

The American people get it. Dealing with the debt and deficit should be a top priority. Cut spending. No one has ever spent their way out of debt.

Elizabeth from Williamsburg says, Fix the budget. Stop spending what we don't have.

Scott from Yorktown says, The U.S. taxpayers are on the hook for billions. Anyone with sense knows that a debt crisis cannot be solved with more debt.

John from Quantico says, Please cut Federal spending. Congress is spending and borrowing too much. This must end. You must balance your books, and you must do so by cutting spending, not increasing taxes.

Frank from Stafford simply says, Stop the spending.

Diane from Williamsburg says, The national budget is way out of control. Citizens everywhere are so concerned about this that something has to be done right away.

Raymond from Warrenton says, I am deeply concerned that our Nation is falling hopelessly into debt. I urge you to promote reduction in spending. Keep taxes low to motivate business and people to spend, not the government.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge us to adopt a budget.

□ 1230

IN RECOGNITION OF MAGGIE FAZENBAKER AND HER COMMITMENT TO OUR TROOPS

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

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an extraordinary individual who has been a relentless supporter of our troops. For over 5 years, Maggie Fazenbaker of Alamogordo, New Mexico, has been stuffing care packages to be sent to the men and women of our Armed Forces.

Now the simple act of stuffing care packages for servicemembers is honorable enough, but there are a couple of extra twists when we look at Maggie's story. You see, Maggie is only 17 years-old. Also, on May 14, Maggie and her corps of loyal volunteers stuffed hundreds more packages, bringing the total number of care packages that Maggie has sent to 10,000.

The care packages Maggie sends to our troops give them a small amount of comfort as they pursue their dangerous and important missions. We owe our troops great effort for even small comforts. Thank you, Maggie.

God bless.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY CAUCUS

(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, one of the most difficult challenges facing our Nation's future is providing

clean, affordable, and reliable energy. Rural America has tremendous wind potential. Unfortunately, these wind energy sources lack infrastructure, including the expansion of transmission systems to deliver wind power from its sources to centers of population.

We need to have the ability to create energy in one part of the country and use it in another without significant loss in either efficiency or usability. My friends, we need to continue to explore any and all viable forms of research and development in renewable energy.

On Thursday, Members of Congress will have the chance to see what the future may hold for our Nation's energy resources at the 13th Annual Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Expo. There are still hurdles to overcome, and now is the time to begin working for a strong and diverse renewable energy portfolio.

ECONOMIC UPDATE

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, when I was sworn into office in January of last year, our economy was on the verge of collapse. Thanks to decisive action in Congress, our economy is turning around. We have created half a million jobs so far in 2010. Our country is on track to create more jobs this year than we created in the entire eight years of the Bush administration.

In western Pennsylvania, our strong work ethic is driving our recovery. Companies like Talisman Energy and Kold-Draft Industries are creating new jobs in my district because western Pennsylvania is a good place to do business. Things are improving, but we still have a long way to go. We must continue to invest in American businesses and the American people.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work together so we can help create jobs, support our businesses, and further our recovery.

LET'S GET TO WORK AND PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, the American people vividly remember the contortions this Chamber went through to find the votes needed to pass cap-and-tax. We remember the arm twisting and backroom deals that secured the votes for the government takeover of health care. When it comes to the policies the American people oppose, this House has always found the votes.

Yet, apparently, when it comes to passing a budget, something every family and small business must do, the majority just can't find enough votes to get it done.

With almost \$13 trillion in debt, and record deficits adding more every minute, is this majority so desperate to avoid facing the tough decisions that they are going to scrap the budget all together? Talk about burying your head in the sand.

We are here to do a job, and passing a budget is a big part of that job. Let's get to work.

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, you know, the Army Corps of Engineers had a saying during World War II: "The difficult we do immediately. The impossible takes a little longer."

In 1993, President Clinton tried to do the impossible by lifting the decades-long ban on gay and lesbian soldiers serving openly in the military. Unfortunately, Congress opposed him, and the discriminatory Don't Ask, Don't Tell law was passed.

Since then, over 13,500 servicemembers have been fired and countless other courageous and qualified Americans have been prevented from serving. Well, it's been 17 long and painful years since we tried to do the impossible.

Congress now has the chance to end this injustice. The President agrees, the military agrees, the American people agree. Let's honor our Nation's over 1 million gay veterans this Memorial Day. This week, let's lift the ban on gays serving openly once and for all.

LEGAL RELIEF FOR SERVICEMEMBERS

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

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear that Petty Officer Second Class Matthew McCabe was acquitted of all charges against him in relation to the capture and detention of Ahmed Hashim Abed, a conspirator in the 2004 murder of four U.S. contractors in Fallujah.

Mr. McCabe can now rejoin his shipmates, Petty Officer Julio Huertas and Petty Officer Jonathan Keefe, who were both acquitted of all charges as well, with the juries reaching the same verdicts.

While these have been acquitted, what is left behind is significant legal debt. All three men sought civilian counsel. Based on the results of these trials, I can understand their decision. Up against the United States Government in court, the soldiers faced prosecution with unlimited resources.

Today I am introducing the Service Member Legal Relief Act, which reimburses soldiers who seek the best defense available and are subsequently acquitted, or the charges dropped, in cases relating to the handling of terrorists. Our warfighters face great personal risk every day on the front lines

in the global war on terror. They are right to defend themselves in court against egregious claims from known terrorists.

We need these men on the front lines to continue battling those who are actively trying to kill Americans at home and abroad. If a court finds that they have done nothing wrong and have simply executed their mission, we should repay their legal fees and get them back into action as quickly as possible. That's exactly what my legislation does.

FORCE CHINA TO LET US COMPETE

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

Mr. SCHAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was outraged when I found that our U.S. Census bought promotional materials made in China, including this Census 2010 baseball hat. This hat is the poorest quality I have ever seen, and your tax dollars paid for it.

Recently, I read in the American Chamber of Commerce in China's 2010 White Paper that Chinese markets remain closed to American goods, even when U.S. companies manufacture in China.

What remains clear is that China has access to our government contracts, and we don't have access to theirs. So it's time to stop buying Chinese goods with our U.S. tax dollars.

I have in my hand a quality hat made in America by Unite Here workers, and a lousy, Chinese-made hat in the other hand. Where do you want your tax dollars going? Which jobs should your tax dollars support?

Support my bill, H.R. 5312, to force China to let our people and our businesses compete.

AMERICANS ASK, WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Washington just isn't listening to what the American people want. Take a look at our state of affairs. Our national unemployment rate is close to 10 percent. We have almost \$13 trillion in debt, and our budget deficit for this fiscal year 2010 is projected to be \$1.8 trillion. And Americans keep on asking, where are the jobs? Indeed, where are the jobs?

Mr. Speaker, Republicans stand ready to get spending under control and to pass legislation that does create jobs. Yet the Democratic majority refuses to move forward with even the first order of business in getting our fiscal House in order, and that business is passing a budget. Foregoing a budget resolution this year would be a failure of one of our most basic responsibilities and the first time that that's hap-

pened since the current budget rules were put in place back in 1974.

Mr. Speaker, we need to rein in Federal spending this year, and the first step in that process is passing a fiscally responsible budget, and I urge my Democratic colleagues to do just that.

CONTINUING ON ROAD TO RECOVERY

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, 8 years of failed economic policies under the Bush administration left a deep economic hole for the new Obama administration, but three things are clear: It will take some time to dig out; we have made steady progress; and there is much more to do.

But yesterday the Joint Economic Committee released its report showing progress with new jobs created and decreasing unemployment in my home State of Missouri. Now is not the time to reverse direction. We must remain focused on the real measure of recovery, and that's jobs. We need to move beyond bickering to real solutions that will put real people back to work.

I urge my colleagues to once again take up the job-creating America COMPETES bill that would strengthen U.S. scientific and economic leadership, support employers, and create jobs through investments in science, innovation, and education.

We can't let partisan gridlock hold us back while countries pass us by to invent, build, and sell us the technology that will power the next century. Ensuring the U.S. competes globally is a commonsense way of creating jobs.

DEVELOP A PATH TO FISCAL SOLVENCY

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

Ms. JENKINS. As a CPA, I've counseled folks who are in debt. The first step is to acknowledge the problem. The second step is to develop a budget that maps out the path to solvency.

Our children, who stand to inherit a national debt level that is unsustainable, should require Congress to adopt a similar approach. Apparently, the majority is afraid to admit that Washington has a spending and borrowing problem, and they plan to avoid even discussing a budget. In 2008, then-candidate Obama told Joe the Plumber, "We need to share the wealth."

I was concerned then, but now I am appalled, because who are we sharing the wealth with? The Chinese. Sending nearly a trillion dollars to foreign nations to pay debt service on reckless spending is not what our kids deserve. Our kids deserve a Congress that will do their job and make the tough deci-

sions to get our fiscal House in order, which starts by developing a responsible budget.

2011 SOLAR DECATHLON

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I recently met a team from the University of Hawaii, one of 20 collegiate teams selected to build an energy efficient, solar-powered house as part of the Solar Decathlon, an international competition sponsored by the Department of Energy.

In the fall of 2011, the D.C. National Mall will transform into a zero-emission solar village built by the next generation of architects and engineers. These houses will be attractive and affordable, demonstrating an array of innovative, energy technologies.

Designed for a tropical climate, the Hawaii model will be built using a bio-based polymer and the house will be buoyant enough to float in the event of a flood. A new generation of leaders in the clean-energy economy will emerge from programs like these, and I look forward to walking through the solar village next year.

The Solar Decathlon is one example of harnessing American ingenuity to meet the energy challenges of the 21st century. Let us continue to support programs like these that empower a new generation of thinkers to engineer a clean-energy future.

□ 1245

WHY 20 PERCENT OF GDP?

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in a year when, for the first time in memory, the Pelosi Congress is failing to adopt a budget, I am proud to cosponsor a spending limit amendment that would place a cap on Federal Government spending.

Tax rates go up and down, tax laws change, the economy changes; but in the past six decades, Federal tax receipts have stayed consistent at nearly 20 percent of GDP. In a Wall Street Journal op-ed last Monday, Economist David Ranson explained this effect. He notes: "The tax base isn't just something you can kick around at will. It represents a living economic system that makes its own collective choices." In other words, we can't fight against the natural level of maximum taxation. If we raise taxes, we won't collect enough to reduce our deficit, and we will restrain economic growth.

We have been living outside of our means, borrowing and spending and bailing out for far too long. The Spending Limit Amendment, based on economic reality, is a sensible measure that will keep our government in check.