

very real, both in Oregon and in districts across the country.

For the millions of men and women who are still struggling to find a job, emergency unemployment insurance was their lifeline. After numerous pleas to call for a vote went unanswered, millions of Americans are now unable to fill up their gas tank or pay their rent. For some on the precipice of homelessness, this is the tipping point. These people can't move on without the support provided by unemployment insurance. So let's send a signal that we haven't abandoned them and take up a bill to extend these critical benefits.

And let's not forget how many people could get back to work if we would set aside our differences and pass a long-term transportation bill and a comprehensive overhaul of our Tax Code. Enough of these policies that incentivize businesses to go overseas; we need policies that keep them bringing jobs back home.

We should also think of our seniors. The Older Americans Act changed the way our seniors age in this country. It contains social and nutritional programs that help them live full, independent lives, but the act expired more than 3 years ago. Meanwhile, the number of Americans turning 60 continues to grow.

I introduced a bill to reauthorize and update the Older Americans Act so seniors can age with dignity and not in poverty. However, the House has yet to consider this important bill to renew critical safety net programs like Meals on Wheels, home health care, and protection from elder abuse. My bill is closely aligned with a bipartisan compromise introduced in the Senate, and it deserves consideration.

And let's not forget the millions of students who are returning to college campuses across the country this fall. The cost of college is leaving too many of them with massive debt and decades-long repayment plans. That is a drag on our economy. We need legislation that allows students to refinance their current loans—just like people can refinance a mortgage to get lower rates—and, ultimately, we must address the rising cost of college. Higher education needs to be accessible for everyone. We should not create barriers by maintaining a system in which higher education involves exorbitant student loan debt.

Finally, the threat of climate change continues to loom. This too is a concern across the country and around the world, but it is particularly alarming to my coastal and agricultural portions of my district. Greenhouse gas emissions are at record highs, leading to a warming planet, melting glaciers, and rising sea levels. Farmers, fishers, and others who rely on our natural resources are already feeling the stress.

We must have a serious discussion about how we can curb increasing carbon emissions. Let's make this an opportunity to develop new and innovative technologies that can reduce car-

bon emissions while growing and advancing our economy through the creation of clean energy jobs. Let's do it for our children and our grandchildren. Let's not wait.

Yes, this continuing resolution will continue to fund the government for a short time. It will prevent another disastrous government shutdown. But it is a short-term fix that leaves numerous immediate problems unaddressed. We must do better for our constituents. They will bear the ramifications of our inaction.

I urge my colleagues to set aside our differences. Let's work together to find the solutions our constituents deserve.

HONORING JUDGE McMAKEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of my dear friend Judge Michael McMaken, a longtime district judge from Mobile County and a true servant leader.

Judge McMaken was born in Oklahoma in 1947. The son of an Army officer, he grew up on various Army posts around the world. He attended college at Purdue University in Indiana and later received his master of business administration and his law degree from my alma mater, the law school at the University of Alabama.

A true outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing, scuba diving, and almost any sport, Judge McMaken always wanted to live on Alabama's gulf coast. He got that chance when he moved to Mobile to serve as an assistant district attorney for then Mobile district attorney and now presiding circuit judge Charlie Graddick.

While working in the DA's office, he taught criminal justice at the University of South Alabama. He eventually went on to private practice until being encouraged by many people, including me, to run for district judge in 1986. After winning his first election, Judge McMaken would go on to serve as a district judge in Mobile County for 25 years.

He was instrumental in the creation of the Mobile County Drug Court, which helps give those struggling with drug addiction opportunities to beat their addiction and better themselves. That drug program became a model for other counties in Alabama and across the southeastern part of the United States.

Outside of the courtroom, Judge McMaken was a forceful advocate for civic responsibility. He was a founding member and first president of the board of directors for the Mobile Child Advocacy Center, which helps children who have been preyed upon by people who would do them harm. He also served as a president of the board of directors of Goodwill, Easter Seals, and AltaPointe Health Systems. He was actively involved with the Boy Scouts program in Alabama and a member of the Governor's Drug Advisory Council.

Judge McMaken retired from the bench in 2012 but remained very active in our community. In the late 1980s, around the same time he and his wife were expecting their first child, Judge McMaken was diagnosed with leukemia. He fought this dreadful disease for over 25 years, never relenting in his crusade for justice or his public service. He never let the disease beat him down. Sadly, on September 7, Judge McMaken finally succumbed to the disease.

Mike is survived by his loving wife, Kathy, and two wonderful children, Michelle and Bren, in addition to a number of cousins and many, many close friends.

Madam Speaker, I believe Mobile County Circuit Judge Ben Brooks said it best. He said, "The older I get, the more I know how rare it is to meet someone like Mike." I couldn't agree more. What matters most is not what you take with you when you leave this world but, rather, what you leave behind. Judge McMaken left behind a legacy of compassion, justice, community service, and civic responsibility.

The city of Mobile, Mobile County, and the entire State of Alabama will be forever grateful for the life and the service of Judge McMaken and for his remarkable career throughout our community. We extend our greatest condolences to his family and friends.

HOUSE DEMOCRATIC AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, sadly, the majority is pressing forward later this week with two partisan messaging bills cloaked in the rhetoric of creating jobs and expanding opportunity, bills that actually do neither.

We will today and tomorrow, for the most part, I think, proceed in a bipartisan fashion, where we will have views on both sides of the aisle that agree and that disagree with the actions we will take on the continuing resolution and the amendment that will be considered to give authority to the President of the United States to train and equip those who are confronting ISIL. However, after we consider that, we will proceed again on the partisan messaging bills of which I spoke. This, unfortunately, has been the pattern throughout the 112th and the 113th, this Congress.

The American people are rightfully disgusted—in some cases, despairing—and certainly tired of the partisan games that lead only to gridlock that have made this Congress the most unproductive Congress in which I have served. This is my 17th Congress.

The American people are tired of watching the Republican majority walk away from their responsibilities to govern in a bipartisan way. They are tired of Republicans walking away from our middle class when they have refused to raise the minimum wage,

which has a majority of votes on this floor for passage.

The minimum wage today, if it were in 2014 dollars and 1968 levels, would be \$10.77. That means those at the lowest ranks of earners in America have seen their buying power degraded by over 40 percent since 1968, and yet we won't even bring it to the floor. When I say "we," the Republican majority won't even bring it to the floor for a vote, and it has a majority of votes in my opinion.

They won't bring a bill to the floor that ensures equal pay for equal work. Every woman in this House and every man in this House except for the leadership are paid exactly the same thing irrespective of their gender. Americans believe that is the right thing to do. We can't get a bill to the floor.

We need to make higher education more affordable. Student loans have the ability to be refinanced just as mortgages can be refinanced. We can't get such a bill to the floor.

They are tired of Republicans' obsession with undoing the patient protections and cost savings of health care reform. We spent 4 years pretending that we were going to repeal it as opposed to fixing that which could be made better on behalf of the American people.

They are tired of watching Republicans walk away from every opportunity to get our fiscal House in order, as they did with the Biden talks; the Boehner-Obama negotiations; the supercommittee, composed of an equal number of Republicans and Democrats; walked away from averting the sequester; shut down the government; and several missed opportunities to pursue fiscal sustainability.

The American people are, as I said, distressed, dismayed, and, indeed, angry at the Congress, all of us, because they see their board of directors of the greatest country on the face of the Earth not working.

They are tired of Republicans' failure to move forward with bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform. That, again, has the votes on this floor to pass, but they don't bring it to the floor.

The Republican Congress has made it clear that their message to America is: You are on your own.

You are not earning enough minimum wage? You are on your own.

You lost your unemployment insurance? You are on your own.

Sandy comes and visits the Atlantic Katrina visited. And what did we do on Sandy? We said, You are on your own. A majority of Republicans—an overwhelming majority of Republicans—voted against helping those who were struck by Sandy.

Export-Import Bank. You are in a business that is trying to export goods. You are getting a little help. You are being competitive with the rest of the world. What does this Congress say? You are on your own. Yes, we are going to extend it for a short period of time,

but there are a majority of votes on this floor to extend it for a number of years, which will give confidence to the economy and to exporters and lenders that it will be in place. But what did we say? You are on your own.

You want to buy a home? Well, the chairman of the Financial Services Committee wants to eliminate Fannie and Freddie and say, Yes, you are on your own.

You need terrorism risk insurance to build and get a loan for commercial construction? It is not on the floor. You are on your own.

The American people are upset with us—and rightfully so. I am upset with us. This Republican Congress has made it clear that it is about political messaging and nothing else. That is what they said to women when they voted against the Violence Against Women Act, an act which had passed overwhelmingly in a bipartisan fashion when it was adopted and when it was reauthorized, but this Congress could not get a majority of the Republicans to vote for it. It passed after 8 months of delay because Democrats voted overwhelmingly for it—what they said to small business owners when they voted against that Sandy relief, and it is what they told unemployed workers when they voted not to extend emergency unemployment.

While House Republicans are using September to continue sending messages to the American people, House Democrats are talking about lifting up the middle class, giving a jump-start to the middle class. This month will be one of sharp contrast and, yes, next month and, yes, November.

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There are choices to be made, a sharp contrast. The overwhelming majority of the American people are for every one of the issues that I have just mentioned. Poll after poll after poll shows them to be so.

There will be a contrast between obstruction and progress—between Republicans who have said their number one priority is winning an election and Democrats who want to win the battle for economic equality and economic opportunity for the American people.

The American people deserve a Congress that is on their side. House Democrats are committed to doing what is necessary to jump-start our middle class, create good jobs, and open doors of opportunity for all Americans.

Jump-starting the middle class means helping more of our businesses make it in America and create jobs that pay well. We, by the way, passed yesterday "Make It In America" legislation—good legislation, bipartisan legislation. It was done on a voice vote. The reason it was done on a voice vote is because there was some concern that a large number of Republicans might vote against it. That would have been a bad vote for them, so we passed it on a voice vote.

It means equal pay for equal work and greater access to affordable child care. It means access to higher education, spanning job training and opportunity. It means enabling more Americans to own a home, save for retirement, and know with certainty their children will be better off than we are and that they were.

That, Madam Speaker, is what the American people expect us to do. It is so sad that we haven't been doing it. It is so sad that we cannot have the House work its will, which is, of course, what the Republicans said in their pledge to America. That is what the young guns told us they were going to do. We have had more closed rules than any Congress in which I have served. That means that ideas can't be put forward.

Madam Speaker, the American public will have a choice between a stark contrast of who is on their side. Let's hope the next Congress is a Congress of which the American people can be proud.

DEFEND OUR NATIONAL SECURITY FROM ISIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about one of the greatest threats to the United States of America and our allies. An evil that is so barbaric and ruthless that it can't be ignored but only dismantled and destroyed. Madam Speaker, I am talking about the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant, also known as ISIL.

Many of you, many of all of us, have watched in horror as two American journalists—James Foley and Steven Sotloff—and a British citizen, David Haines, were gruesomely murdered by ISIL. As a mother and as an American, my thoughts and prayers go out to their families and to all the victims of this vile terrorist group.

Madam Speaker, ISIL is the most ruthless and well-financed terrorist group in the world. Their goal is simple: kill the innocent and ultimately terrorize the United States of America and our allies. We have an obligation, one that has been long overdue, to stop this barbaric terrorist organization before they strike us at home.

Madam Speaker, we must not let that happen. We must stand together, stand together as a Nation, a people, in a unified bipartisan fashion, to stop ISIL once and for all. Make no mistake about it, we are at war with radical Islam.

ISIL must not have a safe haven in Syria, or anywhere else, with the time and the space to operate and carry out attacks against our allies and our homeland. They must be destroyed.

Our Commander in Chief has asked for the "tools" to defeat ISIL. Madam Speaker, I will support the President in our effort to complete the mission and to defeat the enemy. But I do remain