

around, and what do they do? Criticize. Criticize progress of creating jobs again. Criticize trying to create an opportunity for America to have good health care again. Criticize the fact that we are able to improve bridges and roads. Criticize the fact that we are going to be able to approve the money to help the unemployed. Eight years of driving the economy into the ground.

One year, President Obama had 1 year to make sure that we begin to restore America to the prosperity that we had 8 years prior to the Bush administration. Let's continue to move in the right direction.

#### ORLANDO ZAPATA TAMAYO

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I rise today to inform my colleagues that a great Cuban hero, Orlando Zapata Tamayo, who is a prisoner of conscience in the gulag of the Castro brothers, is in critical condition and near death.

Forty-two years old, Orlando Zapata has been active in the Cuban pro-democracy movement for many years. Already a political prisoner in 2003, he was released by Castro for 14 days before being imprisoned once again and sentenced to 25 years in the gulag, in March 2003.

A colleague and partner in the struggle for freedom of Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, Orlando Zapata personifies the best of mankind. And the fact that he is near death at this moment in the Castros' gulag points to the profoundly criminal nature of that grotesque totalitarian criminal regime. His condition and fate are the Castro brothers' doing. If he dies, his blood will be on Castro's hands.

#### CURRENT HEALTH CARE SYSTEM CANNOT BE SUSTAINED

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the current system with reference to health care cannot be sustained. We are currently spending \$2.5 trillion per year. That is a large number, difficult to get your mind around it. However, \$79,000 a second is something that we all can understand. And by 2018 it will become \$4.4 trillion per year. That would be \$139,000 per second.

For those who say, this is not my fight, I have good insurance, it may be that you have not utilized your insurance and you don't really know how good it isn't. For those who say I have insurance, I am okay, remember that 14,000 people per day lose their insurance. But for the grace of God, you may be one of the 14,000 people without insurance tomorrow. So please understand this is everybody's fight, because the economy of this country is dependent upon how we impact health care.

Finally, this. In my State of Texas, 6 million are uninsured, 1.4 million children uninsured. This is inexcusable. There is a difference between something being unsustainable and being inexcusable. It is inexcusable.

#### TOO MUCH GOVERNMENT SPENDING

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the other side of the aisle has been calling for even more misguided government spending despite the fact that they have controlled this House for the last 3 years, with massive spending in the past. Hasn't the American public spoken loud and clear that the Federal Government is just spending too much and trying to do too much, and that they want us to start cutting spending here?

You know, the consequences of governments spending too much money are apparent around the world. Over in Greece, with potential default, they are only the tip of the iceberg. You have Italy and Spain also showing serious concerns as well. But here at home over the last 3 years we now see, because of the Democrat leadership of the House, \$1.6 trillion deficits without any serious commitment whatsoever about trying to cut spending.

And what is the result of that? Well, Moody's is now saying that there is a real possibility that the U.S. may lose its AAA rating. Think about that for a moment. Serious people are beginning to whisper that if things don't change here, the U.S. may actually default on its debts in the coming years and do serious damage to our economy and weaken it and cause higher interest rates.

You know, throughout the last year we have talked a lot about spotting systemic risk in our economy. Well, there is one major risk in it right now, our mammoth Federal deficit and ever-increasing debt. Washington and the Democrat majority leadership must get serious about addressing this fast.

#### WE NEED A JOBS BILL

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

Ms. NORTON. One has to congratulate the other side for chutzpah. After racking up most of what is now the deficit, they have gotten religion on the deficit in the middle of a recession. When conservative and progressive economists say when the only body that has any money is the government, you better spend it for jobs.

I wonder if in this House we would at least do what they did in the other body yesterday, when five Republicans crossed over to actually be for a modest jobs bill. It certainly is not the bill that I would have wanted, but what is

noteworthy is that the majority of Republicans actually voted against the jobs bill yesterday that spent only \$15 billion.

Were you afraid that that would contribute to the deficit? How much are you willing to help the American people get out of the deficit that you left us and get out of the economic morass that you have bequeathed us? One begins to wonder if we could even get unemployment insurance passed. We have sent over a bill to the other body which is far larger. Let's hope that we can get more such bills passed.

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#### THERE'S A BETTER WAY FORWARD

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you know, small businesses want, need, and deserve policies that will encourage, not punish economic growth. And yet, due to the Democrats' tax-and-spend agenda, job creators in my district are either cutting their payrolls or holding back on hiring. That's why we have a record 16 million Americans unemployed.

There's a better way forward, and that way forward is with pro-growth, small business tax cuts that will help get this economy moving again. Mr. Speaker, small business owners know how to run their company better than a Washington bureaucrat. It's time for the government to get out of the business of running small business.

#### THE RECOVERY ACT

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I'm here to report that the Recovery Act is working in my hometown of Tampa, Florida. Yesterday, I attended a groundbreaking for a new community health center that is desperately needed in a part of town where they don't have anywhere else to go other than the emergency room, where we all end up paying for their health care.

But in attendance at the groundbreaking were some of the construction workers, contractors, the architects, the real estate agents that will be put to work constructing this new community health center.

And just a couple of weeks ago I visited another community health center up the road, run by Tampa Family Health Centers, and met doctors, nurses, medical professionals, a new receptionist that were hired because of the Recovery Act. It's these dollars that are investing in our hometowns, putting people back to work in the short term constructing these new facilities, but in the long term providing better health care at affordable rates for our families.