

## U.S. MARINE JON HAMMAR

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the plight of the United States Marine veteran, Jon Hammar, who has been unjustly jailed in a Mexican prison since August. Jon is an American hero and a patriot.

After tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan, including time in Fallujah, Jon began to suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome. In order to help cope with PTSD, Jon and a friend embarked upon a surfing trip to Costa Rica. However, when they got to Mexico, Jon was arrested after receiving inaccurate information from our own Customs and Border Patrol agents. Since then, Jon has been languishing in his own personal hell. He was beaten by other inmates, his parents were being extorted, and he has been chained to his bed.

I'm asking my fellow Members of Congress to join me and over 50 of our colleagues to urge our State Department and the Mexican authorities to resolve this matter immediately and bring Jon Hammar home for Christmas. Please call our congressional office to sign these important letters.

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## ENACT A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, as both parties continue to negotiate over the looming fiscal cliff, Congress is presented with a real opportunity to pass long-term, comprehensive deficit reduction plans. We cannot let this opportunity pass us by.

Of course, this is not the first time that Congress has tried to solve this challenge, but it is vital that we learn from our past failures. We have to check our partisan talking points at the door and put everything on the negotiating table.

This time, let's work from the middle out to build a bipartisan consensus, instead of searching for solutions at the ideological extremes. This time, let's listen to the vast majority of Americans who occupy the middle ground and who want Congress to enact a bipartisan solution, a bipartisan solution that would help restore the public's confidence in Congress while reassuring the nervous financial markets. And most importantly, it would secure a lasting economic future for our country. The American people deserve nothing less.

## RESTORE THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, we must remember America is exceptional, and

the entrepreneurial spirit and innovative drive of our small business owners is what makes the American engine hum.

Two-thirds of all new jobs created in America are by these men and women who risk capital, give their time and effort, and take risks to grow their business. We call this the American Dream. When we place too many obstacles on small businesses, it stifles their ability to grow, hinders their ability to hire new employees, and slows our economic recovery.

As we discuss and debate the fiscal cliff deadline that is quickly approaching, we must keep in mind this American Dream. Our policies should focus on how our Nation creates jobs and the economy grows. It's the drive and determination of the American people that makes the United States the most prosperous Nation the world has ever seen. Now is our time to unite around sound pro-growth, pro-job creation policies.

Mr. Speaker, let's create long-term certainty when it comes to taxes and regulations. Let's reduce spending and rein in the national debt. Let's help our Nation restore the American Dream.

## WE MUST FIND CONSENSUS

(Ms. BONAMICI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, our constituents across this great Nation are looking to Congress for leadership.

Here we are, back in Washington this week, still in negotiations to find a compromise to avert this so-called "fiscal cliff." The yearend is fast approaching. Before last Friday, almost every conversation I had with my neighbors back in Oregon centered on this question: What will happen after January 1? How much will taxes increase if Congress, as is too often the case, is too paralyzed by gridlock to act?

My constituents found common ground in expressing this simple view: that the middle class families and those who are struggling have done enough to bear the brunt of the country's economic difficulties and should not be asked to pay more. To see people coming together to ask their legislators to do what is right, what is balanced, and what is responsible encouraged me that we might reach some solution.

So I'm here today, Mr. Speaker, to ask that we all join together to do what my constituents and your constituents and all of our constituents have asked us to do. We must find consensus and allow tax rates on most Americans to remain as they are so our communities and businesses can move forward with certainty and faith in their government to work together and do what's right for our constituents.

## KEEP CRUSHABLE PILLS OFF THE MARKET

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, while the impending fiscal cliff is on our minds, I rise to alert my colleagues to another end-of-the-year deadline with potentially deadly consequences. If the FDA fails to act, on January 1 our streets could be flooded with cheap, crushable prescription painkillers ripe for abuse and misuse.

After OxyContin came on the market 15 years ago, a wave of overdose deaths devastated entire towns in my region of Appalachian Kentucky before spreading like wildfire to the big cities and suburban communities across the country. By crushing these 12-hour-delay pain pills, abusers can experience a euphoric, and sometimes deadly, high.

But today, the FDA has an opportunity to keep these crushable pills out of our children's reach. A number of prescription medicines already on the market use tamper-resistant technologies that can cut back on abuse. No generic pill should come to market without these live-saving features.

The FDA must take the necessary steps to keep us from careening off this pain-pill cliff.

## REINSTATE THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, we've been to this place before. Before the gut-churning horror and sadness of the killings at the elementary school in Newtown, there was a movie theater in Aurora, a college campus in Virginia, a high school in Columbine.

On Friday, I couldn't stop thinking about my own grandson, Josiah, who is 6 and a first-grader at a school in Colorado. How much grief is enough? I think this grief is enough.

We need to reinstate the assault weapons ban. We need to ban high-capacity clips. We need more thorough background checks. And we need to offer more mental health services. But a life taken with a handgun is no less of a tragedy. A mother does not suffer less knowing that her child's life was extinguished with a gun that did not have a 30-round clip. Guns kill people. They need to be a lot harder to buy. We need to do a lot more to get them off our streets.

This is our time, colleagues. This is our time. We need to pass bold, necessary, overdue gun control legislation. If we do not, this will happen again.

## IN MEMORY OF TOMMY DECKER OF COLD SPRING

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House