

## STANDING BEHIND NORTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS AFTER DEVASTATING FLOODS

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

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, today the residents of Minot, North Dakota, and the surrounding communities are preparing for a devastating flood that is going to impact their cities. The water levels in the Souris River have never reached the levels that they will reach in the next 24 to 48 hours. Many parts of the city and the surrounding rural areas will be inundated with water as water levels rise above the current levies. More than 10,000 residents have already been evacuated.

In North Dakota, we pull together in challenging times and we support our friends and our communities. The city and people around Minot need to know that, when the water recedes, we will be there to help. We will be there to clean up, and we will be there to rebuild.

I ask everyone to please join me in keeping these residents who are fighting for their homes and their communities in your thoughts and prayers and to stand with Minot and other communities up and down the Souris River to ensure a strong recovery.

## REPUBLICAN WOMEN ON JOB GROWTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I stand with my fellow Republican women on the House floor tonight. We stand before you from every corner of America, as businesswomen, nurses, physicians, farmers, mothers, educators, and attorneys to tell you the story of the Republican woman.

While our backgrounds and professions may be different, one thing is not: We are all conservative reformers committed to leaving America better for our children and grandchildren. After all, women in this country know better than anyone the effects of harmful economic policies. Why? Because two out of three businesses are started by women. Women-owned business are the fastest growing segment in the United States economy and they generate over \$2.5 trillion in revenue a year. Women manage 83 percent of household income, spend two out of three health care dollars, and make up the majority of health care providers in America.

Women are at the center of this debate, and the House Republican women are committed to leading it. But at a time when our country has accumulated over \$14 trillion in debt and faced 28 consecutive months of unemploy-

ment above 8 percent, we know this is not an easy task. Yet despite the obstacles and the opposition, House Republican women are committed to fighting this fight, to creating jobs, to making America what she once was—the land of opportunity, innovation, and ingenuity. And that is why we are all here. That is why we ran for Congress and why we stand in the Halls of Congress; some of us for many years, others are brand new, all of us bound by the commitment to real reform.

We have seen the numbers. Eighty-one percent of Americans know someone without a job; the average unemployed American has been searching for over 38 weeks; and since President Obama took office, we have lost over 2 million jobs in this country. We refuse to sit here and watch those numbers rise.

As eastern Washington's Representative, I ran for Congress 7 years ago to help keep that American Dream alive. I spent 13 years working beside my mom and dad and brother in our family-owned business in Kettle Falls, Washington. I was the first in my family to graduate from college, and I later had the honor of serving as State Representative, while continuing to work in our family business and learning firsthand the value of hard work, the value of opportunity. From the fruit stand in Kettle Falls to the Halls of Congress, I am here years later because I refused to let that opportunity be threatened.

I come home every night to two beautiful children, Cole and Grace, and I want them to have the opportunities that I have had. I want them not only to know the American Dream and what it is, but I want them to have the opportunity to live it.

America stands at a crossroads like never before in our Nation's history. Last year at this time the administration was talking about a recovery summer. This year we should be talking about a reality summer. The reality is clear and it is unprecedented. I was just home in Spokane, where unemployment is over 9 percent and there is one thing on the forefront of everyone's minds—jobs.

So, tonight we Republican women are here to remind the American people that creating jobs is our number one priority. Our GOP plan for job creators will empower small businesses, fix the Tax Code, encourage entrepreneurs, increase competitiveness, and pay down America's national debt. We will stand on this House floor, debate in committee hearings, work with our colleagues across the aisle, and continue to listen to those at home until we get Americans back to work. And we will. We are on the road to economic recovery, and the House Republican women are committed to ensuring that we get there.

With that, it is with great pleasure that I would like to yield to the dynamic woman from North Carolina.

Mrs. ELLMERS. Thank you so much to my colleague from Washington, and

thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing us tonight to come as Republican women to speak out to the American people.

I came to Washington as one of the new freshmen here, and I am very honored to be part of this group. We are a group of women who believe in our country. We believe in the right of every American to achieve. There are no guarantees, but if you put your mind to it and you work hard, everyone can achieve.

I, too, came from a family that was not wealthy. My parents did not really see the value in a college education. I am a second generation American here in the United States, and I am first generation college educated. I basically put myself through college and nursing school with many different jobs. I became a nurse, and I have been a nurse for over 21 years and am very happy to be so. I am a wife and a mom. My son, Ben, is 16 years old.

When health care became such a huge issue in this country and when our President spoke about changing it, the best health care system in the world, I knew that that was not only going to be detrimental to health care but also the economy, because it is such a large portion of our economy. So I put myself forward to run for office, because I believed that if you are going to change things in Washington, you have to change Washington itself. So here I am, proud to be serving with these great women.

We have many, many issues in this country right now that we are faced with, and we need jobs. Unemployment has been above 9 percent for over 23 months now. Yes, our colleagues across the aisle put forward their plan over a year ago. That plan has failed, and it is time for a new plan.

As a woman, being a multitasker, Mr. Speaker, as you know how wonderful women are, we can put our minds to it and we can solve these problems.

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Speaking as a nurse, I've always taken care of many patients, but none more dear to me than my seniors. And what they are faced with today because of the destruction that has been put forward by our Democrat colleagues across the aisle in ObamaCare, it has truly done just that—destroyed it. And it is our job to rescue it back for the American people so that it will be there for our seniors and it will be there for generations to come.

As it is right now, \$500 billion has been taken out, and a 15-person panel will be put in place to decide what kind of health care you receive. That right will be taken away from you and your physician. Imagine a group of individuals without any health care background whatsoever deciding for you whether or not you'll be able to have surgery or whether or not you'll be able to have a treatment. Imagine trying to explain that to your family. Imagine sitting at the bedside of your