

continued erosion of the Eastern District Court's ability to provide the public with a timely and effective Federal judicial service is a burden on our Nation, and the litigants should not suffer.

What Judge Wanger pointed out is it's not only a disservice to the men and women who serve the court, but the individuals throughout the region and the businesses whose cases are delayed years in some cases. This surely was not what our Founding Fathers had in mind for our country when they ensured that all Americans have a right to a speedy trial. As we know, justice delayed can oftentimes be justice denied.

Although the problem is not unique to the Eastern District of California, it is where the problem is most pronounced with by far the Nation's largest caseload per judge. Legislation has been introduced in the House and the Senate to create additional judgeships in district courts where the need is greatest. Unfortunately, it has not been acted on. It is past time for the Congress to act on these bills to ensure that all branches of government are, in fact, working for the American people.

In closing, I want to publicly thank Judge Oliver Wanger for his service to our Nation.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT,
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA,
Fresno, California, August 31, 2011.

Re Retirement from Judicial Service.

Hon. ANTHONY W. ISHII,
Chief Judge, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California, Fresno, CA.

DEAR JUDGE ISHII: It is with great regret that I will retire as a District Judge effective October 1, 2011, under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §371(a) having attained the age and met §371(c)'s requirements to receive the annuity and benefits prescribed by law.

I served more than 20 years—the last five as a senior judge—and my intent was lifetime service. Obligations to my family now transcend my ability to continue in the judiciary. Necessity compels re-entry to the private sector.

I recognize that my departure will leave only two active judges in our already understaffed EDCA judiciary. My foremost concerns are for my fellow judges who labor under such formidable and unmanageable workloads and the public who need our court.

The impact on these judges is best understood by my latest five year case statistics: 161 jury trials to verdict (32 per year); 5,465 courtroom hours (1,093 per year); and 3,554 terminated criminal and civil cases (711 per year); with an individual caseload approximating 1,200 cases. Included are many complex water and environmental lawsuits affecting endangered species and California's water supply.

Who will now handle these cases?

Despite our pleas to and Congress' express recognition of the need, the continued refusal to create new desperately needed judgeships for BDCA has created a hardship for all who depend on the Federal court. It has been more than 31 years since a new district judge position has been created in Fresno, a division with over 2.5 million people. The continued erosion of BDCA's ability to provide the public with timely and effective federal judicial service is a burden our nation and litigants should not suffer.

My best wishes for the future and thanks to you and all our judges and loyal court staff members who do such outstanding work.

Sincerely,

OLIVER W. WANGER,
United States District Judge.

FOSTERING JOB GROWTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Americans are hurting, and there's nothing more important right now for every Member of Congress than fostering job growth for the American people. House Republicans have been focused on this since day one. We passed more than a dozen pro-jobs bills that are currently awaiting a vote in the Senate. Additionally, we also passed a budget this year, something the Senate hasn't done in 888 days—888 days, Mr. Speaker.

America must lead the world out of this global recession. And I, for one, believe that if we can just get a couple of things right in Washington, we'll see our economy turn around and therefore the world economy turn around.

□ 1050

In the House, we believe in helping small businesses, we believe in free trade, and we believe in shrinking bureaucracy. Measures supporting these causes have already passed the House—with bipartisan support, I might add, Mr. Speaker—only to stall in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

Mr. Speaker, House Democrats and Republicans have found common ground on many measures to build more confidence for job creators. We invite the Senate to join our efforts. Mr. Speaker, Americans can't wait. It's time for the Senate to join the House in taking action to help restore our economy.

STOP MILITARY RAPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise, once again, to talk about the epidemic of rape in the military. This is the ninth time that I have stood on the floor of this House to speak about the unspeakable. Each of these military members have served proudly for their country. Each of them has been raped, and each has been revictimized by a system of justice that protects perpetrators and punishes victims. I will continue to share these stories until something changes. Survivors can email me at stopmilitaryrape@mail.house.gov if they would like to speak out.

Today, I want to tell you about Sergeant Rebekah Havrilla. She served in the Army from 2004 to 2008. Her job was as an explosive ordnance disposal tech-

nician. In other words, she was responsible for disposing of IEDs before they went off. So she took on one of the toughest jobs in the military. Yet during basic training, she heard her commanders repeatedly equate being female with being weak or incompetent. They used words to describe women that cannot be repeated on this floor.

Commanders required Sergeant Havrilla and her colleagues to attend classes regarding prevention of sexual assault and harassment once a year. Commanders made a mockery of these classes. As the instructor would describe prohibited conduct, one or more of the soldiers would begin engaging in that conduct. One soldier went as far as to strip completely naked and get on the table during a break in the middle of class. His punishment was to serve as Equal Opportunity representative and lead the next sexual assault harassment training. "Disgusting" is too benign a word to describe this conduct.

Sergeant Havrilla deployed to Afghanistan in 2006. Her supervisor sexually harassed her. He began to slap her bottom whenever he passed by. He belittled and mocked her. On one occasion, he told her exactly what he wanted to do to her in graphic detail. Nothing was done in response.

It was another colleague, one from the canine unit, that raped her. He even photographed the rape, and some of the pictures ended up on a pornographic Web site. Imagine a system of justice in such shambles that an assailant would actually take pictures of the crime and put them on the Internet. Sergeant Havrilla reported her rape under the military's restricted reporting policy.

In February of 2009, she reported for 4 weeks of active duty training. While there, she ran into her rapist and went into shock. She immediately sought the assistance of the military chaplain. The chaplain told her that it must have been God's will for her to be raped and recommended that she attend church more frequently. God's will? This is the support system for victims of rape and sexual assault in the military? Sergeant Havrilla now suffers from posttraumatic stress disorder and chronic depression.

In describing her decision to speak out, she said this: "Leadership needs to be held accountable and women need to be able to work without the fear of being assaulted by their own colleagues. This is one of the hardest things I've ever done, and I want to thank the other women who have stepped forward as well. It's never easy to put yourself out there."

Sergeant Havrilla is right. It's time for leadership to be held accountable—leadership in the Pentagon, leadership at the White House, and leadership here in Congress.

HOSPITALS ARE ABOUT JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the many hospital professionals that serve every day to keep our communities leading strong, healthy lives. Having spent 28 years as a therapist, rehabilitation services manager, and a licensed nursing home administrator, I know firsthand the many challenges this industry continues to face.

Medicare and Medical Assistance payments are just a few of the many variables beyond a hospital's control—Medicare that only pays 80 to 90 cents for every dollar of cost in delivering care and Medical Assistance that only pays 40 to 60 cents for every dollar of cost in delivering care.

As Congress continues to work on issues impacting this industry, it is important to recognize the critical role our hospitals play in not only providing access to cost-effective care, but also economic growth.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, more than 584,000 individuals depend on hospitals for their jobs through direct and indirect employment. The economic contributions made by Pennsylvania's hospitals to local communities continue to increase, rising to \$98.9 billion in 2010, and that's up from \$89.8 billion during 2008.

When 268,000 hospital employees spend money on products and services, it translates to nearly 317,000 additional hospital service-related jobs and more than \$13 billion in employee compensation. More than \$27.2 billion in total labor income is generated directly and indirectly by Pennsylvania hospitals. In 55 of the 67 Pennsylvania counties, hospitals remain among the top five employers, providing family-sustaining jobs and solid benefits. Every additional dollar in employee compensation in the hospital sector results in 92 cents of wages to other Pennsylvania industries.

At a time marked by so much uncertainty, lawmakers need to ensure that hospitals remain viable assets in our communities, where they can provide jobs, support other businesses, and continue offering these critical services. Hospitals are about access to quality care and jobs.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 58 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Jerry Creel, Brush Arbor Baptist Church, Orlando, Florida, offered the following prayer:

O Lord God, I thank You that we can take a moment to acknowledge that there is one that is greater than all the governments and power of man.

Thou art worthy to receive glory, honor, and power.

Lord, as You guide the course of all creation and the events of mankind throughout history, may we willingly be in submission to Your mighty hand. Fill us with love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.

Lord, raise up leaders here that You can show Yourself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward You.

Give us Your wisdom to solve our problems. Give us Your power to overcome our enemies. Give us Your compassion to meet people's needs.

In the name of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gives me freedom from the bondage of sin, liberty to stand for what is right, and the reason to live.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FUDGE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BURDENSOME REGULATIONS STIFLE JOB CREATION

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

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, to spur job creation in this country, we must remove burdensome regulations stifling our job creators. The EPA's Maximum Achievable Control Technology, or MACT rule, is set to crush our cement manufacturers.

Eastern Kansas has three cement manufacturers who employ thousands. I recently toured plants at Monarch Cement in Humboldt, Ashgrove Cement

in Chanute, and LaFarge Cement in Fredonia, and heard a similar story from all three. They have the revenue stream and the desire to hire more Kansans, but the cost of complying with government regulations, like the cement MACT, restrict their ability to do so.

The EPA shouldn't be implementing regulations that do more economic damage than they achieve in environmental good. I hope the EPA will take this opportunity to reform their rules and be part of the solution rather than the problem. Let's end overregulation and get Americans back to work.

JOB CRISIS IN AMERICA

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the job crisis in our Nation.

While we operate in a divided Congress, Americans are struggling. Millions are unemployed, underemployed, and without the skills to be employed. More than 1.4 million Americans have been out of work for more than 99 weeks. These Americans want jobs. Most Americans don't understand the delay. Many can't afford to wait. So why haven't we passed a jobs bill?

President Obama introduced his jobs plan with many of the provisions previously supported by both Republicans and Democrats. What is stopping this Congress from passing a jobs bill?

I want every unemployed American to know that some of us really are working to get a jobs bill passed. We feel your pain, we know your struggle. We must act now.

GOVERNOR BEVERLY PERDUE PROPOSES SUSPENSION OF CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Raleigh News & Observer reported seriously that last Tuesday at a Rotary club meeting in Cary, North Carolina, Governor Beverly Perdue stated: "I think we ought to suspend, perhaps, elections for Congress for 2 years and just tell them we won't hold it against them, whatever decisions they made, to just let them help this country recover."

Any governor, especially our great neighbor of the 10th largest State in the country, should be unwavering for citizens to have their votes counted. Elections are vital for accessibility and accountability. Governor Perdue fails to understand that House Republicans have put job creation, economic growth, and limited spending at the center of the congressional agenda. Since January, House Republicans have led efforts to help our economy