

to extend the payroll tax holiday will raise taxes on millions of Americans, taking over \$120 billion out of the pockets of consumers and out of the economy.

Furthermore, at the same time the majority is working to raise taxes on the middle class, they are willing to cut off the unemployment insurance that has been keeping millions of Americans afloat.

Madam Speaker, let's ensure that millions of Americans enjoy this holiday season and are not forced to worry about raising taxes or losing essential assistance.

UNEMPLOYMENT HAS NOT BEEN THIS PERSISTENT SINCE 1948

(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. Madam Speaker, last Friday the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics announced November's unemployment rate remained above 8 percent. Over 13 million American families are now without jobs. Nearly 25 million people are looking for full-time employment. The number of unemployed Americans has not consistently remained at such a high percentage since 1948.

For the past 34 months, the American people have been depending upon Congress and the President to cut Washington's wasteful spending and enact policies targeting job creation and economic growth.

Since the Republicans regained the majority of the House in January, legislation has passed that allows small businesses to grow and create jobs. It is past time for the President and liberal-controlled Senate to change course to put our hardworking American families back to work.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism, as on December the 7th we honor the heroes of World War II.

BEYOND THE BORDER AGREEMENT

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, today the United States and Canadian Governments will announce a Beyond the Border agreement to ease border trade and travel in this era of heightened security.

I support this goal because in western New York our future depends on integrating our economy with the booming economy of southern Ontario by expanding the Bridge Peace that connects our two communities. The Peace Bridge is the busiest passenger crossing at the northern border. Passengers using the bridge spend \$133 million in western New York annually in support of our retailers, sports franchises, air-

ports, educational and cultural institutions.

In western New York, Peace Bridge trade impacts \$9.1 billion in business sales, supporting 60,000 local jobs and generating \$2.6 billion in household income and \$233 million in local tax revenue. All of this economic activity depends on a Peace Bridge that is free of congestion, one that is safe, reliable, and predictable.

I applaud the efforts of this agreement and call on a renewed Federal focus on the northern border, generally, and the Peace Bridge, specifically.

MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT SYSTEM

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, for decades the fundamentally flawed Medicare physician payment system has created uncertainty and instability, not only in the health care system but in the larger economy.

Every year physicians face the threat of reimbursement cuts which, in turn, hinders their ability to provide the necessary care that patients need. The Sustainable Growth Rate rate formula has constantly called for negative updates to physician payments with the scheduled reductions accumulating year after year, but Congress has continually delayed the cuts.

Congress has a historic opportunity to implement sound fiscal policy in the Medicare program in the context of broad economic reforms. I believe we must pursue a fair, efficient, and affordable long-term solution to the Medicare SGR formula. I am committed to working with my colleagues to pass commonsense legislation that promotes efficiency, quality, and value and ensures access to medical services for Medicare beneficiaries.

MEDICARE TOWN HALL/DOUGHNUT HOLE CLOSURE

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

Ms. HOCHUL. Madam Speaker, yesterday I spoke with over 8,000 of my constituents during a telephone town hall to talk about the end of the open enrollment period for Medicare, which occurs at midnight tonight.

We also talked about the savings they are now receiving as a result of the closing of the legendary prescription drug doughnut hole. More than 2.5 million Medicare recipients across the Nation have saved \$1.5 billion on their prescription drugs this year alone. In New York, we had 175,000 Medicare recipients, and they received a 50 percent discount on prescription drugs, totaling over \$113 million in savings, an average of \$650 per family.

Yesterday's call was a reminder, when I was talking about Bill from

Williamsville and Joan from Livingston County, that we have to work hard to protect this absolutely critical program that ensures medical care for our seniors and allows them to live their later years in dignity.

As my seniors told me: Medicare is not an entitlement; it is a program we spent our entire lives paying into. And I, for one, plan to protect it.

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CONGRATULATING ED SNIDER

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ed Snider, the owner of the Philadelphia Flyers hockey club, on being inducted into the United States Hockey Hall of Fame. This is a special occasion, not only for the city of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley as a whole, but particularly for those who love the game of hockey, myself included.

Ed's tremendous success with the Flyers franchise—winning two Stanley Cups and reaching the finals six times—contributed to making Philadelphia a Class A hockey town. However, the key is that he has really given back to communities.

Through his organization, the Ed Snider Youth Hockey Foundation, he teaches high-risk inner city boys and girls from Philadelphia the game of hockey. But it prepares them with life skills for success in school and life as well. Hard work, honest effort, teamwork, dedication, and a solid work ethic are instilled in these children as life lessons and values as part of participation in this program. It is through these lessons that his organization helps our children become good and productive citizens. His philanthropic cause is significant to our region and to these young children in our area.

Congratulations to Ed Snider on this recognition.

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join thousands of activists participating in the 16 Days Campaign by speaking out against violence against women.

Violence against women is a violation of fundamental human rights. It is a global problem of epidemic proportions. One in three women worldwide is beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused over the course of her lifetime.

That is why I am proud to be working with Congressman TED POE to reintroduce the International Violence Against Women Act. The important bill would require a comprehensive strategy to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls internationally.

Violence against women is not just a humanitarian tragedy; it is a global health menace and a threat to national security. The United States can play a significant role in protecting the human rights of all women and ending the violence against our sisters around the world.

COMMEMORATING DECEMBER 7

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

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate two very important events in our Nation's history that occurred on December 7. As we know, today is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. We pray for the more than 3,500 U.S. soldiers and civilians who were killed or wounded in defense of our Nation that day. The sacrifices they made 70 years ago are not unlike the sacrifices that our soldiers and their families are being asked to make today.

December 7 is also an important milestone for the founding of our Nation. Today is Delaware Day, the 224th anniversary of Delaware's ratification of the United States Constitution, making Delaware the first State to join the Nation.

Delaware's Founding Fathers saw the vision and genius of the form of government laid out in our Constitution. It is this vision and this document that continues to guide everything we do today.

So let us take time today to remember the contributions every generation has made to protect the values and freedoms upon which this great Nation was founded.

THE SEINFELD CONGRESS

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

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, the last time the Republicans controlled the House back in 2006, a newspaper columnist called it "the Seinfeld Congress," because like Seinfeld, which was a show about nothing, the 109th Congress was a Congress about nothing. Absolutely nothing got done.

Now the House Republicans have upped the ante. They have an agenda filled with Seinfeld legislation—a bunch of bills about nothing. Tomorrow, for example, we're considering the so-called farm dust bill. Now, ignore for a moment the fact that it's more about mines and smelters and concrete plants than it is about farms, House Republicans want to ban an EPA rule that the EPA administrator has said she has no intention of issuing.

Why are we wasting time prohibiting a rule that's not being issued when we've got real problems like a struggling economy and millions of people out of work.

As Seinfeld might say, yada, yada, yada.

HONORING TRINITY SHAMROCKS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, with an average margin of victory of more than 40 points, an undefeated season, and a win in the State championship that Sports Illustrated called the team's "finest offensive performance of the year," there can be no more debate: Trinity High School Shamrocks is the best high school football team in the country.

Friday's 62-21 victory over Scott County in the 6A final completed a 25-game win streak, secured a second straight State title, and capped a season in which Trinity didn't just beat the competition, they rocked them.

Over five playoff games, Trinity outscored its foes by more than 240 total points. They never trailed in the second half all season. They crushed top-tier out-of-state competition and avenged their only 2010 loss. After facing Trinity, Scott County's coach called the Shamrocks "the best team in Kentucky football history."

This was a true team effort, and thanks to the leadership and dedication of 40 seniors, these student athletes have achieved a perfect record and deserve to bring a national title home to Louisville. I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Coach Beatty, the team, and the entire Trinity community on an incredible championship and an amazing 2011 season. Way to go Rocks.

EXTEND PAYROLL TAX CUT AND EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, we simply cannot leave Washington before extending the payroll tax cut and unemployment assistance. With our economy still struggling and unemployment remaining unacceptably high at 10.4 percent in my home State of Rhode Island, now is not the time to take more money out of the pockets of hardworking families.

Allowing the payroll tax cuts to expire at the end of this month will mean less money in the pockets of 600,000 hardworking Rhode Islanders. It is absolutely critical that we extend the payroll tax cut which is saving working families an average of \$1,000 per year and would add \$400 million to Rhode Island's economy next year. We have to do everything we can to strengthen our middle class families who are struggling to make ends meet and provide assistance to those families who need it most.

If Congress does not extend emergency unemployment assistance, thousands of Rhode Islanders, as well as

millions of Americans who rely on this critical safety net, will lose their assistance. This will have a devastating impact on these families and on our economy.

Rather than providing subsidies to Big Oil companies and arguing for more tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires, it's time for Congress to stand up for American families and to extend the payroll tax cut and unemployment compensation.

EXTEND PAYROLL TAX CUT

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, the temporary payroll tax cut is putting money into the economy and the pockets of 160 million Americans. And now my Republican colleagues are demanding harmful cuts to working families and seniors to offset these middle class tax cuts.

A better idea is to cut from the \$1 trillion in special interest tax earmarks identified by the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles Commission. Let's cut the \$2 million earmark for wooden arrow manufacturers. Let's cut the \$40 million earmark for the owners of NASCAR racetracks. And let's cut \$235 million in earmarks for rum producers in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The earmarks are unfair and unaffordable.

To the 99 percent of Americans who don't have a lobbyist, sorry, you missed out on the special interest bonanza. Congress needs to protect working families. Let's pass President Obama's middle class payroll tax cut and help our families and our economy now.

SUPPORT REINS ACT

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

Mr. YODER. Madam Speaker, the American economy is crying out for certainty. Every day the instability created by new Washington rules, regulations, new taxes, et cetera makes it harder for the economy to recover and harder for small businesses to create jobs.

That's why today I stand in full support of the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act, known as the REINS Act.

As our Federal agencies churn out regulations by the truckload, it's our small businesses, those very entities that we expect to create jobs and are struggling to survive, that are burdened with implementing them. In fact, regulations cost the economy \$1.75 trillion per year. New regulations this year alone will cost business over \$60 billion, all driving up the cost of doing business and putting more people out of work.

I'm supporting the REINS Act because this legislation will provide