

Frankly, I don't think this administration wants to cut spending at all. The President is only interested in raising taxes, but this year, he has already levied \$150 billion worth of new taxes on the American people. I wholeheartedly support making meaningful cuts, but there is a better way to go about doing it than with the sequester.

Congress needs to sit down and go through the budget line by line, and it needs to figure out what wasteful programs we can get rid of in the middle of this debt crisis. I hope that Democrats will work with Republicans to find a smarter way to cut spending while we also protect American jobs and our national security.

GEORGE ARATANI

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent and philanthropist, George Aratani, who passed away last week.

Mr. Aratani was part of the Greatest Generation, and served his country as a member of the Military Intelligence Service, or MIS, during World War II. His service came at a time when tens of thousands of his fellow Japanese Americans were interned in camps scattered in the Western United States. He chose to serve and defend America with no guarantee that his own freedom would be defended in return.

I was proud to work to ensure that MIS members like George Aratani and all of the Go for Broke veterans received the credit and thanks they were due through the Congressional Gold Medal.

When he returned home, Mr. Aratani started and ran several businesses, and dedicated himself to Japanese American educational and cultural causes, including the Go for Broke veterans' memorial and foundation. George Aratani had a profound impact on our country and on his community, and he will be terribly missed.

TOUR DE BLAME

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the sequester was a bad idea. I voted "no." It actually came from the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, however. The House has voted twice to replace the President's sequester with other spending cuts. However, the "siesta" Senate ignored the House bills and did what it does best—nothing.

Now, in the 11th hour, the President has disowned his sequester and instead has launched the taxpayer-funded tour de blame. He has also dispatched his Cabinet on a tour de fear. The White House "sky is falling" crowd says flights will be delayed and undocumented immigrants in custody will be freed. That is a Madison Avenue-style

campaign to instill fear into Americans.

The President holds the power to determine what bills will be paid, not Congress—but he does not have the will to prioritize spending or manage the people's money. He only knows one way to lead: tax more, spend more, and continue the tour de blame.

And that's just the way it is.

BORDER AND SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the effect of sequestration on our borders will be felt especially hard in my western New York community, home to four crossings on the northern border.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, if sequestration occurs, Customs and Border Protection will be forced to eliminate 2,700 officers and 5,000 Border Patrol agents. In addition to the job losses, this could mean delays of as long as 4 hours at our border crossings.

\$1.5 billion in goods and 300,000 individuals cross the U.S.-Canada border each and every day. Western New York businesses and institutions depend on predictable access to and from southern Ontario. Increased wait times will discourage Canadian consumers from visiting western New York, and that is business we can't afford to lose.

I call on the House to take immediate action to repeal the sequester and to prevent this unnecessary injury to our economy.

THE PRESIDENT'S SEQUESTER

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

Ms. FOXX. The President is hitting the road this week for yet another tax increase on hardworking Americans. He already raised taxes just 8 weeks ago. Why the sudden urge to do it again?

The President says this is the plan to replace his sequester that's scheduled to hit on March 1, but the President and the rest of the Democrats who run Washington apparently haven't figured out that we cannot tax our way out of this mess. Tax revenues are set to double over the next decade, and top tax rates have hit their highest levels since 1986. We are already taxing wages and salaries at rates as high as 44 percent.

We need to replace the President's sequester with commonsense spending cuts and reforms, not more taxes. The House has acted twice to achieve this, and now the President needs to put forward a serious plan.

GEORGE ARATANI

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of George Tetsuo Aratani, a philanthropist and business executive who was a champion for Japanese Americans.

Mr. Aratani was born and raised in California and, along with 122,000 other Japanese Americans, was forced into internment camps during World War II. Never letting a poor situation get the best of him, Mr. Aratani used his bilingual skills to serve his country in the Army Military Intelligence Service. Following the war, he started two successful businesses—Mikasa tableware and Kenwood electronics—and enjoyed a wonderful life with his family.

Though he achieved great commercial success, he will always be remembered for his upstanding citizenship in his community. Mr. Aratani and his wife, Sakaye, established the first endowed chair in the country to study the injustice of the Japanese American internment and the efforts to rectify it. In addition, the Aratanis gave millions in support of the Japanese American National Museum, UCLA's Departments of Asian American and East Asian Studies, the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, Keiro Senior HealthCare, and countless Asian American candidates.

I look to Mr. Aratani as an inspiration for all as he truly lived the American Dream.

MICHAEL ANTHONY SOLIS

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the memory of Mr. Michael Anthony Solis, who was an educator. He taught at Anaheim High School in my district. He was a champion for lower income students.

He grew up in Riverside, California, and his family grew up in pretty poor circumstances, but education was always important to them. He enrolled in Riverside Community College where teachers encouraged him to be an educator. As a student teacher, Michael became involved with the AVID program, a program that helps to close that achievement gap from lower income students to the normal. Mr. Solis went on to teach AVID in various southern California schools. He was also the director of AVID for our county education program. He most recently served as our assistant principal at Anaheim High School.

He was impassioned about education. He knew that this would make a difference in so many people's lives. Even though he lost a 40-month battle with cancer, he will be remembered by all who knew him, and his legacy will move forward in all of those students whose lives he has impacted.

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THE IMPACT OF SEQUESTRATION FOR NEW JERSEY

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, unless Congress acts this week, a series of drastic spending cuts known as the sequester will take effect. Sequestration threatens the jobs of hundreds of thousands of middle class Americans, as well as vital services for children, seniors, and our troops. Congress must not wait any longer to come to an agreement.

Should sequestration take effect, my State of New Jersey would lose almost \$12 million in funding for primary and secondary education, putting around 160 teachers and their aides at risk. New Jersey would also lose \$17 million in funding, or about 210 teachers who help children with disabilities. In addition, Head Start and Early Head Start services would be eliminated for an estimated 1,300 children in New Jersey. Furthermore, New Jersey would lose funding cuts for public safety grants provided to local law enforcement officials designed to improve the safety of our communities, as well as reduction in funding to provide meals for New Jersey seniors. Mr. Speaker, these are just a small portion of the impact sequestration will have on New Jersey and America as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 699, a balanced bill to replace the sequester with spending cuts and revenues.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my grave concerns over the Republican substitute to the Senate-passed Violence Against Women Act. The Senate passed this bill with overwhelming bipartisan support, including a majority of Senate Republicans. But apparently, leadership in the House has decided that this law should protect only some women.

The substitute that we're being asked to vote on excludes LGBT victims. It weakens protections for women on college campuses, Native American women, and immigrants. As a father of a young daughter and a husband, I cannot begin to understand why we would gut commonsense protections for women or why we would pick and choose the type of women that we want to protect from violence.

A few minutes ago, we swore allegiance to this flag and to a Republic that stands for liberty and justice for all, not for some. In fact, Americans have long fought for equality for women and protecting all women from

violence. The Violence Against Women Act has been an important part of that arc of our history. It's not something that should be politicized or used for political games. Let's vote against this substitute.

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, in our San Joaquin Valley in California, unfortunately we are facing yet another fight for every drop of water that's critical to our economic recovery. For over the last 2 months, we have lost over 700,000 acre-feet of water that represents \$2.2 billion in economic activity because of an unlawful biological opinion that puts a 2-inch fish before 25 million Californians.

Had the Bay Delta Conservation Plan been implemented, none of this valuable water would have been lost today. To add insult to injury, our valley was dealt yet another blow when the Bureau of Reclamation announced this week a 25 percent water allocation. This is simply unacceptable.

It remains to be seen if the Obama administration and their nominee to replace Secretary Salazar has forgotten or ignored the tough lessons from the failures of 2009 and 2010. Immediate action is necessary to keep a bad situation from becoming devastating to our valley this year and throughout the State.

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan must move forward to resolve this situation in the future. Every day wasted is valuable time and water lost.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to urge my colleagues to bring the Senate version of the Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA, a bill that would provide critical services to all victims of domestic abuse, to the House floor. My friends, my colleagues, my constituents, it is time to reauthorize.

I want to applaud all the Senate Democrats, all the female Senators, and the vast majority of Republican Senate Members who believe that VAWA is good for the safety of all women, regardless of their sexual orientation, their ethnicity, or tribal heritage.

As for the altered House version, which clearly rejects the equal protections outlined in the Senate version, it is unfair, unjust, and unacceptable.

I have a few questions for my colleagues in the House who altered this bipartisan Senate VAWA bill:

Why do our LGBT, Native American, and immigrant brothers and sisters not deserve the same protections?

Why are they exceptions in your eyes?

And why must they continually be denied the same freedoms and liberties that we all enjoy under our Constitution?

By reauthorizing the Senate version of VAWA:

We can make sure our LGBT brothers and sisters receive appropriate care when they are victimized;

We can make sure that immigrants, who so desperately want to be a part of this great Nation, will not have to hide behind their abusers in fear of deportation;

And, we can make sure that the three out of five American Indian women who will experience domestic violence in their lifetime can have the peace of mind to know that their abusers will not be given a way out of prosecution.

My colleagues, this is not politics and this certainly is not a game. This is simply the right thing to do.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice strong opposition to the sequester, which was designed to be so severe and so catastrophic that we would be compelled to make the necessary compromises to avoid it, and yet we have done nothing.

The Second District is the home to Fort Meade, NSA, Aberdeen Proving Ground, the Port of Baltimore, and hundreds of contractors reliant on these institutions. We're neighbors to the Social Security Administration, the National Institute for Health, and BWI Airport.

Nearly 140,000 workers at these facilities would be furloughed. Maryland will lose about \$14.4 million in funding education, putting the jobs of 200 teachers at risk. We'll lose nearly \$50 million in funding for medical research, which supports thousands of jobs in Maryland.

Maryland can't afford this approach to deficit reduction and neither can any of the other States in this Nation. We have to put forward serious alternatives to avert sequestration, and I encourage leadership to either allow a vote on one of these alternatives or to propose one for themselves.

We are in this most ridiculous situation and we must resolve this problem now.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 699, a balanced bill to replace the sequester with spending cuts and revenues.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, that request cannot be entertained without appropriate clearance.