

politics aside. Let's come to the table and work together. The American people cannot afford to wait any longer. Let's act now. Pass this bipartisan jobs bill.

TWO SIMPLE TASKS FOR THE DO-NOTHING SENATE

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, if our colleagues at the opposite end of this Capitol, the Senate, are serious about getting our economy moving and America back to work, I urge them to do two things immediately. To start with, for the first time in 888 days, they should do what every American family and business does and set a budget; 888 days—almost 30 months—without a budget is not just an abdication of responsibility. It is a fundamental failure to govern.

Second, they should immediately take up a bill we sent with overwhelming bipartisan support, the Regulatory Burdens Act. We passed it in March; they've done nothing. If we don't act on it by the end of this month, our agriculture sector will be deluged with a new avalanche of needless red tape.

I hope that this do-nothing Senate will move on both of these issues immediately in order to help both the American people and the American economy.

MODERNIZING THE AMERICAN LEGION

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the brave men and women who have served our Nation and are today members of the American Legion, a congressionally chartered organization. That charter is in need of modernization. So the American Legion, at their national convention, adopted a resolution asking Congress to amend the charter to clarify that the Legion members may pay their annual dues and renewals using modern technology, such as over the Internet by credit card.

For this reason, I have joined my good friend from Florida, Congressman ROONEY, in introducing a bill to support the Legion's recommendation.

Our bill, H.R. 2369, enjoys widespread support, as evidenced by the 350 of our colleagues who have cosponsored this legislation. Hopefully, this bill will soon move through the legislative process in order to modernize the Legion's charter and make this small, but significant, change to make life a little more convenient for members of the American Legion.

1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF DAVID HARTLEY

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

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago last Friday marks the tragic day that David Hartley was killed on Falcon Lake, which straddles the U.S./Mexico border. My staff and I have spoken with David's wife, Tiffany, on a number of occasions and pray that she, along with help from Congress, can find the answers we are all seeking regarding David's death.

David's death is a horrible tragedy and underscores the need to restore safety and security to our borders. Our role in Congress is to ensure that Americans are not in danger when they visit the border. That means we need to act. We need to put in place real and effective measures that keep the Mexican drug cartels, pirates, and other unlawful activity away from the United States. The drug trade contributes to the all-too-frequent stories we hear about crime, kidnapping, and murder that occur along our southern border. The time is now to put pressure on the Government of Mexico to bring their own criminals to justice.

My heart goes out to Tiffany, along with the Hartley family, during this time. I will continue to work hard for answers, and I will continue to fight for border security so that atrocities like this simply stop occurring.

IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the American Jobs Act, which addresses two critical issues facing America today: the need for immediate investments in our Nation's infrastructure that will put Americans back to work, and the need to upgrade our schools to meet the requirements demanded by a 21st-century education.

Mr. Speaker, last week, I visited Adams Elementary School in Santa Barbara, California. This school is well over 45 years old and is in desperate need of more classroom space, a new library, and technology upgrades. Like other school districts around the country, Santa Barbara has been forced to cut budgets and lay off teachers, and struggles to pay for school upgrades which would promote a better-educated workforce. The American Jobs Act would help fix this problem by providing school districts with the resources they need to make the needed school improvements. This act would create good, well-paying jobs now and strengthen our future economy as well.

The American Jobs Act is about jobs, but it's also about our children's education. It's about our Nation's future. We should pass the American Jobs Act,

Mr. Speaker; and we should pass it now.

□ 1220

AMERICANS SAY MEDIA ARE BIASED AND TOO LIBERAL

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans say the national media are biased, untrustworthy, and too liberal, according to separate polls released recently by Gallup and the Pew Research Center. Gallup found that only 1 in 10 Americans now have a great deal of trust in the national media. A majority say the media are biased. And by a margin of more than 3-1, Americans think the media are too liberal rather than too conservative.

Pew found that 1 in 4 Americans think that news organizations, in general, get the facts straight. That's a 14 percent decrease from 4 years ago. And almost 8 in 10 Americans say news organizations favor one side over the other.

Mr. Speaker, if the media want to restore the public's trust, they should give Americans the facts, not tell them what to think.

KEEP AMERICA'S WATERFRONTS WORKING ACT

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, of Maine's 3,300 miles of coastline, less than 20 miles support commercial fishing and other traditional marine activities. But this small portion of the coastline contributes \$800 million to Maine's economy and provides jobs for over 30,000 people. As the coastline continues to give way to condos, hotels, and other non-compatible uses, these jobs are disappearing.

This problem is not unique to Maine. It occurs on all our coasts and waterways around the country and throughout the Great Lakes region. Working waterfront jobs are disappearing as a result of tremendous pressures communities face from incompatible development.

That's why today I'm introducing the Keep America's Waterfronts Working Act, along with my colleagues from around the country. With a grants program devoted to preserving working waterfronts across the Nation, States will be able to help preserve jobs and communities that depend on them.

HEALTH CARE PETITIONS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, this morning here on Capitol Hill I stood with

other Members of Congress to receive more than 1.6 million signatures on petitions calling for the immediate repeal of last year's huge health care law.

We've now had 18 months to find out what's in the bill, and it only looks worse every day. We found the billions of dollars in slush funds that the Secretary of Health and Human Services controls, without any input from Congress. We found a CLASS Act, a long-term care insurance care plan that is so broken that HHS had to stop planning for its implementation. We've seen health care premiums climb faster, despite promises that the law would save every American family \$2,500 per year. We've seen Federal courts reject as unconstitutional the notion that the government can force you to buy insurance.

I'd need much more than 1 minute to catalog all the ways this bill is hurting job growth and destroying health care innovation. Simply put, this is a rolling train wreck, and the American people know it. We need to listen to them and repeal this destructive and unconstitutional bill.

THE HOUSING CRISIS

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, my staff have spent countless hours fighting off wrongful foreclosures. A number of my constituents have submitted the same paperwork to banks five different times and had their short sales denied three times. Other constituents were given 24 hours to return a package of 60 documents to a bank that has had those documents for 6 months already.

Mr. Speaker, this is just not acceptable. An important step to fixing this economy is to solve this housing crisis. People cannot spend if they are living under the crushing weight of a mortgage payment worth more than their home.

Three years ago the average consumer spent \$100 a day. Now the average consumer spends about \$68 a day. We need programs to help the 14 million people whose homes are underwater.

I ask the majority, what have you done today to help the middle class afford to keep a roof over their heads?

BRING THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT TO THE FLOOR

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge the House GOP leadership to bring the American Jobs Act to the floor.

One of the primary reasons we've got to work together on a jobs strategy is to modernize and repair schools all

across the country. This will create thousands and thousands of jobs. Small business contractors, electricians, and others can repair our schools.

Back home in Florida, the school districts are having to delay maintenance. Teachers are being laid off, and schools are unable to invest in the modern science labs that will help prepare our kids for the jobs of the new century.

Yesterday, Vice President BIDEN visited Oakstead Elementary, north of Tampa, which is an A school. It opened 5 years ago, was built for 700 students, but they have over 1,000 students at Oakstead. And even with the overcrowding, the school district has had to release eight teachers. That is not smart.

"To keep this a grade-A school, we're going to have to keep teachers in the classroom," the Vice President said.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my GOP colleagues not to block the American Jobs Act. Our small business owners and contractors are ready to modernize schools, and parents like me want dedicated teachers in the classroom.

LISTEN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the pleasure of visiting small businesses that created jobs, anyone from doctors who worked 7 days in their office to companies who could sell anything to anybody to a beauty school that had people who were trying to be independent contractors; they created jobs. And I'm going to talk about them in the weeks to come.

So I'm begging, I'm begging this bipartisan House to put the American Jobs Act on the floor. That's because the GOP, of course, for 39 weeks has put one bill after another. One put off or destroyed 700,000 jobs. That was the spending bill. Another, about the Patient Bill of Rights, destroyed 300,000 jobs.

But 65 percent of Americans say we want jobs. They're at First and Independence right now. They're down at Wall Street. They're on Main Street. They're telling us, we want jobs. We want our teachers back, our firefighters back, we want our police back. We want to rebuild our schools. We need payroll tax relief so our small businesses can hire someone else. We want J-O-B-S. It's a simple point.

Put the American Jobs Act on the floor. Listen to the American people, the people in Wall Street that are arrested, 700 of them are crying out in pain. Let's respond to the American people. That is our job.

PASS THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, last week I was in Red Bank, New Jersey, in my district, outside the Broadway Diner, talking to the mayor of Red Bank and several small business leaders about the American Jobs Act.

I want to urge that this House and the Republican leadership take up the American Jobs Act as soon as possible. The bill includes an array of tax cuts for small businesses that hire new workers or give raises to existing workers. It also includes a payroll tax cut that puts money into the pockets of the American workers.

The Jobs Act will help small businesses do what they do best: create jobs, drive innovation, and provide economic security for the middle class. And the payroll tax cuts would save a small business with 50 workers approximately \$50,000 a year. On the employee side, each American family would take home an additional \$1,500 annually.

Mr. Speaker, when I talked to my small businesses in Red Bank about the American Jobs Act, they thought it was a great idea. They thought they would be able to take advantage of it.

We also worked with the SBA to look at possible loans that they were interested in to expand their businesses. This is what we need to do. Pass the American Jobs Act, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1230

SUPPORT THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I recently visited a Boeing facility in Philadelphia where 2 years ago only 4,000 people were working. Today there are 6,000. They have three shifts working each day. They have a weekend shift on Saturdays and Sundays. They are working hard and playing a vital role in our national defense.

I wanted to rise today to compliment the Obama administration for giving Boeing the largest contract in the history of our country with the tanker procurement program, well over \$34 billion, which takes American ingenuity and manufacturing jobs to a new height here in America, and I want to thank the administration for their hard work on this. This has been delayed for a long period of time, and having seen these Boeing workers work so very hard and well, it just reminds me of how many other Americans want to go to work.

I hope that we have a chance to support the American Jobs Act, that we bring it up and vote on it favorably so we can put many more of our fellow citizens to work.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND FRED LEE SHUTTLESWORTH ON HIS PASSING

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