

It is time for Congress to spend more time working for these hardworking Americans and less worrying about those who either don't need government or already have a government that works for them.

WAR ON POVERTY

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today is the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon Johnson's historic war on poverty, but lately it seems more like a war on the poor.

Earlier today, at a meeting organized by Congresswoman LEE, President Johnson's daughter, Lynda Johnson Robb, said that she accompanied her father on his historic tour of Appalachia. She said:

When Daddy came to this town and was sworn in as President, the poverty level of our country was at 20 percent. When Daddy left this town, it was at 12 percent of the population.

He made a big difference working with this body in a bipartisan way—and we can do it again.

Mr. Speaker, let's pass a jobs plan, raise the minimum wage, restore nutrition assistance and affordable housing assistance, and extend unemployment benefits to help those families get by while they are looking for work.

As Lyndon Johnson did five decades ago, let us again declare an "all-out war on human poverty and unemployment in these United States."

PROTECTING AMERICANS' PERSONAL INFORMATION

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will consider a bill offered by Representative PITTS that would require the Obama administration to notify Americans who had their personal information stolen after signing up for health insurance through ObamaCare.

As someone who has made protecting Social Security numbers a priority, I am deeply concerned about an increase of identity theft through the flawed ObamaCare Web site. Social Security numbers are the key to identity theft. Yet CMS, which is the same agency that runs health care, has failed to protect seniors' identity by refusing to remove Social Security numbers from Medicare cards.