

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOBS AND
DEFICIT REDUCTION BILLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. I rise today with great disappointment in the administration's misguided agenda on job creation and deficit reduction.

You see, I have been in a family that has created jobs for generations. Shortly after World War II, my grandfather wanted to create an opportunity for his family. He wanted to create an opportunity to make a difference in his community. So, with a sixth-grade education, with \$3,000 of borrowed money, and with a dream to make a difference, he did what small businesses do naturally when they do not have the impediments of the Federal Government: He created jobs. His dream, his vision, included that—to make a difference, to give other people an opportunity to forge a brighter and better future for them and their families.

It wasn't a self-serving dream.

It was a dream to serve others.

During those decades following World War II, we saw that same example all across this great Nation of people doing what people were created to do—make a difference.

It is not government's responsibility to create a job through a bill. It is government's responsibility to create an environment, an environment that produces certainty, an environment that a small business owner has the guarantee that he knows what his taxes are going to be, that he knows what his fees are going to be, that he knows what his regulations are going to be, not just in 6 months or 12 months, but for years, and that creates certainty.

I had never served in elected office before being sworn in as a Member of this House in January. I went from small business to Congress, and so I bring with me that understanding that, if government gets out of the way and if we can do what Americans do better than any country in the world, we will make our communities a better place, and, yes, because of our benevolence, we will make the world a better place.

It was a great disappointment when the President came to this Chamber and the President introduced his plan. I was saddened. Yes, there were some things that I agreed with that we need to do—the free trade agreements. We are still waiting for those free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. We're waiting. There was agreement on tax reform. There was agreement on payroll tax reduction to give small businesses more money, to give individuals more money on their paychecks. We agreed there. But if you look deeper into this bill, you will see, unfortunately, more of the same.

This jobs bill creates a brand new, permanent, government-owned bureaucracy. As a matter of fact, it's a corporation—the President's American

Infrastructure Financing Authority, a solely owned subsidiary of the Federal Government. It is not time for the Federal Government to create corporations, corporations that have chief executive officers and chief financial officers, risk officers, chief compliance officers, chief operating officers, chief lending officers, general counsel, and boards of directors who are lending money—lending money—with terms out to 35 years.

Now, unfortunately, this is insanity. This sounds so much like the first stimulus—and the first stimulus, we know, with 35 percent of those funds having yet to be spent. We were promised our unemployment numbers would not go over 8 percent. As a matter of fact, the administration claimed that unemployment numbers by this time would be at 6.5. Well, we all know that is not true. As a matter of fact, in my home State of Florida, we're living with 10.7 percent unemployment, and, last year, we spent most of the year at 12—historic unemployment numbers.

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Unfortunately, insanity, when you do the same thing over and over and over again, expecting different results, seems to be the order of the day; and that is not what the American people want right now. They want certainty. They want certainty to be able to work hard, to have honest dealings and to know that after they work hard and they're honest, that they will have a brighter future when they wake up tomorrow.

They deserve that. They deserve that and unfortunately this plan goes in the opposite direction. So it bothers me that with the regulations that we face, the cloud of uncertainty just grows.

Madam Speaker, I say in closing, business has never been asked to do more with less, and they clearly know less certainty.

RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT IN
MILITARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, as I come each week, to share yet another horrific story about rape in the military.

It is a black eye on this country that must be erased. Nineteen thousand rapes a year occur in the military. Those are figures determined by the Department of Defense itself. I encourage those who want to tell their story to email me at stopmilitaryrape@mail.house.gov.

Today I am going to talk about Seaman Kori Cioca, who served in the Coast Guard from August 2005 to June 2007. Her allegations are as follows:

Seaman Cioca was consistently threatened and harassed by her superior. On one occasion, when she made a mistake during a knot-tying quiz, he called her a "stupid bleeping female

who didn't belong in the military." Then he spit in her face.

She complained about her superior's abusive behavior and expressed fear of him to other military personnel in the chain of command. As is too often the case, this reporting led to her being punished and not the perpetrator.

Her superior began to drive past Cioca's home many times during the day and called her repeatedly, leaving her voice mails threatening her life. He then began to break into her room at night and stand over her bed. Seaman Cioca began sleeping with a knife under her pillow to defend herself.

During work one day, her superior thrust his groin into her buttocks as she bent over to pick up some trash. He then called her a "bleeping whore" and laughed. Seaman Cioca and another shipmate who witnessed the incident reported it to the command. Seaman Cioca requested a transfer, but it was denied.

At the end of November 2005, the superior broke into Seaman Cioca's room. He directed her to touch his genitals. When she refused loudly, he grabbed her hand and pushed it into his groin. When she yelled again and pushed her superior away, he struck her so hard in the face that she was thrown across the room and against a wall.

Seaman Cioca and two other shipmates, who witnessed the harassment, went to command and reported the assault. Command did nothing in response.

In December 2005, Seaman Cioca was ordered to go to retrieve some keys from her superior, who was in his stateroom. When he realized she was alone, he pulled her into the room, grabbed her by the hair and raped her.

Command obtained an admission of sex from the superior, but told Seaman Cioca that if she pressed forward with reporting the rape, she would be court-martialed for lying. They refused her pleas to take a lie detector test so she could prove her case.

The superior only pled guilty to hitting her. He got a slap on the wrist.

She, on the other hand, was forced to sign a paper saying she had an inappropriate relationship with her superior and was discharged.

As part of the discharge process, command made her stay in an all-male barracks for 60 days. She now suffers from PTSD and an abnormal EEG due to nerve damage in her face.

Cioca later told the press, "It's like they didn't care. It wasn't important. I wasn't important."

Well, Seaman Cioca, you are important, and it is important. And it's high time that the Congress of the United States take action to rid the military of rape.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the Members that remarks in debate must be addressed to the Chair and not to others in the second person.