

Government is too intrusive

Last month, Americans across the country celebrated Labor Day with parades and picnics and a day off of work. But this day came at a difficult time for millions of Americans who are struggling to find jobs while our nation's unemployment rate hovers near 10 percent.

In south central Kansas, many aviation workers have been affected by the downturn in our economy and job cutbacks. While many Kansas business owners would like to invest in their companies and hire new workers, they are instead bracing for costly tax increases, burdensome government mandates and intrusive regulations. The words of former President Reagan come to mind during this time of economic uncertainty: "Government is not the solution to our problem. Government is the problem."

It is time for our government to change direction. When businesses have the certainty, resources, markets and freedom, they will succeed and create jobs. History shows that sustainable economic growth starts with the private sector, so I have introduced legislation to help Kansas companies grow, and most importantly, start hiring again.

Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy and have generated 65 percent of new jobs over the past 17 years. Currently, they employ half of all private-sector workers. Clearly,



On the Potomac

By U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran
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small businesses are the engine of job creation in our economy and are critical to our country's success. The legislation I introduced will encourage business investment by extending temporary bonus depreciation for certain property, increasing the deduction amount for start-up expenditures and repealing the 1099 paperwork mandate created in the new health care law, which requires businesses to file a report with the IRS every time they make a purchase of more than \$600. These proposals will encourage companies to invest in their business and create jobs.

Unless Congress acts before the end of the year, taxes will increase for all Americans. This tax hike will further damage our economy, yet Congress has failed to address this problem. The legislation I introduced would provide tax relief to businesses and repeal the estate tax, so family farms and small businesses can be passed on to the next generation and continue creating jobs. This tax relief will help restore

certainty in the marketplace for businessmen and women, so they can plan for the future and create jobs.

Maintaining a strong business environment at home must be coupled with opening new foreign markets for American goods in countries like Colombia, Panama and South Korea. A partnership with these countries will not only benefit their citizens, but will provide opportunities for American agriculture and industry.

Yet, trade agreements with these countries have been stalled in Congress for several years. Each day that passes, we risk losing more of our market share to competing nations. My legislation would enact the United States-Colombian Trade Promotion Agreement, and urge the Obama Administration to immediately send the Panama and Korea trade agreements to Congress.

Finally, my bill will repeal the damaging new health care law. According to a recent Gallup poll, a majority of Americans identify

cost as their top concern with health care. Unfortunately, the new health law fails to address this concern, as health care costs will only continue to rise. Instead of working to improve our current system and control costs, the new law imposes tax hikes on our fragile economy that will kill jobs, increases our growing deficit and cuts Medicare by more than half a trillion dollars.

Only by eliminating this budget-busting mistake can we then institute true reforms that are backed by the will of the American people and lower health care costs for families and businesses in Kansas.

As I travel across Kansas, the most common question business owners ask is "What's next from Washington?" For too long, Washington has increased the tax and regulatory burden on businesses at the expense of American workers. Rather than hiring new workers, businesses spend their resources on higher taxes and additional government regulations. These policies have hampered economic and job growth in America.

Government should be an ally of the people, not an adversary. Congress has a responsibility to reduce economic uncertainty, so businesses can move forward with confidence and start creating jobs. Once again, President Reagan's words come to mind: "We must act today in order to preserve tomorrow."

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Senator fears big tax hike

The majority that controls Congress has left much to chance in adjourning until after the elections — and I fear that Kansans may have to pay the price.

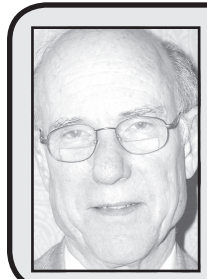
The Senate, led by Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and the House, led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), have done nothing to protect Americans and our fragile economy from what will be the biggest tax hike in history in less than 90 days. The risk is that bipartisan, popular tax relief will fail to be extended when Congress returns for a lame duck session on Nov. 15.

I am disappointed that we did not give Kansas small businesses, employers and families the certainty of knowing what their tax obligation will be next year before we adjourned. Much to my dismay, Congress left without settling this question, which is too important to be relegated to a controversial and unpopular lame duck session.

Over the past two years, the majority controlling the Congress has spent billions of dollars in so-called stimulus bills, tried to enact (thankfully without success) Cap and Tax legislation that would threaten small businesses and farms, and enacted such a large overhaul of health care reform that many people have no idea what health care options will be available to them in a few years.

Taken together, the sweeping effects of this out-of-control deficit spending won't be fully realized until our grandchildren have to pay the bill. And still the national unemployment rate hovers near 10 percent.

Extending bipartisan tax relief, put in place in 2001, is the right thing to do. This is not the time to raise taxes on any taxpayer. Fortunately,



From the Capitol

By Sen. Pat Roberts
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there is growing bipartisan agreement on this in the Congress — despite the Reid-Pelosi objections.

With fewer than 90 days left, the majority and the president still have not yet put forth a bill to prevent a tax hike on all taxpayers. If they do not, individual income tax rates will increase, the child tax credit will be cut in half, dividend and capital gains taxes will increase and the estate tax will return to its pre-2001 level.

If tax relief is not extended, a family of four earning an average of \$50,000 will pay more than \$2,100 in higher taxes.

The president and some of his supporters in Congress propose to extend tax relief to some, but not all, taxpayers. They want to extend current income tax rates and dividend and capital gains rates only to individuals earning less than \$200,000 or families earning less than \$250,000. They want to raise tax rates on those earning above these amounts — and that means higher taxes on small businesses, because many small businesses report their income on individual income tax returns.

Allowing this tax relief to expire means higher income taxes for nearly 750,000 small businesses, subjects \$500 billion — half a trillion dollars — in small business income

to higher taxes, and increases the marginal effective tax rate by at least 17 percent on small businesses.

The president acknowledges that small businesses create 70 percent of the jobs in the country. Small business employ about 25 percent of the workforce. By one estimate, an increase in the top tax rates could cost jobs by reducing small business hiring by as much as 18 percent.

These tax hikes would have a significant impact on the economy here in our state, most notably in the number of jobs and change in personal income. By one estimate, over the next 10 years, Kansas would lose, on average, 6,841 jobs a year, lose, per household, \$2,440 in total disposable personal income, and see total individual income taxes increase by \$3.95 million.

We should not be raising taxes on hard-working families and small businesses — the leading job creators in the country — at a time when we are trying to get our economy back on track and encourage job creation.

Small business and Kansas families are frustrated at the way government is spending their hard-earned dollars. They deserve to keep their money in their own pocket rather than handing more over to Uncle Sam to spend.

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Visitor upset with cemetery

I visited in Oberlin recently and went to the cemetery to put flowers on my family's graves. I was very upset at the condition of the cemetery.

I thought the city paid a caretaker to take care of the cemetery. Granted, the buffalo grass does not need to be mowed, but the weeds continued to grow. I pulled a large trash bag full of weeds and wild grass from around my family's headstones.

My father's military foot stone

Letters to the Editor

was almost covered with a creeping grass or weeds. There was a weed almost three foot tall in the middle of the grave next to my parents. My uncle and aunt's grave was the same way, and his military foot stone was almost covered also.

If it is up to the families to take care of their graves, then it is time to quit spending money on a caretaker or get someone who will do a better job.

Myrna Lacina
Westminster, Colo.

Attorney general hopeful praised

To the Editor:

For the past six years, I have served in the Senate with our Republican majority leader, Derek Schmidt of Independence. Derek has been a respectful leader who has brought Republicans together. Coming from southeast Kansas, he understands rural community needs and issues and has been a real friend to western Kansas and to agriculture.

When Kansas needed a law to protect agriculture after the Sept. 11 attacks, Derek wrote it. When our area needed support in dealing with prairie dogs, Derek stood with us. When veterans needed help, Derek and I worked together to support them.

Derek was the chief Senate author of Jessica's Law, which protects our

children from violent sex offenders. He wrote the law that reduced the number of meth labs in Kansas by 70 percent. Derek led the effort to enact a funeral privacy law to keep hateful protesters away from mourning families during a funeral.

Now, Derek Schmidt is our Republican nominee for attorney general. He would be the kind of strong, common-sense leader we need in that office, committed to local control and working with local law enforcement officials and prosecutors to get the job done professionally and without being flashy. He's willing to stand up and fight against the unconstitutional agenda of the Obama administration, by challenging the constitutionality of Obamacare, for example.

I'm voting for Derek Schmidt

for attorney general. I hope you will, too.

Ralph Ostmeier, Grinnell
State Senator, District 40

Write

The Oberlin Herald encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

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