

The reckless big government agenda pushed by Congressional Democrats and the Administration has nothing to show for it except record deficits and continued job losses. Just last month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that the national unemployment rate is now at a twenty-five year high. In fact, the most recent unemployment rate in California alone is a whopping 11.2 percent, with hundreds of thousands of jobs having been lost in our great state just in the past few months.

Interestingly, the recent report issued by the BLS found that while most of the job losses have been in the private sector, government jobs have increased. According to the BLS, the private sector lost an estimated 3.65 million jobs in 2008, but government jobs increased by nearly 150,000 in the same time period. In fact, one out of every six people in California is now employed by the government. Sadly, the recent increase in massive government spending has contributed to this trend—the private sector unemployment rate continues to soar while the government employment rate steadily increases. Rather than protecting and creating jobs in the private sector, Congress and the Administration are subsidizing government jobs.

In addition, during the House and Senate negotiations for the final stimulus package enacted in February of this year, two provisions strengthening E-Verify—a successful and commonsense program which checks workers' names and Social Security numbers to confirm employment eligibility—were removed from the bill without discussion or debate. These provisions would have protected American jobs by reauthorizing E-Verify for another five years and also mandating entities receiving stimulus funds to participate in the program. To make matters worse, the Administration has twice delayed a rule requiring the federal government and those that contract with the federal government to use E-Verify, which will possibly result in the hiring of illegals using taxpayer dollars.

Although many illegals have left the United States because of the declining economy, it is estimated that eight million illegal aliens are currently employed in the U.S. while thirteen million American workers are unemployed. It is unacceptable that Congress has placed the interests of illegal immigrants over those of hardworking Americans. To combat this, I have reintroduced the Loophole Elimination and Verification Enforcement (LEAVE) Act, which will stem the inflow of illegal aliens by securing our borders, denying access to American jobs, and closing loopholes in our government programs that provide access to benefits.

Massive increases in government spending are saddling future generations with a massive debt—a debt so large that it is expected to triple to \$17.3 trillion and will reach more than 82 percent of the Gross Domestic Product over the next ten years. It is time that the Administration and Congress adopt proposals that are more effective at turning the economy around.

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