There has been a budgetary issue that is very disturbing. It is called the "fiscal cliff." This is a term used to describe the government's inability to pay its bills due to the combination of the federal budget deficit and the scheduled increase in payroll taxes. If we do not address this issue, the government will be unable to pay its bills, which would lead to a default. This would have devastating consequences for the economy, including a potential recession. It is crucial that we find a solution to the "fiscal cliff" problem as soon as possible.
Of the 780,000 people currently living in Cyprus, there are about 65,000 to 80,000 Turkish Cypriots and about 100,000 Turks who have moved illegally to the island from Anatolia. A solution to the Cyprus problem has been elusive for more than a quarter-of-century with President Clinton raising the Cyprus issue in his State of the Union Address this year, his highest priority. It was the first time in 20 years that a president had mentioned the Cyprus question in that annual speech.

Clinton, who has actively immersed himself in other international issues including Ireland and the Middle East, still has seven months remaining in office to push for a Cyprus settlement.

There are hopeful signs that the situation is improving. Devastating earthquakes that hit both Greece and Turkey last year resulted in both countries coming to the aid of victims. In Cyprus itself, Turkish and Greek Cypriots worked together to solve common issues, such as in the divided city of Nicosia when officials resolved sewage problems and other municipal issues. And hundreds of Turkish Cypriots have voluntarily had their blood tested to see if they could provide a bone marrow transplant for a six-year-old Greek Cypriot boy fighting leukemia.

Another round of U.N.-sponsored talks aimed at reuniting the island will get under way July 5 in Geneva.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives a favor. In honoring a very special person, Reverend Dr. David Jefferson, Sr., who has earned an outstanding reputation as a teacher, preacher, civic leader, community servant, attorney, and visionary. He has excelled spiritually, academically, and professionally and has made valuable contributions to his community.

Reverend Jefferson has provided vital leadership to his church in creating formidable ministries, outreach evangelism to the surrounding communities, and leadership training seminars. He has orchestrated a Mens and Boys Breakfast with over three hundred people in attendance. The church has formed a Mass Choir, a Bible Study of over eight hundred people, and car pooling for college students who wish to attend services.

Reverend Jefferson has built a strong and diverse graduate level of education. Upon leaving Grambling State, Reverend Jefferson immediately enrolled in the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio. Here he earned a Master of Arts in Administration degree in Marketing and Finance. He then received a Juris Doctorate of Law from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio and a Master of Divinity from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. In 1988 he was awarded a fellowship to the prestigious "Sloan Fellows Program" at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Here Dr. Jefferson completed his Master of Science in Management in 1989.

Reverend Jefferson is happily married to the former Linda Mouton of Jennings, LA. They are the proud parents of five children: Kimberly, David Jr., Lou Ella, and Jasmine. He is a member of the New Jersey Bar and American Bar Associations, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to join me on June 11th, in congratulating Reverend Dr. David Jefferson, Sr. on his outstanding accomplishments in expressing our appreciation for his dedicated community service. Let us extend our best wishes to Dr. Jefferson for continued success and fulfillment.

FURTHER EVIDENCE OF NEED TO CREATE INDEPENDENT FEDERAL AGENCY TO INVESTIGATE THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR. OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I introduced legislation, H.R. 4105, to establish an independent federal agency to investigate allegations of wrongdoing on the part of Justice Department personnel. As part of my ongoing efforts to have this important legislation enacted into law, I have been investigating allegations of wrongdoing within the Justice Department that have not been appropriately and completely investigated and prosecuted.

One of the incidents I uncovered occurred in my own Congressional District, and it involves serious allegations of misconduct on the part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation agents in Youngstown, Ohio. The attached sworn affidavit makes serious allegations that should be aggressively investigated by the Justice Department and Congress.

STATE OF OHIO, COUNTY OF TRUMBULL—AFFIDAVIT OF JAMES A. KERCUM

After having been duly sworn in accordance with law, I, James A. Kercum, hereby depose and say:

(1) James A. Kercum, was an active participant of the Mahoning Valley Corruption Task Force during the approximate period of February 1998 thru April 1999.

(2) During the period of February 1998 thru April 23, 1999, I primarily planned and