

and blindness. The risks are huge. The costs are huge. The benefits are great if we take better care of ourselves.

SAVERS CREDIT

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, for millions of Americans their retirement has become less, not more, secure. Part of the problem is that we are not saving enough. Half of all Americans do not participate in employer-sponsored retirement plans, and for 28 million households they have no retirement plans outside of Social Security.

A savings crisis in America, combined with privatizing Social Security, is a recipe for disaster. As the collapse of the United Airlines pension demonstrates, Social Security is a key to retirement security for many Americans. We must preserve Social Security while we encourage Americans to save more for their retirement.

Here are four ideas: Automatic enrollment in 401(k)'s for all Americans; direct deposit of their tax refunds into their savings plans; government match for the first \$2,000 they save, matching it by 50 percent; and universal 401(k)'s to simplify and consolidate the 16 different tax savings plans on the tax rolls.

Mr. Speaker, a saving crisis faces America, but we can do something about it. We should act now to encourage more Americans to save for their retirement while strengthening Social Security, not privatizing it.

NASCAR

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

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, the State of North Carolina is a proud home to a great American racing tradition: NASCAR. This weekend Lowes Motor Speedway in Concord will host the NASCAR Nextel Cup All Star Race, and folks from all across the country and around the world will come to watch the world's best drivers race for the finish.

My hometown of Concord is proud of its partnership with the racing industry and is home to many NASCAR drivers and teams. The Charlotte area has also joined together to attract the NASCAR Hall of Fame. We are excited about the possibility of this prestigious attraction calling North Carolina home.

Today I would like to take a moment to commend NASCAR, a tremendous industry and job provider in North Carolina, for its efforts to give back to the community. With its growing popularity, the sport provides entertainment for families, support for charities, and a huge economic boost for our region. I am also especially grate-

ful for NASCAR's support of Dell TechKnow, a technology program for our schools. It is making an impact for kids in education. Even more important is NASCAR's support of our incredible military.

Tomorrow, May 20, I will join fans across the country celebrating NASCAR Day, which means support for numerous charities, our men and uniform, and jobs for Americans. NASCAR Day is an opportunity to bring fans, businesses, and community organizations across the Nation together for common cause while giving to NASCAR-related charities and making a difference in the lives of children. It supports charities such as Victory Junction Camp, Speediatrics, and Speedway Children's Charity, all meeting needs and providing support for children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses.

Mr. Speaker, I commend NASCAR, and if we ever add an extra line to the "Star Spangled Banner," it will be "Gentlemen, start your engines."

THE JUDICIARY AND THE RULE OF LAW

(Mr. MILLER of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the presidential election in 2000 was effectively decided by the Supreme Court. In his dissent, Justice Stephens said: "It is the confidence in the men and women who administer the judicial system that is the true backbone of the rule of law . . . Although we may never know with complete certainty the identity of the winner of this year's presidential election, the identity of the loser is perfectly clear: It is the Nation's confidence in the judge as an impartial guardian of the rule of law."

Mr. Speaker, Americans, Democrats and Republicans alike did accept the Supreme Court's decision and the legitimacy of President Bush's election. But, Mr. Speaker, what confidence will Americans have in judges nominated without consultation, without the advice and consent that the Constitution provides for, and confirmed by a bare majority despite strong objections to the impartiality of those judges, confirmed only by shamelessly ignoring the rules that have governed the Senate for more than two centuries? Mr. Speaker, why should Americans accept the decisions of those judges as legitimate? And, Mr. Speaker, just what will be left of the rule of law?

COMMENDING SENATE FOR COURAGEOUS ACTION

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, the Constitution of the United States designed by our Founding Fathers set up a system of establishing a judiciary. And in

that establishment, they intended for the President of the United States to nominate people on the bench and they intended for the Senate to give advice and consent to that nomination and, by an up-or-down vote, vote on whether or not those people can serve for life in the United States judiciary.

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We are seeing today a constitutional challenge that is being met by the Senate as they go forward and meet their constitutional duty for an up-or-down vote for the judiciary and the nominees that have been proposed for our Federal judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, we expect fair and impartial judges to be appointed to the court; and just because they do not meet our political litmus test, we should not allow anyone to intervene with our constitutional duty which we take an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States as we have served in these offices.

I commend the Senate for the courageous act that they will go forward and do in the following weeks.

REPUBLICAN ABUSES OF POWER

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, our Founding Fathers envisioned Congress would deliberate, collaborate, and then judiciously compromise on the key issues of the day. Here in the House, the Republican majority refuses to collaborate, deliberate, or compromise. The House leadership consistently abuses its power by preventing the minority from offering its ideas on the floor.

Fortunately, in the Senate, the Republican majority cannot force its will on the minority so easily. One of the tools of the Senate for more than 200 years is the filibuster, a rule that protects the rights of the minority and prevents the majority from having absolute power. It is a critical tool in the checks and balances that exist between the branches of government.

Today, Senate Republicans are preparing to do something that has never been done before: abolish the rights of the minority to filibuster judicial appointments.

This extreme power grab would seriously undermine our Nation's checks and balances. Like their colleagues in the House, Senate Republicans want absolute power, even though Americans know that our country works best when no political power is in absolute control.

As a Nevadan, I want to personally thank Nevada Senator HARRY REID for leading the fight in the Senate to protect and preserve the constitutional form of government that we enjoy in this country.