

month. An estimated 170,000 of those 900,000 veterans could be affected by the House Republican proposal to cut \$40 billion from SNAP.

In my State, studies estimate that 72,184 veterans receive assistance from this important food assistance program. That means roughly one in three veterans in Nevada—one in three—receive assistance from SNAP.

Well, my question to the House Republicans is: Is this how we repay our veterans—is their sacrifice not enough?—by trying to ram through \$40 billion in cuts to programs that people rely on, and then when that doesn't work, doubling down and trying to make those cuts even worse?

Military families are on a pace this year to redeem more than \$100 million in food aid on military bases, and the House Republican reaction is to tell them that they need to live with less?

I can't do that. I can't tell those families, Sorry, but you haven't sacrificed enough.

I urge my colleagues to do the responsible thing, do the right thing. Avoid these draconian cuts to programs that combat hunger effectively. This isn't waste. This is a critical social safety net program that families and children and veterans rely on.

I urge this body to oppose the House Republican plan.

□ 1045

AMERICA SHOULD TAKE NOTICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I rise to call upon the consciousness and the conscience of not only America, but my colleagues.

I rise in the backdrop of a dreamer's speech, Dr. Martin Luther King, who spoke about the greatness of America. Dr. King had no quarrel with this Nation. He loved its values. He found it a place of promise. And I imagine if he were alive today, he would have an answer to Mr. Putin: America is exceptional.

The world looks to America. America has been the Nation's breadbasket. It has served and fed the world. Mr. Speaker, the farmers I know want to feed the world. They relish being called the suppliers of the breadbasket. They enjoy seeing their products arrive in places where people are hungry. In all the years that I have worked in the United States Congress, we've found a way to work with our family farmers and feed our children. That's why I rise today in opposition to a devastating food fight.

America should take notice. Today, all the food banks around the Nation should be bombarding this House and all of the faith leaders should be immediately rising up and dialing in, for this is a devastating food fight—a \$411 million reduction in my State alone, impacting 3,997,000 if this bill containing

\$4 billion in cuts to food stamps, or the supplemental nutrition program, goes forward today.

There are 46.2 million people who are living in poverty in America, and 9.5 million of them are families. Also, 16.1 million children under the age of 18 are living in poverty. Is that the exceptional America? We know that we are better than that.

Thirty-four percent of children in Texas are in poverty, 50.1 million Americans live in food insecurity, and 16 million children do not eat nutritiously. In larger proportions, that is what will happen today.

And so this is the message: don't cut SNAP. Stop the GOP from cutting \$40 billion, which is 33.4 million meals, or 24 meals per month per family. That's our message.

How can we stand here as a country of dreamers and those who believe in acting? Dr. King dreamed, but he was focused on action. He believed in helping the poor. He believed in jobs. And we come here today to stand on this floor with a straight face and engage in a battle of a food fight. I think it is atrocious, and it needs to stop. Where is the goodness that gives all Americans opportunities to rise?

I heard a Member on the floor discuss the Affordable Care Act. Well, get the facts. Right now, as we speak, the Affordable Care Act is providing premiums under \$100 for those individuals that need to be insured, helping to cut poverty. That's why we need all of these factors—not cuts in SNAP, not the elimination of the Affordable Care Act and a continuing resolution that is not going to go anywhere. All of these pound on people who are in need.

I'm asking for relief. I'm asking for the very promised land that Dr. King also spoke of: the exceptionalism that is America. When we send young soldiers to foreign lands, they are exceptional. But yet some of the families of our soldiers are now on food stamps. Is that what America is about—cutting the food stamps of Active Duty soldiers?

We have to do better than that. And so our message is going to be a strong one. We're against it. We're against all the pounding down on those who are trying to climb the ladder of success. We want to end the sequester that is going to cut 67.8 million teachers out of the primary and secondary schools.

It is time now to say no, don't cut SNAP, no to the CR, no to sequester, and yes to America, yes to the promised land, yes to the dream, yes to implementing what is right, yes to allowing us to climb the ladder of success. That's the opportunity for Americans. Say yes to jobs, say yes to education.

I believe that if we do not do that, Mr. Speaker, our ancestors and early Founding Fathers, the visionaries, even though we had our ups and downs, Mr. Speaker, are going to ask us, Why?

God bless America, an exceptional Nation with a big heart. Vote "no" today. That's what America wants: something for all of us.

A DREAM-KILLING BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, here we go again.

Last week, we averted an attack on the country of Syria. This week, we again attack the country of the United States of America. We attack the working poor.

What is it about the GOP-led institution? They can find nothing wrong with Wall Street criminals who have driven the American families into ruin, but we can spend several days attacking the victims of the recession.

I'm talking about people who need food stamps, which is the SNAP program. It's a debit card. They need help to buy food. Our farmers help them by growing the food, our grocery stores help them by selling the food, and our charity organizations help them when they fall through the cracks. And guess what? The helpers get paid. That's the money that supports the food stamps. Those are jobs. But that's about to go away. It's about to hurt those who need the help.

The bill on the floor today is H.R. 3102. It's the Republican Take Away Nutrition Reform and Take Away Work Opportunity Act. I added the "takeaways" because that's what it does. Sensible people ought to vote "no" on this bill.

You will hear that there are a lot of cheats out there. But guess what? The program has enforcement officers. They're in place. And when cheats are caught, they're fined or they go to jail. This is in contrast to the misguided Wall Street investors and the banking foreclosure mess, where no one seems to get caught or go to jail. But we here in Congress can pass a bad bill that takes food away from working mothers.

Who are these people on food stamps? Who receives this aid? You know them. They're parents, sisters, brothers, moms and dads, and, as you've heard from previous speakers, they're veterans and people on Active Duty service. They're people in need of extra money to buy food.

Yesterday, I met one of those persons here in the United States Capitol. She's a working mom. She dropped out of high school at the age of 16 but eventually got a GED degree. With her GED degree, now that she had a baby, she was urged that she needed to go on. But she didn't have a job. She needed help. She got it through food stamps. She decided now that she could care for her baby, she could go to community college to further her skill development and later go on to a California college. She's 21 years old. She's a senior in college this year and now the mother of a 5-year-old son.

I met her here in the United States Capitol because she works here. Her name is Lisa Russell. She won a Leon Panetta Hill internship. She is one of our best and brightest and needs food