

Medal in honor of the four little girls who lost their lives in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. I just want to acknowledge my sincere appreciation to the leadership of both parties in getting this Congressional Gold Medal on the floor.

We have in our presence two sisters of two of the deceased four little girls. I think I speak on behalf of the whole State of Alabama and our Alabama delegation when I say a profound thank you for this body. I know that everyone here is mighty appreciative of the sacrifices that their families have made in order for our great Nation to live up to its true ideals of justice and equality for all, and I think that it's befitting if we all stand and clap.

A unanimous vote is truly a victory for all of us.

#### TAX CODE LIBERATION DAY

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, the case for tax reform was never made more clear when Americans recently struggled to fill out their increasingly complicated income tax forms. What we really need now is Tax Code Liberation Day.

Our convoluted Tax Code has become a major obstacle to individual freedom, which must be removed as soon as possible. It prevents small businesses from hiring more workers in what is now a nearly dead economic recovery.

The burden of preparing your taxes is now nearly as onerous as actually paying for the taxes. It takes 13 hours for the average American to prepare his or her taxes. The Tax Code remains almost 4 million words, many of which are incomprehensible.

We must all work together to free small businesses and individuals of the most complex regulation of them all—the Federal Income Tax Code.

#### KERMIT GOSNELL MURDER TRIAL

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with several of my pro-life colleagues, to bring attention to the ongoing trial of Kermit Gosnell, an abortionist from Philadelphia. Gosnell is accused of murdering, in the third degree, a woman who died during an abortion at his clinic, and first degree murder of four infants who survived abortions and were born alive, only to have their spinal cords severed by a pair of scissors.

In the words of the grand jury report: Gosnell had a simple solution for unwanted babies: he killed them. He didn't call it that. He called it "ensuring fetal demise."

I'm horrified by the lack of respect this doctor has for human life, and I'm

appalled by the minimal media coverage of the Gosnell trial. I'm hopeful that the disturbing images revealed by this trial will raise awareness of the gruesome practices of the abortion industry and help to prevent the tragic ending of human life that occurs every day at abortion clinics across this country.

#### HELPING SICK AMERICANS NOW ACT

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Helping Sick Americans Now Act.

I cosponsored this legislation because it addresses something that is particularly important to Republicans and Democrats alike: providing care for those who need it most.

I strongly opposed ObamaCare and have supported the efforts to repeal it; however, it's the law of the land. In it, the President and Congress made a promise to help Americans with pre-existing conditions. The President has broken this promise when he consciously cut off access to the program dealing with preexisting conditions and left tens of thousands of Americans with nowhere to turn for their health care. To many Americans, this is typical of Washington: empty gestures and broken promises. This has to stop.

We have a chance to help people get the care they were promised by taking money from a wasteful slush fund. I intend to uphold the promise the President once made and now has broken. I urge my colleagues to do the same and vote for this commonsense legislation.

□ 1520

#### HELPING SICK AMERICANS NOW ACT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the House will begin discussing in the next day the legislation called Helping Sick Americans Now Act, and I would only offer a counter to that that it seems a sick way to try and help those who are in need.

This bill will deplete the healthy preventive care funding that impacts the Centers for Disease Control, that impacts the federally qualified health clinics that are all throughout our community, and it only provides funding for the sickest of Americans up until December 2013. Why don't we encourage the Governors, like Governor Perry of Texas, to accept expanded Medicaid to help heal 6 million and provide health care for 6 million uninsured in Texas, the highest number of uninsured in any State.

This is a temporary fix that is not necessary. We have the Affordable Care Act that is being implemented; and, as

we speak, millions of Americans are being covered. This is the wrong way, misdirected, and I might say it is a sick way of trying to help the sickest of Americans.

I oppose the bill.

#### NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-20)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARR) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, Veterans' Affairs, Armed Services, the Judiciary, Natural Resources, Financial Services, Homeland Security, Oversight and Government Reform, Ways and Means, Foreign Affairs, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Intelligence (Permanent Select) and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit the 2013 *National Drug Control Strategy*, my Administration's blueprint for reducing drug use and its consequences in the United States. As detailed in the pages that follow, my Administration remains committed to a balanced public health and public safety approach to drug policy. This approach is based on science, not ideology—and scientific research suggests that we have made real progress.

The rate of current cocaine use in the United States has dropped by 50 percent since 2006, and methamphetamine use has declined by one-third. New data released this year suggest that we are turning a corner in our efforts to address the epidemic of prescription drug abuse, with the number of people abusing prescription drugs decreasing by nearly 13 percent—from 7 million in 2010 to 6.1 million in 2011. And the number of Americans reporting that they drove after using illicit drugs also dropped by 12 percent between 2010 and 2011.

While this progress is encouraging, we must sustain our commitment to preventing drug use before it starts—the most cost-effective way to address the drug problem. The importance of prevention is becoming ever more apparent. Despite positive trends in other areas, we continue to see elevated rates of marijuana use among young people, likely driven by declines in perceptions of risk. We must continue to get the facts out about the health risks of drug use and support the positive influences in young people's lives that help them avoid risky behaviors.

The *Strategy* that follows presents a sophisticated approach to a complicated problem, encompassing prevention, early intervention, treatment, recovery support, criminal justice reform, effective law enforcement, and international cooperation.

I look forward to working with the Congress and stakeholders at all levels