

skilled workers in advanced energy industries.

The United States is already facing a critical shortage of trained workers for jobs that focus on energy efficiency, and studies show that demand for such workers will only grow. We need more workers, but we have to educate them properly, and the cost of such an education is an obstacle to many.

My legislation would help ease this burden by establishing a student loan forgiveness program for energy students who go to work in the advanced energy field. This program would start at \$2,000 in forgiveness in the first year and go up to \$5,000 with 5 years.

If we want our country to lead the way in advanced energy technologies, we have to be willing to invest in that workforce through education.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

OBAMACARE

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today we will hear again from the President about health care reform. However, moving forward on another version of these massive health care bills is not progress. Raising hundreds of millions of dollars in new taxes is not progress. Cutting half a trillion dollars from Medicare is not progress. Putting the government in charge of health care in this country is not progress.

We all know how flawed the Senate health care bill is, how it is full of backroom deals like the Cornhusker Kickback and the Louisiana Purchase and many others. Some say the American people will appreciate this bill after it becomes law.

Let's not pretend that the American people just don't know enough about this bill to make an informed decision. They are informed, and they reject it. Let's scrap this massive bill and start over, just like the American people would like us to.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Women's History Month. This month we will be celebrating not only the accomplishments of women, but will also be raising the awareness of the various challenges that still exist and face women today.

Today, women make up about 12 percent of our 1.2 million active U.S. servicemembers.

Today, women like Tran Khai Thanh Tuy are sacrificing their rights to fight for democracy and freedom in Vietnam.

Today, the United States Government is led by more women leaders than ever before.

But unfortunately, women today also continue to be challenged by discrimination, sexual assault, and violence. Despite all of the progress we have made, women and girls continue to be trafficked across international borders on a daily basis.

This month, I encourage all of my colleagues to not only recognize the progress women have made, but also to take action to expand the rights of women today and for future generations.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS FINANCIALLY STRAPPED

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, recently during my district work period, I met with officials from Matthews County Public Schools. Matthews County is representative of many of the communities in my district and around the Commonwealth that are dealing with difficult budget challenges.

The Matthews County school system is projected to lose \$1.2 million in the 2010-2011 budget year. For a small school district, this is a significant number. Unfortunately, in these cases, usually the only place left to trim the budget is personnel. This would mean less services and programs for children.

Over the years, the Federal Government has expanded its involvement in funding and has added requirements on public education. In some cases, Federal requirements leave school districts strapped for funding. The Federal requirements and mandates are not joined with Federal assistance. In my district, I have formed an Education Advisory Council to look at these tough issues.

Congress should carefully review these important programs and implement commonsense reforms to ensure that we are helping, not hurting, the education of our children. There are many counties like Matthews across Virginia's First Congressional District. We must be mindful of the impacts we have on their budgets.

RECOVERY ACT WORKING

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to share some success stories from the 20th Congressional District in Florida that show that the evidence is clear that the Recovery Act is working to cushion the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression and lay a new foundation for economic growth.

In my State of Florida, we are creating jobs and investing in the infrastructure of our community. Indeed, in my district alone, there have been 130 Recovery Act grants that have been

awarded. Even more importantly, in my congressional district, 61 small businesses have received more than \$21 million in loans. These loans to small businesses have allowed companies to stay open, keep people employed, and prevented an even deeper economic downturn.

Experts agree that the Recovery Act is already responsible for saving or creating 2 million jobs, and we remain on track to create and save at least an additional 3½ million jobs by the end of the year.

The Recovery Act, to be clear, was never meant to replace dollar for dollar or job for job what we have lost. But 1 year in, experts ranging from private forecasters to Governors on both sides of the aisle say the Recovery Act has helped pull us back from the brink of economic disaster and is helping us lay a firm foundation for our economic recovery.

□ 1030

SCRAP CURRENT HEALTH CARE BILL

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, last year, I introduced House Resolution 615, a resolution that simply says, if you vote for a government-run health care system, you should be willing to be subject to it. As of today, over 3 million Americans have gone to fleming.house.gov in support of this resolution.

This message continues to resonate across America for one simple reason: The people of this country are sick and tired of being the victims of bad laws while their elected representatives exempt themselves from the very same laws. If Congress feels increased taxes, higher premiums, and government-run health care are good enough for American families, then it should be good enough for them as well.

I urge the President and Democrat leadership to listen to this overwhelming uproar from the American public. Scrap the current legislation and go back to the drawing board to craft a true bipartisan bill that increases access and quality of health care while driving down costs for American families.

LEGISLATION TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. SCHAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce new legislation I'm introducing to help small businesses grow and make it easier for them to put people to work. New jobs mean less government spending on unemployment and health care. New employees spend much of what they earn, also boosting our local economies.