

We should not be gutting Social Security and breaching our sacred trust to America's seniors. It's amazing that Republicans are willing to gut Social Security and refuse unemployment compensation during these challenging times while at the same time arguing that we must preserve the tax cuts for the superwealthy.

#### WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, hardworking individuals and entrepreneurs have always been the life blood of our economy. They create jobs. They spur innovation. They have made the American free enterprise system the envy of the world.

As Americans, we all understand that if you work hard you can be successful. Unfortunately, that spirit appears to be undergoing a fundamental transformation in which government comes before the spirit of free enterprise.

The trend began early in 2009 when the government passed the so-called "stimulus package" that was supposed to boost the economy and keep unemployment under 8 percent. More than a year after stimulus, unemployment remains well above 9 percent.

Around this country there is an atmosphere of uncertainty caused by Washington's anti-worker agenda. New taxes, mandates, and regulations in countless new laws and proposed laws are threatening to strangle our Nation's entrepreneurs and workers. As I travel around my district, a prevailing feeling of uncertainty about what lies ahead has made employers hesitant to create new jobs; and until this fear and uncertainty about the future is allayed, the American people will continue to wonder and ask the question: Where are the jobs?

#### UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT EXTENSION

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, unemployment benefits and Social Security benefits are a safety net. They are not a lottery handout; and as we struggle to try to get the Senate to pass an extension of unemployment benefits, with 15 million out-of-work Americans who are depending on us to pay their bills, it's important to remember that the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has said that passage of unemployment benefit extensions is one of the most cost-effective and fast-acting ways to stimulate the economy.

But lost in all of this debate and all of this delay is the human side. So I

want to share the story fresh from the headline of today's Dubuque Telegraph Herald with the headline: "Desperation sets in for jobless parents." A family with a 32-year-old dad and 30-year-old mom could provide for their children a year ago, but times have changed because Mom suffered an injury at work and hasn't been able to work since March. Dad lost his job a couple of months later, and their unemployment benefits expired in July. The family includes girls, 14 and 10, and boys, 11 and 7.

These are the Americans who need us to act now.

#### IT'S POLITICS AS USUAL

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Obama was in Holland, Michigan, announcing the award of an economic stimulus grant to a Korean Company: 300 jobs, \$150 million, all at a cost of \$500,000 per job, all financed by the American taxpayer.

Every Republican in this Chamber voted against the stimulus because we don't think that having the Federal Government pick winners and losers is a way back economically. We don't think borrowing over 40 cents for every dollar that we spend is the way to create jobs. We don't think that this out-of-control spending and piling mountains and mountains of debt on future generations is the kind of America that our Founding Fathers envisioned.

But then the President, while accepting our State's gracious hospitality and respect for his office, chose to take a cheap, partisan, political shot at Congressman PETE HOEKSTRA, whose district he was in. President Obama is proving himself to be the most partisan President in our Nation's history, and instability will not create jobs. Instead, it's politics as usual. It is certainly not change that we can believe in.

#### REJECT PROPOSALS TO PRIVATIZE SOCIAL SECURITY OR MEDICARE

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

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as we debate ways to tackle our growing deficit and create jobs, I call today on this Congress to reject proposals that would privatize Social Security or Medicare.

Colorado seniors rely on Social Security and Medicare; and as we struggle to climb out of a deep recession, the security provided by these programs is more critical than ever.

Dismantling Medicare and adding trillions of dollars to the deficit with a risky privatization scheme that gambles seniors' financial security in the stock market is just the wrong way to go. Rolling the dice on the financial security our seniors depend on, in a financial system that recently almost collapsed, is reckless in the extreme and has been roundly rejected by the American people.

We can cut waste, fraud, and abuse from Social Security and Medicare without cutting a penny in benefits, and I will fight to protect the promise that we made to America's seniors.

#### COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as the American people ask where are the jobs, the President's economic advisers reply with weak statistics about the wasteful government stimulus program. All the while, we're losing billions of dollars to tariffs that could have been eliminated years ago.

It has been 1,337 days since the U.S. and Colombia negotiated a free trade agreement. For over 3 years, the Democrat leadership in Congress has refused to consider the legislation to ratify that treaty. In that time, American businesses have paid an estimated \$2.8 billion in tariffs. This is \$2.8 billion that could have gone to good American jobs, and this number grows higher every day. You can see it on the Republican Ways and Means Committee Web site.

We need to stop wasting our time, hoping that more government spending and borrowing will revive the economy. Instead, we need to unleash American businesses and entrepreneurs to expand into new markets. Passing the Colombia, South Korea, and Panama Free Trade Agreements would give real, tangible benefits to American workers and create jobs.

#### MAINTAINING CURRENT RETIREMENT AGE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, during the first decade of this century, the Bush economy destroyed the middle class. Today, we are at a point where 72 percent of Social Security retirees have elected early retirement at age 62 because they had no other financial choice.

But despite the fact that they have voted with their feet in unprecedented numbers, what is Mr. BOEHNER's proposal for Social Security, which he told

the Pittsburgh Gazette a couple of weeks ago? He wants to raise the retirement age to age 70. If there is a more out-of-touch statement about what the middle class of this country is going through and what an out-of-touch proposal, to basically totally knock the stuffing out of the retirement security, Mr. BOEHNER's proposal to raise the Social Security retirement age to 70, to means test benefits would decimate what's left of the American middle class.

We cannot let that happen. Democrats will protect this program, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this August, by maintaining the retirement age which exists today, a program which is solvent until 2037 and with moderate, balanced changes can protect its solvency for future years and generations.

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#### MAJORITY REJECTS SPENDING FREEZE

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

Mr. REHBERG. In the last month alone, I've hosted 11 listening sessions around Montana, promising to bring their message back to Washington with me. The message is Montanans are fed up with the reckless spending that every man, woman, and child is on the hook for more than \$40,000 in Federal debt.

I heard them, which is why I joined the House Republicans in their earmark moratorium, but not everyone is listening. In three appropriations subcommittee meetings, I have offered amendments to freeze spending at fiscal year 2010 levels. My amendments would have saved the taxpayers more than \$18 billion.

But each time, they were rejected on a party-line vote. See, the President has even promised a spending freeze next year. So this year they're increasing spending to compensate. It's a sneaky shell game that only ensures that the taxpayers lose.

But Montanans told me loud and clear they want spending reform, and that's what I'm going to do, and I'm going to keep fighting for it every day I'm here.

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#### SUPPORTING OUR NATION'S SENIORS

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly support our Nation's seniors. The government programs upon which they most depend, Medicare and Social Security, are being threatened by congressional Republicans.

Recently those on the other side of the aisle have been championing drastic changes to both programs. They want to cut Social Security benefits, raise the retirement age to 70, and turn Social Security benefits over to the stock market. They want to convert Medicare to a voucher program so that seniors would get a coupon to go out of their own way to buy a regular, individual insurance policy.

And what do congressional Republicans propose to do with these savings? Certainly, they want to pay for the war. I will not stand for stripping senior benefits down. I will not stand for balancing the budget on the backs of hardworking retirees.

Social Security and Medicare benefits belong to our Nation's seniors, and congressional Democrats will not stand for whittling them down or stealing them away. Social Security represents a promise, and that is if you work hard and pay into the system, you will have financial security in your retirement years.

It's been that way for 75 years. Now is not the time to change it.

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#### JOBS MORATORIUM

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, while the unemployment rate is 9.5 percent and while the gulf coast continues to recover from a devastating oil spill, the people of Louisiana are wondering what they did to deserve President Obama's moratorium on jobs.

According to a recent report by LSU Professor Jim Richardson, the Obama administration's 6-month moratorium on offshore drilling will result in the loss of over 17,400 good-paying jobs in Louisiana alone, just another piece of the Democrat job-killing machine.

Hundreds of millions of dollars in State and local revenue will also be lost as well, all in the name of a moratorium that Federal courts and the administration's own expert advisers have rejected completely. The people of Louisiana would much prefer to have jobs than unemployment benefits.

It's truly unbelievable that when Washington should be focused on helping the gulf coast recover from a catastrophic tragedy, the White House is putting forth policies that do more economic damage than the spill itself.

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#### HONORING SOCIAL SECURITY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, next month we celebrate the 75th anniversary of Social Security. As we mark this important anniversary, I believe it's important to reflect on the mil-

lions of seniors that have been helped by Social Security over the years.

I have met with hundreds of Ohioans recently, and they are concerned about Social Security's future. The message to me has always been clear. They don't want to undermine any part of Social Security, and certainly not with privatization. They oppose any measure that would jeopardize the safety net that Social Security provides them in retirement, and I agree.

It's true that Social Security is facing some real challenges. However, I strongly believe that Congress can focus on keeping these promises to our seniors instead of putting the entire Social Security at risk, leaving it to the whims of Wall Street.

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#### TIME TO ACT ON TRADE IS NOW

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, the approval of pending trade agreements with countries such as Colombia, South Korea, and Panama have languished, awaiting approval by Congress.

According to research conducted by our colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee, the inaction of these trade agreements is costing America jobs and market access. In fact, implementing the Colombia trade agreement alone could create an estimated 8 million U.S. jobs. Every day we delay, the more ground our Nation and our economy lose to our international competitors.

Earlier this month, the Canadian Parliament ratified a trade agreement with Colombia, improving their access to this market and putting our producers at even more of a disadvantage. Trade is an indispensable part of American prosperity, and Congress needs to take immediate, decisive action on these trade agreements.

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#### NEVER FORGET HOW WE GOT INTO THIS ECONOMIC MESS

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, let us never forget, never forget how we got into this economic mess. It was the losing Republican ideas that brought forward an economic policy that drove our economy into the ditch, and now they want the keys to the car back. But after driving our economy into the ditch, we cannot allow that to happen.

What did they deliver? Two wars at the same time without paying a dime, a \$400 billion handout to big drug companies, helping to ship our jobs overseas, an \$8 trillion loss of wealth in our housing bubble as we crashed into a deep recession.