

the doughnut hole. They'd take away free, preventative health care under Medicare, and they'd play roulette with our seniors' retirement, their access to doctors, and their prescription drugs.

Washington Republicans have turned their backs on our seniors. I'm proud to stand by our seniors and make sure they have quality, affordable health care, safety and security in retirement, and peace of mind that these benefits are here to stay.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it's a little over 18 months since President Obama signed the so-called economic "stimulus" bill into law. To say now, as many of my Democratic colleagues continue to do, that this stimulus was somehow a success, that's really an insult to the millions of Americans who are now unemployed and continue to look for work.

We've heard repeatedly from our business leaders and economists that one of the biggest impediments to job creation is what this Congress has been doing here every day. I mean, how can businesses be expected to invest and to create jobs when they read in the paper such things that our government is expected to run trillion dollar deficits as far as the eye can see, that banks will now have to conform to 243 new regulations because of that 2,300-page Dodd-Frank bill we just passed, and that next year we will experience in this country the largest tax increase in American history?

And, also, the energy prices. Energy prices may skyrocket because of the House-passed cap-and-trade bill. And health insurance premiums, they were promised to go down, but they are going to increase because of the recently passed health care bill.

Mr. Speaker, uncertainty is the enemy of economic growth. Thank goodness it's the August recess.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Social Security and to highlight its importance as we approach the 75th anniversary since its founding.

Social Security is a pillar of a society based on the premise that if you work hard and play by the rules, you will have the stability and security of a minimum level of guaranteed income as you get older. And the reality is Social Security provides nearly all of the retirement income for six out of 10 seniors in this country.

Mr. Speaker, for 75 years, Social Security has never been a day late or a dollar short. And as we approach this historic achievement, we must commit ourselves to strengthening Social Security, not privatizing it. We must continue to provide the foundation for Americans' retirement security for generations and generations to come.

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UNCERTAINTY IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, one business organization after another has made it clear: The policies of this President and this Democrat-controlled Congress are creating uncertainty all throughout the private sector. Whether it's the Chamber of Commerce or the National Federation of Independent Businesses, the message is the same: Washington is giving them no reason for confidence in the economy.

All across this country, business owners are looking at higher costs for health care, the potential for higher energy costs, the threat of more taxes, and the reality of oppressive, costly government regulations. It's no wonder the private sector isn't hiring. The only sector of the economy that's really growing is government. The endless deficit spending in Washington is expanding government and sucking the life out of the private sector.

This has to stop. House Republicans have commonsense solutions. We need to rein in out-of-control spending, cut taxes and get a massive Federal Government off the back of free enterprise.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in history, the other body has to wait for a new Member to be sworn in today to take up unemployment insurance and break a filibuster. Even in the mildest of turndowns, there has always been bipartisan support for unemployment benefits. Ask the average American: Give us your definition of emergency spending: unemployment benefits paid for in part from employee paychecks or more tax cuts for the wealthy?

The question answers itself, for all except my Republican friends in this House. They've gone further and insulted the unemployed by offering as an excuse that benefits keep people from looking for and taking jobs. The Bush recession left one job for every five job-seekers. It's cruel to blame the unemployed for not finding work in the

midst of the great recession. It is worst to deny them food to put on the table.

CONGRESS' RAMPANT ACTIVISM

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

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, after four stimulus packages over the past 2 years, Americans are asking: Where are the jobs? Why aren't businesses hiring? In a word, uncertainty.

We've seen a great deal of activist government over the past 2 years with enormous budget deficits, the government takeover of car companies, bank bailouts, mandatory national health care, misguided financial regulation and more. Still, President Obama and the congressional leadership have additional disruptive plans on tap, including big tax increases and cap-and-trade legislation. Not only are businesses being burdened with new taxes and other requirements, they also know that further afflictions are coming, but the form and extent of those afflictions are still a mystery.

Business people plan to succeed, but when the government is making major burdensome and, as yet largely unspecified, changes, it is very difficult to plan. Rather than hiring and investing, many are choosing to wait and see.

America's working people are the victims of this administration's and this Congress' rampant activism.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Social Security as it approaches its 75th anniversary. When FDR signed this historic legislation into law, he understood that the whims of Wall Street were sweeping many hardworking Americans into financial ruin. At the time, more than half of America's seniors lacked sufficient income to be self-supporting.

Social Security changed all of that. Indeed, today, in my home State of Florida, 53 percent of seniors would be below the poverty line without Social Security. That hasn't stopped Republicans from wanting to end the guarantee of Social Security. In 2005, President Bush proposed privatizing Social Security, which would have cut benefits for 70 percent of retired Americans. Well, it's *deja vu* all over again.

While President Bush may be gone, his plans live on. House Republicans are once again calling to privatize Social Security, and Medicare for good measure. We simply cannot risk tossing millions of seniors into poverty.