

Union leadership is elected by secret ballot, I was elected by a secret ballot, and the President of the United States was elected by a secret ballot.

In these tough economic times, no one can blame American workers for supporting measures they believe will create new jobs for them. I grew up in a union household, so I understand why workers support this legislation when they hear their leadership talk about how this is needed because workers' influence is declining in the United States. Unfortunately, their leadership's rhetoric just doesn't square with reality. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, union membership was just over 16 million in 2008, a 2.6 percent rise over 2007. This legislation lays waste to an employee's right to choose whether to join a union by secret ballot, which is too steep a price to pay.

#### FEDERAL TAXPAYER DOLLAR

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, a wise man once said, "Treat each federal tax dollar as if it was hard earned; it was—by a taxpayer."

The Democrats of this House need a reminder that every dollar they have been signing away is a hard-earned American dollar.

Let's take that \$787 billion stimulus bill that they passed and that the American taxpayers will have to repay. That's going to cost every taxpayer in this country over \$4,000. We know that Americans are hurting, that we are in a recession, and that now is no time to raise taxes and increase their share of this national debt. That's all money that they could be using for household necessities.

And they are a little bit weary when they hear about projects they're going to be required to fund, like a foot bridge in St. Louis, or \$8 billion for the Disneyland to Las Vegas train, or \$200,000 for tattoo removal, or millions for the Speaker's mouse.

So let's remember those wise words before we start signing off on all these pork barrel spending projects for special interests. Let's treat every Federal taxpayer dollar as what it is, hard earned by the Federal taxpayer.

#### AMERICANS DESERVE THE FULL STORY ON IMMIGRATION

(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 deserve accurate stories about immigration issues, but the national media prevent that from happening.

Too often, the media only feature stories that support their bias, that include more quotes from pro-amnesty

sources than pro-enforcement sources, and they prey on emotions while ignoring facts. These articles paint a one-sided sympathetic picture of illegal immigrants, but fail to acknowledge they intentionally broke our laws, burdened taxpayers, and displaced legal workers.

For example, five out of six immigration stories in the New York Times over a recent 2-week period were obviously slanted. The same was true of six out of eight immigration articles in the Washington Post. Americans deserve better, and should insist that the media provide all the facts and not just give one side.

□ 1230

#### CARD CHECK

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, secret ballots say a lot about the societies that defend and preserve them. They say that society trusts the people, and given the facts and the arguments, the people themselves are trusted to make the right decisions. You can be persuaded. You can be begged. But in the privacy of the voting booth, your vote is your own.

When government attempts to abolish the private ballot, it says that people are not trusted. It says to every citizen, you, do not know what is good for you.

For over 60 years, American workers have decided whether to unionize in secret ballot elections, for the very same reasons that in political elections we cast our votes in private. Card check assaults that right. It imposes coercion over conscience, force over freedom.

Since 1776 Americans have expected Congress to defend their democratic rights, not abolish them. Card check denies fundamental democratic rights to over 100 million Americans. Congress should defend this right.

#### CAP AND TRADE CONCERNS

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep concerns about the so-called "cap and trade" proposal. This is a new tax, a carbon tax, that would be levied upon every single American.

We were told that 95 percent of Americans would not see even "one dime" of increase in their taxes. Despite this rhetoric from the administration, 100 percent of Americans will pay this new tax. Every person, every business, every family will pay this new tax. Even Warren Buffet refers to this as a "regressive tax."

At a time when business is struggling and all Americans across the country are worried about the expenses of their daily lives, now, especially now, is not the time to raise taxes.

The President's budget spends too much, it taxes too much, and it borrows too much.

The new carbon tax, disguised in the green robe of "cap and trade," is not a tax the American people are willing to pay. I urge the American people to rise up against this tax and reject this unwarranted tax upon our families.

#### RECOGNIZING AND HONORING OUR TROOPS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last weekend I had the opportunity to visit our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and was able to thank them personally for their selfless sacrifice and for their service to our country.

From the moment that I arrived in country along with five of our colleagues, there was an extreme sense of pride, purpose, and confidence in the soldiers we met. These troops are led by the finest military leaders in the world, such as General Ray Odierno, General David McKiernan, General Lloyd Austin, to name just a few, with each of their commands providing superb support.

So I come to the floor today with a message from the troops, a message that I found somewhat selfless, but not at all surprising coming from these fine men and women.

Mr. Speaker, they asked me to tell the stories of their success, that they're making a difference. That the cut-and-run strategy that politicians, who have absolutely zero battlefield let alone military experience, preach from this floor is not the support that they and their families expect or deserve.

So with that I tell you a story about a women's health clinic in Baghdad. This clinic, like many in Iraq, has intermittent electricity throughout the day and little, if any, after the sun goes down. After spending 28 years in healthcare, I can tell you that I know firsthand you cannot decide when a baby decides to be born or when an emergency occurs.

So what did our soldiers do? Well, they did a lot.

For example, they installed solar panels on the roof of the clinic and batteries to store that energy. That clinic is now operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, providing much needed care to women and babies in need.

And I assure you, Mr. Speaker, this is one of countless examples of what occurs daily in Iraq.

No, you won't read this in the newspaper or see it on cable TV, but, Mr. Speaker, it is precisely the type of action and goodwill that our young men and women in uniform perform on a daily basis that deserves recognition.

So I appreciate the opportunity to thank our troops and to share their message with you.