

could have taken action last year to fix our broken immigration system so that we don't have to continue this fiction about deporting 11 million undocumented workers.

They could have had a vote to reform our immigration system so that people can apply for visas and come legally in the first place rather than being forced into the black market where there are smugglers. They could have allowed a vote that put E-Verify in place, put serious sanctions and jail time for employers in place, and targeted our enforcement resources on felons, not families.

I stood here nearly every week last year and said: If the Republicans failed to act, the President would be forced to act within the limits of current law to rescue American families and target our enforcement resources on criminals. I was right, and for the record, I told you so, using a countdown right here on the House floor.

The coalition to pass reform, which is made up of almost all of the Democrats and about a third or more of the Republicans—the same coalition that enacted the bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security in yesterday's vote—existed then, and it exists today, if our leaders are willing to work together to address immigration reform.

It is not too late, and I predict that the Republican Party will continue boxing itself into a corner until it addresses this important American priority.

HOUSE HUNGER CAUCUS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, later this morning, I will be joined by my Republican colleague Congresswoman LYNN JENKINS of Kansas at D.C. Central Kitchen to officially relaunch the House Hunger Caucus.

I couldn't be happier that we are continuing this important bipartisan caucus in the 114th Congress. I am thrilled to have her partnership in this caucus, and I look forward to working with her.

Mr. Speaker, several years ago, my good friend and former Republican colleague from Missouri Jo Ann Emerson and I founded the House Hunger Caucus as a forum for Members to discuss, advance, engage, and work on issues related to domestic and international hunger and food insecurity.

Over the years, the House Hunger Caucus has hosted a number of briefings on topics ranging from introductions to the major domestic and international hunger programs, to food deserts in rural and urban America, to global agriculture and farmer-to-farmer initiatives, to international school feeding and child nutrition programs, just to name a few.

The caucus doesn't just look at existing programs. It also gets involved in

emergency responses as they are unfolding. In 2011, during one of the worst droughts in recent memory, the House Hunger Caucus held timely briefings on the U.S. response to the famine in the Horn of Africa. Members and staff were able to hear directly from those on the ground providing assistance to deal with this unprecedented crisis.

One of the most important objectives of the House Hunger Caucus is to foster better communication among antihunger advocates by bringing together stakeholders from Federal agencies, State and local governments, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, academia, and business to discuss long-term strategies for ending hunger. The caucus also serves as a vehicle for antihunger organizations to communicate directly to Congress about hunger and food insecurity issues.

One of my top priorities for the House Hunger Caucus this year is to make sure we hear directly from those who have experienced hunger and poverty firsthand. We need to make sure that their voices are heard in the discussions here in Washington.

One of the greatest assets of the House Hunger Caucus is that it is bipartisan—Republicans and Democrats. It is a way for Members to come together to work to end hunger.

Mr. Speaker, there is not a congressional district in the United States of America that is hunger-free, not a single one. According to the USDA, more than 17.5 million American households were food insecure in 2013, meaning that their access to adequate food was limited by a lack of money or other resources; 5.6 percent of households were considered to have very low food security. In other words, those households were hungry.

Hunger disproportionately affects the most vulnerable among us: children, seniors, and the disabled. Last year, 16 million children, or one in five, experienced hunger, and increasingly, veterans and military families are experiencing hunger.

On the international side, about 805 million people in the world, or one in nine, suffer from hunger, according to the most recent U.N. reports. This is a decrease of 100 million over the past decade and 209 million since the early 1990s.

The U.S. can be proud of its leadership in reducing global hunger and addressing the root causes of food insecurity. Through partnerships with other nations, international organizations, our own farmers, NGOs, and private sector communities, we are advancing agricultural development; increasing child nutrition; reducing malnutrition among infants and children; empowering small farmers around the globe, especially women; and providing nutritious meals in school settings. While the journey is long, we now have a proven and coordinated set of programs that effectively address global hunger.

Mr. Speaker, as we reestablish the House Hunger Caucus, I can't think of

a better location to launch it at than D.C. Central Kitchen, a unique antihunger organization that prepares 5,000 meals a day for more than 80 local nonprofit partners, helping those going through tough times.

One of D.C. Central Kitchen's greatest strengths is its culinary jobs training program, where men and women who have faced the most difficult of situations—homelessness, addiction, or incarceration—participate in a rigorous job training program to prepare for culinary careers.

As part of our kickoff this week, the House Hunger Caucus will host a briefing for House staff entitled "Domestic Hunger 101" tomorrow at 1 p.m. The briefing will be given by CRS experts and is intended to present a broad overview of the major domestic Federal antihunger programs.

I look forward to continuing this important work of the House Hunger Caucus with the gentlewoman from Kansas, Congresswoman JENKINS. I encourage my House colleagues to join the House Hunger Caucus.

As Members, we don't have to agree on everything to agree on something, and ending hunger should be something we all can agree on.

DODD-FRANK AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES BILLS

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to discuss the negative consequences of the Dodd-Frank law, as well as reforms to the law that would represent much-needed solutions for middle class families in Kentucky and across the country.

When this act was signed into law nearly 5 years ago, its supporters made many promises. President Obama claimed it would "lift the economy" and that it would help protect Main Street, not Wall Street. In both of these instances, the opposite has proven true.

While the President is claiming victory on the economy, many Kentucky families and families across America are still hurting. Last year, the U.S. economy grew at an anemic 2.4 percent, the ninth year in a row of growth below the postwar average of about 3 percent.

President Reagan also inherited a very difficult economic situation; however, if this recovery had progressed at the same rate as the Reagan recovery of the 1980s, the economy would be about \$2 trillion larger, which works out to be about \$1,500 more per family per year.

This is hardly the boom that the President talks about. Growth this low for this long is simply not fast enough to lift incomes for most Americans.

A primary cause of the weakness of this recovery is the avalanche of red tape coming out of the Obama administration, including the nearly 400 new

rules and regulations arising from Dodd-Frank that are crushing small communities around the country.

Dodd-Frank imposes costly and burdensome restrictions on community banks and credit unions that limit their ability to loan money to their customers, which is hindering economic growth and hurting low- and middle-income Americans the hardest.

A community banker in my district told me that before Dodd-Frank, lending decisions were often made based on a business judgment about the character and the creditworthiness of their customers.

People in small towns across America, they know each other, and local banks and credit unions are in the business of helping their neighbors. These institutions assume the consequences of their decisions at no risk to the financial system or to taxpayers who have been on the hook for bailouts.

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So they are willing to take a risk, both in terms of how to best help their customers achieve his or her dreams and how to provide a reasonable return for the shareholders of the bank or members of the credit union.

But that same banker told me that, after Dodd-Frank, the government is making the decisions instead of the shareholders or the bank board, imposing a one-size-fits-all, top-down mandate on local financial institutions.

Rather than working with people, this community banker now deals with mountains of paperwork and Federal regulators. The result has been a disaster.

The number of community banks has declined by 9.5 percent. There have been far fewer new community bank charters, and less services and products are now offered to customers and consumers.

The law created new, unaccountable bureaucracies on top of an overly complex financial regulatory system. New, unaccountable bureaucracies like the well-sounding but mislabeled Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Financial Stability Oversight Council operate largely out of public view and are subject to almost none of the checks and balances imposed on other government agencies.

For example, the Bureau deemed Bath County, Kentucky, with a population of about 10,000 people, as nonrural, making it even more difficult for its people to secure loans from community banks and credit unions.

Think about this: the ridiculous scenario of Washington, D.C., bureaucrats labeling one of the most rural parts of America as nonrural and hurting the people as a result.

Shockingly, this unaccountable agency provided no valid justification for how they came to this conclusion, nor any means to challenge this arbitrary determination.

After I introduced legislation, along with members of both parties, to ad-

dress this issue, the agency, after more than a year of delay, finally relented and expanded its definition of rural to include Bath County.

While this is a positive development for this Kentucky county, the process remains opaque, arbitrary, and not subject to appeal, and our rural communities continue to struggle with one-size-fits-all regulatory approaches for which they lack the resources to comply.

This week, I will reintroduce the Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act, which would give individuals an appeals process by which to contest this designation.

Dodd-Frank includes several other rules which are holding our economy back. Thanks to the Bureau's qualified mortgage rule, it is now harder for creditworthy low- and moderate-income Americans to buy a home.

The Volcker rule has made U.S. capital markets less competitive internationally, creating unnecessary obstacles for U.S. companies to raise the funds they need to grow their businesses and create jobs.

Despite the stated intentions of this law, community banks and credit unions have been left to comply with onerous new regulations intended to prevent a repeat of the financial crisis they did not cause.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, let's join together, cut red tape and unnecessary regulations that are holding our communities back. We can create real opportunity and encourage private sector growth by repealing this law and starting over.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to heed the gavel.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MINNIE MINOSO

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great baseball player and a baseball player who befriended me and was a great human being who passed away on Sunday, Saturnino Orestes Arrieta Armas, Minnie Minoso, the Cuban Comet, Mr. White Sox.

Minnie Minoso was born in 1925 on November 29 in Cuba. He played baseball in Cuba, had the opportunity to come to America and play in the Negro Leagues for, being a Black Cuban, he wasn't allowed to play in the Major Leagues.

He played 3 years with the New York Cubans, and then, Bill Veeck, who was one of the leaders, I guess, the American League's Branch Rickey, gave him an opportunity to play baseball in the Major Leagues. After playing in the Minors in San Diego, he came up with the Cleveland Indians, but was quickly traded to the Chicago White Sox, where he started his career in 1951, and became known as Mr. White Sox.

He was a great White Sox baseball player, one of the greatest players of the 1950s, and a great emissary of Latin American baseballers. He was the first Black Latin American baseball player, he was the first Black White Sox player, and the second African American in the American League after Larry Doby.

Minnie Minoso had a great career. He did everything in baseball. He hit for average, he hit for power, he had speed, he was a great fielder, a great competitor, and he was a great human being.

In 1955, I was recovering from polio and I lived in Memphis, Tennessee. I went to an exhibition baseball game at Russwood Park, where the White Sox were playing the Cardinals. I had a White Sox cap, kind of like this one—this is a Minnie Minoso cap—and a White Sox T-shirt, and I was on crutches, getting autographs.

A player came and gave me a baseball, and I thanked him and I went to my dad and told my dad about it. We went down to thank the player. He was White, a pitcher named Tom Poholsky. He said: Don't thank me. Thank that player over there.

That was number 9 for the White Sox, Minnie Minoso. In the entire baseball field of 50 players or more, one cared about a young boy with polio who was a White Sox fan and wanted to do something for him.

But in segregated Memphis, a Black player didn't feel comfortable doing that, and he did it through a White player. It taught me, at a very early age, about the horrors of discrimination and prejudice and racism.

Minnie became my friend. I visited him in Chicago and went into the White Sox locker room. He gave me his bat. When he came to Memphis, I visited him at the Lorraine Motel, which is where the Black players stayed, while the White players were at the Peabody.

The Lorraine is where Dr. King was killed and now is a great civil rights museum in Memphis. This was another lesson in discrimination for me that taught me well and has taught me, to this day, to be vigilant against all forms of racism and discrimination.

I followed Minnie my whole life. He was like part of my family. When we moved to Los Angeles, we went and visited him at Chavez Ravine. He came up to my dad and he said: Doc, how is the kid's leg? How is he doing?

He always was concerned. He was a great human being and a great baseball player.

He was denied one of his life's goals of being voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. I tried to help him with that.

Baseball made a mistake. They should have put Minnie in the Hall of Fame for being a great emissary of baseball and the first Latin American Black player, the first Latin American player, really, in the Big Leagues.

He died Sunday. Visitation is Friday at Holy Family Church in Chicago. The funeral is Saturday.