



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2011

No. 151

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. ROBY).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
October 11, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARTHA ROBY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### AMERICANS' PRIORITY IS JOBS

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, ask Americans their priority, and they'll tell you it's jobs. There are 14 million Americans out of work. There are 9.3 million more Americans working part-time because they can't find full-time employment. There are millions more Americans whose incomes have stagnated because of the persistent unemployment which has dragged down economic growth. In fact, median household income has

fallen 9.8 percent since the recession first began in 2007. More troubling, although the overall economy has been growing again, household incomes continue to fall. Since December 2007, American households have lost more than \$5,400 per average household.

There are several factors leading to this decline. One of the most significant is that in order to find work, many millions of unemployed Americans are forced to accept lower pay. With millions of Americans still desperately searching for jobs, businesses can afford to offer lower wages. With millions of American families slipping below the poverty line and wondering where the next mortgage payment or meal will come from, prospective workers can't afford not to take the pay cut.

It's clear we must pass the American Jobs Act. This is a plan that reduces business taxes to encourage private sector hiring and increases infrastructure investment to repair and rebuild America, creating jobs. And it cuts taxes for every working American. While the lingering effects of the worst recession in 80 years continue to drive down Americans' income, we can increase their take-home pay with the Americans Jobs Act, putting more money back in the pockets of average American families. Increasing American paychecks and creating jobs—that ought to be our priority.

But Republicans in Congress have a different priority: cutting. Last Congress, Republicans' big marketing blitz wasn't about creating jobs, it was about cutting. Last Congress, Democrats passed business tax cuts to spur job creation, approving infrastructure improvements to create construction jobs and backstopping faltering State and local education funding to save teaching jobs. And we saw results. The Great Recession resulted in 8 million jobs lost. But thanks to our efforts, like the Recovery Act and the HIRE

Act, we created 2.6 million jobs. A good start, but not enough.

But what were the Republicans doing last year? They were trumpeting their YouCut program. Perhaps if Democrats had named our efforts YouHire program, Republicans might have taken more notice.

Unfortunately, through fighting and threatening, delaying and denigrating, Republicans have made clear that cutting remains their top priority. Their first bill introduced this year, H.R. 1, wasn't about jobs; it was all about cuts. In fact, economists predicted it would cost 200,000 jobs.

Surely their second bill was about jobs? No. H.R. 2 tried to repeal important health reforms so that people with preexisting conditions wouldn't be protected; so that parents wouldn't be able to keep their kids on insurance, especially during tough times, through the age of 26; so that the doughnut hole for our seniors could be closed and they could get a 50 percent brand name drug discount this year.

But if Republican voodoo really worked, why isn't our economy better? Why are American incomes still dropping? This entire year in place of actual job creation legislation, Republicans have focused instead on ever-increasing cuts. And since the beginning of the year, the economy has faltered. Their single-minded focus on attacking private sector employees has paid off; we've lost 535,000 public jobs all across America. It's time to invest in America again. Let's support the American jobs bill.

### JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CREDIBILITY IN QUESTION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the United States Government has facilitated smuggling automatic weapons

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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