

Transcript of Press Availability Before House Democratic Caucus Meeting

WASHINGTON
[watch the avail here](#)

□ –

Rep.

Larson:

We just had a very stimulating caucus. I'm proud that, as our guest, we had the opportunity to hear from

But let me start by saying that here we are, with only a few legislative session days left.

We could've passed a transportation bill over 100 days ago. And yet, as this construction season contin

We heard from Joe Courtney again today in our caucus about whether or not we'll have a student loan f

The fact of the matter is this Republican majority in the House has obstructed every opportunity to put th

People in my district say it best: they face the dark abyss of uncertainty. And what they desire is the sim

Instead, that uncertainty – because of their mortgages underwater, the continued squeeze that's placed

And yet, what do we see on the agenda this week? A contempt of Congress.

Come on! Americans get it. They see what's going on here. And it's got to stop.

We will continue to fight on behalf of working people, to put this nation back to work, to make things here

We heard an inspiring message this morning from the President of the AFL-CIO, and I'm proud to introd

Richard Trumka:

Thank you. It's good to b

So here's what we said, that Americans want three things: jobs, jobs, and more jobs.

And they're tired of all the delaying tactics that they've seen from the other side, whose primary goal has

They're going to get a chance, I think, every politician's going to get a chance in just a few weeks, to rea

They also want a fair tax system where everybody – everybody – pays their fair share. And they're not s

We've talked about that. We talked about a couple of other things this morning, but the gist of it is that A

We used to have bipartisan consensus when it came to the transportation act, FAA, and a number of oth

Look, we need to know that America's going to be competitive. We need to have a transportation bill tha

So we're asking all those Representatives to come forward and help us create those jobs, help us make

Rep. Larson:

Thanks Rich. Xavier.

Rep. Becerra:

Mr. Chairman, thank you

We believe that every single minute of Congressional time on the Floor of the House of Representatives

And it's kind of interesting with just a couple of days left before we break, again, in this Congress and are

At the same time, rather than talk about jobs, Republicans seem intent on having a vote on the Floor of

I will close by saying the following: this week we're going to find out if Americans will be able to move for

We're going to find out this week if the Supreme Court understands that a lot of young Americans who are

We're going to find out if the Supreme Court wants to help seniors continue to be able to reduce the size

We'll find out this week if the Supreme Court is listening to the American people and following the U.S. C

We had a decision rendered earlier this week which dealt with immigration which confirmed that, once a

And with that, I yield back to the Chairman.

Rep. Larson:

We're also going to find

Joe.

Rep. Courtney:

Thank you John. As you

There is some promising developments that we're hearing from the Senate, that an acceptable pay-for h

This should not have come to this. President Obama on January 25th, before the State of the Union ad

And, what I would note, is that if we are successful over the next few hours to get the lower rate protecte

It shows again, in issue after issue, whether it's Medicare or whether it's adequate financing for a whole

So this is an issue which this Caucus, under Leader Pelosi, George Miller, John, Xavier, and all of us ha

We need to have a comprehensive package in terms of making sure that higher education debt levels are

And with that, I'll turn it back to you, John.

Chairman Larson: Thank you very much Joe. Thank you for that excellent report. And with that we'll take

Q: *Do you expect many Der*

Rep. Larson: Well certainly the NRA v

And I think as Chairman Issa admitted this past weekend that there is no involvement on the part of the

President Trumka is right. A pothole isn't Democrat or Republican. And neither are crumbling bridges, a

Yes, yes go ahead.

Rep. Becerra:

I just have to add this.

The fact that the NRA is playing politics on this issue shows how far Republicans allowed the issue of go

To now inject the NRA on an issue that has nothing to do with the specific use or ownership of guns on a

What the heck is the NRA doing getting involved and scoring votes on the issue of a contempt citation?

That's where we are though. And that's what this House of Representatives under Republican leadership

Q: *Will we see Democrats v*

Rep. Larson : I'm sorry what'd you say

Q: *Will we see any kind of in*

Rep. Larson: Well, listen, you'd have to

Rep. Becerra: By the way, what I expres

Q:

Mr. Larson, all four of yo

Rep. Larson:

Well let me start first by

Q:

I was actually going to m

Rep. Larson:

Ok, so let's assume that

Then, I think because of the way that the Vice Chair outlined the benefits of the bill and let's start with pr

If you strike down the individual mandate, again, I'm not a constitutional lawyer, but if you strike down th

I believe that the Supreme Court, that in looking at the commerce clause, and Congress's ability to regulate

I also believe that irrespective of how they rule that everybody has acknowledged that there is a lot of work

But we also know that the American people already benefitting from this act are looking in with eager eyes

And Democrats will continue to fight on behalf of people who are in need of - the more than 44 million workers

Richard Trumka:

First of all, I'd love to have

But what we're going to do on the healthcare, regardless of whether it is upheld or not upheld, we're going

Rep. Becerra:

Probably the worst outco

And so I hope, for the sake of the institution, which this democracy has respected since the birth of the n

And so, as President Trumka said, after tomorrow, many of us are going to do everything we would've d

Rep. Larson:

We will also be in a posi

Thank you very much.

#

#