

unemployment benefits for 3 million Americans who lost their jobs through no fault of their own. This plan is wrong. It's wrong for the middle class, and it's wrong for people who are trying to find jobs.

It is time that the Republican majority brought a real jobs plan to this floor that will create real jobs and put the American people to work. When they're working, our economy is fine. When they're working, our small businesses are fine. Rather than acknowledge these facts and these realities, Republicans in Congress seem intent on blaming the unemployed for unemployment.

#### ASSAULT ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, just a couple of weeks ago, this administration announced a position that amounts to an assault on religious liberty in this country. Their narrow definition of what constitutes religious action, religious belief, and whether or not the Federal Government can cause you to take actions against your own conscience is a serious matter that ought not to be determined by the Friday release of a decision made by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

This is an issue that goes beyond the Catholic Church and Catholic institution. It goes to the essence of the First Amendment protections contained in the Constitution with respect to religious freedom. We had better understand exactly how important this issue is, and we had better understand how it has to be addressed directly and cannot be compromised by saying we're not going to take away your religious liberty for a year. That is not a compromise. That is a form of political extortion.

#### IRAN'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, even as we stand here today, the centrifuges continue to spin in Iran, and their illicit nuclear weapons program forges ahead.

Yet, they are more isolated today than they have ever been. I commend President Obama for his Executive order freezing the assets of the Central Bank of Iran and making it impossible to do business both with Iran and with the United States. I thank our Asian allies for reducing purchases of crude oil and slashing trade with Iran, and I commend our European allies, as well, for banning the import of Iranian crude. The Iranian economy is in shambles. As a result of these international efforts, its currency is plummeting and inflation is skyrocketing.

I urge my colleagues, our friends across the way in the Senate, to pass tighter sanctions still to tighten the economic noose on the ayatollahs and to force them to give up their illicit nuclear ambitions. We must stand with the Iranian people even as their human rights are crushed by the Revolutionary Guard. In their quest for democracy, we stand with them. Our efforts are paying off, Madam Speaker, we cannot let up.

#### EXPEDITED LEGISLATIVE LINE-ITEM VETO AND RESCISSIONS ACT OF 2012

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 540 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 540

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3521) to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for a legislative line-item veto to expedite consideration of rescissions, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget and Representative Simpson of Idaho or his designee. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendments recommended by the Committees on the Budget and Rules now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 112-12. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of February 9, 2012, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules, as though under clause 1(c) of rule XV, relating to a measure addressing securities trading based on non-public information.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

□ 1240

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my good friend from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I'm pleased to be down here with you today, Madam Speaker, because what we have an opportunity to do with this rule is bring another in a series of 10 fundamental reforms to the congressional budgeting process.

Today, House Resolution 540 provides a structured rule for consideration of H.R. 3521, the Expedited Line-Item Veto and Rescissions Act. And yet again today, with this rule we have made in order every single amendment by either Republicans or Democrats that was germane to the underlying legislation to give us an opportunity to make this bill better.

Now, to be fair, Madam Speaker, H.R. 3521 is another example of bipartisanship in this House. It was introduced and sponsored by both the Republican chairman of the Budget Committee, PAUL RYAN, and the Democratic ranking member, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, another opportunity of things that we can do here in this new Congress to bring common sense to our budgeting process.

It's a bipartisan attempt, Madam Speaker, to provide both Congress and the President with all of the tools necessary to get our fiscal challenges under control. It exemplifies what can happen here in this body when we're willing to listen to folks back home and come together to try to make a difference here in Congress.

In the 111th Congress, Madam Speaker, nondefense discretionary spending was increased by almost 25 percent. This Congress, this body, working with the Senate, increased nondefense discretionary spending by almost 25 percent. Now, if your constituents are like mine, Madam Speaker, had they had that budget around their family dinner table, they could have found some items that they could have done without. In exchange for not putting their children and their grandchildren further and further and further in the hole, further and further and further under the mountain of debt that this country has run up, they could have found some things to cut.