

people confuse hate crimes with the idea that some victims are worthier than others. What that misses is the fact that when there is a hate crime there is more than one victim: the individual who has been assaulted and the group that that victim belongs to.

We know that when there is a hate crime the intent is to intimidate, frighten, and alarm people who share the same trait as the victim, whether it is their religion or some other trait. So we need to make sure that we protect Americans against hate crimes.

I am a member of the Committee on the Judiciary with jurisdiction over this bill which I am a co-sponsor of. We are not even meeting today. We should use our time to enhance law enforcement to protect Americans to pass a strong hate crimes bill.

ENACTING COMMONSENSE ECONOMIC STIMULUS POLICIES

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's front page of the Wall Street Journal reads like this: "The U.S. fell into a recession in March for the first time in a decade."

By historical standards, the current contraction is unusual. Despite some optimism that the recession has run its course, turmoil in the commodity markets could indicate that a recovery will not arrive until summer at best, at best.

If the American economy has been in a recession since March, it is obvious the American people need help now. We cannot wait until next summer for a turnaround.

History has shown that providing tax relief is a better way to jump-start the economy than increasing spending. By enacting some commonsense stimulus policies, we can get our economy back on track.

Our House-passed tax relief bill does just that. More tax relief would be great news for American families, American companies, and the American economy. Our friends at the other end of the Capitol need to quit stalling, get in gear and pass tax relief now. America will say thank you.

CHINA'S TWO-TIMING OF AMERICA

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, reports say that China is two-timing Uncle Sam big time. With one hand China slaps Uncle Sam on the back and wishes us well in Afghanistan. With the other hand China sells missiles and weapons to Iran and Iraq and continues to funnel support under the table to

the Taliban. Bottom line, China continues to aid and abet our enemies.

Beam me up.

I yield back the fact that the Taliban are a fly on our face, but China is a dragon eating our assets. Think about that.

PASS AN ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, let me associate myself with the comments from the gentleman of Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) urging the Senate to bring about an economic stimulus package.

We passed over 6 weeks ago a very important bill that would bring real tax relief to American families. Now, maybe the other Chamber's idea of a stimulus is Metamucil, but we need more than a dose of fiber to get this economy moving. I urge them based on the numbers we saw yesterday, rising unemployment, lower consumer confidence, today's Wall Street opening again declining, based on the fact that there is little confidence in this economy, we could make a dramatic step forward by bringing the House and Senate together and conferencing this very important economic stimulus bill, send it to the President for signature, and get the economy moving for the holiday season.

PASSING A RESPONSIBLE STIMULUS PACKAGE FOR AMERICAN WORKERS

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my growing concern for the decaying state of our Nation's economy. Yesterday, leading economists confirmed what 7 million laid-off workers already know: our Nation is in a recession for the first time this decade.

If we are to truly address this country's growing economic crunch, any economic stimulus legislation passed by Congress must include more than corporate tax breaks for large and already profitable companies.

A responsible stimulus package that would benefit every American must include provisions that will invest in American workers, assist small and medium businesses, and foster fiscal responsibility. These ends can be achieved by creating a bill that combines tax relief with critical funding for ready-to-go construction projects, including airport security and school modernization.

This is the only way to ensure that workers are put to work and businesses stay in business.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body make a pledge to act responsibly in the coming days and work with the Senate to address this Nation's difficult economic times, not just to use this recession as an excuse for the passage of an even larger number of tax cuts.

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BANNING HUMAN CLONING

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, recent polls show 9 out of 10 Americans believe that all cloning should be banned. As Members of Congress, each of us has the responsibility to address this critical issue that the American people care about. Failure to do so is intolerable.

I am categorically opposed to all human cloning, but I rise today on behalf of millions of American people who are concerned about cloning technology and the desire for it to be addressed. This Chamber has already voted overwhelmingly to ban all human cloning. However, a recent announcement that an embryo has been successfully cloned brings an added sense of urgency to banning this practice.

Congress must complete consideration of this issue immediately and send a bill to the President for his signature. The leader of the other body can no longer sit on his hands and ignore his constituents. The American people deserve to be heard and deserve to be represented. This must not be ignored.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. LAURA DUHAN KAPLAN AND UNC-CHARLOTTE

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

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Laura Duhan Kaplan, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, which is located in my congressional district.

On November 13, Dr. Kaplan was named one of four U.S. professors of the year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Dr. Kaplan was honored for her creative and nontraditional methods of teaching philosophy, which have made her classes a favorite of UNC-Charlotte students and earned praise from her colleagues.

Dr. Kaplan's award is an honor for her and the entire UNC-Charlotte community. UNC-Charlotte becomes the first university in the Nation to have