

Security Act goes to markup next week, citizens around our country will be looking forward to legislation that not only addresses the crucial issues of energy independence and climate change but also does not greatly increase our costs.

Americans understand that we are at a crucial point with the high and unpredictable costs of energy, global warming, and its direct impact on our health, wellbeing, and national security must be addressed. The people of the insular areas understand this in a more acute way as we have the highest energy costs in the Nation, geographic locations that are susceptible to the ill effects of climate change, and economies that can be easily affected if the goals of energy independence and environmental sustainability are not reached.

As we work to move our country into a new clean energy economy, we look forward to our full inclusion in legislation that will create jobs in our communities, encourage the production of cleaner renewable energy resources, decrease the pollution that has damaged our air and water quality and impacted our health, and produce entrepreneurial opportunities for both large and small businesses.

We look forward to a new direction and a new clean energy and green economy.

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#### TAKE CARE OF OUR SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last Monday a tragic event occurred in Iraq when five servicemembers were killed at the Camp Liberty Combat Stress Control Center. It points out the importance that we need to pay attention to with posttraumatic stress disorder, acute stress disorder, and a wide range of other mental illnesses which can occur after prolonged combat or exposure to severe stress.

We need to understand and communicate with our soldiers and their officers that these problems are real and they are treatable and you can get a soldier back in emotional shape. It is not a sign of weakness. It is not a sign of failure on the part of the soldier or the officer, but they need to get help.

Over the centuries in our military, the uniforms have changed, the weapons have changed, the ships have all changed, but the soldier remains the same, brave and strong and true. But Congress must, nonetheless, provide substantial funding to take care of our soldiers and their families and keep them in mental health shape and physical shape and to get them back on their feet strong and ready.

Congress and our Nation must continue to support them. There is hope,

there is treatment, and we need to continue and support our soldiers in that endeavor.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AMERICORPS WEEK

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

Mrs. CAPPs. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National AmeriCorps Week. Over the last 15 years, nearly half a million AmeriCorps volunteers have served with thousands of nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based organizations across America. AmeriCorps recruits and trains millions of community volunteers to serve our country's critical needs in education, the environment, public safety, and disaster relief nationwide.

Sixty-five percent of AmeriCorps alumni go on to pursue a career in public service. In my home State of California alone, almost 8,000 people this year will participate in one of more than 7,500 AmeriCorps programs throughout the State. One such program is coordinated by the Santa Barbara County Education Office in my district.

This program provides daily tutoring and reading for over 700 at-risk students. It recruits volunteers for additional educational programs, and it works to increase disaster preparedness in the schools of Santa Barbara County.

The over 700 million hours served by AmeriCorps members have bettered our communities and touched the lives of countless Americans. These individuals dedicate their time and energy to help meet the needs of our local communities, and during these tough economic times, we need them now more than ever.

To all these incredible participants in AmeriCorps, I commend you and thank you for your service.

#### NOT RELEASING DETAINEE PHOTOS IS THE RIGHT DECISION

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say thank you to our President. I am grateful that he has reversed his decision on releasing the alleged detainee abuse images.

It was the right decision to come to. It was the right decision to make, and I congratulate him. I thank him. I think we are all grateful to him.

I am glad to see that he listened to his team of national security advisers and realized that releasing those images is not in our national interest.

It does not make this Nation more safe. It makes it less safe. It does not help our troops in the field. It makes their job more difficult, more dan-

gerous, and it makes their lives less safe every day.

Having Fort Campbell in my district, with troops just returning, having our Tennessee National Guardsmen just now deploying to Afghanistan, what we need to do every day is say thank to you these men and women and make certain that our service honors their service. And I thank the President for joining us in reversing his decision.

#### PAY MORE ATTENTION TO FRAYING ECONOMY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today we have a \$96.7 billion bill that expands supplemental funds for more war in Iraq, ratchets up U.S. military presence in Afghanistan, and allocates a minimum of \$400 million for nation building in Pakistan where corruption is the norm.

We must ask how competent is our government to transform a world beyond our borders that speaks Arabic, Pashtun, and Farsi? Not even a handful of our military does.

Those majorities practice religions largely foreign to us, and their governments, if you can call them that, are undemocratic, weak nation states with vast legions of poor people and corrupt governance. Pakistan alone has 163 million impoverished people, and Afghanistan's largest export is heroin. So we are going to inject ourselves into that situation even deeper, with almost no multinational support.

What have we achieved politically in Iraq? Spending our Nation into endless debt, we have transformed a secular dictatorship into a divided Nation separating Sunni, Shia, and Kurd factions. A nation of 25 million has been upended, millions uprooted, and maybe 18 million shell-shocked people remain, while oil contracts have been divided up among multinationals. Not a pretty picture. And not a situation that will hold long term.

So, now we're going to take on Afghanistan, a country that's not a nation, with over 400 tribes, where the Taliban is strengthened by the very sight of foreign troop presence.

Madam Speaker, it is time for America to come to our senses. After \$1 trillion, isn't it time to pay more attention to the fraying economy here in our homeland and the American people?

#### PRESSING NEED FOR TAX SIMPLIFICATION

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, last week the House Small Business Subcommittee on Finance and Tax held a hearing on a long overdue issue: the pressing need for tax simplification for America's small business.