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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, January 13, 2014, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2014

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask today that You bless the Members of this assembly to be the best and most faithful servants of the people they serve. Purify their intentions that they will say what they believe and act consistently with their words.

Help them, indeed help us all, to be honest with themselves so that they will be concerned not only with how their words and deeds are weighed by others, but also with how their words and deeds affect the lives of those in need, and those who look to them for support, help, strength, and leadership.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILMER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

AMEND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, this week I introduced legislation that will amend the Affordable Care Act, better known as ObamaCare, to prohibit a bailout for the insurance industry that is currently authorized under section 1341 and section 1342 of the Affordable Care Act.

The American people have had enough of bailouts for Big Business. It is time for this culture of corporate cronyism that has become a dominant part of Washington, D.C., to stop. My legislation, No Bailouts for the Insurance Industry Act of 2014, would amend the Affordable Care Act to repeal section 1341, the ''reinsurance'' fund, and section 1342, the ''risk corridor'' provision.

Together, both can provide for a massive taxpayer bailout to cover the insurance industry losses. The taxpayers should not be on the hook for the failures of ObamaCare. Any reasonable person can see that this scheme isn't going to work, and the American people should not be forced to bail it out once it fails.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of the No Bailouts for the Insurance Industry Act of 2014.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS EXTENSION

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the devastating loss of unemployment benefits for 1.3 million Americans already and 1.9 million more at risk of losing benefits if Congress fails to act soon.

I have heard from constituents across my region who will be impacted by this, including a veteran who has been unemployed for 8 months. Losing benefits will make it harder for him to complete the training program that he is enrolled in with the hopes of finding a new job.

While our economy has made progress since the depths of recession, we still have too many people around this country struggling to find work. Congress needs to get focused on job creation, but withdrawing support to unemployed people as they seek work is no way to boost this economy.

In fact, the Council of Economic Advisers estimates that failing to extend

unemployment benefits will cost my State, Washington State, nearly 6,200 jobs. That is worth repeating. Doing nothing will cost us jobs. For the sake of middle class families who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, for the sake of the economic recovery, we need to extend the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program immediately.

OBAMACARE—HOW IT AFFECTS A SINGLE MOM IN TEXAS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week I got a call from a concerned father in Crosby, Texas. His daughter is a single working mom with 3 young children ages 3 through 13. She recently received bad news from her health insurance provider. She and her children will be dropped from their current plan.

The new plan required under ObamaCare had a 40 percent more expensive premium. As a result, she and her children had to move out of their home and in with their father and mother. She no longer can afford to make it on her own.

The father said: ''Texans are suffering. It hurts us. She got a 40 percent increase in her premium payments while she's already struggling to make ends meet. Her policy was great before, but now it's gone.''

Mr. Speaker, this single working mom in Texas is being punished under ObamaCare. The President sold ObamaCare to the American people on the false promise that if they liked their plan they could keep it. Now, this single mother and her children and others are learning the hard way that this was just one more Washington lie.

And that's just the way it is.

BENEFIT CUTS TO MILITARY RETIREES

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, during my first year in office, I have made it a priority to put politics aside and focus on working with both Democrats and Republicans. My goal is to find commonsense solutions that benefit the people of my region of Illinois.

I was encouraged to see both parties come together last month to pass a bipartisan deal that prevented another government shutdown, eased the harmful impact of sequestration, and protected Illinois jobs and the economy.

Compromises are rarely perfect. This budget is no different. It is not perfect. That is why I helped to introduce the Military Retirement Restoration Act. It would repeal the military retiree cost-of-living adjustments included in the budget deal. This bill is fully paid for and would repeal those costs to military retirees by closing unfair tax loopholes for offshore corporations.

As someone who will always honor and support those who have given their lives in service to our country, I will continue to oppose proposals that aim to balance our budget on the backs of the brave men and women who have served us.

I urge Democrats and Republicans to join me in supporting this commonsense effort to ensure our military retirees get the benefits that they have earned and deserve.

EXCHANGE AND COMMISSARY PROGRAM

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the military exchange and commissary program.

The Defense Commissary Agency in the Department of Defense operates an efficient, worldwide chain of commissaries providing affordable groceries to military personnel and their families, and retirees. This benefit is critical for the men and women of the military and their families. It helps military personnel adequately provide for their families' nutrition and well-being, both here at home and across the globe.

While our Federal budget is under pressure, the benefits to our military personnel must not be targeted as a means to reduce our national debt. The exchange and commissary program is essential for retention, well-being, and our Nation's military readiness. This is a vital service, and I will continue to fight for these services to be preserved here, and especially across the globe. This program is critical to our Nation's military readiness and must be maintained.

CARE ACT

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

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I believe we have a solemn duty to protect the privacy of all Americans. I think all of us here believe that, too.

I am committed to helping southern Arizonans have access to the Affordable Care Act through the healthcare.gov Web site, and we must ensure that their personal and medical information is protected.

That is why I will be introducing the CARE Act, which will require that the Department of Homeland Security develop the highest cybersecurity standards for healthcare.gov, and for Department of Health and Human Services to implement these standards within 90 days.

In a recent hearing in the Committee on Homeland Security, we learned that too little has been done to protect the privacy of Americans accessing the Web site. My constituents and the people across this country deserve to know that when they interact with this Web site, their personal information will be safe and secure. That is what my bill ensures.

I urge my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans alike, to join me in support of this critical legislation.

AAPS ENDORSEMENT

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, nearly 4 years ago, the President signed into law his massive takeover of our health care system, and now Americans are seeing the lies and deceptions of ObamaCare. They deserve better. Now, more than ever, they are looking for a solution. Fortunately, there is a solution. It is H.R. 2900, my Patient OPTION Act.

The Patient OPTION Act is the only health care bill that completely removes the government from the doctor-patient relationship and puts patients back in charge of their health care decisions. It will make health insurance cheaper for everyone. It provides access to good, quality care for all Americans, and it will save Medicare from going broke.

This week, I am honored to announce that the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons has endorsed my Patient OPTION act. With the support of associations like AAPS and through the voice of ''we the people,'' we can work to put in place true conservative solutions like my Patient OPTION Act.

REPEAL MILITARY COST-OF-LIVING CUT

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, although the recent budget compromise has given our economy a measure of stability—and we are all thankful for that—it did so at the cost of vital benefits for our military and their families.

The budget deal cut $6 billion by reducing the crucial cost-of-living adjustment, or COLAs, for thousands of veterans in south Florida and across the country. This is a miniscule part of the Federal deficit—less than 0.1 percent—but it makes a huge difference for those who have given so much.

Cost-of-living adjustments help seniors and veterans keep up with the rising costs and basic needs like groceries and clothing. There are a lot of places to cut the Federal deficits, but it shouldn't be in aiding those men and women who have sacrificed so much.

That is why I have cosponsored legislation to repeal this cut, and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of our Nation's heroes.

POVERTY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 50 years since President Johnson declared war on poverty. I don't doubt that President Johnson had good intentions, but intentions don't win wars, and poverty is a stubborn opponent. Fifteen percent of Americans still live below the poverty line, after trillions spent by the government.

In December, I brought together community leaders and national experts to discuss how we can reinvigorate the city of Reading and other cities in the 16th District of Pennsylvania. From this conference, we are moving forward to get institutions to work together strategically and think differently about attacking the problem.

Government at every level and communities leaders need to cooperate and make sure there are opportunities to start new businesses and attract more development.

Perhaps most importantly, we need smart strategies to help kids get a good education. This has to include building strong families, since statistics show that children raised by only one parent are far more susceptible to temptations of drugs and gangs and other problems.

It is time we rethought our strategy and rededicate ourselves to try helping needy Americans by removing barriers for wealth creation.

□ 0915

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE EXTENSION

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to extend the critical unemployment insurance lifeline to the 1.3 million Americans who have already lost coverage.

Tragically, another 1.9 million Americans are set to lose benefits over the first 6 months of this year if we do not act. In California alone, over 214,000 people have already lost their unemployment coverage, including 19,000 people in San Diego County and 3,500 people in Imperial County.

Approximately 326,000 more Californians stand to lose their coverage in the first 6 months of 2014. With unemployment unacceptably high, now is not the time to take money out of the pockets of those who are struggling.

For jobless Americans, unemployment benefits are used to purchase basic lifeline needs like food and shelter and immediate necessities. The time is clicking. Let's do the right thing.

HEALTH EXCHANGE SECURITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2014

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3811.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 455, I call up the bill (H.R. 3811) to require notification of individuals of breaches of personally identifiable information through Exchanges under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 455, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3811

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. NOTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS OF BREACHES OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION THROUGH PPACA EXCHANGES.

Not later than two business days after the discovery of a breach of security of any system maintained by an Exchange established under section 1311 or 1321 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18031, 18041) which is known to have resulted in personally identifiable information of an individual being stolen or unlawfully accessed, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide notice of such breach to each such individual.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in the days leading up to Christmas, hackers stole millions of credit card numbers from the servers of retail giant Target. I imagine that at least a few here in this Chamber may have had their own credit cards replaced to prevent theft.

What if Target had not bothered to tell anyone?

What if they had waited until people noticed fraudulent charges popping up on their statements? The damage would certainly be worse.

It may shock some people to learn that there is no legal requirement that the Department of Health and Human Services notify an individual if his or her personal information is breached or improperly accessed through the Affordable Care Act's exchanges.

While HHS has said that it will notify individuals in such a case, the American people have a right to know that their government is required by law to contact them if their personal information is compromised.

H.R. 3811, the Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act, would simply ensure Americans receive notification from HHS when their personally identifiable information has been compromised through the exchanges. Specifically, the bill requires HHS to notify individuals no later than two business days after discovery of a breach of an exchange system.

Since the disastrous rollout of the healthcare.gov Web site, congressional oversight has uncovered that end-to-end security testing of healthcare.gov did not occur before the October 1 launch, and that high-ranking administration officials were told of the security risks before the Web site went live.

Teresa Fryer, the chief information security officer for the agency running the exchange system, even stated in a draft memo that the Federal exchange ''does not reasonably meet security requirements'' and ''there is also no confidence that personal identifiable information will be protected.''

A recent article in Information Week discussed a report released by Experian entitled ''2014 Data Breach Industry Forecast,'' which stated that ''the health care industry, by far, will be the most susceptible to publicly disclosed and widely scrutinized data breaches in 2014.''

According to Information Week, the author of the study said he is basing this prediction at least partly on reports of security risks posted by the healthcare.gov Web site and the health insurance exchanges established by various States. The Web infrastructure to support health insurance reform was ''put together too quickly and haphazardly.''

The most glaring problem for these sites has been their inability to keep up with consumer demand. The organizational infrastructure behind the implementation of ObamaCare is also complex, meaning that many parties have access to the personal data and could misuse or mishandle it.

So we have volume issues, security issues, multiple data handling points, all generally not good things for protecting protected health information and personal identity information.

Given the lack of security testing and the risk associated with healthcare.gov, and the administration's repeated misrepresentation of the Web site's readiness and functionality, H.R. 3811 is a reasonable step to ensure Federal officials are required to notify individuals in case of a breach.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that Republicans are using

out-of-context quotes from an administration, or from administration officials, to mislead the public about the security of healthcare.gov, the Web site.

The same official they keep quoting went on to say:

> The added protections that we have put into place are best practices above and beyond what is usually recommended. And no Web site is 100 percent secure. But this effort to scare people from signing up for coverage is simply wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I am afraid the bill before the House today is simply an effort by Republicans to continue to impede the efforts of implementing the Affordable Care Act by instilling misinformation and fear in the American public. It is an egregious bill that would, in my opinion—let me point this out, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I was in the Rules Committee, and I pointed out that, to some extent, I was pleased, I guess, that I don't see the Republicans actually coming to the floor today to act on another repeal or outright repeal of the Affordable Care Act. I mean, we are not seeing that. We didn't see it in Rules. And hopefully, I will say to my colleague, the chairman of the Health Subcommittee, that we don't see it again, either in the committee, in Rules, or on the floor.

So maybe there is some progress here, and at least the Republicans are not out there trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act anymore—at least I hope so.

But they are now moving to these other methods of trying to put fear in the public so that they don't sign up or they don't go on the Web site. And the fact of the matter is that these security measures that they are talking about are addressing a reality that is not there.

Do I think that security measures are critical for the Web site?

Yes, absolutely. But let's recap the last few years since the ACA passed. Republicans claim the ACA kills jobs; but since the law has passed, we have added nearly 8 million jobs.

Republicans claim that the ACA causes health costs to increase, but the last 4 years we have seen the slowest health care cost growth in 50 years.

Republicans claim we need to address the deficit; yet they repeal the law at every turn, which increases the deficit by over $1.5 trillion.

Well, now they say that healthcare.gov is going to result in widespread breaches of people's personal information, and that is simply not true. There have been no successful security attacks on healthcare.gov, and no one has maliciously accessed personal information.

No Web site, public or private, is 100 percent secure, but healthcare.gov is subject to strict security standards. It is constantly monitored and tested, and its security and privacy protections go beyond Federal IT standards.

And the Health and Human Services Department has standards in place, just like every other government agency, to notify individuals if their personal information is breached.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is important that I note for everyone that House Democrats have always previously supported legislation to require consumer notification in the event of a breach of government and private sector computer systems. We still do.

By expressing concern for the mockery of this bill, it does not mean that I don't support requiring the administration to notify individuals of breaches of their information, but this not is a serious effort to strengthen privacy laws or to strengthen the health care Web site.

The Republican strategy is to scare people away from going to the Web site and signing up for health care, and I urge Members and the American public, do not be fooled by what they are doing.

It is a good thing that they are not seeking to outright repeal the Affordable Care Act anymore, at least that appears to be the case, based on what happened in Rules the other night. But that doesn't mean that they are not going to continue with these efforts to try to make hay over security and other matters.

And I can't stress enough that every one of the scare tactics they use, whether it is saying that the ACA is going to increase the deficit, which it doesn't, it actually decreases the deficit; or whether they say that it is going to increase health costs, which we know it doesn't, it actually decreases health costs.

This is just another one of those scare tactics. And I just hope that my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, are not fooled by this.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), the distinguished chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, famously, Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, We have nothing to fear but fear itself. That is not true here and, sadly, the last speaker is entitled to his opinion, but the facts do not bear out his conclusions.

The truth is that actual interviews and depositions taken of the highest-ranking people that helped develop this Web site, both public and private, show there was no end-to-end testing. It did not meet the spirit of any definition of a secure Web site.

In fact, the highest-ranking person, Teresa Fryer, on September 20, was unwilling to recommend this site go active, and said under oath that if it had been within her authority to stop it, she would have.

It is very clear, even from the White House's statements in the last few days, that they claim to have mitigated or have a plan to mitigate significant security risks. The American people need to understand a plan to mitigate means they have not mitigated security risks.

This is the situation we are in, in which no private sector company, including Target, would go live with a system that has known failures and unknown failures because of a failure to do end-to-end.

All we are asking for is, since Secretary Sebelius, under oath, has been wrong on multiple occasions, I have called for her to make clear that she made false statements. The fact is what we need is a law that makes it clear that they should do the right thing, not say they have always done the right thing and they will do the right thing, because in the case of healthcare.gov, they launched a site that was neither functionally ready, nor had it been security tested, and it had known failures that were not mitigated prior to the launch.

Those are the facts, Mr. Speaker, and I ask for support of this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, some mornings in Congress I wake up and I say, now here is a solution in search of a problem; and this morning is one of those days.

We are hearing about how the Web site is not secure, how there can be security breaches. Ironically, we are hearing about security breaches with a private company, Target, and how terrible it is, and that is why we have to do a bill.

But, in fact, we haven't seen any security breaches with healthcare.gov or the Web sites around the Affordable Care Act. And I want to stress that.

□ 0930

I am the ranking Democrat on the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of Energy and Commerce, and we have had a number of hearings, and we have had classified briefings. Here is some information that is not classified information.

There has been not one successful hack into www.healthcare.gov. Let me say that again. Nobody has successfully been able to breach www.healthcare.gov. Furthermore, as we have recently learned in a briefing, www.healthcare.gov, interestingly, has not been targeted any more than any other Federal Web site for hackers.

So why are we doing this bill? I have got to associate myself with Ranking Member PALLONE's comments, that the only reason we could be doing this bill is to try to have a chilling effect against people signing up to get health insurance through the Web sites.

Let me say it again. There have been no successful breaches of www.healthcare.gov.

Now, if we really wanted to do a bill that would strengthen privacy, I would be all for that. I think that consumer privacy is one of the most important

things we can do. But really, when you look at the details of this bill, there is nothing here that furthers consumer notification or consumer privacy.

First of all, there is no exemption or consideration of law enforcement. What if law enforcement found a potential breach and needed to investigate it? What if they needed more than 48 hours to make sure that, in fact, there was a breach before they notified people? Consider the harm that would occur if law enforcement did not have enough time and resources to fully investigate a security breach before it went public. The consequences of hasty and incorrect notification could just make the problem worse.

Secondly, based on how the bill is drafted, if there is a data breach in a State that has chosen to run its own exchange, like my home State of Colorado, HHS seems to bear an unnecessary burden of reporting the breach in the State exchange having nothing to do with the Federal exchange.

Might I remind my colleagues, State exchanges are entirely independent from www.healthcare.gov. HHS does not run them. HHS did not build their Web sites, and HHS did not develop their security protocols. So why should HHS have to get involved in the State-run exchanges?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. DEGETTE. So security for these State-based exchanges should be the responsibility of the States that are running them.

I could go on and on. There are more problems with this bill than pages in the bill.

So let's get real. Instead of bringing legislation like this to the floor without any committee action, why can't we sit down together in a bipartisan way and improve the way the Affordable Care Act works for our constituents? That is what our constituents want. They want affordable health insurance. They want health care. And they don't want unwarranted scare tactics and attacks. So let's sit down. Let's work together. Let's fix this legislation. And let's get real.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased, at this time, to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlelady from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), who is an expert on this issue.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation to provide basic diligence to the Federal ObamaCare exchange.

If someone's personal information has been breached, the Federal Government should be accountable and be required to notify them so that they can protect themselves from either identity theft or cyber threats.

This is common sense, as data breach notification is required on most of the State-run exchanges, and there are laws that require notification by private businesses as well. Yet, when HHS was asked to insert notification provisions into the final rule for ObamaCare, they specifically declined to do so. This is an astonishing failure on the part of the administration though, sadly, characteristic of how they have proceeded at every turn with implementation of this train wreck legislation.

www.healthcare.gov has been described by former Social Security Administrator Michael Astrue as a ''hacker's dream,'' and last month, HHS reported that there had been 32 security incidents since its launch. The Federal exchange potentially puts at risk Americans' names, addresses, phone numbers, dates of birth, email addresses, and even Social Security numbers.

Last month, I introduced similar data breach notification legislation, and I am pleased to join my House colleagues now to pass this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I can't imagine explaining to my constituents that I voted against this commonsense measure to protect hardworking Americans from identity theft and cyber attacks, and this is why I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the ranking member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey for yielding.

I would like to make two very, very simple points.

First, the Affordable Care Act is working. Hello. It is working. It went into full effect, if you didn't know, on January 1, and now millions of people—millions—are getting health insurance that they didn't have before.

Imagine what this means to families. Not only are they receiving critical medical care, but they have the security of knowing they will not go bankrupt if they get into an accident or they get sick. That is major.

The law also put in place key protections for consumers. Insurance companies are now prohibited from discriminating against people with cancer, diabetes, or other preexisting conditions. Some young people in my district said, Well, Congressman, I am not worried about preexisting conditions. I told them, You just keep on living. Insurance companies may not charge higher prices for women, and millions of people are now receiving free preventative care.

There are also huge financial benefits. Health insurance companies are sending rebate checks to millions of people. Since the law was passed, we have seen the lowest growth in health care costs in 50 years; and if we repealed the law today, it would increase our deficit by more than $1.5 trillion.

Despite all these positive results, Republicans are still obsessed with killing the law. Since they cannot do it legislatively, they have shifted to a different tactic—scaring people away from the Web site.

So my second point is this. There have been no successful security breaches of www.healthcare.gov. Let me say that again. There have been no successful security breaches of www.healthcare.gov. Nobody's personal information has been maliciously hacked.

All week, Republicans have been trying to make their case for this bill by quoting from a memo drafted by the chief information security officer at CMS about concerns before the Web site was launched, but they omit one critical fact: this official never sent the memo. It was a draft. And she never gave it to anyone, including her own supervisor. How do we know this? Because she was interviewed by the Oversight Committee by both Republican and Democratic staff weeks ago.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. I yield the gentleman from Maryland an additional 1 minute.

Mr. CUMMINGS. And she told us this herself.

Her draft memo did not take into account mitigation strategies put in place in the days that followed. Importantly, she also told the committee that she is satisfied with the security testing being conducted. When asked to describe the security measures now in place, she called them, ''best practices above and beyond what is usually recommended.''

These are important facts for the American people to know, but the Republicans disregard them and omit them because they want to undermine their claims.

Many of us would support efforts to strengthen requirements for the entire Federal Government and private sector to notify consumers of breaches, but today's bill does not do that. Today's bill is the latest attempt to attack the Affordable Care Act and deprive millions of Americans of the health care they deserve.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California, KEVIN MCCARTHY, the distinguished whip of the House.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act. The reason why we are passing this important legislation today is that credible and documented fears have been raised that this hastily constructed ObamaCare exchange Web site could jeopardize the security of our most sensitive personal information.

One of the many reasons so many worry about ObamaCare is that it injects government and government bureaucrats into the most personal sphere of our lives, our health care, in new and alarming ways. Nothing could turn a life more upside down quickly than identity theft. It is our duty, as Members of Congress, to do everything

in our power to protect and inform Americans about these potentially devastating events.

I am confident that this concern is one of the law's most negative consequences that both sides of the aisle can come together and agree must be addressed. Absent its full repeal, instilling this type of transparency and accountability into ObamaCare is a worthy first step. I urge my Democratic friends to join with us today.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans continue to attack the Web site, www.healthcare.gov, and this attack on the security of the Web site is just the latest in a long line of scare tactics attempting to limit enrollment and coverage under the ACA.

It just bothers me so much because, as you know now, we have about 6 million people who have obtained coverage, 2.1 million receive private insurance through the Web site, and things really are moving now in terms of more and more people signing up and getting coverage.

I just wish that, rather than using scare tactics and trying to talk about security concerns that don't exist, they would focus and work with us at actually trying to sign people up to get people to have health insurance, which is the goal, of course, of the Affordable Care Act.

The bill suggests that there are serious security problems with www.healthcare.gov, but this unique requirement doesn't apply to other government Web sites or to private Web sites. Under the bill, HHS is required to notify individuals within 2 business days if their personally identifiable information is known to be stolen or unlawfully accessed from a marketplace computer system. If this is a good idea, then why is the GOP bill limiting this requirement to only marketplace Web sites? It is just a missed opportunity.

Democrats firmly support strong data security and breach notification legislation. If the Republicans were serious about the security of personally identifiable information on the Web, instead of bringing up this bill, they could have reached out to Democrats and developed a bipartisan bill.

Indeed, when Democrats were in the majority, the Democrat-run House passed bipartisan legislation to provide for consumer notification in the event of a breach, which was introduced in the previous Congress. And the Republicans are still playing political games. If they want to work with us to bring to the floor serious bipartisan data security breach notification legislation, then they should simply do it.

In the Rules Committee the other day, one of the members asked, on the Republican side, if the administration has a position on the bill. And the administration clearly opposes the bill. They put out an SAP which states:

> The Administration believes Americans' personally identifiable information should be protected wherever it resides, and that all Americans deserve to know if that information has been improperly exposed . . . The Federal Government has already put in place an effective and efficient system for securing personally identifiable information in the Health Insurance Marketplaces.

So they oppose the passage of this bill.

I just wish I could convince my colleagues—again, I am happy that this is not an outright repeal and that we are not wasting time on that, but we are still wasting time with this notion of the security breach that hasn't happened when security measures are already in place.

Again, this is being brought up in the first week we are back with no effort to reach out to us in any way to try to deal with this. It has a 2-day notification requirement, which is simply not workable.

I cannot stress enough that we, as Democrats, would like to address this issue, but it is not being addressed. It is just being done as a way of trying to scare the public from signing up on the Web site, which is so unfortunate because people want to sign up. They shouldn't be in fear that, if they sign up, somehow there is going to be a security breach.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 0945

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), a distinguished member of the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it very much.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act. I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, and I am glad we are addressing this very important issue on the House floor today.

Each day, I hear from constituents in Florida's 12th Congressional District who are experiencing the negative impacts of ObamaCare. Contrary to the very promises the law was sold on, my constituents have lost their health care coverage, have seen their premiums rise, and were forced to choose new doctors. Now they are faced with concerns regarding their personal information and whether it is compromised—all because the President's signature law was never really ready for prime time.

The Energy and Commerce Committee, which I am a member of, has held numerous hearings into the failed Web site and the lack of testing that occurred to ensure the Web site was properly secured.

In these hearings, we have learned that 30 to 40 percent of the Web site isn't built; end-to-end security testing wasn't performed; and CMS' own chief security information officer recommended against an Authority to Operate because of cybersecurity concerns.

Her memo even stated:

> There is no confidence that personally identifiable information will be protected.

It was the administrator of CMS, not that chief information officer, that signed off on the ATO.

Mr. Speaker, does this sound like a safe and secure Web site? Millions of Americans were forced to sign up for the exchanges in order to avoid individual mandate fines. And now each of these individuals, including myself and many in this Chamber, are potential victims of identity theft.

While privacy in the health care realm is typically protected by HIPAA, it does not apply to HHS or the federally run exchanges. Furthermore, data notification is critical to maintaining security, and individuals should be notified when their personal information could be compromised. Yet, in the final rules HHS published in August, it did not finalize a data breach notification rule. Instead, it stated that it is up to ''CMS to determine whether a risk of harm exists and if individuals need to be notified.''

A government bureaucrat, Mr. Speaker, should not be given the power to determine whether the loss of personally identifiable information constitutes harm. We do not know how many breaches have occurred on healthcare.gov, whether due to the accidental sharing of information or otherwise, because there is currently no public disclosure requirement. The Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act will bring accountability and transparency to the administration and the health care exchanges.

I strongly urge my colleagues in the House to support this bill today, and I urge all, of course, our colleagues in the Senate to swiftly take up this bill so that we may pass it into law.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WAXMAN. The previous speaker in this debate said that we don't know how many times there was a breach of security on the health care Web site. Well, we do know how many breaches of security there were, how many successful attacks there were—zero. There have been no successful breaches of healthcare.gov.

Mr. Speaker, since October 1, more than 6 million Americans have signed up for health insurance—6 million. Four million are enrolled in Medicaid, 2 million in private coverage. Any way you look at it, that is good news.

Now Republicans seem eager to find some bad news. They want to keep talking about Web site problems and stir up phony fears that personal information is not secure on this site. They are looking for the bad news because the facts are against them.

Republicans said the Affordable Care Act would kill jobs. We hear it over and over again—kill jobs. Since the law was passed, we have added nearly 8 million jobs. Republicans said this law

would cause health care costs to skyrocket, but we have had 4 straight years of the slowest health care cost growth in 50 years. Republicans said the ACA would explode the deficit, but repealing the law, which they have tried to do over 40 times on the floor, would increase the deficit by over $1.5 trillion.

So, today, House Republicans are resorting to scare tactics. They are bringing up a poorly thought-out bill based on the false premise that healthcare.gov is not secure. The truth is—I will say it again—there have been no successful security attacks on healthcare.gov.

Now, while no site, public or private, is 100 percent secure, healthcare.gov is subject to strict security standards, it is constantly monitored and tested, and it has procedures in place to notify consumers in the event of a breach. We can't say the same thing for private Web sites. We all heard about Target having their Web site attacked successfully. No one is asking that they make disclosures.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, this is not a serious attempt to address this issue because it doesn't set any standards on private insurance companies. Private insurance companies hold far more private data than the exchanges.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman, I worked on bipartisan legislation to set tough data privacy and security standards on government and private sector computer systems. House Democrats have supported these efforts, but this bill is not serious. Did you know this bill was never even considered in committee? It doesn't allow for any delay in reporting to protect ongoing law enforcement investigations. The bill creates a host of technical and administrative problems.

This is purely a message bill. That is all we do these days. In between recesses, we have message bills on the floor of the House, and we get nothing done. This is purely a message bill, and the message is one that is designed to mislead. I urge a ''no'' vote.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia, ERIC CANTOR, our distinguished majority leader.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I want to rise in support of the Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act. If I could just take a few seconds to respond to the allegations put forward by the gentleman from California, the ranking member on the Energy and Commerce Committee, I want to just make a point, Mr. Speaker. There is a real difference between users of a retailer's Web site and users of healthcare.gov because those who choose to go on the Web site of a retailer in the private sector do so at their choice.

The people of this country, all of the American people now, if they go to healthcare.gov, they are being forced to go to healthcare.gov, and so for the gentleman to sit here and say, well, we don't require this out of the other industries, banks or anything else, I would beg to differ. There are certainly requirements in law and duties owed by banks to their shareholders, customers and the rest, but I would say to the gentleman, this is a situation where the law at hand is requiring individuals—mandating them—to go to this site.

So contrary to the allegations made by the gentleman, what this bill does is it just requires the administration to provide 48 hours' notice after a breach of health care information or financial data. All it says is the administration has to let victims of identity theft or information theft be notified. That is it. This is a good government bill. Why do we want to wait until there is a data breach?

I would ask the gentleman to look to a quote by CMS' own chief information security officer, Teresa Fryer. She said that the Federal exchange ''does not reasonably meet security requirements.'' That is what the chief cybersecurity officer at the agency says, the exchange ''does not meet security requirements.''

Now, the Experian credit bureau said:

> The health care industry, by far, will be the most susceptible to publicly disclosed and widely scrutinized data breaches of 2014.

If we know this, why wouldn't we take precautions to help people? That is all this bill does. It says if there is a risk of data breach, we should afford people the opportunity to take corrective action immediately. That is it. There is no message in there. This is just trying to help people.

So I would say to the gentleman, if he would just set aside the partisan attacks for once, let's help people. Let's go about the way we should be in putting people first here. We disagree on this law in requiring health care the way government says we should require, yes, but I think we can all agree we want to help people, and we want to make sure that they can keep their information safe. That is all this bill is about.

So I want to thank Chairman FRED UPTON, Chairman JOE PITTS, and the members serving on the committees who have been conducting oversight on the issue for the past year, including the Science Committee, the Homeland Security and the Oversight and Government Reform Committees. Congresswoman DIANE BLACK, certainly the gentleman from Florida, GUS BILIRAKIS, and Representative KERRY BENTIVOLIO have all worked hard on this issue. I commend them for their efforts to just help people for once.

With that, I urge adoption and passage of the bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to Mr. WAXMAN.

Mr. WAXMAN. Well, thank you for yielding. I am not going to take that much time, but I do want to respond to the comments that were just made on the House floor.

No one is forced to go on this Web site. No one is forced to buy their insurance by going on the Web site. They could go to brokers. Once you sign up for insurance, whether it is public or private, your information is in their Web. It is in their computer system. That is true for private insurance. Does this bill do anything about breaches of private insurance? No.

Now, the majority leader used a quote from someone in the administration, I think, to mislead the public about the security of healthcare.gov, but that same official said at the end of that quote, The added protections that we have put into place are best practices above and beyond what is usually recommended.

No Web site is 100 percent secure, but this effort to scare people from signing up for coverage is wrong. If we do care about breaches in security, it ought to apply to private and public insurance, not just when you sign up, but when they hold your data.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the distinguished chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, H.R. 3811, the Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act of 2014.

Security and transparency are both critically important to every American, and the public expects and deserves to have them both when it comes to health care.

Sadly, I believe the administration has failed to deliver. This important bill seeks to provide peace of mind to folks in Michigan and across the country who have submitted personal information to a Federal health insurance exchange. Americans have the right to know in the event that their sensitive personal information provided to an exchange is compromised, especially as it is the law's individual mandate that forces them to purchase the government-approved health care coverage. Why wouldn't we want the public to know and be alerted right away?

Just this morning on CNBC's ''Breaking News,'' the CEO of Target apparently is indicating that as many as 70 million Americans—their customers—may have had their private information stolen. Would it have been right for Target just to sit on that information? Or was it appropriate for them to try and put the word out so that at least the consumers would have the right information?

□ 1000

Let me tell you what this bill does. It is a commonsense bill. It is going to require that the administration promptly inform individuals within 2 business days if their personal information has been stolen or unlawfully accessed through an exchange. Through the Energy and Commerce Committee's thoughtful oversight, we have uncovered troubling information regarding

the security of the health insurance exchanges. What this bill does is preventive medicine. Do we want to wait until the horse is out of the barn before we take action? I don't think so.

We found that the administration did not perform a full security control assessment before healthcare.gov opened for business on October 1. We have also learned that just days before healthcare.gov went live, senior officials at HHS expressed serious concerns regarding the protection of personally identifiable information that was entered into their Web site.

These facts, on top of the fact that the administration has repeatedly misrepresented the functionality and the readiness of the health care law, raise significant questions regarding the security of healthcare.gov and the information available in the exchanges.

A few weeks ago, the administration was willing to let millions of Americans lose their health insurance, despite the President's solemn promise that they could keep their health plan if they liked it; and it took the House, acting in a bipartisan legislative manner, for the administration to confess that, yes, they had broken their promise.

Now the administration is saying it opposes this requirement that it notify Americans when personal information is stolen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PITTS. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. UPTON. So the self-proclaimed, most-transparent administration in history has come out against transparency. I am sorry Republicans and Democrats may disagree on the merits of the President's health care law, and we do; but I think that we should all agree that Americans deserve to be notified if that personal information is put at risk by the law.

I want to thank Chairman PITTS for putting security and transparency above politics, and I would urge my colleagues in a bipartisan way to support this bill this morning.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), the vice chair of the Democratic Caucus.

Mr. CROWLEY. I thank my friend from New Jersey for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many truly pressing issues facing our Nation, so it is a shame that we are here once again wasting time on legislation like this. It doesn't even solve the issues the Republicans claim they are trying to address. The truth is, the bill we are considering today is far from a productive answer to anything. It is just yet another scare tactic to discourage people from obtaining health care—that is right. Here is a news flash for you: Republicans want to stop people from attaining health care.

I don't think why we should expect anything else from a party with such little vision. Instead of creating opportunity, they have become the party that shuts things down. They shut down the government. They shut down unemployment insurance for people who are desperately trying to find work. They have tried repeatedly to shut down the Affordable Care Act. As a matter of fact, 47 times—47 times—they have attempted to shut down the Affordable Care Act. Heck, they are even shutting down bridges in New Jersey. The fact is, it seems like their agenda is just about shutting down things that actually work for American families. Republicans can't just slam the door shut again and again on the American people. It is time to end this shutdown mentality once and for all here in Washington and get back to working on issues of concern to the entire Nation.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 13 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from New Jersey has 6½ minutes remaining.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the vice chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, when is this administration finally going to start paying attention to the warning signs?

When career staff at OMB warned the administration that Solyndra wasn't ready for prime time, they moved forward anyway and lost hardworking taxpayers a half billion dollars.

When private consultants told the White House and HHS officials last spring that there were problems with healthcare.gov, they moved forward anyway.

When CMS sent a memo just 4 days before healthcare.gov went live and warned about ''inherent security risks''—their terminology—the administration moved forward anyway. So their failed policy of forward is costing us money and is getting people into trouble. This is what we are hearing from an Experian report. America's personal information is at high risk on healthcare.gov. There is a great opportunity for a data breach.

Mr. Speaker, this is something we can stop. The bill today does that. It is simple. It addresses the problem. What it does very simply—and I commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania for the Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act—it accomplishes what this administration has failed to make a standard practice. It will force HHS to inform anyone if their information has been breached, and they have to do this within 2 business days. They can't hide it. They can't spin it. They have got to tell you if your information has been breached.

We do this because if the administration is going to require us—and, yes, to my colleagues, it is a requirement—to use healthcare.gov, at least they can notify you when your information has been breached.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the distinguished gentleman, and I thank the manager of this legislation, and I thank the good intentions of our colleagues.

I want to pause for a moment, Mr. PALLONE, and just simply say that although these are important issues, as a member of the House Judiciary Committee, I helped draft the PATRIOT Act and business record 215, and we are now looking to constrain the collection of mega-data, and I accept the importance of privacy for the American people. But I pause for just a moment to ask my colleagues, we have enough time today to actually pass the extension of the unemployment benefits. There are 1.3 million people, 12,000 in my own community, who would like us to stay here and make sure that we get that done. I hope that my friends on the other side of the aisle will accept the challenge of Republicans putting an extension of the unemployment benefits on the floor to help unemployed Americans.

But this is an important issue as well, and I do want to say that our friends have not documented any breach on personal and private data of those individuals that have accessed the Affordable Care Act, which are 9 million plus, and growing. We have had 46 votes to repeal it. Now we come one by one with legislation that has not gone through regular order. It has not gone through the committee process. It has very good intentions; but, in actuality, it may be overly burdensome because, Mr. Speaker, there is no bar. There is no limit for HHS to provide notice for any possible breach within seconds or minutes or hours after the incident may have occurred.

Frankly, this legislation doesn't go far enough. Let me give you a few facts. The Affordable Care Act implementation of healthcare.gov is under the authority of HHS. HHS assigned the task for developing healthcare.gov to the agency's Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Under the Federal Privacy Act, all Federal agencies must draft regulations to protect personally identifiable information under their control.

The Federal Privacy Act was established by an act of Congress and concurrence of the executive branch to balance the government's need to maintain personal information on Americans with the right of individuals to be protected against unwarranted invasions of their privacy.

The Privacy Act came as a direct result of the work of the Church Committee following revelations that the government has routinely used records on citizens for political purposes to engage in surveillance or retaliatory activity. There were a series of laws

passed by Congress to protect the privacy of Americans.

Computer records management was of such grave concern to Members of Congress following investigations into disclosures that then-President Nixon had used his high office to seek out by means to exact retribution against political enemies by causing harm to careers, reputations as well as financial injury through IRS audits.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. So we have had an intense interest since the report ''Records, Computers, and the Rights of Citizens'' was produced in 1973. HHS is chiefly responsible for why the United States became the first Nation in the world to draft a Federal privacy law. They know what to do. They developed the Code of Fair Information practices which have five principles, one of which says there must be no personal data recordkeeping systems whose very existence is secret, that is, to not use the data of people in the wrong way.

There is the CMS Policy for Privacy Act, and I offer this for the RECORD.

The baseline of my point is that HHS was at the core of developing privacy. There have been no known breaches. There is no bar for CMS and HHS to tell the American public or the individual immediately.

This bill will add burdensome requirements and may—it may—distract or take away from legal and lawful law enforcement investigations. I ask that we look at this together in a bipartisan manner. I believe in privacy. I hope we can work together, Mr. PALLONE, and make this what it should be; but I think the American people are protected.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H.R. 3811, the Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act of 2014.

I would like to commend the author of the bill for the focus on privacy.

Privacy protection is a policy area that has strong bi-partisan agreement.

However, because H.R. 3811 did not go through regular order there was no opportunity for the Committees of jurisdiction to provide valuable input into its drafting.

I would like to offer a few facts that may make it clear that this bill, although well intentioned is not necessary in its current form.

The Affordable Care Act implementation of healthcare.gov is under the authority of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

HHS assigned the task for developing healthcare.gov to the agency's Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Under the Federal Privacy Act all federal agencies must draft regulations to protect personally identifiable information under their control.

The Federal Privacy Act was established by an act of Congress and concurrence of the Executive Branch to balance the Government's need to maintain personal information on Americans with the right of individuals to be protected against unwarranted invasions of their privacy.

The Privacy Act came as a direct result of the work of the Church Committee following revelations that the government had routinely used records on citizens for political purposes to engage in surveillance or retaliatory activity a series of laws were passed by Congress to protect the privacy of Americans.

Computer records management was of such grave concern to members of Congress following investigations into disclosures that then President Nixon had used his high office to seek out means to exact retribution against political enemies by causing harm to careers, reputations as well as financial injury through IRS audits.

In 1973, a report ''Records, Computers, and the Rights of Citizens'' was produced by the former Federal Department of Health Education and Welfare (HEW), which today exists as two agencies one of which is the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) established the first federal agency privacy policies for information held on Americans.

HHS is chiefly responsible for why the United States became the first nation in the world to draft a federal privacy law.

HHS developed the Code of Fair Information practices which later became the basis for the Federal Privacy Act.

The Code of Fair Information Practices has five principles:

There must be no personal data recordkeeping systems whose very existence is secret.

There must be a way for a person to find out what information about the person is in a record and how it is used.

There must be a way for a person to prevent information about the person that was obtained for one purpose from being used or made available for other purposes without the person's consent.

There must be a way for a person to correct or amend a record of identifiable information about the person.

Any organization creating, maintaining, using, or disseminating records of identifiable personal data must assure the reliability of the data for their intended use and must take precautions to prevent misuses of the data.

The Federal Privacy Act protects all personal information managed by Federal agencies.

We know that not all agencies do a good job at protecting the personal information of citizens so today's focus on privacy is relevant and important.

However, our focus should be much broader and better informed regarding the work of each agency in this area.

Committee hearings would have been beneficial in informing the drafters of H.R. 3811, prior to its introduction on the Floor of the House for a vote.

For example, authors of the bill may have taken a different approach if it was acknowledged that the CMS has several policy documents specific to the topic of protecting personal identifiable information of medical records data:

CMS Policy for Privacy Act Implementation & Breach Notification (7/23/07)

Risk Management Handbook Volume III Standard 7.1 (12/6/12)

Incident Handling and Breach Notification

CMS Privacy Policy is written to meet obligations established by the Federal Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C., 552a), the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 (Public Law 100–503) and the Department of Health and Human Services Privacy Act Regulations (45 C.F.R. Part 5b).

I want to assure my colleagues that under the Federal Privacy Act all Federal agencies must ''develop an effective response to [breaches] that requires disclosure of information regarding the breach to those individuals affected by it, as well as to persons and entities in a position to cooperate, either by assisting in notification to affected individuals or playing a role in preventing or minimizing harms from the breach.''

All agencies, which include CMS, must report all incidents involving personally identifiable information to US-Computer Readiness Team or (US-CERT).

The US-CERT reporting requirement does not distinguish between potential and confirmed breaches—all must be reported within 1 hour of discovery/detection.

The CMS policy on breach notification has 5 criteria to determine if a breach has occurred:

Nature of the Data Elements Breached

Number of Individuals Affected

Likelihood the Information is Accessible and Usable

Likelihood the Breach May Lead to Harm

Ability of the Agency to Mitigate the Risk of Harm

CMS is directed to provide notification without unreasonable delay following the discovery of a breach, consistent with the needs of law enforcement and any measures necessary for CMS to determine the scope of the breach and, if necessary, to restore the integrity of the computerized system.

The consideration of Law-enforcement in government agency breaches is very important because this type of crime can take place in seconds or it may occur over hours, days, weeks or months.

Law-enforcement in investigation of data breaches attempts to identify the culprit(s) and others who may be involved.

To avoid impeding the efforts of law-enforcement or national security H.R. 3811, the Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act of 2014 should have included a law-enforcement exception.

Responsibility for information on individuals whose personally identifiable information has been breached is the CMS Administrator the highest official of the agency.

However, if the data breach is under 50, the notice may also be issued by the CMS Chief Information Officer or Senior Official for Privacy.

CMS Breach Notification to individuals must be in writing that should be ''concise, conspicuous, and in plain language'' and include the following:

Brief description of what happened, including date(s) and its discovery;

Description of the types of information involved in the breach;

Whether the information was encrypted or protected by other means when determined the information may be useful or compromise the security of the system;

What steps individuals should take to protect themselves from potential harm;

What the agency is doing; and

Who affected individuals should contact

There is no evidence that healthcare.gov had a breach of personal information.

If such a breach had occurred it would not be secret and members of this body would have been briefed.

First, the most important rule for cyber security is following the example of the professionals who work in this fast paced area: truth comes before beauty. The truth is that there is no computer system that is 100 percent secure from hostile cyber attacks, natural disasters, structural failures or human errors.

Second, the Internet is a rough neighborhood—the best we can do is to design the best systems possible provide the resources necessary to follow through on good security and privacy designs and ignore the politics of the moment. The most dangerous threats to cyber security do not care about anyone's political party they may care very much about your nation of origin.

Third, cyber security is not about the 14 year old with a laptop, but the botnet attack from a coordinate effort that brings to the discussion significant threats to networks. There is no evidence that nothing occurred that would suggest that the website experienced anything of this nature.

Congress should use regular order to consider means and methods of securing all federal data that is categorized as personally identifiable information.

Attempts to misinform or frighten Americans regarding the healthcare.gov or the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act implementation mechanisms are unwarranted.

CMS has a detailed and well managed program for ensuring that personally identifiable information is secure and when questions arise they have a top level ''Incident Handling'' protocol that is through in investigating issues and uncovering the facts regarding suspected breaches.

CMS relies upon US-CERT, which is part of DHS' National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) to address breaches of data it manages.

The Department of Homeland Security's United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) leads efforts to improve the nation's cybersecurity posture, coordinate cyber information sharing, and proactively manage cyber risks to the Nation while protecting the constitutional rights of Americans.

CMS informs US-CERT within an hour of a suspected breach incident.

However, a report does not mean that an incident occurred an investigation must proceed to determine if the report is valid.

It is important note that premature breach notices being sent to consumers regarding their personally identifiable information could have unintended and adverse outcomes for several reasons:

Notice fatigue—too many notices and people stop paying attention;

Increased cost of administering a program due to additional communications that inform people that the initial breach notice was a false alarm;

Giving notice to cyber criminals or terrorists that they have been discovered before law enforcement or national security can assess how the extent of the threat, the target or objective of the attack and trace the source of the threat with the goal of identifying the culprits; and

Correcting the problem that allowed the breach to occur

HHS should only collect the personally identifiable information that is necessary, used it for the purpose of the collection and promptly discarded that data so no database or system of records is created.

I commend my colleagues for the focus on Privacy and hope that we can work together to improve the protection of personal information on Americans throughout the Federal Government.

I strongly recommend that my colleagues vote to send this bill back for committee consideration so that its goal of improving privacy protection can be better matched to the reality of what CMS is currently doing in the area of breach notification, which conforms to what Americans need and law-enforcement as well as national security must have to protect federal agency computer networks.

1 INTRODUCTION

CMS must be able to respond to computer security-related and/or privacy-related incidents in a manner that protects its own information and helps to protect the information of others that might be affected by the incident.

This Risk Management Handbook Volume III, Standard 7.1, Incident Handling and Breach Notification standard, along with the companion procedures of the RMH Volume II, Procedure 7.2, Incident Handling, supersedes the CMS Information Security (IS) Incident Handling and Breach Analysis/Notification Procedure dated December 3, 2010.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 SECURITY EVENT

A Security Event is an observable occurrence in a network or system (e.g., known or suspected penetrations of information Technology (IT) resources, probes, infections, log reviews), or any occurrence that potentially could threaten CMS data confidentiality, integrity, or availability.

1.1.2 REPORTABLE EVENT

A Reportable Event is any activity or occurrence that involves:

A matter that a reasonable person would consider a violation of criminal, civil, or administrative laws applicable to any Medicare contract or federal health care program.

Integrity violations, including any known, probable, or suspected violation of any Medicare contract term or provision.

A matter considered to have an ''adverse'' impact on the IT system/infrastructure or CMS data confidentiality, integrity, or availability. Examples of specific events that should be reported include (but are not limited to):

Unauthorized access to or use of sensitive data for illegal purposes.

Unauthorized altering of data, programs, or hardware.

Loss of mission-essential data (i.e., patient, financial, benefits, legal, etc.).

Environmental damage/disaster (greater than $10,000) causing loss of IT services or data, or which may be less than $10,000 in damage yet affect CMS' ability to continue any day-to-day functions and operations.

Infection of sensitive systems, firmware, or software by malicious code (i.e., Viruses, Worms and Trojan Horses, etc.).

Perpetrated theft, fraud, vandalism, and other criminal computer activity that did, or may, affect the organization's capabilities to continue day-to-day functions and operations.

Telecommunications/network security violations, i.e., networks (including local area networks [LANs], metropolitan area networks [MANs], and wide area networks [WANs]) that experience service interruptions that cause an impact to an indefinite number of end users.

Unauthorized access to data when in transmission over communications media.

Loss of system availability affecting the ability of users to perform the functions required to carry out day-to-day responsibilities.

Root-level attacks on networking infrastructure, critical systems, or large, multipurpose, or dedicated servers.

Compromise (or disclosure of account access information) of privileged accounts on computer systems.

Compromise (or disclosure of account access information) of individual user accounts or desktop (single-user) systems.

Denial-of-service attacks on networking infrastructure and systems.

Attacks launched on others from within organizational boundaries or systems.

Scans of internal organizational systems originating from the Internet or from within the organizational boundaries.

Any criminal act that may have been committed using organizational systems or resources.

Disclosure of protected data, including paper disclosure, email release, or inadvertent posting of data on a web site.

Suspected information-technology policy violation.

A Reportable Event may be the result of an isolated event or a series of occurrences. Reportable Events under these procedures include events that occur at CMS federal sites, contractor/subcontractor sites/systems, consultants, vendors or agents. If the Reportable Event results in an overpayment relating to either Trust Fund payments or administrative costs, the report must describe the overpayment with as much specificity as possible, as of the time of the due date for the submission of the report.

Security events that may consist of an observable occurrence in a network or system (e.g., detected probes, infections prevented, log reviews, etc.), that do not threaten system integrity, are not considered Reportable Events unless they may be reasonably associated with other incidents, Reportable Events, or breaches. CMS categorizes these events in a monthly report to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (hereafter referred to as the ''Department'' or ''HHS'') Cybersecurity Program as follows:

Malicious Code Prevented: Viruses were prevented and did not cause any harm to any system.

Probes and Reconnaissance Scans Detected: Probes and scans were detected but did not pose a serious threat to a CMS system.

Inappropriate Usage: Misuse of computing resources by an otherwise authorized individual.

Other: Cannot be categorized under any of the above and do not threaten system integrity.

There are many events that may be flagged as inappropriate use of resources, but reflect situations that do not fall under the definitions associated with incidents, Reportable Events, or breaches. In such cases, reporting should be made through applicable contractual resources, or through appropriate Federal Fraud, Waste, and Abuse reporting channels.

1.1.3 PRIVACY INFORMATION

Privacy is the right of an individual to control their own personal information, and not have it disclosed or used by others without permission. At CMS, we are charged with protecting other people's private information—that of every citizen (or legal resident) beneficiary utilizing benefits the vast Medicare/Medicaid program, as well as many subsidiary programs.

Confidentiality is the obligation of another party to respect privacy by protecting personal information they receive, and preventing it from being used or disclosed without the subject's knowledge and permission.

Again, at CMS we are charged with protecting the confidentiality of other people's citizen-beneficiary information. A breach of that confidentiality is not simply a failure of a ''technical control'', it is a basic failure of CMS to meet its obligation to protect the individual citizen. Moreover, unlike the banking industry where financial compensation is a readily-available remedy to a breach, private medical information cannot be simply replaced with something of ''similar value'', or by simply closing an account, and opening a new (better protected) one. Once a privacy breach occurs, the ramifications can be far-reaching and long lasting—with no readily available ''patch'' to undo the damage (we cannot simply replace one violated health record with a brand new one.)

Security is the means used to protect the confidentiality of personal information through physical, technical, and administrative safeguards.

Privacy is the ''business objective'' of security. The core of the relationship between information security and information privacy lies in the fact that security, or lack of it, is the determinant of the level of privacy that a system or infrastructure can assure. If there is a breach of computer security, it has a corresponding negative effect on the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the information therein. Inadequate security leads directly to loss of privacy. Therefore, if privacy is the ''business objective'', then security is the ''functional requirements'' necessary for an IT system to meet those ''business objectives''.

1.1.3.1 PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION (PII)

Personally Identifiable Information (PII) is information which can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, such as their name, social security number, biometric records, etc. alone, or when combined with other personal or identifying information which is linked or linkable to a specific individual, such as date and place of birth, mother's maiden name, etc. PII also includes individually identifiable health information as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996, Privacy Rule (45 CFR Section 164.501. PII is also often referred to as personally identifiable data or individually identifiable information.

1.1.3.2. PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION (PHI)

Protected Health Information (PHI) is individually identifiable health information held or transmitted by a covered entity or its business associate, in any form or media, whether electronic, paper, or oral.

Individually Identifiable Health Information is a subset of health information, including demographic data collected concerning an individual that:

Is created or received by a healthcare provider, health plan, employer, or healthcare clearinghouse.

Relates to the past, present or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual; the provision of healthcare to an individual; or the past, present, or future payment for the provision of healthcare to an individual, and meets either of the following:

Identifies the individual.

There is a reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the individual.

The HIPAA Privacy Rule excludes from the definition of PHI individually identifiable health information that is maintained in education records covered by the Family Educational Right and Privacy Act (as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1232g) and records described at 20 U.S.C. 1232g(a)(4)(B)(iv), and employment records containing individually identifiable health information that are held by a covered entity in its role as an employer.

The HIPAA Privacy Rule covers PHI in any medium (including paper) while the HIPAA Security Rule covers PHI in electronic form (ePHI) only.

1.1.3.3 DE-IDENTIFIED HEALTH INFORMATION

With those definitions in place, what information (or data) elements comprise PHI such that, if they were removed, the above definition of individually identifiable health information would not apply? The answer is in the HIPAA de-identification use standard and its two implementation specifications of the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

There are no restrictions on the use or disclosure of de-identified health information. De-identified health information neither identifies nor provides a reasonable basis to identify an individual. There are two specifications for de-identifying individually identifiable health information; either: 1) a formal determination by a qualified statistician; or 2) the removal of specified identifiers of the individual and of the individual's relatives, household members, and employers is required, and is adequate only if the covered entity has no actual knowledge that the remaining information could be used to identify the individual.

The following identifiers of the individual or of relatives, employers, or household members of the individual must be removed to achieve the safe harbor method of de-identification:

1. Names
2. All geographic subdivisions smaller than a State, including street address, city, county, precinct, zip code, and their equivalent geocodes, except for the initial three digits of a zip code if, according to the current publicly available data from the Bureau of Census:

a. The geographic units formed by combining all zip codes with the same three initial digits contains more than 20,000 people.

b. The initial three digits of a zip code for all such geographic units containing 20,000 or fewer people is changed to 000.

3. All elements of dates (except year) for dates directly related to the individual, including birth date, admission date, discharge date, date of death; and all ages over 89 and all elements of dates (including year) indicative of such age, except that such ages and elements may be aggregated into a single category of age 90 or older.
4. Telephone numbers
5. Fax numbers
6. Electronic mail addresses
7. Social security numbers
8. Medical record numbers
9. Health plan beneficiary numbers
10. Account numbers
11. Certificate/license numbers
12. Vehicle identifiers and serial numbers, including license plate numbers
13. Device identifiers and serial numbers
14. Web Universal Resource Locators (URLs)
15. Internet Protocol (IP) address numbers
16. Biometric identifiers, including finger and voiceprints
17. Full face photographic images and any comparable images.
18. Any other unique identifying number, characteristic, or code, except as permitted for re-identification purposes provided certain conditions are met

In addition to the removal of the above-stated identifiers, the covered entity may not have actual knowledge that the remaining information could be used alone or in combination with any other information to identify an individual who is subject of the information.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the distinguished chairman of the Republican Study Committee and a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding and for bringing the Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act. Mr. Speaker, all we are saying here is if American families' personal information is stolen through this Web site, through the exchange Web site, they ought to be notified by the administration that their data was breached.

And, of course, you have the White House actually coming out and saying they will veto this bill. What does the Obama administration have against protecting the privacy of American families' personal information? You have got an administration official who testified for our committee, the chief information security officer who actually said there is also no confidence that personal identifiable information will be protected.

Well, if they can't ensure the protection—and by the way, the individual mandate says this is not an option for American families, they have to go through this exchange to get insurance that is approved by the government. So if the government is going to mandate it, and we don't want the government to mandate this, but if they are going to mandate it, they ought to be able to ensure that the data is protected. And if it is breached, they ought to notify them that this has happened. And yet they issue a veto threat against this. We need to pass this legislation and put this transparency in law. Pass this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, once again I hear my colleagues on the other side repeating the same things that are not accurate. You do not have to go on healthcare.gov to sign up for health insurance. Mr. WAXMAN said you can go to a private insurance broker or call an 800 number. You can go through various nonprofits. They keep repeating the same thing, and we keep having to say that there have been no breaches.

The gentleman mentioned the administration. The administration statement, which I read before and I will only summarize part of it now, it says that the Federal Government has already put in place an effective and efficient system for securing personally identifiable information in the health insurance marketplace. The administration opposes the bill because it would create unrealistic and costly paperwork requirements that do not improve the safety or security of personally identifiable information in the health insurance marketplace. The purpose of the bill I understand; but it is simply not necessary, and it is just making people fearful of signing up.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER).

□ 1015

Mr. GARDNER. I thank the chairman of the committee for his good work.

Mr. Speaker, I would remind our colleagues that when you call the 800 number to sign up for the exchange policies, as was heard before our committee in testimony, the people who get that number on that phone call then turn around and use the healthcare.gov site—the information, the Web site—to input that information. So you are forced to go through this site.

A couple of weeks ago I received this letter:

> We are writing to you because an electronic file containing your personal information cannot be accounted for. The file included two or more of the following: your name, home mailing address, and Social Security number.

The letter went on to say:

> We wanted to alert you to the potential that someone not authorized to access the records could have seen the information.

This letter came from the State of Colorado, this letter from the State of Colorado because they couldn't hold on to State employees' private personal identification information.

All we are asking for is that we protect the privacy, the security of the American people. To oppose this bill, to issue a veto threat, if the site is secure, they will never receive the notice; if it is not, we will have acted to protect the American people.

STATE OF COLORADO,
Yuma, CO.

MR. GARDNER: We are writing to you because an electronic file containing your personal information cannot be accounted for. The file included two or more of the following: your name, home/mailing address and Social Security number.

There is no indication that your information has been misused or stolen, and we are continuing efforts to account for the file. Still, we wanted to alert you to the potential that someone not authorized to access the records could have seen the information, although that is unlikely.

As a precaution, we recommend that you visit the Colorado Attorney General's Office's website at http://www.colorado attorneygeneral.gov/initiatives/identity __theft, which contains information on how to protect yourself from the possibility of identity theft. Once again, we do not have any indication that your information has been misused or stolen and believe such misuse is unlikely.

We deeply regret that this incident occurred. We want to assure you that we are reviewing and revising our procedures and practices to minimize the risk of recurrence. Should you need any further information, please contact the Office of Information Security at infosec@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

JONATHAN C. TRULL,
Chief Information Security Officer.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN).

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the independent contractor said they were unable to adequately test the confidentiality and integrity of the system. They said no complete end-to-end testing was done. The chief information security officer recommended not launching it, her boss refused to sign the authority to operate, and they launched it anyway. They knew, the administration knew this Web site wasn't ready; they launched it anyway. The whole country now knows it wasn't ready. They launched it anyway, put millions of people's personal information at risk, and they did it for political reasons.

Now all we are asking—all we are asking—is when there is a breach, when there is a problem, at least tell the American citizens. You already launched a Web site for political reasons that you knew wasn't ready, put millions of Americans' personal information at risk. You already did that. Now we are saying, if there is a problem, at least tell them. That is all this bill does.

And what does the administration say? We are going to veto that bill if it happens.

You have got to be kidding me. You have got to be kidding me. That is all this is about.

So I want to commend Mr. PITTS, the committee, and those individuals who put work into this. It is a good piece of legislation, and I would urge a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), the distinguished secretary of our caucus.

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Health care is a personal issue, and many Kansans are worried about submitting their sensitive and private information into a system that can't protect them against the devastating consequences of security breaches and fraud.

Experts have repeatedly raised red flags about the security of the information people are submitting to the ObamaCare exchanges, and a former Social Security Administrator even described the Web site as a hacker's dream. Important questions about the Web site security remain unanswered, and Americans, especially those who have lost their plans due to the President's health care law, deserve some piece of mind that their information is safe from cyber thieves.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill that requires HHS to notify Americans within 2 business days if their personal information has been compromised. Much more is required of private sector companies whose products are not mandated by law. The least the administration can do is notify Americans if their information has been stolen or unlawfully accessed through the ObamaCare exchange.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI).

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to cosponsor this legislation to enact much-needed consumer protections for healthcare.gov.

It is unfair that the Department of HHS launched healthcare.gov without performing a complete security control assessment. Installing the necessary safeguards for the exchanges should have been the administration's top priority.

Now Congress has an opportunity to pass a law that simply requires HHS to notify consumers within 2 business days if their personal information is unlawfully accessed or stolen. In a digital world, Americans deserve to know their information is compromised so they can immediately take action to protect themselves.

Last summer, I traveled my entire district in Indiana to notify and to make aware cybersecurity issues and steps to avoid identity theft. Hoosiers in Indiana, especially seniors, shared with me frightening stories about fraud and scams. They need to know that healthcare.gov will not contribute to the cybersecurity dilemma. This is the kind of representation they deserve in Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense law to safeguard our personal information.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say, again, I am not saying that I am opposed to some kind of security notification. In fact, it already exists and there is a protocol in place with the Department of Health and Human Services. The point is that this Republican bill is simply not necessary. That security already exists.

The fact of the matter is there have not been any security breaches. Once again, we are simply seeing the Republicans get up and try to scare people so that they don't go and use healthcare.gov, the Web site.

What we would really like to see, Mr. Speaker, is the day when, on both sides of the aisle here, we can simply get up and talk about legislation that continues to provide outreach and encourage people to sign up for the Web site and get the health insurance that they need. I still honestly believe that most Republicans and Democrats collectively would like to see most Americans covered with health insurance. That was the purpose of the Affordable Care Act.

I think my one optimistic note today could be at least we are not seeing another bill on the floor that would seek to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Hopefully, that is some recognition on the Republican side that the Affordable

Care Act is actually accomplishing its goal of trying to cover most Americans, if not all Americans.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this unnecessary bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, some have argued that requiring HHS to report a data breach that is known to have resulted in a loss of personal identifiable information within 2 days is too burdensome for the Department. In fact, the administration opposes this legislation for ''paperwork requirements.''

I am frankly shocked that any Member of this body would put workload concerns of HHS ahead of their constituents' right to know if their data has been breached when many of our constituents are essentially being forced to shop through these exchanges.

In addition, CMS has stated that States and other nonexchange entities are required to report data breaches to the Department within 1 hour to HHS. If HHS believes 1 hour is enough time to report, then they should certainly be able to tell our constituents within 2 days after knowing an individual's information was breached through an exchange.

Our constituents deserve to know if their personal information has been breached. That is all the underlying bill requires. Our constituents have a right to know. They should have peace of mind, and we should be protecting them, the victims, not the bureaucracy.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for H.R. 3811 with significant reservations. There is no question that Americans must be quickly notified if their personal information on Healthcare.gov or a state exchange website is compromised. Current law accomplishes this without a hard and fast deadline. H.R. 3811 aims to add a hard deadline for notification, and that is why I voted for it. Unfortunately the bill is poorly drafted. H.R. 3811 fails to provide any delay for public disclosure if immediate disclosure would derail a federal investigation. Americans have a right to know if their personal information has been stolen or misused, but it is also critical that our federal law enforcement agencies be able to hunt down and prosecute those responsible for a data breach. Republicans need to work with the Administration and Democrats in Congress to come up with a bipartisan solution that makes sure that enforcement can do their job and establishes prompt but reasonable disclosure requirements to protect consumers.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we are in a new year, and a new session. The Affordable Care Act is the law of the land, and we should find a way to move past this empty, meaningless bickering.

I will vote against H.R. 3811 because this bill is a diversion tactic by the Republicans, designed to scare Americans away from obtaining affordable health coverage and further undermines confidence in Government.

This bill serves no useful purpose. The mere fact that this bill is only directed at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and no other agency that handles personally identifiable information, demonstrates that Republicans are only attacking the Affordable Care Act for political purposes; not to make it work better to give Americans the health care they are entitled to under the law.

Not only is this bill a waste of time, but it detracts from the real work we need to do to strengthen our health care system. If my colleagues were serious about improving the Affordable Care Act, we'd welcome that discussion, but to date the only interest they have is frightening Americans away from a law that would provide the affordable, accessible health coverage to those who need it most.

Just this week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that the increase in overall health care costs for the last four years is the lowest we've ever recorded in part as a result of the reforms taking place. We should be focused how to build on and take advantage of that trend, for example repealing the flawed and burdensome Medicare sustainable growth rate (SGR) and avoid the ordeal we subject the health care community to every year.

Please let's stop this senseless exercise in futility and work together for a more productive 2014 and effectively provide the healthcare Americans are entitled to under the Law.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3811, the Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act.

There is a very real and pressing need for Congress to enact data security and breach notification requirements. But H.R. 3811 isn't the way to do it. At only a paragraph long, the bill is vague, far too limited in scope and, quite frankly, absolutely unworkable. It fails to define what constitutes ''personally identifiable information,'' a key component to any successful data security and breach-bill. It applies only to the Affordable Care Act and has no bearing on the sorts of massive breaches like the one Target just reported. And its 48-hour notification requirement would impede accurate reporting to consumers about whose and what information has been breached.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3811 isn't meant to solve a problem. It's another attempt by my Republican friends to throw egg on the Administration's face. Our consideration of this bill is also an affront to regular order because H.R. 3811 hasn't even been considered by the Committee on Energy and Commerce. That said, data security and breach notification legislation is absolutely necessary. If my friends on the other side of the aisle are truly willing to work on comprehensive bipartisan legislation, they'll find a willing partner in me. But they have to stop with cynical, politically motivated half-measures and genuinely commit to protecting the interests of consumers.

Vote down this bill.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when the Obama Administration launched Healthcare.gov, Americans were led to believe that the website was safe and secure. As the Science, Space, and Technology Committee learned at our hearing in November, this was not the case.

Healthcare.gov comprises one of the largest collections of personal information ever assembled.

The Administration has a responsibility to ensure that Americans' personal and financial data is secure. And individuals should be notified when their personal information has been compromised.

Instead, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services chose not to notify individuals when a security breach occurs.

This bill makes sure that individuals get the information they need to protect themselves.

By alerting users when a security breach occurs on the ObamaCare website, they can take action to limit the consequences.

If the Administration won't protect the privacy and security of Americans, then Congress should.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 455, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 291, nays 122, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 11]

YEAS—291

Aderholt	Costa	Griffin (AR)
Amash	Cotton	Griffith (VA)
Amodei	Cramer	Grimm
Bachmann	Crawford	Hahn
Bachus	Crenshaw	Hall
Barber	Cuellar	Hanabusa
Barletta	Culberson	Hanna
Barr	Daines	Harper
Barrow (GA)	Davis, Rodney	Harris
Barton	DeFazio	Hartzler
Benishek	Delaney	Hastings (WA)
Bentivolio	Denham	Hensarling
Bera (CA)	Dent	Himes
Bilirakis	DeSantis	Holding
Bishop (NY)	DesJarlais	Horsford
Bishop (UT)	Diaz-Balart	Hudson
Black	Doggett	Huelskamp
Blackburn	Duckworth	Huizenga (MI)
Boustany	Duffy	Hultgren
Brady (TX)	Duncan (SC)	Hunter
Braley (IA)	Duncan (TN)	Hurt
Bridenstine	Ellmers	Israel
Brooks (AL)	Enyart	Issa
Brooks (IN)	Esty	Jenkins
Broun (GA)	Farenthold	Johnson (OH)
Brownley (CA)	Fincher	Johnson, Sam
Buchanan	Fitzpatrick	Jordan
Bucshon	Fleischmann	Joyce
Burgess	Fleming	Kaptur
Bustos	Flores	Keating
Byrne	Forbes	Kelly (PA)
Calvert	Fortenberry	Kilmer
Camp	Foster	King (IA)
Campbell	Foxx	King (NY)
Cantor	Franks (AZ)	Kingston
Capito	Frelinghuysen	Kinzinger (IL)
Capps	Gallego	Kirkpatrick
Capuano	Garamendi	Kline
Carney	Garcia	Kuster
Cartwright	Gardner	Labrador
Cassidy	Garrett	LaMalfa
Chabot	Gerlach	Lamborn
Chaffetz	Gibbs	Lance
Cicilline	Gibson	Langevin
Coble	Gingrey (GA)	Lankford
Coffman	Gohmert	Latham
Cole	Goodlatte	Latta
Collins (GA)	Gosar	Lipinski
Collins (NY)	Gowdy	LoBiondo
Conaway	Granger	Loebsack
Connolly	Graves (GA)	Lofgren
Cook	Graves (MO)	Long

Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Radel
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—122

Andrews
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lowenthal
Lowey
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sires
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—19

Carter
Cleaver
Cooper
Gabbard
Guthrie
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Jones
McCarthy (NY)
McClintock
Neal
Perlmutter
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Stockman
Webster (FL)

□ 1054

Messrs. LYNCH and SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. HAHN, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. LANGEVIN changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 11, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, due to a medical procedure, I was unable to vote the week of January 7th. On Tuesday, January 7, I would have voted "present" on rollcall vote No. 1 (Quorum).

On January 8, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 2 (H.R. 721), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 3 (H.R. 3527), and "yes," on rollcall vote No. 4 (H.R. 3628).

On January 9, I was also unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 5 (Ordering the Previous Question), "no" on rollcall vote No. 6 (H. Res. 455), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 7 (Sinema Amendment No. 1), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 8 (Tonko Amendment No. 2), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 9 (Motion To Recommit with Instructions), and "no" on rollcall vote No. 10 (Final Passage of H.R. 2279).

On January 10, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 11 (Final Passage of H.R. 3811).

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3550

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor from H.R. 3550.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, Mr. CANTOR, for the purpose of inquiring of the majority leader the schedule for the week to come.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland, the Democratic whip, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour and noon for legislative business. On Thursday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m. On Friday, no votes are expected.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a few suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by the close of business today. In addition, the House will consider two bills next week to fund government operations.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, House and Senate appropriators are working towards a bipartisan agreement on an appropriations package to fund the government for the remainder of the fiscal year. I expect an agreement to be reached soon. The House will consider this package next week.

Mr. Speaker, to facilitate this, we will need to pass a short-term CR to allow the Senate time to process the bill. I expect to pass this under suspension of the rules early next week.

Finally, I expect the House to consider H.R. 3362, the Exchange Information Disclosure Act, sponsored by Representative LEE TERRY. This bill requires full transparency and accuracy from the administration on data reported from the ObamaCare exchange.

□ 1100

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information. I note that he indicates that we probably will not be able to accomplish the omnibus by the end of next week and, therefore, a CR may be required.

I know that all of us feel that that needs to be accomplished as quickly as possible. I would point out to the gentleman in conversations that he says it is going to be on suspension. I will support it on suspension, urge my colleagues to support it on suspension.

Can the gentleman tell me, however, how long that CR will go that will affect us somewhat?

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman in response to his question, the expected termination, if you will, expiration of the CR will be Saturday, January 18. So giving a week really, Mr. Speaker, for the Senate to act, because we will be acting next week in the middle of the week. We hope that they will finish their business by September—I mean January 18.

Mr. HOYER. I hope that was not a Freudian slip of our confidence in the ability to get that done as quickly as we would like.

In any event, I think that is appropriate, and I am hopeful that we can, in fact, accomplish that.

I want to tell the majority leader from my perspective that if we don't get that done in the short term, then I would be very reluctant to support continuing resolutions at the level which has now been substituted for the agreement that was reached in the bipartisan budget agreement.

There are substantial differences, as you know, in the 302(a) allocation, the allocation of discretionary spending, one at $1.012 trillion and one at $986 billion, so that there is a substantial discrepancy between those figures.

We reached agreement on the higher number. The Senate came down about 45, the House went up about 45 and reached a compromise. I think America was pleased that we reached a compromise. I would want to be on the

record as saying that if we went to longer term CRs, I would want to have some serious discussions about the level of those CRs in terms of the operations of government.

The other issue I wanted to ask the gentleman about, as you know, we had a previous question yesterday. That previous question, had it been defeated, would have allowed the House to consider the extension of unemployment insurance for 3 months, consistent with what the Senate had proposed. Now, the Senate has not reached agreement on this issue, but unfortunately that has not been considered on the floor this week. As the gentleman knows, 72,000 people a week are losing their unemployment insurance. That adds to 1.3 million that have already lost their own insurance on December 28.

I know it is not listed on your sheet, nor did you mention it in your comments on the floor. Can the gentleman tell me whether there is any prospect of the unemployment insurance bill coming to this floor? Mr. TIERNEY has a bill that he has introduced that I think probably enjoys, at this point in time, well over 150 Democrats, and I think all Democrats will sign on to it. I would hope that we together, as we did when President Bush was President, and we did it five times, I would hope that we could extend unemployment for those people who were relying on it to put food on their tables.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and just for the record make clear that the bill, or the measure, that the gentleman is speaking to is a bill that would extend beyond the more than 6 months that unemployment benefits insurance is available now.

As the gentleman knows, we have been trying to focus this Congress on getting back to a more optimistic view of what the economy can do. It is about jobs; it is about growth.

Our focus is about wanting people to get a job. It is on employment, not unemployment. So I would say to the gentleman, if we could work together in trying to reject what unfortunately is seeming to become the new norm for many, instead, let's talk about the things that we do, maybe skills training.

Those who are chronically unemployed frankly could find a job if they had the skills necessary to do so. We would love to be able to work with the gentleman in a bipartisan fashion to perhaps do those kinds of things. Unfortunately, this Congress, this House has passed the SKILLS Act, and there was no bipartisan support for that.

We need to be focused on growing the economy, getting people back to work—and know that there is a lot of pain out there right now. The best response to the pain, in someone looking for some hope for the future, is a job.

And so I would respond to the gentleman, we are watching what the Senate is doing, and I think the reports today indicate the Senate is going to have some difficulty in passing what was thought to have been an easy thing to pass a few days ago. So I would ask the gentleman to join us in looking towards a more optimistic future for this country and economy, focusing on employment and those who have been chronically out of work.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

First, I would say, there is nothing to disagree with in what the gentleman has said. We do want to focus on jobs. We do want to focus on creating jobs. We do want to focus on growing the economy. The gentleman is absolutely correct. As a matter of fact, as the gentleman knows, he and I have discussed the agenda that Democrats have been talking about for 2½ years, and it is called Make It In America.

That Make It In America agenda focuses on manufacturing and growing opportunities in this country for good jobs for skilled workers and unskilled workers, frankly, but mainly skilled workers in the new manufacturing environment in which we find ourselves. That ought to be our long-term objective.

I would say very candidly, Mr. Speaker, we ought not in the short term forget those who have been deeply damaged by the economic dislocation that has occurred in our society, in our country, and frankly globally over the past 5 years, or actually starting in December of '07. We ought not to forget those people, because while a future investment is very interesting to them, and I am sure important to them, their critical interest is in putting food on their table today, tomorrow, and the next day. I think the richest country on the face of the Earth could do both, I tell the gentleman. And I think that we ought to do both, and we have done both in the past.

We had some job figures that were out today, apparently 87,000 jobs in the private sector. That's not enough. We lost 13,000 in the public sector apparently for a net of 74,000 appreciation of jobs. That's not nearly enough. The gentleman would agree, I know, to solve the problem that we have.

The gentleman talked about the SKILLS Act. That bill would freeze the Workforce Investment Act program funding for fiscal years 2014 to 2020. We would make no more investment in doing what the gentleman has said we want to do. It has already been cut by half since 2001 and would also consolidate or eliminate 35 programs, most of them the Workforce Incentive Act programs, into State block grants that they could spend on things of their choice.

I am not saying that some States wouldn't make good choices. I think they would. Other States would make different choices, and we may or may not agree with those. But I certainly tell the gentleman, and he and I have had the opportunity talking together, the Make It In America agenda, or a jobs agenda, or whatever that agenda is called, is certainly something we ought to pursue.

Let me transition, if I might, Mr. Leader, to talk about another issue which analysis of almost every economist and the Congressional Budget Office say will help grow the economy, and that is comprehensive immigration reform. We continue to believe that that is one of the most important issues that this Congress in this second session of the Congress ought to deal with. Can the gentleman indicate whether there is any possibility of either, as I said in weeks past, bringing the four bills that came out of the Judiciary Committee or the border security bill that came out of the Homeland Security Committee, I might say, unanimously? None of those five bills have been brought to the floor.

The Speaker said just the other day, I am trying to find some way to get this thing done. ''Thing'' being immigration reform. He said, It is, as you know, not easy. Not going to be an easy path forward, but I made it clear since the day after the election, it is time to get this done.

The Speaker said that November 13, 2013, a couple months ago. We are very, very hopeful that the Speaker will pursue that, the House will pursue that, and the majority leader will put on the floor legislation on which we can act. We may or may not agree with the legislation brought to the floor, but we think it needs to be given attention, consistent with Speaker BOEHNER's observation, and CBO's assertion, that that would have a substantially positive effect on growing the economy and creating jobs.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

If I could just revisit the issue of the SKILLS Act. The gentleman speaks to the amount of money called for in the bill; and I would say to the gentleman the thrust behind the SKILLS Act was to try and refocus the program on actual effectiveness and results. I think the gentleman will agree that the job picture right now is not as bright as it should be.

As I indicated earlier, a lot of the folks who are trying to access skills training are unable to do so. There is evidence that existing programs are not results oriented like we would like them to be. And the purpose behind that bill is to realign the focus of the skills and training programs across the country with job availability and openings in the different regions of the country.

So rather than insisting on spending more money on a one-size-fits-all Washington approach, we provided flexibility for the regions so it could be tailored. The skills training programs could be tailored to the job openings in these specific regions of the country. And they are different. They are different in my region of the country than they are in the Pacific Northwest.

They are different in the Midwest than they are in the Northeast. We know that there is diversity in this country, and we should allow for those differences and the improvement reforms necessary to make it so that we are not accepting the status quo. I would ask the gentleman to take a look at that again as something that perhaps we can work on together.

I would also say, again, the jobs numbers, the gentleman is completely correct that these job numbers, this latest report this morning reflects the lowest number of jobs added since January of 2011. That doesn't speak well about the track record of what is going on here. So let's focus on jobs together.

As for the question about immigration, Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman is right. Immigration reform could be an economic boon to this country. We have got to do it right; and along those lines, the Speaker has said that we are going to look for the release of a list of principles of our position in the majority here in the House of what we believe is an appropriate path forward for immigration reform.

There are plenty of things that we can agree on. As the gentleman knows, I have been a strong proponent of the KIDS Act that I am working with the chairman of the committee on, because I think all of us can agree that we shouldn't hold kids liable for the misdeeds or illegal acts of their parents. This country has never been about that. There are plenty of things like that, strong border security, and making sure that that occurs first so we don't see a continuing problem of illegal immigration.

I think there are plenty of areas for agreement. Hopefully, Mr. Speaker, we can see after the release of a set of principles of our side that there can be some productive discussions, bipartisan with the White House, so that it is not ''my way or the highway,'' and then we can see a proper way forward.

□ 1115

Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader for his comments.

Certainly we are not proponents of ''my way or the highway,'' and I am glad, I do believe, that hopefully the majority leader is not either.

Briefly, on the SKILLS Act, we have legislation, of course, on our side of the aisle, a number of pieces of legislation which deal with training, job skills, and we are certainly prepared to work on those. Unfortunately, as the gentleman knows, that bill passed out in a partisan way. There were two Democrats who voted for it. But I am certainly willing to work with the gentleman, and I think our side of the aisle is willing to work with the gentleman to invest and to give flexibility so that we can recognize, obviously, that what may be needed in my district or the gentleman from Virginia's district is different from a district in Washington State or California or Texas or Florida or Maine. So I want to assure the gentleman that we are prepared to work on that.

Next, can I ask you when those principles that you talked about might be expected, because I think that would be a very positive step forward. But, in my view, if we wait long, comprehensive immigration reform will not get accomplished, as I believe it should be, in the next few months.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. CANTOR. I would say to the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, that there is an expectation that the list of principles will be released in the near future, and that is about as definite as I can be. But again, the sense is that there is common agreement on certain issues.

I think that, unfortunately, thus far, given the track record around this town, there is very little room for discussion, negotiations, and hopefully this can be different. But thus far, Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that we are looking for the release of those principles in the near future.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

And in conclusion, let me simply say, Mr. Leader, that we welcome moving ahead on the omnibus. We think that is very critical. We hope that we can address the unemployment insurance issue, not as a substitute for focusing on growing jobs and growing the economy, which is essential, but in recognition that some 1.3 million people—growing by 72,000 people a week—are in deep distress, and we want to help them. We think that is the right thing to do. And we think America can do both, grow the economy and help those who have been hurt by the decrease in the availability of jobs available.

Lastly, I might say, that we also hope that we can get to immigration reform as quickly as possible, and we look forward to seeing those principles.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2014

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRIDENSTINE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

WEB SITE SECURITY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, although the www.healthcare.gov Web site launch was a severe disappointment, an even greater concern has been expressed regarding the Web site's security vulnerabilities, including the security of personal and medical information.

What is most concerning is that it appears to be more important for this administration to avoid political fallout than to conduct a thorough evaluation of the Web site's security. Unfortunately, it has become very clear that the rushed implementation of the launch has affected the site's ability to perform on both accounts.

Mr. Speaker, if the administration wants the confidence of the American people, they should make every effort to ensure private information is kept private. The bill we passed today with significant bipartisan support, the Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act, would require the Department of Health and Human Services to notify individuals if their personal information has been stolen or unlawfully accessed through an ObamaCare exchange. This is a simple, commonsense reform that will go a long way to help stem the fears that Americans have with the online exchanges and the security of their personal information. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve as much.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, in southern California and across the American West, 2013 was another year of extremely dry conditions. And as of today, snowpack in the Sierra Nevada mountain range, which is our water storage facility, is well below its seasonal average.

In 2011 and 2012, drought and heat waves cost the United States $90 billion in economic damages, further evidence of the economic harm we are enduring due to climate change and increasingly extreme weather. 2012 saw the worst drought in the country in 50 years, with more than 80 percent of the country designated a drought disaster-affected area by late November. Since the year 2000, there have been nine droughts that have each cost more than $1 billion in damages.

Research from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, sponsored by the Climate Initiative at The San Diego Foundation, has shown that in San Diego the main effects of climate change are rising sea levels, more intense wildfires, and increased pressure on water supplies.

It is time to get serious about climate change so that we can protect our scarce water resources that hydrate our farms and our families.

Go, Chargers.

HONORING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Indiana's

outstanding first responders and emergency management officials because, when times truly get tough, we rely on them to protect our loved ones, neighbors, and friends, and we rely on them to save lives.

This past week, a nearly unprecedented wave of frigid temperatures and snow bore down on the Hoosier State. In Madison County, Indiana, windchills plummeted to nearly 40 degrees below zero. In Hamilton County, Indiana, more than a foot of snow made roads unpassable. At one point, there were more than 70,000 power outages in our State, and schools actually still remain closed even today, for the entire week.

Fortunately, Hoosiers were able to rely on a coordinated and effective response from government officials, first responders, utility providers, and volunteers. They relied on our National Guard, which stepped up to assist in clearing roads. They relied on police officers and firefighters, who went door-to-door. They relied on the Red Cross, which set up numerous emergency shelters. In Indianapolis, they relied on the Mayor's Action Center, which took more than 10,000 calls to address their concerns.

It is times like these when we are reminded how much we rely on our emergency management people. We rely on them to be ready, and they always answer the call. For that, we are so grateful.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, less than 2 weeks ago, more than 1 million Americans lost access to unemployment insurance benefits. Another 3.5 million will be impacted if Congress doesn't act. American families will lose that tiny amount of money, that small amount of money that keeps food on the table for millions of Americans.

Has unemployment decreased? Well, it has decreased a bit. But unfortunately, unemployment is still too high for the people of the San Fernando Valley and many places around our country. Californians have already lost more than $64 million in unemployment income just in this past week.

This is unacceptable. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of Americans struggling to buy food for their families; and, unfortunately, the budget that was passed recently did just that.

We must act now and pass an unemployment insurance extension bill immediately. We need to continue the opportunity for these millions of American families to be able to put food on the table. That is the America that we grew up in, and that is the America that we have to figure out how to keep going forward.

An extension of unemployment insurance occurred under President George W. Bush, continues under President Obama, but this Congress needs to act to make sure we continue now.

HONORING THE LIFE OF AMIRI BARAKA

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the floor to honor the life and legacy of an icon, poet Amiri Baraka, who died yesterday in his hometown of Newark, New Jersey, at the age of 79.

Born during a time when racial tensions were at their peak, Amiri Baraka used poetry to empower and enlighten. He eventually founded the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and '70s in Newark and around the country, and received countless awards for his contributions to the arts.

My father and he attended high school together, and I will never forget, as a youngster, hearing Amiri Baraka's poetry and recognizing the power his written words had over a person, regardless of race, age, or gender.

Amiri Baraka was not only a poet, he was an activist. In 1969, he organized the Black and Puerto Rican Convention, which brought those communities together at a time when it looked bleak. He also was one of the main organizers and the keynote speaker of the 1972 Black Political Convention in Gary, Indiana. His profound words were influential as many searched for meaning in some of the most troubling struggles of our time, like civil rights, war, oppression, and poverty.

My heartfelt condolences go out to the entire Baraka family, including my former colleague, Newark City Council Member Ras Baraka, and his brother Amiri Baraka, whom I have come very close to over the course of the past 4 or 5 years. To their mother, who has brought me in as almost a son as well, my deepest sympathy. I know where you are. I have been there just a short while ago. But let it be known, today the Nation is in deep mourning at his passing.

LIBERTY AND TYRANNY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, sometimes people say, Gee, if you are back here in Texas, you ought to be in Washington in session. I have to remind them that when we are in session, it is often the single biggest threat to American liberty, because when we are in session, we pass laws; and most every law, in some way, impacts people's liberty in one way or another, for good or for bad.

So often we think we know so much more here in Washington, that we can do so much better than others. And, of course, that message is not helped by ignorance in the media, particularly left-wing and so many in the mainstream.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke a couple of days ago here about a real burden on my heart for women who are lured into ruts by promises of money by the Federal Government, lured into dependence, and how that is immoral for the government to do that. The government is not supposed to encourage or lure people into conduct that is not helpful to the individual. The government is supposed to be about encouraging good conduct. But if you do evil, then you should be afraid of the government because, as Romans says, God didn't give the sword to the government in vain.

That is the point, that we should not be about encouraging or paying people to engage in conduct that is hurtful to them. And yet ignorance in the left wing of our media is so pervasive that you could actually have people write stories saying I was up here blaming single moms. I mean, it is either ignorance or just complete dishonesty of people that want to destroy the very fabric and foundation of this country because of their ill will for all that is good and wholesome.

□ 1130

Why would they want to protect a system that lures people into dependency and prevents them from reaching their God-given potential? I realize some of them don't believe there is a God, and that is problematic because, since the Founders believed that we were endowed by a Creator with certain inalienable rights, among those life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, if you don't believe there is a Creator, it creates a problem, because then you have to think that government is the sole source of your rights, and if that is the case, you really have no rights.

C.S. Lewis pointed out after he went from being an atheist to being a believer in some God, some universal authority of right and wrong, if you don't believe that, then there can be no justice, no right and no wrong, if there is not a universal standard. So if it is relying on some government to establish what is right and not an innate sense instilled in us by some Higher Power, then there's no hope for most people of ever having rights, freedoms and liberties as we have had in this country.

It is plain that as we become more and more secular, there become fewer and fewer liberties and less and less privacy. Now especially, looking at ObamaCare, the government invades every room in the house. It used to be that our liberal friends here in the House complained repeatedly if they thought a Republican bill might, in some way, invade some room in the house. Yet without a single Republican vote, the Democrats passed through a law that invades every room in the house.

I am a big fan of Mark R. Levin, and I don't know that there is a better synopsis or there could be a better textbook for people to learn about our founding history than the book ''Liberty and Tyranny.'' I guess the reason ''Liberty and Tyranny'' could never be a textbook for some government class would be that it costs less than $20, and in order to be a textbook, some professor normally has to make 100, 200, $300 a book, or it is not going to be utilized; or some leftwing source has to be the one providing the book and profiting, or it doesn't get used. ''Liberty and Tyranny'' has so many incredible jewels, as I have read from here on the floor numerous times.

In Mark's last book, there are things that we need to be reminded of that this brilliant—I don't know that anybody knows more about the history of the Supreme Court than Mark Levin, a brilliant man when it comes to our law, our Constitution, our Supreme Court—but he mentions in here, he draws so much from our history and throws it back in our faces so that we can't miss it, but Mark Levin points out the Nation has entered an age of post-constitutional, soft tyranny. Then he quotes from French thinker, philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville, as he explained presciently:

> It covers the surface of a society with a network of small, complicated rules, minute and uniform, through which the most original minds and the most energetic characters cannot penetrate to rise above the crowd. The will of man is not shattered but softened, bent, and guided. Men are seldom forced by it to act, but they are constantly restrained from acting. Such a power does not destroy, but it prevents existence. It does not tyrannize, but it compresses, enervates, extinguishes and stupefies a people until each nation is reduced to nothing better than a flock of timid industrious animals of which the government is the shepherd.

I know, because some people don't like to be beat up by the left wing—as I apparently do—they don't want to be pointing these things out, and so I know that apparently we have got Republican staffers helping Senators who think that the things in this book are not worth spreading around the country. This is our history. If you don't learn your history, then how can you ever figure out the best way to go forward?

I am a big fan of the comments of Satchel Paige, an incredible baseball player. He came up with some great lines. I guess he is baseball's answer to Will Rogers. He is often quoted for saying, ''don't look back, they may be gaining on you,'' but I have read that later in life he had a quote that I like even better. Satchel Paige reportedly said: ''It is okay to look back, just don't stare.''

Well, I majored in history. I think it is good to look back. As the old adage goes, ''those who refuse to learn from history are destined to repeat it.'' Some follow up and say that ''those who do learn from history will find new ways to screw up,'' but that is another lesson.

Mark Levin goes on in ''The Liberty Amendments'' and said, de Tocqueville observed further:

> It would seem as if the rulers of our time sought only to use men in order to make things great. I wish they would try a little more to make great men, that they would set less value on the work and more upon the workman, that they would never forget that a nation cannot long remain strong when every man belonging to it is individually weak, and that no form or combination of social polity has yet been devised to make an energetic people out of a community of pusillanimous and enfeebled citizens.

> Today, Congress operates not as the Framers intended but in the shadows, where it dreams up its most notorious and oppressive laws, coming into the light only to trumpet the genius and earnestness of its goings on and to enable Members to cast their votes.

He goes on to say:

> Congress also and often delegates unconstitutionally law-making power to a gigantic, ever growing administrative state that in turn unleashes on society myriad regulations and rules at such a rapid rate that people cannot possibly know of them either, and if by chance they do, they cannot possibly comprehend them. Nonetheless, ignorance which is widespread and deliberately so is no excuse for noncompliance for which the citizen is heavily fined and severely punished.

This is really a great synopsis of where we are. Congress thinks we know better, the President thinks he knows better, and some of this was started before the last Republican President left office with TARP. What a disaster. You can never achieve greatness if you do not have the same opportunity to fail. If the tightrope you are walking to achieve something extraordinary is sitting on the ground, then there is no risk, and there is nothing great achieved. Yet, this government wants to put such restrictions on people that they can never reach greatness. They can never reach as high as the grass might go.

I love this part in Mark Levin's book, and I realize it may bother not only the leftwing but some Republican Senate staffers. Mark Levin wrote:

> Having delegated broad lawmaking power to executive branch departments and agencies of its own creation contravening the separation of powers doctrine, Congress now watches as the President inflates the congressional delegations even further and proclaims repeatedly the authority to rule by executive fiat in defiance of or over the top of the same Congress that sanctioned a domineering executive branch in the first place. Notwithstanding Congress' delinquency but because of it an unquenched President in a hurry to expedite a societal makeover has repeatedly admonished Congress that 'if it won't act soon to protect future generations, I will.'

> That is, if Congress will not genuflect to his demands and pass laws to his liking, he will act on his own. And the President has made good on his refrain on a growing list of matters. He has, in fact, displayed an impressive aptitude for imperial rule with the help from a phalanx of policy czars from immigration, the environment, labor law to health care, welfare and energy. The President has excised his executive discretion to create new law, abrogate existing law and generally contrive ways to exploit legal ambiguities as a means to his ends. He has also declared the Senate in recess when it was not, thereby bypassing the Senate's constitutional advice and consent role to install several partisans in top Federal posts. Today, this is glorified and glamorized as compassionate progressivism. The Framers called it 'despotism.'

Then here is what makes Mark's book so great. He goes right to the source and quotes ''Federalist 48'' by James Madison. Most people give more credit to Madison for the Constitution getting specifically written than other people, but Madison wrote:

> An elective despotism was not the government we fought for but one which should not only be founded on free principles but in which the powers of government should be so divided and balanced among several bodies of magistracy as that no one could transcend their legal limits without being effectually checked and restrained by the others.

Mark Levin cites ''Federalist 78'' by Alexander Hamilton:

> Whoever attentively considers the different departments of power must perceive that in a government in which they are separated from each other, the judiciary, from the nature of its functions, will always be the least dangerous to the political rights of the Constitution because it will be least in a capacity to annoy or injure them.

I mean this is the Founders saying that the Supreme Court that we must now all bow and scrape to as they rewrite the Constitution in their own image like some kind of gods on Mount Olympus, the Founders said they are the least dangerous because they are going to have the least power to ''annoy or injure.''

Levin goes on:

> Yet having seized for itself in the early years of the Nation the final words on all matters before it, the Supreme Court, with just five of its nine members, can impose the most far-reaching and breathtaking rulings on the whole of society for which there is no recourse.

My copy of Mark's book is falling apart, but it is still good stuff.

He also says in ''The Liberty Amendments'':

> What was to be a relatively innocuous Federal Government operating from a defined enumeration of specific grants of powers has become an ever-present and unaccountable force.

This is so scary, but Mark Levin puts it so well. He describes the Federal Government as the Nation's largest creditor, debtor, lender, employer, consumer, contractor, grantor, property owner, tenant, insurer, health care provider and pension guarantor. Moreover, with aggrandized police powers, what it does not control directly, it bans or mandates by regulation.

□ 1145

For example, the Federal Government regulates most things bathroom, laundry room, kitchen, as well as the mortgage you hold on your house. It designs your automobile and dictates the kind of fuel it uses. It regulates your baby's toys, crib, and stroller, plans your children's school curricula and lunch menu and administers their student loans in colleges.

At your place of employment, the Federal Government oversees everything from the racial gender and age diversity of the workforce, to the hours, wages, and benefits paid. Indeed, the question is not what the Federal Government regulates, but what it does not regulate. And it makes you wonder, how can a people, incapable of selecting their own light bulbs and toilets, possess enough confidence to vote for their own rulers and fill out complicated tax returns.

Mark also points out that the Federal Government consumes nearly 25 percent of all goods and services produced each year by the American people.

That should, if people will wake up, it should begin to scare them because if the Federal Government is the largest consumer, just on that alone, it has the power to bankrupt companies, to make companies. And then you start running into the horrible constitution that we rubber-stamped and may have helped put together over in Afghanistan, where they so centralized the power in the federal government that the President in Afghanistan gets to appoint governors, gets to appoint mayors, gets to appoint police chiefs, appoint the highest level of teachers, appoints many of the slate of part of the legislature, has tremendous power of the purse, and you wonder why that country is about to fall as soon as we pull out, when we were complicit in a constitution that on its face should have told people this government under this constitution is doomed to fail and fall back into Taliban hands, and that is exactly what is about to happen.

We should have known better than to help Afghanistan and be complicit in a constitution that does what our Founders said should never be done for a federal government. But when we have lost the lessons of our founding such that Congress allows power to be totally usurped by a Supreme Court or by an executive branch, and the American people do not rise up and condemn the comments by a leader in the Senate who says, What right does the House have to say how the money is spent?, that ought to be enough to have a recall election if a leader in the Senate doesn't even know why the House of Representatives is supposed to have an extremely loud voice in how the money is spent.

And, in fact, any bill that raises revenue must start in the House, which the same Senate leaders did not understand, or perhaps they understood and tried to tap dance around, but since the Supreme Court and Chief Justice Roberts rewrote ObamaCare, the un-Affordable Care Act, because it is certainly not affordable, it is costing so many people in my district, Republicans, Democrats, Independents, party doesn't matter when it comes to ObamaCare. Seniors that I visit with at retirement homes and communities are scared because they are realizing and they are finding out, gee, ObamaCare cut $716 billion from reimbursing health care providers for care we were going to get.

And they are starting to figure out even though they were assured, you don't have to worry, you are not going to be affected, you are not going to lose any health care because this is only cutting what we reimburse health care providers, seniors are smart folks. They have been around awhile, and they are figuring out, wait a minute, you cut $700 million out of reimbursement for our health care providers with ObamaCare, really, and you think we are not going to figure out that that means we are not going to get the treatment we need. We are going to be told we don't have the knee replacement we need or the hip replacement we need because we are too old, or we get put on some list for an exorbitant amount of time which means you are hoping that we will die before we get the treatment we need, as often happens in England and Canada and other places with totally government-run health care.

Single payer, that is such a misnomer. It is government-run private lives. Instead of single payer, it is government. It is the GRE, government running everything. When the government can tell you what care you can have and not have, they control your life and they control how quickly your life will come to an end.

It is wrong. It is so against the foundation, the principles upon which we were founded.

My brilliant friend, Mark Levin said:

> What was to be a relatively innocuous Federal Government, operating from a defined enumeration of specific agents of power, has become an ever-present and unaccountable force.

I want to reiterate that because the problem that we see repeatedly now is when someone presides over death of people entrusted to their care and protection, they can stand up and say, What difference at this point does it make? So they died. What difference does it make why they died, how they died?

A Libyan acquaintance a few weeks ago said, you guys in the United States, Congress in Washington, are asking the wrong question. Of course, personally, I think it is an appropriate question to ask: Who killed Ambassador Chris Stevens, Sean Smith, and our two former Navy SEALs? Who killed them? Who killed Ty Woods and Glen Doherty? Who blew off much of the leg of David Ubben?

I think it is a legitimate question, but this Libyan man I met said, You keep asking in America who killed these people. You ought to be asking why they were killed. Well, that is certainly an important question. And I know our former Secretary of State said, What difference at this point does it make? But I think this Libyan man is right. We need to be asking why were they killed. And it certainly wasn't about a video. And I know that we have got some newspapers that are losing viewership or readership and so they are trying as best they can before people completely quit reading it to help their next candidate for President, I get that. I understand.

But the fact is these were radical Islamists, al Qaeda-related people in the group. There was never a demonstration. It was an attack from the very beginning, just as Chris Stevens called and Greg Hicks pointed out: we are under attack. There was no indication of a demonstration about some stupid video. They were under attack. It was predicted and talked about. Some in Egypt were saying if you don't release the blind sheikh who was implicit and in prison for the murder of New Yorkers as they tried in 1993 to bring down the World Trade Center, they were saying you have to start by releasing the blind sheikh or there is going to be violence. It wasn't about a video, for goodness sake.

When the government consumes 25 percent of everything produced in America, the government is too big. It needs to be reduced in size. Powers need to be returned to the States from which they were usurped. We need to give more power and control back to the local government. We have got people screaming about the minimum wage. It is outrageous for people in this town to tell somebody in San Augustine, Texas, what they have to pay, that they have to go to pay $10 or $15 for minimum wage. It is outrageous. Some places in the country, that may not be enough as the bottom line and isn't, and people are being paid more than that. But for teenagers, like I was when I started working, actually before I was a teenager I started working, but I started paying into Social Security, I guess, when I was 13 or 14, but minimum wage is a great place to start. When I went to work as an assistant district attorney for Titus, Camp, and Morris Counties, I was getting paid $700 a month. It was what they could afford, and I was able to live at home and work for that and help those counties. The closer to the facts on the ground is the control of a government, then the better the government.

When the Federal Government here in Washington dictates school programs, school tests, it is just wrong. And this isn't an issue of Republican or Democrat. I had this discussion with President Bush's Secretary of Education because she was violating the Constitution because education is not an enumerated power within the Constitution. Therefore, under the 10th Amendment, it is reserved to the States and people.

She said if you liked what I was doing in Austin, you ought to love what I am doing in Washington. I said, No, when you were in Austin, you were acting within the confines of the Constitution. And now you are here in Washington, you are acting beyond the Constitution. You are mandating that people teach to a test. You got to go to

Gladewater, Texas, with me and go to a special needs school there where they got over 120 precious lives. And when one of them for a good day can touch something, point to something shiny, to have a Federal bureaucrat dictate the kind of test that needs to be given, or in Tyler at the St. Louis School where I met a young man, a special needs young man, and their goal for the end of the year was if he could put his fork in a piece of food and get it to his mouth, but because the Federal Government intervened, because they didn't know that special needs young man and because they didn't know the kids there in Gladewater there at that precious school, they dictate.

Now, the Secretary of Education said, Oh, but you can get an alternative test. And I said, Yeah, and you know what kind of alternative test got approved for that young man they were trying to teach to feed himself. They wouldn't approve him being able to feed himself. No, but they did approve if he would point to a sticker with food on it, he could pass his test. Thank you so much Federal Government. And that is what we have had with so many of these programs that were well intended.

You want to help a single mom, I want to help a single mom with a deadbeat dad not helping at all. But the best way to do it is not to lure them into a rut from which they cannot extricate themselves. The better policy is to help them get a high school diploma. They are better off with daycare than with a handout that encourages them to have more and more children out of wedlock. I am not blaming the single moms. I am blaming the Federal Government for creating a system that after 50 years has taken our nuclear homes that were the backbone of this country and gone from between 6 and 7 percent of children being born to a single mom in the sixties, and because of this government's well-intentioned, but ridiculously stupid, program, we now have over 40 percent of children being born to single moms, heading toward 50 percent.

□ 1200

It is wrongheaded when a government does not help.

I will tell you, I spent some precious time out at Texas College in Tyler, one of the oldest colleges in Texas. It was started as an African American college. I used to wonder, I am looking forward—as Martin Luther King, Jr. said—to the day when people are judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin. I am looking forward to the day when race is not on a form anybody fills out because it doesn't matter; it doesn't make any difference. I am looking forward to that day.

But I have learned a lot from Texas College because I have seen young African Americans—repeatedly, I have met African Americans—who are the first in their family to go to college. It is a great stepping off place. It is a great place to start, to break through that ceiling that has kept people in poverty.

I met with and visited with a combined sociology class some time ago and talked about this issue of the Federal Government wanting to help, but instead luring young single moms into holes they can't get out of. Many do, but many can't. I asked them for advice. There were single moms there. I was shocked with some of the suggestions they said. They said you need to have a drug test on aid for dependent children; you need to have a drug test on any kind of welfare; you need to have a work requirement on any kind of welfare.

That was a tough group.

They said you are not doing enough to push people to reach their potential.

Then when you meet and talk with single moms, African Americans, that got lured into a rut, and by the grace of God they are trying to get out of that. They are trying to get some college and improve themselves and reach their potential, but they feel like the government lured them into a rut now they are trying desperately to get out of. We owe them better. We owe them a system that doesn't lure them into holes but helps them reach for the sky.

Maybe it would have been better in the '60s to help with daycare if somebody has a child, a single mom has a child, because we know from study after study you've got a better chance of having a successful life if you finish high school. So why not have that as a goal instead of luring people into having more and more children.

The people that I had to face for felony welfare fraud, some may think it is a racial issue, but I saw it wasn't at all. Every race, creed, color, people got lured into this, and it was wrong. The government should not have systems that do that.

There is another profound statement that Mark Levin has in this book, ''The Liberty Amendments.'' He points out:

> The individual's liberty, inextricably linked to his private property, is submerged in the quicksand of a government that is aggregating authority and imploding simultaneously.

What then is the answer? Again, Alexis de Tocqueville offers guidance looking back at the Constitutional Convention some 50 years afterwards. He observed that:

> It is a novelty in the history of society to see a great people turn a calm and scrutinizing eye upon itself, when apprised by the legislature that the wheels of its government are stopped, to see it carefully examine the extent of the evil, and patiently wait 2 whole years until a remedy is discovered, to which it voluntarily submitted without its costing a tear or a drop of blood from mankind.

It is a profound book. Levin quotes Madison in Federalist 14:

> In the first place, it is to be remembered, that the general government is not to be charged with the whole power of making and administering laws: its jurisdiction is limited to certain enumerated objects, which concern all the members of the Republic, but which are not to be attained by the separate provisions of any.

Then in Federalist 45, he insisted:

> The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the Federal Government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite.

In Federalist 46, Madison asserted that:

> The powers proposed to be lodged in the Federal Government are as little formidable to those reserved to the individual States, as they are indispensably necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Union; and that all those alarms which have been sounded, of a meditated and consequential annihilation of the State governments, must, on the most favorable interpretation, be ascribed to the chimerical fears of the authors of them.

This is a great book. There is just so much wonderful history from our United States history that deserves further looking. The library should have the book if people want to read it.

We are not thinking straight in this town, and there are negotiations ongoing with Iran about nuclear weapons, whose leaders have called us the ''Great Satan'' that needs to be destroyed, called Israel the ''Little Satan'' that needs to be destroyed, and they have missiles they can put nuclear weapons on top of Israel for its destruction creating a new holocaust, millions of lives could be lost. But as our friend Prime Minister Netanyahu points out, they are building and they have created intercontinental ballistic missiles.

He is trying to wake the United States up, Netanyahu is, when he is saying that they don't need those to take out Israel. They've got missiles to take us out. Those intercontinental ballistic missiles are for the United States they call the Great Satan. Its leaders believe that under their interpretation of prophecy from the Koran that the twelfth Imam, al-Mahdi, can emerge or will emerge from chaos. They believe that it could be nuclear chaos. So by creating nuclear bombs and setting them off, Israel, the United States, Little Satan, Great Satan, they can hasten the return of the twelfth Imam to rule over the global caliphate.

When somebody thinks that kind of thought, we need to make sure they don't get nukes, and we need to take out anything where they are producing nukes. We have the power and ability to do it. Everybody, including Russia and China, needs to understand, if we don't take them out, they could be launched at Russia and China, because they are led by infidels, to Iran's way of thinking, just like the U.S. and Israel are to their way of thinking.

So January 7, there is an article in TheBlaze, Sharona Schwartz. It says:

> An Iranian official says that his country needs a nuclear bomb in order to ''put Israel in its place.''
>
> ''We don't aspire to obtain a nuclear bomb, but it is necessary so we can put Israel in its place.''

Of course there are plenty of quotes from their leaders that the proper place for Israel is ''wiped off the map.''

''After arriving in New York''—the article points out ''Rouhani''—the new President—''again was contacted at his hotel by an unspecified White House official.''

And this is from a parliament member in Iran, Muhammad Nabavian:

''I assembled the delegation accompanying me and we decided not to meet with Obama. On Tuesday afternoon after the press conference, they said to me, 'why did you humiliate Obama in America?' and I said there was no humiliation. Here I recalled the words of Imam Khomeini who said that one must humiliate the infidel leaders,'' Nabavian reported about Rouhani's description of the events.

It is very important that the leaders in this country, including our President, realize that to these religious fanatic nuts he is an infidel leader, we are infidel leaders, and we are worthy of being humiliated, and as the leaders of the Great Satan we are worthy of being destroyed. That must be understood.

What has come about as radical Islamist—and I am very careful about that, despite what some of the more ignorant in the left wing would say in the left-wing media. We don't have to fear moderate Muslims. And I am talking about the kind of moderate Muslims that I have befriended in Egypt and Afghan, who are the enemy of my enemy, who are the enemy of the United States' enemy, who are the enemy of Israel, our ally.

We can work with them, just as is happening in Egypt right now where moderate Muslims were sickened by the Muslim Brotherhood's burning of churches, killing of Christians, persecution of Christians. That is something that former President Morsi is on trial for. And the interim President right now is a former judge, so we had some things in common as we spoke not long ago there in Egypt.

Yet, as the odds are getting stacked farther and higher against Israel's existence, and as we are demanding Israel give away more of its land as Palestinian leaders continue to say they are not agreeing to anything, they are not agreeing to Israel's right to even exist as a Jewish nation, as a place where Jews can avoid another holocaust like in World War II, they are not even willing to recognize that, how can there ever be peace? As I said personally to the Palestinian's former prime minister, how can you expect peace when you won't even recognize Israel's right to exist as a Jewish nation?

So they want Israel to keep giving away more and more land, and every time—going back to the very inception of Israel, 1,000, 1,600, 1,800 years before Muhammad was born, the actual founding of Israel, going back that early, any time Israel has given away land trying to buy peace, that land ultimately gets used as a staging area from which to attack it. They are about, I hope, to learn that lesson.

So what do we have going on here in the United States now? Well, Caroline Glick has a great article called: ''Column One: The Left Against Zion.'' This is from December 19. She says:

This week has been a big one for the anti-Israel movement. In the space of a few days, two quasi-academic organizations—the American Studies Association and the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association—have launched boycotts against Israeli universities. Their boycotts follow a similar one announced in April by the Asian Studies Association.

These groups' actions have not taken place in isolation. They are of a piece with ever-escalating acts of anti-Israel agitation in college campuses throughout the United States.

□ 1215

I would interject that it is sickening and incredible to me to see anti-Semitism growing just the way it did before the 1930s and 1940s when over 6 million Jews were mercilessly, brutally killed—and we are seeing it arise. When I learned about the Holocaust and when I went to Germany, through what I had learned and read and seen, I could never have imagined. Thank God we could never have that happen during my lifetime. Now I am watching the seeds of anti-Semitism, of anti-Israel—of people wanting to wipe them off the map, of those who are proposing another Holocaust.

Then we have pseudo intellectual wannabes at universities where they no longer allow true diversity of thought and discussion that made them originally great, which allowed them originally to have liberals there get in charge, and now they cut off so often conservative speech. It used to be in universities, even as conservative as Texas A&M was when I was there, that we had many liberal speakers, and I enjoyed meeting and debating with some of them, with some of the greats in the country. Now, even at Texas A&M, they are careful not to invite people who are too conservative because you don't want to tick off the Faculty Senate. Like most universities, it has gotten very, very liberal.

In Caroline Glick's article she points out:

Every week brings a wealth of stories about new cases of aggressive anti-Israel activism. At the University of Michigan last week, thousands of students were sent fake eviction notices from the university's housing office. A pro-Palestinian group distributed them in dorms across campus to disseminate the blood libel that Israel is carrying out mass expulsions of Palestinians.

At Swarthmore College, leftist anti-Israel Jewish students who control Hillel are insisting on using Hillel's good offices to disseminate and legitimate anti-Israel slanders; and the left's doctrinaire insistence that Israel is the root of all evil is not limited to campuses.

At New York's 92nd Street Y, commentary editor John Podhoretz was booed and hissed by the audience for trying to explain why the ASA's just-announced boycott of Israel was an obscene act of bigotry.

It is a great article. I don't have time to read it all, but she points out:

This week, Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz retired after 50 years on the law faculty. His exit, the same week as the ASA and the NAISA announced their boycotts of Israeli universities, symbolized the marginalization of the pro-Israel left that Dershowitz represented.

For years, Dershowitz has been a nonentity in leftist circles. His place at the table was usurped by anti-Israel Jews like Peter Beinart, and now Beinart is finding himself increasingly challenged by anti-Semitic Jews like Max Blumenthal.

The progression is unmistakable.

People need to wake up and understand that this kind of thing has all happened before, and when people don't recognize it, it happens again in history. God help us that it doesn't happen while our generation is in charge, but these growing acts of anti-Semitism, anti-Israel continue to progress by so-called ''Progressives,'' making it seem as if this is another apartheid like in South Africa, which was so unfair, racially so wrong in South Africa. It got corrected. This is not the same thing at all. This is a group of people who have been persecuted throughout their history, having a country where they have a longer history of right to that area than any other people existing today.

Yet, as universities, the so-called ''left'' become more loud and more vocal in their hatred and anger, I have wondered: If Iran dropped a nuke on Jerusalem or Tel Aviv, if Iran killed a million Jews in Israel, have those leftists—those anti-Semitic, anti-Israel folks at universities—gotten so far from decency that they would applaud Israelis, Jews being killed by the millions in Israel? I wonder. I wonder if there would be any reaction like there has been in history, like there was in Germany when Jews were being killed? They deserved it. They were the problem in this country.

Rationalization is a great thing, and it is a dangerous thing.

People who were in Germany, who lived through the Holocaust don't want to talk about it because they cannot believe that they got sucked into that group dynamic that allowed them to be so inhuman and so callous that they didn't care about the extinction of Jews in Germany. I really don't know the answer. These anti-Israeli groups in universities like to think they are diverse, but yet they go after and destroy anybody who attempts to debate them. Would they cheer if Jews and Israelis were killed by Iran?

I hope they will wake up to what is happening at these universities, but here again, love and money can be the root of all evil, and we see universities across this country getting more and more money from Middle Eastern countries that say, Hey, by the way, you need to teach a course on Islamophobia or at least have a seminar, and talk about anybody who raises issues about radical Islam, like the author in The Washington Times, Husain, who just lied completely about things that I had said. He just lied. He made stuff up. He didn't do his homework. Yet those kinds of things are being talked about and taught at universities.

We have got to get back to having real debate. Some people think, when I get upset, it means I hate somebody. I don't. I come from a family where we fuss at each other tooth and nail. We still love each other and stand by each other. I heard that this was attributed to Johnson, as President, but we had a pastor in Mount Pleasant, Texas, in 1953, who said it to my parents: if two people agree on everything, one of them is unnecessary. The same is true here in Congress. If we all agree on everything, then all but one are unnecessary. We don't need a Congress. We don't need advisors. If one person knows everything, then just let him make all the decisions, but that is not the case in this fallen world. We need to hear from everybody. Debate is a good thing, and it used to be at universities and can be again if they will allow all voices to be heard.

I have one other story here from CNS News:

Afghanistan will resume being a terrorist haven when U.S. troops depart.

That is going to happen. I have been talking about that for a number of years, and it doesn't have to happen if we would simply grant the people of Afghanistan what the Founders originally gave us. We have messed it up, but they originally gave us a government where the States were the most powerful entity. As my moderate Muslim friends in Afghanistan have said, and as former Vice President Massoud has said, and others: if you will just help us push Karzai to let us have an amendment in our constitution that allows us to elect our governors, elect our mayors, get our own police chiefs, govern our own regions, our own state areas—if you will let us do that, we can keep the Taliban out.

I mentioned it before, but when I asked, ''What makes you think we could exert that kind of pressure?'' they informed me that out of about a $12.5 billion government budget in Afghanistan, the Afghans only provide about $1.5 billion. The rest is provided by foreign countries, and most of that is the United States. Today, if this President says you either let the states elect their own governors and mayors and pick their own police chiefs—that is today—or we will cut off every dime going to Afghanistan, I would bet that would be the day they would get started and that they would get an amendment to their constitution, and they would become more of a democratic republic like we started out as, perhaps even more than we are now.

We need to do that for them. We don't need to let more American lives be killed and be taken in Afghanistan. That doesn't have to happen. It didn't have to happen. Even though Secretary Gates said that he didn't believe the President was really convinced the surge was a good idea in Afghanistan, he still sent more troops, and what people haven't been talking about for a long time is that 75 percent of the people of the American soldiers who have been killed in Afghanistan—soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen—all of them—have been killed while President Obama has been Commander in Chief.

I did not think President Bush did the right thing by sending tens of thousands of American troops in after the Taliban was defeated with fewer than 500 Americans in supporting the Northern Alliance, but we became occupiers. It was a mistake by the Bush administration, I believe, and then a mistake that President Obama inherited, and it got worse. We don't have to leave and have the blood of our soldiers—of our military—cry out as we leave Afghanistan and as the Taliban takes back over. Let us, Madam Speaker, help Afghanistan to root out the evil in its own country. Let's help them get a constitution that let's them root it out for themselves. That is how we should be doing foreign policy.

May God awaken the universities that were once so diverse and so great to understanding that they should not, cannot—I hope and pray do not—continue to foster this anti-Semitism, this anti-Israeli sentiment, that is growing, that might someday cheer when Israelis are nuked.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

AUTONOMY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRIDENSTINE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for 30 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, Congress has a lot on its plate, and it is trying its best to pursue it. I am pleased to hear that we may be close to an agreement on the budget, but with all we have to do with respect to the economy, the environment, income inequality, and unemployment insurance, I think the public would be concerned when the Congress goes off course and no longer involves itself only in the Nation's business but interferes with the business of local jurisdictions. One of the cardinal principles of our Nation is, of course, what is local is local and not for the Federal Government.

This afternoon, I want to speak about three issues where the Nation has been drawn into local affairs by the Congress, much against the bipartisan principles on both sides of this Chamber and of the Senate as well. One issue involved the shutdown of a local government. Another involved something, perhaps, even more sacred: the autonomy every local government demands over its local funds and, only yesterday, the near-sacred autonomy over the local laws of a local jurisdiction.

Yesterday, there was a hearing. I would not have objected to the hearing. It was about a very controversial subject, and I happened to be on the other side of the majority, but it is a subject that divides the Nation, and it deserves to be aired. It had to do with what looked to be re-codifying and, perhaps, also adding some provisions on reproductive choice by Members of the majority who oppose abortion in all of its forms, as do many of the American people.

□ 1230

Of course, we have a Supreme Court decision that has ruled on abortion. Nevertheless, there continues to be legislation and interest in this issue here.

Yesterday's hearing was a little curious because, for the most part, the issues have long been addressed by the Congress in appropriations bills. Nobody talks about the so-called Hyde amendment anymore because that has to do with Federal funds for access to abortion. That is no longer much contested.

There is a so-called Helms amendment, which denies access to safe abortion care with U.S.-paid funds in other parts of the world; codifying that. There were some add-ons that you typically might expect from the subcommittee for the Affordable Care Act; to make sure that federal civil servants and the military do not have access to abortion, etc.

I went to the hearing. Frankly, I found it very interesting, the press was interested in only—at least as I read this morning—largely interested in only one matter. That had to do with my request to testify on what was really a minor section of this bill. It was very important to us, but very minor in the bill.

It is a section that would codify something, again, that the appropriators already have done, that is, to keep D.C. from spending its own local funds on abortions for low-income women.

Remember, I just said the Hyde amendment keeps us from spending Federal funds. Note that I am talking only about local funds. In case you think we are an outlier here, 17 States provide local funds for abortions for their poor women because states and localities cannot spend Federal funds. We only want what they have. Those 17 States, by the way, include Alaska, Arizona, Montana—and I won't go on, but you can see that they may be States of various political views that simply don't want low-income women to be left out of the reproductive choice guaranteed by the Supreme Court's decision regarding abortion.

What the press was most interested in was not the major portions of the bill but the fact that Chairman TRENT FRANKS included a D.C. provision in his bill, a provision that says though these are D.C.'s local funds—$8 billion, we are proud to say—raised by local taxpayers, our businesses and our residents, 100 percent of it local funds—that we, and we alone, in the United States must accept the dictates from the Congress of the United States about where we may spend our own

local funds when some of its Members disagree, as I am sure they would disagree with the 17 States who spend their local funds in the very same way.

Since my own district was the only district mentioned in the bill, I did what any red-blooded Member of Congress would do. I wrote a respectful letter saying, as a courtesy from one Member to another, may I testify for a few minutes with respect to the D.C. provision?

I wrote that letter the moment I heard that this matter was to come forward for a hearing. It was hand-delivered to Chairman FRANKS' office. I heard no response. My counsel, Brad Truding, called repeatedly the next day. Frankly, I never heard a response until our office called.

We called the ranking member, JERRY NADLER, who did tell us that he heard a response, and that I was to be denied the right to testify on a provision involving my own district.

That is what has captured the press, not the many underlying issues, some of which I have just reiterated, of the bill itself, because one thing that captures the public imagination is discourtesy here in this Congress. I didn't receive a courtesy of a reply, and I didn't receive the courtesy of testifying with respect to a provision affecting my district.

Yet, Members are routinely offered the right to testify, usually before the named witnesses, just as a courtesy. In addition, even though you see us go at one another on this floor, if we are discourteous on the floor, they will take down our words and we will have to come to the well of the House and explain ourselves. That is how important courtesy is. You can't have 440 Members without that kind of courtesy.

I don't even know Chairman FRANKS. I don't think he meant any personal discourtesy to me. I am sure of that, as I sat in the hearing and he explained himself and welcomed me to the hearing, it was clear that he didn't mean any personal discourtesy. What he did, however, was to exercise discourtesy from one Member to another Member, and he did so on a matter of some importance.

There is no Member of this body who would sanction an attack on her local jurisdiction without getting up to protest it. I may not be able to vote on this bill when it comes to the floor, but should I not be able to speak on the matter?

D.C. matters come to this floor time and again, and all I can do is talk. If there is any decency in this body, surely nobody would shut me up. There is no Member of the Senate of the United States who represents the 640,000 residents of D.C., who pay taxes to the federal government and have gone to war each and every time since the Nation was created. There is only one Member. She is a delegate. She has no vote on this floor. She only can vote in committee. All she can do is speak.

In our democracy, who would want to say you cannot even speak? That is what happened yesterday. As a result, important issues—certainly, important to the committee regarding abortion—were not even the focus of the media attention. They just flew from their attention span because of the denial of a Member the right to speak on a provision that affected only her jurisdiction.

I am clear on where I stand on reproductive freedom, and I oppose that bill in its entirely. Every Member of the House knows that bill will never see the light of day on the other side of the Congress, in the Senate, and will never become law. It is a message bill. That is all right. Both sides, when they capture the Congress, participate in message bills. The problem with the majority in the House today is that it only does message bills. That is why this Congress has now gone down as the Congress that was the least productive in American history, because all it did was message bills.

Well, it is one thing to have a message bill on the United States of America. It is another to have a message bill that involves a message pertaining to a local jurisdiction where the local jurisdiction has no voice. No vote, no voice.

The bill managed to be an affront on two counts. It denies our low-income women the right to the reproductive choice that they would have if D.C. could pay for their reproductive choices, as 17 different States do, and it violated the very principle of local government, which was at the root of the American Revolution.

In one of the great contortions in legislation, the bill seems to have recognized that you cannot really legislate for a local jurisdiction. So it redefines the District of Columbia government as a part of the Federal Government for purposes of abortion.

Imagine having your city and your county redefined as now a part of the United States Government in order to pass a bill you do not want. That was a concession in itself against the bill, that they had to redefine us out of who we are into who this Nation is. That kind of contortion undercut any possible legitimacy for the bill.

This is the kind of thing that led to the war on women last Congress. You see what effect that had.

The Republicans want to start out again with the Member who cannot fight back in the way they do because she doesn't have a vote on this floor by denying her even the right to speak on a bill affecting her jurisdiction. Go at it. We will not let it rest.

We all witnesses this same local jurisdiction, the District of Columbia, now one of the most successful local jurisdictions in the United States, that raised $8 billion on our own. We are building everywhere. We added 50,000 people in the last census. Yet, this jurisdiction faced the shutdown in the just-past infamous shutdown of the Federal Government.

Well, the public will say, That can't be. They shut down the Federal Government. As a matter of fact, the Congress makes the District of Columbia bring its $8 billion local budget right here, to sign off on it, before we can spend our own local funds.

You are hearing the very definition of autocracy, not democracy. When money that the Congress has nothing to do with has to come before this Chamber in any form or fashion, that can lead to catastrophe—and it almost did, because the Congress had gotten to not one bit of the one business it has to do every single year, and that is pass bills for appropriations for its own government. They hadn't done one.

Among those, tucked into one of its bills was the independent jurisdiction of the District of Columbia. The mayor was put to using contingency funds to keep the city open during those 16 days. Normally, he has to do the same shutdown preparation that OPM, the Department of Education, or the Department of Transportation has to do. Instead, he used his contingency funds. The problem is he was running out of contingency funds.

There were Members of this body that helped me finally in negotiations with the administration, with our Republican colleagues, and of course, with the Democrats in the Senate. I thank Chairman DARRELL ISSA, who chairs the Oversight and Government Reform Committee with jurisdiction, among other things, over the District of Columbia.

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I thank majority leader, ERIC CANTOR, a member of this regional delegation, for his efforts as well. There were just as many Republicans and Democrats in the Senate who were helpful, and others whom I have not named, who were helpful here.

But it took a three-way negotiation to get us out of that; and the reason that negotiation was important is that we are waiting, as I speak, to see whether or not there is going to be another government shutdown now. I am hopeful about that because we are told that we may have a delay for a few days.

The prospect is there won't be another shutdown; but we didn't know that, then, so I had to negotiate for something that the Federal agencies do not yet have. They are now being run on what is called a ''continuing resolution'' based on last year's appropriation, 2013 funds.

Imagine if we had had to do that, run a big city on funds from last year instead of your appropriated funds for this year. That could result in violation of contracts, all kinds of upheavals in your city.

Fortunately, I was able to negotiate a bill that would keep us open for the rest of the year, that is, the fiscal year. The Federal Government still has to do that for its own agencies.

Why in the world would anybody want any local jurisdiction to be caught up in that federal mess?

Fortunately, there is no disagreement on this. I don't want to leave the

impression that this is a matter of great contention. The Senate has what we call ''shutdown avoidance language'' for the Nation's Capital in its D.C. appropriations bill. The President's budget had such language too.

My own colleagues here, Mr. ISSA, for example, is for anti-shutdown language. The appropriators have indicated the very same.

I am hoping that as the appropriation bill passes—sorry—comes to the floor, it will have that shutdown avoidance language in it. Indeed, I am hoping it will have budget autonomy in it.

The President's budget had budget autonomy language. The Senate appropriations now has budget autonomy in it.

Hasn't the time come to say to the Nation's Capital, the residents who raise their own money here in the District of Columbia, that if you raise it, you can spend it, and the Congress does not have to be a pass-through for you?

Isn't it time to say that, at least, because Wall Street charges D.C. a penalty because, after it passes its balanced budget, the city has to come to the Congress, which passes no balanced budgets. Any time somebody else has to look at your budget, there is an additional layer. You pay for the extra layer because it should not be there and is not there for any other jurisdiction.

If all of this seems strange and against American traditions, imagine legislation coming here. That one, the last one I want to discuss is Kafkaesque in the extreme.

The District of Columbia passes a bill, it is supposed to lay over here before it can take effect for 30 legislative, not calendar, days, and 60 for criminal matters, except our legislative days are far and few between. So bills have to lay over here long past a 30-day period, usually for at least 3 calendar months.

Now, you are running a big city. Let me give you one of the more laughable examples that is not atypical, but I give it to you because you can see that this is the kind of subject matter that would never interest the Congress.

The congressional review, or layover, period for the change that the District made in its laws to exchange the word ''handicap'' for ''disability'' took 9 months. It took 9 months. In order to keep legislation from lapsing, the District has to pass temporary legislation and then another extension of legislation. And it has to keep passing various kinds of temporary bills of its final bills until it finally gets through these review days.

The council estimates that about 65 percent, up to 65 percent, of the bills it passes could be eliminated were it not for this make-work procedure.

Now, this isn't painless. The council says it takes 5,000 employee-hours and 160,000 sheets of paper per Council period; and you'd better be precise, because if you miss one of these periods, and there are usually three different periods during which these bills pass until you get to the 30 legislative days, the bill could lapse, and then you would have to start all over again.

That would be bad enough if Congress had a reason for requiring these bills to come here. Congress never looks at these bills. If there is something that the Council of the District of Columbia does that the Congress thinks it shouldn't do, it knows exactly what to do, at least in its own view.

Why bother with introducing a bill here, having it come to the floor, and doing the same thing in the Senate?

Why not simply try to attach your objection or amendment to something else?

So the Congress simply uses the appropriation bills and attaches whatever it wants to overturn. At the moment, there is only one such matter and that is the abortion rider; and it simply tucks that into another bill.

On only three occasions has the Congress ever used the review, or layover period, to overturn a D.C. law: 1979, 1981, and 1991. And two of those directly involved Federal interests, so Congress was within its rights.

In fact, if the truth be told, the District was not trying to defy the Federal Government.

In fact, I would have been with the Congress on this because Federal interests were involved on two of them. The District mistook, was mistaken in the extent to where there was a Federal interest involved.

So those were not even attempts to try to challenge the Federal Government. Those were mistakes. Had I been here at the time, I would have tried to correct them before they got very far by going to the District before they ever got here.

In any case, you have a Sisyphus-like process, keep rolling up the hill, keep spending all that money, keep exerting all those employee-hours, for a process that Congress has long abandoned and pays no attention to.

My bill says to a Congress which regularly passes paperwork-reduction bills, this is a classic example of where it is needed. I do not believe there is the slightest opposition here. It is a matter of inertia. I am trying to make it rise above the ground where it has laid since I have been introducing this bill.

I don't believe for a moment that there is a single Member that wishes the District, or any other jurisdiction, or any part of this government, to engage in such a labor-intensive, costly process, even if it had an outcome, but particularly one that the Congress itself abandoned and has abandoned into disuse.

So, Madam Speaker, I brought these matters of local concern to the floor today because they are, I think, every last one of them, matters about which most Members are unaware, and for good reason.

Members are dealing with their own districts and with the Nation's business. They really don't have any reason to care about whether or not the District spends its local money one way or the other, about what laws it has passed, and if it is shut down. In the case of D.C. bills only three out of 4,500 D.C. bills have been overturned. It has abandoned one of these processes altogether.

The District had a budget autonomy referendum that, technically, is law. It is in some danger, so I am trying still to get budget autonomy through the Congress and to the President.

I can not believe that, with many conservative Members of this House who believe in local matters for local folks, that I would not have support here. I recognize that abortion is a controversial issue, and I have the deepest respect for those who disagree with me on that issue; but I think most Members would agree that that is a matter for local jurisdictions to decide.

Wherever we stand on the Nation's business, we are as one on local principles. Local matters are for local jurisdictions. That cannot be your principle for every jurisdiction in the United States except the District of Columbia. The matter of democracy, which we have tried to spread throughout the world, cannot be a matter for every nation on the face of this Earth except the Nation's Capital.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on January 9, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 667. To redesignate the Dryden Flight Research Center as the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center and the Western Aeronautical Test Range as the Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, January 13, 2014, at noon for morning-hour debate.

OATH FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Under clause 13 of rule XXIII, the following Members executed the oath for access to classified information:

Robert B. Aderholt, Rodney Alexander*, Justin Amash, Mark E. Amodei, Robert E. Andrews, Michele Bachmann, Spencer Bachus, Ron Barber, Lou Barletta, Garland ''Andy'' Barr, John Barrow, Joe Barton, Karen Bass, Joyce Beatty, Xavier Becerra, Dan Benishek, Kerry L. Bentivolio, Ami Bera, Gus M. Bilirakis, Rob Bishop, Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Timothy H. Bishop, Diane Black, Marsha Blackburn, Earl Blumenauer, John A. Boehner, Suzanne Bonamici, Jo

Bonner*, Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Charles W. Boustany, Jr., Kevin Brady, Robert A. Brady, Bruce L. Braley, Jim Bridenstine, Mo Brooks, Susan W. Brooks, Paul C. Broun, Corrine Brown, Julia Brownley, Vern Buchanan, Larry Bucshon, Michael C. Burgess, Cheri Bustos, G. K. Butterfield, Bradley Byrne, Ken Calvert, Dave Camp, John Campbell, Eric Cantor, Shelley Moore Capito, Lois Capps, Michael E. Capuano, Tony Cárdenas, John C. Carney, Jr., André Carson, John R. Carter, Matt Cartwright, Bill Cassidy, Kathy Castor, Joaquin Castro, Steve Chabot, Jason Chaffetz, Donna M. Christensen, Judy Chu, David N. Cicilline, Katherine M. Clark, Yvette D. Clarke, Wm. Lacy Clay, Emanuel Cleaver, James E. Clyburn, Howard Coble, Mike Coffman, Steve Cohen, Tom Cole, Chris Collins, Doug Collins, K. Michael Conaway, Gerald E. Connolly, John Conyers, Jr., Paul Cook, Jim Cooper, Jim Costa, Tom Cotton, Joe Courtney, Kevin Cramer, Eric A. ''Rick'' Crawford, Ander Crenshaw, Joseph Crowley, Henry Cuellar, John Abney Culberson, Elijah E. Cummings, Steve Daines, Danny K. Davis, Rodney Davis, Susan A. Davis, Peter A. DeFazio, Diana DeGette, John K. Delaney, Rosa L. DeLauro, Suzan K. DelBene, Jeff Denham, Charles W. Dent, Ron DeSantis, Scott DesJarlais, Theodore E. Deutch, Mario Diaz-Balart, John D. Dingell, Lloyd Doggett, Michael F. Doyle, Tammy Duckworth, Sean P. Duffy, Jeff Duncan, John J. Duncan, Jr., Donna F. Edwards, Keith Ellison, Renee L. Ellmers, Jo Ann Emerson*, Eliot L. Engel, William L. Enyart, Anna G. Eshoo, Elizabeth H. Esty, Eni F. H. Faleomavaega, Blake Farenthold, Sam Farr, Chaka Fattah, Stephen Lee Fincher, Michael G. Fitzpatrick, Charles J. ''Chuck'' Fleischmann, John Fleming, Bill Flores, J. Randy Forbes, Jeff Fortenberry, Bill Foster, Virginia Foxx, Lois Frankel, Trent Franks, Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Marcia L. Fudge, Tulsi Gabbard, Pete P. Gallego, John Garamendi, Joe Garcia, Cory Gardner, Scott Garrett, Jim Gerlach, Bob Gibbs, Christopher P. Gibson, Phil Gingrey, Louie Gohmert, Bob Goodlatte, Paul A. Gosar, Trey Gowdy, Kay Granger, Sam Graves, Tom Graves, Alan Grayson, Al Green, Gene Green, Tim Griffin, H. Morgan Griffith, Raúl M. Grijalva, Michael G. Grimm, Brett Guthrie, Luis V. Gutierrez, Janice Hahn, Ralph M. Hall, Colleen W. Hanabusa, Richard L. Hanna, Gregg Harper, Andy Harris, Vicky Hartzler, Alcee L. Hastings, Doc Hastings, Denny Heck, Joseph J. Heck, Jeb Hensarling, Jaime Herrera Beutler, Brian Higgins, James A. Himes, Rubén Hinojosa, George Holding, Rush Holt, Michael M. Honda, Steven A. Horsford, Steny H. Hoyer, Richard Hudson, Tim Huelskamp, Jared Huffman, Bill Huizenga, Randy Hultgren, Duncan Hunter, Robert Hurt, Steve Israel, Darrell E. Issa, Sheila Jackson Lee, Hakeem S. Jeffries, Lynn Jenkins, Bill Johnson, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Henry C. ''Hank'' Johnson, Jr., Sam Johnson, Walter B. Jones, Jim Jordan, David P. Joyce, Marcy Kaptur, William R. Keating, Mike Kelly, Robin L. Kelly, Joseph P. Kennedy III, Daniel T. Kildee, Derek Kilmer, Ron Kind, Peter T. King, Steve King, Jack Kingston, Adam Kinzinger, Ann Kirkpatrick, John Kline, Ann M. Kuster, Raúl R. Labrador, Doug LaMalfa, Doug Lamborn, Leonard Lance, James R. Langevin, James Lankford, Rick Larsen, John B. Larson, Tom Latham, Robert E. Latta, Barbara Lee, Sander M. Levin, John Lewis, Daniel Lipinski, Frank A. LoBiondo, David Loebsack, Zoe Lofgren, Billy Long, Alan S. Lowenthal, Nita M. Lowey, Frank D. Lucas, Blaine Luetkemeyer, Ben Ray Luján, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Cynthia M. Lummis, Stephen F. Lynch, Daniel B. Maffei, Carolyn B. Maloney, Sean Patrick Maloney, Kenny Marchant, Tom Marino, Edward J. Markey*, Thomas Massie, Jim Matheson, Doris O. Matsui, Vance M. McAllister, Carolyn McCarthy, Kevin McCarthy, Michael T. McCaul, Tom McClintock, Betty McCollum, James P. McGovern, Patrick T. McHenry, Mike McIntyre, Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon, David B. McKinley, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Jerry McNerney, Mark Meadows, Patrick Meehan, Gregory W. Meeks, Grace Meng, Luke Messer, John L. Mica, Michael H. Michaud, Candice S. Miller, Gary G. Miller, George Miller, Jeff Miller, Gwen Moore, James P. Moran, Markwayne Mullin, Mick Mulvaney, Patrick Murphy, Tim Murphy, Jerrold Nadler, Grace F. Napolitano, Richard E. Neal, Gloria Negrete McLeod, Randy Neugebauer, Kristi L. Noem, Richard M. Nolan, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Richard B. Nugent, Devin Nunes, Alan Nunnelee, Pete Olson, Beto O'Rourke, William L. Owens, Steven M. Palazzo, Frank Pallone, Jr., Bill Pascrell, Jr., Ed Pastor, Erik Paulsen, Donald M. Payne, Jr., Stevan Pearce, Nancy Pelosi, Ed Perlmutter, Scott Perry, Gary C. Peters, Scott H. Peters, Collin C. Peterson, Thomas E. Petri, Pedro R. Pierluisi, Chellie Pingree, Robert Pittenger, Joseph R. Pitts, Mark Pocan, Ted Poe, Jared Polis, Mike Pompeo, Bill Posey, David E. Price, Tom Price, Mike Quigley, Trey Radel, Nick J. Rahall II, Charles B. Rangel, Tom Reed, David G. Reichert, James B. Renacci, Reid J. Ribble, Tom Rice, Cedric L. Richmond, E. Scott Rigell, Martha Roby, David P. Roe, Harold Rogers, Mike Rogers, Mike Rogers, Dana Rohrabacher, Todd Rokita, Thomas J. Rooney, Peter J. Roskam, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Dennis A. Ross, Keith J. Rothfus, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Edward R. Royce, Raul Ruiz, Jon Runyan, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Bobby L. Rush, Paul Ryan, Tim Ryan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Matt Salmon, Linda T. Sánchez, Loretta Sanchez, Mark Sanford, John P. Sarbanes, Steve Scalise, Janice D. Schakowsky, Adam B. Schiff, Bradley S. Schneider, Aaron Schock, Kurt Schrader, Allyson Y. Schwartz, David Schweikert, Austin Scott, David Scott, Robert C. ''Bobby'' Scott, F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., José E. Serrano, Pete Sessions, Terri A. Sewell, Carol Shea-Porter, Brad Sherman, John Shimkus, Bill Shuster, Michael K. Simpson, Kyrsten Sinema, Albio Sires, Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Adam Smith, Adrian Smith, Christopher H. Smith, Jason T. Smith, Lamar Smith, Steve Southerland II, Jackie Speier, Chris Stewart, Steve Stivers, Steve Stockman, Marlin A. Stutzman, Eric Swalwell, Mark Takano, Lee Terry, Bennie G. Thompson, Glenn Thompson, Mike Thompson, Mac Thornberry, Patrick J. Tiberi, John F. Tierney, Scott R. Tipton, Dina Titus, Paul Tonko, Niki Tsongas, Michael R. Turner, Fred Upton, David G. Valadao, Chris Van Hollen, Juan Vargas, Marc A. Veasey, Filemon Vela, Nydia M. Velázquez, Peter J. Visclosky, Ann Wagner, Tim Walberg, Greg Walden, Jackie Walorski, Timothy J. Walz, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Maxine Waters, Melvin L. Watt*, Henry A. Waxman, Randy K. Weber, Sr., Daniel Webster, Peter Welch, Brad R. Wenstrup, Lynn A. Westmoreland, Ed Whitfield, Roger Williams, Frederica S. Wilson, Joe Wilson, Robert J. Wittman, Frank R. Wolf, Steve Womack, Rob Woodall, John A. Yarmuth, Kevin Yoder, Ted S. Yoho, C. W. Bill Young*, Don Young, Todd C. Young

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4430. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's ''Major'' final rule — Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests in, and Relationships with, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds (RIN: 3038-AD05) received January 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4431. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions (Multiple Chemicals) [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0777; FRL-9904-15] received December 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4432. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's fiscal year 2013 report on the Regional Defense Combating Terrorism Fellowship Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4433. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's ''Major'' final rule — Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests in, and Relationships with, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds (RIN: 3235-AL07) [Release No.: BHCA-1; File No. S7-41-11] received January 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4434. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Attainment Demonstration for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria 1997 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area [EPA-R06-OAR-2013-0387; FRL-9904-96-Region 6] received December 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4435. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Copper Sulfate Pentahydrate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0286; FRL-9904-30] received December 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4436. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Hazardous Waste Management System: Conditional Exclusion for Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Streams in Geologic Sequestration Activities [EPA-HQ-RCRA-2010-0695; FRL-9904-48-OSWER) (RIN: 2050-AG60) received December 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4437. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Isopyrazam; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0509; FRL-9903-53] received December 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4438. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from Secondary Lead Smelting [EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0344; FRL-9904-38-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR66) received December 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4439. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Ocean Dumping Regulations: Atchafalaya-West Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site Designation; Calcasieu, Sabine Neches, and Atchafalaya-East Site

Corrections [EPA-R06-OW-2013-0221; FRL-9904-86-Region 6] received December 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4440. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District, Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, and South Coast Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0668; FRL-9902-71-Region 9] received December 30, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4441. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4442. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting FY 2013 Treasury Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4443. A letter from the Co-Chief Privacy Officer, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's Privacy Act Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4444. A letter from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting a copy of the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4445. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the Board's report on competitive sourcing efforts for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4446. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4447. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report on the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act for 2013, amended; to the Committee on House Administration.

4448. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended for the six month period ending December 31, 2012, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 621; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4449. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a letter reporting the FY 2013 expenditures from the Pershing Hall Revolving Fund for projects, activities, and facilities that support the mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 2810. Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means extended for a period ending not later than March 14, 2014.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 3841. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide that foreign income be considered in the determination of eligibility for grants and loans under that Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 3842. A bill to require the Secretary of Education to conduct a feasibility study for using income tax returns as the primary Federal student aid application; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 3843. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income discharges of Federal student loans as a result of veterans' service-connected total disability that is permanent in nature; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 3844. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require cost or price to the Federal Government be given at least equal importance as technical or other criteria in evaluating competitive proposals for defense contracts; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 3845. A bill to require the Administrator of NASA to assess the cost and schedule implications of extending science missions beyond planned mission lifetimes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan (for herself, Mr. MCCAUL, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 3846. A bill to provide for the authorization of border, maritime, and transportation security responsibilities and functions in the Department of Homeland Security and the establishment of United States Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARBER (for himself, Mr. DAINES, and Ms. SINEMA):

H.R. 3847. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security the responsibility to develop and provide to the Secretary of Health and Human Services risk-based, performance-based cybersecurity standards for the Federal information technology requirements under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, including the healthcare.gov website, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BISHOP of New York (for himself and Mr. ISRAEL):

H.R. 3848. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to add New York to the New England Fishery Management Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 3849. A bill to provide for the repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act if it is determined that the Act has resulted in increasing the number of uninsured individuals; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, the Judiciary, Natural Resources, House Administration, Rules, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GIBSON (for himself, Mr. REED, and Ms. MCCOLLUM):

H.R. 3850. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2014 through 2018; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LANCE:

H.R. 3851. A bill to repeal sections 1341 and 1342 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 3852. A bill to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. STUTZMAN, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND):

H.R. 3853. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to prohibit Government contributions under the Federal employees health benefit program towards Exchange health insurance coverage of Members of Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.J. Res. 106. A joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):

H. Res. 456. A resolution calling on schools and State and local educational agencies to recognize that dyslexia has significant educational implications that must be addressed; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 3841.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 3842.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 3843.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 3844.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 3845.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan:

H.R. 3846.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1; and Article I, section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. BARBER:

H.R. 3847.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

General welfare

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Commercial Activity Regulation

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. BISHOP of New York:

H.R. 3848.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 3849.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GIBSON:

H.R. 3850.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article 1—to provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. LANCE:

H.R. 3851.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Clause I, of the United States Constitution This states that ''Congress shall have power to . . . lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.''

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 3852.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 3853.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: to regulate Commerce Article 1, Section 8, Clause 14: to make rules for the government

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.J. Res. 106.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law. . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 385: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 543: Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 596: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 645: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 685: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 695: Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 863: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 940: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 1010: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 1091: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 1136: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 1146: Mr. WALZ and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 1176: Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 1180: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 1201: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 1226: Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 1263: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 1281: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 1385: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 1551: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 1726: Mr. MAFFEI, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KIND, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 1750: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 1751: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 1771: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 1779: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 1814: Mrs. ROBY and Mr. MCHENRY.

H.R. 1861: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 1918: Mr. REED and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 1936: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 2101: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2116: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 2288: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 2291: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. HANNA, and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 2300: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 2539: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 2575: Mr. WILLIAMS and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 2578: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2591: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2643: Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 2686: Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 2689: Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 2709: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 2841: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 2854: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 2945: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 3015: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 3086: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 3133: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.

H.R. 3318: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. COTTON.

H.R. 3334: Mr. LEWIS and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 3335: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 3344: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 3361: Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. BRIDENSTINE.

H.R. 3369: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 3370: Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 3382: Mr. CAMP.

H.R. 3429: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 3494: Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3516: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 3541: Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 3546: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 3549: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 3573: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 3590: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. HALL, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 3595: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 3604: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 3633: Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 3635: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. JORDAN, and Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 3658: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. VELA, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 3673: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 3685: Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. LABRADOR.

H.R. 3722: Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 3732: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. CARTER, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

H.R. 3757: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 3787: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. YOHO, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 3788: Mrs. HARTZLER and Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 3789: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 3790: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 3818: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 3819: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. REED.

H.J. Res. 56: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DEUTCH, and Ms. NORTON.

H. Res. 247: Mr. HONDA and Mr. KENNEDY.

H. Res. 281: Mr. VISCLOSKY.

H. Res. 356: Mr. FORBES.

H. Res. 362: Mr. DENT.

H. Res. 410: Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 418: Mr. CONNOLLY.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 106, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 3550: Mr. MEADOWS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the establishment of Belle Isle, Florida.

Founded in 1924 to preserve Lake Conway and the surrounding chain of lakes, the name "Belle Isle" was selected to resemble the French phrase "beautiful island." The local natural resources, including parks and extensive waterways, facilitate Belle Isle residents' active outdoor culture. Additionally, Belle Isle is home to nearly 100 businesses that include iconic local restaurants and stores. Small communities like Belle Isle are the cornerstones of American culture and economy.

It is a privilege to serve the residents of Belle Isle, and I thank them for their tremendous contributions to the Central Florida community.

WILL THERE BE AN AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY?

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the African Union, or AU, is in the midst of a long program to create an African Economic Community through the eventual merging of existing regional economic communities. U.S. policy is to support regional integration in Africa as enhancing the success of U.S.-Africa trade by reducing trade barriers and creating larger markets. I chaired a hearing yesterday that examined the AU effort and its potential benefits for Africa and the United States.

A focal point in U.S.-Africa trade policy is the encouragement of integrated markets in Africa. It makes trade with Africa more efficient and beneficial for African businesspeople and governments. It also is more attractive for foreign investors.

The AU, a regional grouping of all countries in Africa except Morocco, was established in 2002 as the successor to the now-defunct Organization of African Unity, or OAU. Its formation was largely motivated by OAU members' desire to more quickly achieve the goals of the 1991 African Economic Community Treaty. The treaty is intended to promote African regional economic integration and socio-economic development through the planned creation of a common African market and shared political and economic institutions. Make no mistake, this is a challenging goal. The example of the European Community demonstrates the difficulty even when involving developed nations.

The current African nations were not created to collaborate with one another. Varying languages, conflicting legal and commercial systems and often incompatible transportation infrastructures make this worthy goal a major challenge, and there are other obstacles that make this effort even more daunting.

Nevertheless, the eight recognized Regional Economic Communities have a timetable to which they are generally adhering with few exceptions. The Arab Maghreb Union, a trade agreement comprising Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia, is inactive and frozen due to deep political and economical disagreements between Morocco and Algeria regarding, among other issues, the matter of Western Sahara independence. The Community of Sahel-Saharan States, comprising 28 countries across Africa's Sahel region, is finding regional integration difficult because of its members being part of other trade blocs that are more advanced in their integration.

Meanwhile, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, a free trade area with nineteen member states stretching from Libya to Swaziland, has agreed to an expanded free-trade zone and is also considering a common visa scheme to boost tourism.

The East African Community, an intergovernmental organization comprising five East African countries—Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda—signed a protocol just last year outlining their plans for launching a monetary union within 10 years.

The Economic Community of Central African States, which includes 10 countries across the middle of the continent, formed a customs union with a free trade area between members and a common external tariff for imports from other countries as long ago as 1966.

The Economic Community of West African States, a regional group of 15 West African countries, is creating a single large trading bloc through an economic and trading union and serves as a peacekeeping force in the region—all despite operating officially in three co-equal languages—French, English, and Portuguese.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development is an eight-country trading bloc based in East Africa and has transformed from an executive group with a focus on development and environmental control to a larger structure as a Regional Economic Community.

The Southern African Development Community began as an anti-apartheid coalition fighting for majority rule in South Africa in the 1970s, but since majority rule came to South Africa in 1994, it has become a traditional Regional Economic Community, and like its West African counterpart, sometimes engages in peacekeeping operations.

By 2017, a free trade union and customs union is supposed to be established in each Regional Economic Community. The process is still stalled in North Africa and the Sahel, although there is progress elsewhere. This phase is now fully in force in East Africa, as well as West and Central Africa.

In today's hearing, we are looking for recommendations on what the Regional Economic Communities and their member countries must do to fulfill the AU's ambitious agenda, but we also want to examine what the U.S. government, other donor governments and international financial institutions can do to enhance their efforts in this regard. Ostensibly, this assistance has been ongoing for some time now but we want to find out more about why these efforts have not moved farther ahead.

At yesterday's hearing, we had with us experts who have observed regional integration in Africa, and in some cases, have worked to promote it for more than a decade. We know what governments have said about the benefits of regional integration, and we have heard from the private sector about their preference for integrated markets. Yesterday we heard from those who can provide and have provided the technical assistance necessary to make these goals a reality.

We in Congress currently are working on legislation to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and integrated regional markets will only enhance the success of this trade process moving forward. We hope today's contributions will better inform us on how we can more effectively encourage regional integration and the expansion of African markets.

FOR THE RELIEF OF JEANETTE VIZGUERRA-RAMIREZ

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the case of Jeanette Vizguerra Ramirez. I have introduced a bill on her behalf in an effort to prevent the senseless destruction of her family in light of her tremendous contributions to her community and the immigrant rights movement in Colorado.

Jeanette Vizguerra Ramirez has been in the United States since 1997. She has three young U.S. citizen children, and two citizen grandchildren. She is a devoted mother and grandmother who routinely volunteers with a local elementary school to ensure the success of her children, as well as that of their respective peers. Ms. Vizguerra Ramirez has also established extraordinarily strong ties to Colorado through her tireless work with numerous community organizations. Several news outlets have documented her commitment to improving the lives of members of her community through her volunteerism and advocacy. It is abundantly clear that Ms. Vizguerra Ramirez is a positive influence in her community, and that she does not pose a threat to those around her. Nevertheless, despite her long-term residence, strong family ties, and extensive community contributions to the U.S., Immigration and Customs Enforcement currently seeks to remove her to her country of origin.

We can no longer afford to sit idly by while our limited tax-payer enforcement dollars are

spent producing such untenable outcomes. While our continued inability to modernize our broken immigration system is bad for businesses, the overall economy and the federal deficit, it is completely devastating to hundreds of thousands of families who suffer the consequences every year.

The U.S. House of Representatives has neglected its responsibility to address our broken immigration system for far too long. Every passing day brings devastating consequences to thousands of families throughout our country. Our current enforcement-centric approach is a relic of another time that needlessly destroys families, and leaves thousands of U.S. citizen children without one or more of their parents. This approach runs contrary to our American system of values.

HONORING KHIQUITA ''KEKE'' YOUNG

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Khiquita ''Keke'' Young.

Khiquita Young is the founder of Independent Survival Living (ISL) and owner of K's Farm and Ranch in Crystal Springs, MS. ISL originated in Jackson, Mississippi. Young presents agriculture methods at church conferences with families and local farmers and ranchers.

In 2007 Mrs. Young's mother had a stroke that left her disabled on the left side of her body and troubled in her speech. Khiquita was frustrated to discover the lack of assistance for much needed help not only for her mother, but others as well.

This journey led Young to encourage those who are broken spiritually and financially to become self sufficient. It is her desire for the elderly and stroke victims to become independent individuals again. She doesn't want the elderly and stroke victims to depend on others who do not offer genuine help or who neglect disabled people.

Young is a visionary who actively pursues change in destiny. The vision she was given in 2007 was to pursue the mission in agriculture, to establish urban gardens and farms for the elderly and stroke victims. Participation gives them some control in their lives allowing them to manage, operate and become profitable to survive.

Khiquita is the National Women in Agriculture Association Chairwoman of Southwest River Region in Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Khiquita ''Keke'' Young for being a visionary and giving back to others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall votes No. 5, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 455, and No. 6, on adoption of H. Res. 455, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my votes. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on these two votes.

HONORING ROBINSON'S GROCERY, LLC

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a rural town minority owned business, Robinson's Grocery, LLC.

Robinson's Grocery, LLC opened for business on November 27, 2006 in Bolton, Mississippi. Mr. Pelvia Rene Robinson, owner and operator, saw a need for a small town grocery store that could supply the community with quality products and friendly service without traveling to the neighboring city, which is approximately six to seven miles away.

As a lifelong resident of Bolton, Mr. Robinson understood the hardships many in the community faced in acquiring necessities, such as, fresh deli meats, eggs, and cheeses. In addition to meat and dairy products, his store offered hot meals, such as chicken and pork or beef ribs and a variety of household items that many in the community would use on a daily basis.

Establishment of Robinson's Grocery rallied the community together, giving the townspeople a sense of community pride knowing that a grocery store was within walking distance, helping to tremendously decrease the need for sometimes weekly trips to neighboring towns for relatively simple household goods and groceries.

Robinson's Grocery grew as various vendors solicited commercial space for their wares on the store shelves. Currently, the store is in the process of renovating and restructuring its look. Upon completion, the store will also provide a fresh look and an overall enhanced shopping experience in addition to new products and services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Pelvia Robinson and Robinson's Grocery, LLC for its remarkable contribution to the thriving rural Bolton community.

FIRST AFRIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DAY

HON. HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, First Afrikan Presbyterian Church has been and continues to be a beacon of light to our district for the past twenty years; and

Whereas, Reverend Dr. Mark A. Lomax and the members of the First Afrikan Presbyterian Church family today continues to uplift and inspire those in our district; and

Whereas, the First Afrikan Presbyterian Church has been and continues to be a place where citizens are touched spiritually, mentally and physically through outreach ministries and community partnership to aid in building up our district; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious Church of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the needy and empowered our community for the past twenty (20) years; and

Whereas, this Church has produced many spiritual warriors, people of compassion, people of great courage, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their Church, but with DeKalb County their passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the First Afrikan Presbyterian Church family for their leadership and service to our District on this the 20th Anniversary of their founding; now therefore, I, HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim December 8, 2013 as First Afrikan Presbyterian Church Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 8th day of December, 2013.

IH–30 ACCIDENT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues, I want to bring to your attention a most unfortunate incident that has taken place in my home district across one of the most vital and important transportation corridors not only to Texas but to the Nation. Interstate Highway 30 begins in Aledo, Texas, west of Fort Worth and ends in North Little Rock, Arkansas. While not the nation's longest highway, Interstate 30 has some of the heaviest truck and trade traffic in the nation and is essential to national security. Because of our nation's growing population—especially in the Dallas–Fort Worth Metroplex—transportation systems, planned over fifty years ago, are being strained and are over capacity. Because of this, our transportation facilities cannot always accommodate the needs of our constituents. This affects not only transportation commerce and mobility but also hinders the first responders and law enforcement from arriving at the scene of the accident in a timely manner.

Early this morning, on Friday January 10, 2014 a major multi-truck accident took place including as many as fifteen vehicles, including semi-trucks on a section of IH–30 that spans Lake Ray Hubbard. The accident has closed all eight lanes of the bridge, headed east and west. After seven hours, the facility remains closed and as there are no frontage roads across the Lake, commuters and drivers are facing multi-hour delays and the national supply chain is being adversely affected.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those that were injured in this unfortunate accident. And to all those hundreds of thousands who were inconvenienced.

This is a prime example as to why Interstate 30, and our national transportation system, needs renewed attention at the local, state, and federal level. This is not the first time this has happened and this will certainly not be the last. In 2006, I was pleased to be of assistance in causing IH–30 to be designated a Congressional High Priority Corridor on the

National Highway System so that this vital corridor would be eligible to receive the attention it needs.

I now call on the U.S. Department of Transportation to work with the Texas Department of Transportation and Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department to immediately address these issues of safety and mobility along Interstate 30. I call for an expedited review of IH–30 from Dallas–Fort Worth to Texarkana all the way to North Little Rock that will involve not only the DOTs but city and county stakeholders, including the TEX–21 IH–30 Corridor Task Force. I call for recommendations to come forth within 90 days to provide long and short term solutions. When a facility like this is shut down, the economy is affected because as we all know, our transportation system is the backbone of the economy.

It is of utmost importance that those of us from the Texas side work with those from the Arkansas side to implement the proper maintenance and expansion that is needed to handle the demands placed upon the facility by the population increase. We are calling for six lane divided with continuous frontage roads along the corridor so when an accident such as this one occurs we have the necessary infrastructure to keep people and goods moving.

HONORING SHERIFF KELVIN WILLIAMS, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Kelvin Williams, Sr., was born in Chicago, Illinois and is the son of Ms. Bobbie J. Williams, a lovely and proud lady. The Sheriffs father, Vick Foster, is deceased. During his school days, Kelvin attended I.T. Montgomery Elementary School and John F. Kennedy Middle School in Mound Bayou; also he attended Ruleville Middle School and Ruleville Central High School in Ruleville. He earned a diploma from Ruleville Central High School in 1986.

Sheriff Williams thereafter attended Mississippi Valley State University, where he majored in Criminal Justice. He then moved to St. Louis and continued his education at Webster University, from which he obtained a B.S. Degree in Management in 1994.

Sheriff Williams chose law enforcement as a career because he wanted to work in a field that had great job stability and a field that allowed him to make a positive difference on the community. Sheriff Williams is a former Cleveland Police Officer.

He was assigned to the Cleveland School District as a School Resource and D.A.R.E. Officer. Prior to returning to Cleveland, Kelvin served with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department for over 10 years. Kelvin is a former business owner and Investigator for the State of Mississippi.

Kelvin took the oath of office as Sheriff of Bolivar County in January, 2012. On a square mile basis, this County is the second largest county in the State of Mississippi. When observing the three largest counties in this State, we see that Yazoo County has 920 square miles, Bolivar County has 876 square miles, and Hinds County has 869 square miles. Alcorn, the smallest county land-wise, has 400 square miles. When comparing the 876 square miles of Bolivar County to the 570 square miles of the average county size in this State, you may correctly say that Sheriff Williams has a lot of ground to roll over.

In addition to policing 876 square miles of territory, Sheriff Williams maintains control over the Bolivar County Regional Correctional Facility, which houses 432 inmates. There are 120 employees who assist with the awesome duties of the chief law enforcement officer of Bolivar County.

The Sheriff remains steadfastly committed to law enforcement in Bolivar County. In addition to that, he is still committed to the schools, playgrounds and streets where some children hang-out. The Sheriff coaches youths for the Cleveland Park Commission and the United Family Life Center. He serves as volunteer coach for football, basketball, baseball and soccer each year. He has had the opportunity to coach: 8 year olds, 9 year olds, 11 year olds and 12 year olds' baseball teams in the Dixie Youth State Championship games.

His passion for the youths and sensitivity to their needs remain at the top of his priority list. He counsels youths and conducts presentations for them, which enhances their participation in wholesome activities, uplifts their aspirations, and encourages them to do the right thing. I suggest that this kind of motivation should be applauded.

Sheriff Williams is a member of the Delmar Street Church of Christ, where he serves as a Sunday school Teacher and member of the Finance Committee. He serves on various boards and committees throughout Bolivar County.

His recent awards are DARE Officer of the Year for the State of Mississippi; President volunteer Award; community Image Award; Community Service Award; Politician of the Year Award; Cleveland Currents Volunteer of the Year Award, and his most prestigious award—the ''award'' which was bestowed upon him by the voters of Bolivar is called Sheriff.

He has been happily married to Mrs. Glendscene Hall-Williams for 22 years, and they are the parents of three sons: Kelvin Jr., Glenn and Allen. Sheriff Williams and his wife are also proud Godparents of Jaylen Jones.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing law enforcement officer Sheriff Kelvin Williams for his dedication in protecting and serving the citizens of Bolivar County, Mississippi.

RABBINIC STATEMENT: ''STEP BY STEP TOWARD SHALOM WITH IRAN''

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a Rabbinic Statement, ''Step by Step toward Shalom with Iran.''

Signed by 120 Rabbis, including my own Rabbi, Andrea London of Beth Emet Synagogue in Evanston, IL, the statement opposes any actions that would undermine ongoing negotiations, emphasizes the importance of peaceful conflict resolution, and welcomes the possibility of negotiations with Iran.

As we continue to work to ensure that Iran does not develop nuclear weapons, I believe that the Rabbinic Statement offers an important perspective.

RABBINIC STATEMENT: ''STEP BY STEP TOWARD SHALOM WITH IRAN''

As Rabbis, Cantors, and other Clergy serving the American Jewish community, we are deeply committed, as Jewish tradition teaches—

to the shalom—peace, social justice, functioning democratic process, and ecological sanity—of the country where we live—all of which would be damaged by still another unnecessary war;

to the shalom, peace and security, of the State of Israel, to its democratic character, and to its special relationship with the Jewish people;

to unequivocal action by all the Arab-majority and Muslim-majority states to make peace with Israel, and to Israel's unequivocal action to make peace with all its neighbors, including an emergent Palestine;

to our respect and our prayers for salaam, peace and justice, among our cousins in the Abrahamic tradition, Arab and Muslim civilizations;

to the peace and prosperity of all the ''70 nations'' of the world;

and to the healing of our wounded planet.

For all these reasons, we welcome warmly the greatly increased possibility of a peaceful resolution of the conflicts among the U.S., Iran, Israel, and other nations.

We especially welcome the new attitudes toward the Jewish people and toward the nuclear issue set forth by the new President of Iran, and his assertion that Iran will never hold nuclear weapons. We also recall the fatwa and repeated assertions by Grand Ayatollah Khamenei that for Iran to possess nuclear weapons would violate Islam.

We urge the U.S. and Iran to move swiftly to agree on a step-by-step process of reducing and ultimately ending sanctions against Iran in accord with steps by Iran to make its nuclear research transparent and to allow verification that its research is directed wholly toward civilian uses of nuclear energy. We believe that such a step-by-step process is the best way to guarantee that both parties are fulfilling their commitments.

We urge Iran to make clear its full acceptance of Israel as a legitimate state in the fabric of international relations, protected like all other states from aggression and attack.

We urge the Government of Israel to welcome steps by Iran to make clear and verifiable its commitment to use nuclear energy and research for peaceful purposes only, not for pursuit of nuclear weaponry, and while this process is under way, we urge Israel to end hostile acts and statements toward Iran.

We urge the peoples of the United States, Iran, and Israel to reject and oppose all statements and actions from whatever source that undermine the swift and thorough achievement of agreements to ensure the civilian nature of Iran's nuclear program and to end sanctions against Iran.

We urge the American people to recognize and do tshuvah (''turning'' or ''repentance'') for the ethical errors of our own government toward Iran particularly—the U.S. Government's intervention in 1953 to overthrow the democratically elected reform government of Iran; U.S. actions to support the tyrannical regime of the Shah until the Iranian people overthrew it in 1979; and U.S. support for Iraq's wars of aggression against Iran in the 1980s, including U.S. support for Saddam Hussein's use of chemical weapons to kill 100,000 Iranians.

We urge the Iranian people to do tshuvah for their government's demonization of the United States and Israel, for its holding U.S. diplomats hostage for more than a year in 1979–1980, and for the support it seems to have covertly given for attacks on Israeli citizens.

We believe that this combination of governmental acts and public rethinking and refeeling can move American society, the entire Middle East, and the world toward the shalom that Judaism yearns for.

Signed:

Shalom,

Initiating Signers:

Rabbi Amy Eilberg, Rabbi Everett Gendler, Rabbi Marc Gopin, Rabbi Dr. David Gordis, Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, Rabbi Ellen Lippmann, Rabbi Gerry Serotta, Rabbi David Shneyer, Rabbi Susan Talve, Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Rabbi Sheila Weinberg, Rabbi Rebecca Alpert, Rabbi Ethan Bair.

Kohenet Ellie Barbarash, Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, Rabbi Benjamin Barnett, Rabbi Eliot Baskin, Rabbi Renee Bauer, Rabbi Dennis Beck-Berman, Rabbi Leonard Beerman, Rabbi Marjorie Berman, Rabbi Phyllis Berman, Rabbi Leila Gal Berner, Rabbi Binyamin Biber, Kohenet Shoshana Bricklin, Rabbi Jason Bright, Rabbi Jonathan Brumberg-Kraus, Rabbi Joshua Chasan, Rabbi Aryeh Cohen.

Rabbi Andrea Cohen Kiener, Rabbi Hillel Cohn, Rabbi David J. Cooper, Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, Rabbi Art Donsky, Rabbi Doris Dyen, Rabbi Renee Edelman, Rabbi Diane Elliot, Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell, Kohenet Ahava Lilith EverShine, Rabbi Ted Falcon, Rabbi Charles Feinberg, Rabbi Michael Feinberg, Rabbi Fern Feldman, Rabbi Brian Field, Rabbi Tirzah Firestone.

Rabbi Nancy Flam, Rabbi Jeff Foust, Rabbi Ruth Gais, Rabbi Hillel Gamoran, Maggid Andrew Gold, Rabbi Dan Goldblatt, Rabbi Laurie Green, Rabbi Julie Greenberg, Rabbi Moshe Halfon, Rabbi/Kohenet Jill Hammer, Rabbi Edwin Harris, Rabbi Lauren Grabelle Herrmann, Kohenet Judith Hollander, Rabbi Linda Holtzman, Rabbi Shaya Isenberg.

Rabbi Burt Jacobson, Rabbi Josh Jacobs-Velde, Kohenet Sharon Jaffe, Rabbi Melissa Klein, Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum, Rabbi David L Kline, Rabbi Debra Kolodny, Rabbi Douglas Krantz, Rabbi Hannah Laner, Rabbi Daniel Lehrman, Rabbi Jason van Leeuwen, Rabbi Michael Lerner, Kohenet Carly ''Ketzirah'' Lesser, Rabbi Richard Levy, Rabbi Annie Lewis, Rabbi Andrea London.

Cantor Abbe Lyons, Rabbi Jeffrey Marker, Rabbi Nathan Martin, Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon, Maggid Melvin Metelits, Rabbi Yocheved Mintz, Kohenet Tiana Mirapai, Rabbi David Mivasair, Rabbi Lee Moore, Hazan Judith Naimark, Rabbi Laura Owens, Cantor Steven Puzarne, Rabbi Victor Reinstein, Cantor Stephen Richards, Rabbi/Kohenet Margie Klein Ronkin, Rabbi Moti Rieber, Rabbi Brant Rosen, Cantor Aviva Rosenbloom, Cantor Richard Rosenfield, Rabbi Jeff Roth, Kohenet Mei Mei Sanford, Hazan Pamela Sawyer, Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller, Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, Rabbi Chaim Schneider, Rabbi Randy Schoch, Kohenet Alumah Schuster, Rabbi Dr. Arthur Segal, Rabbi Jonathan Slater, Rabbi Eric Solomon.

Cantor Robin Sparr, Rabbi David Spitz, Rabbi Toba Spitzer, Rabbi Margot Stein, Rabbi Naomi Steinberg, Rabbi Gershon Steinberg-Caudill, Rabbi Danielle Stillman, Rabbi Alana Suskin, Rabbi Louis Sutker, Rabbi Daniel Swartz, Rabbi Renae Toben, Rabbi Brian Walt, Rabbi Simkha Y. Weintraub, Hazan Gregory Yaroslow, Rabbi Barbara Zacky, Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman.

OFFICER MORGAN STEWARD DAY

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, today we pause to recognize a remarkable young man, Morgan Steward, who has shown great tenacity and courage; and

Whereas, this very brave kindergartner has expressed his dream to be a police officer and help the citizens of his community by protecting and serving; and

Whereas, the City of Covington Police Department has seen fit to bestow upon him the title of Honorary Police Officer, so that today he is known as Officer Morgan; and

Whereas, many residents of Covington, Georgia also reside in the 4th Congressional District; and

Whereas, all the citizens of Covington and Newton County, GA are coming together to recognize and congratulate Officer Morgan; and

Whereas, this day is being celebrated as Officer Morgan visits with Covington businesses and residents using policing techniques and highlighting safety and security measures; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Officer Morgan Steward; Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim December 17, 2013 as Officer Morgan Steward Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 17th day of December, 2013.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF BILL HARRISON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill Harrison as he retires after 24 years with the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Water Authority). Bill's commitment and dedication to the Water Authority deserves to be commended.

Bill earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Stanford University, and he continued his education at Theological Union in Berkeley, California where he received his Master's Degree in Systematic and Philosophical Theology. Although Bill's background did not begin in water management, he quickly learned the trade and became an asset to the Water Authority.

Prior to the formation of the Water Authority in 1992, Bill served on the Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Users Association for 14 years. Currently, he serves on the board for the Central Valley Project Water Association where he represents the interests of 160 public agencies served by way of the Central Valley Project. In addition, he also serves on the board of the State and Federal Water Contractor's Agency which is comprised of water agencies dedicated to assuring a reliable and quality water supply for the costumers of their member agencies.

Since 1994, Bill has been employed as the General Manager of the Del Puerto Water District. During his tenure, he brought 10 districts together which now make up the Del Puerto Water District. He was instrumental in negotiating and implementing a long series of interim renewal service contracts, resulting in the district's 2005 Long-Term Renewal Contract with the Bureau of Reclamation.

As Director of the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority, Bill develops and initiates policy recommendations for Board review. He works closely with the Board to develop and achieve the organization's purposes and goals. Bill's leadership and grasp on the issues has benefitted the Water Board for decades.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bill Harrison as he celebrates his retirement from the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority. His tireless efforts and advocacy on behalf of farmers and residents throughout the Central Valley will undoubtedly be missed.

HONORING SUPER AUTO SHOP

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a well respected rural town minority owned business, Super Auto Shop.

Super Auto Shop was established in 1985 in Bolton, Mississippi by Mr. Terry Williams. Originally from Jackson, Mississippi, Mr. Williams has always maintained an interest in auto body work from a very young age.

In 1970, he moved to Chicago, Illinois and in 1979, he moved to Gary, Indiana, where he worked for Inland Steele Company for approximately 13 years. While working at Inland Steele, Mr. Williams performed auto body work as a hobby. In 1985, Mr. Williams married his wife Joanna and they both moved back to her hometown of Bolton. After acquiring a mechanic shop previously owned by Mr. Mitchell Reese, Mr. Williams took the opportunity to establish an auto body work shop.

Upon its establishment, Mr. Williams performed all auto body work and two other individuals performed auto mechanical services. Over time, his business began to grow and all of Mr. Williams' sons became an integral part of his now auto body and mechanic shop. Because of the need to expand and the coincidental availability of a much larger auto shop, Mr. Williams moved his shop in 2005. With the expansion of his business, Mr. Williams has a wide variety of clientele, both near and far. His services to the Bolton community have been invaluable over the past 28 years. Currently, he employs an auto body painter and a mechanic.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Terry Williams and Super Auto Shop for its remarkable contribution and undying commitment to provide reliable auto body and mechanic work to the citizens of Bolton and neighboring rural communities.

RECOGNITION OF MRS. ANN M. WILLIAMS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Ann M. Williams, Founder and Artistic Director of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Mrs. Williams will retire this May after 38 years of dedication to the performing arts community in Dallas.

Mrs. Williams has a highly decorated career in the arts. She holds a Master of Arts degree and Related Arts from Texas Woman's University and was inducted into the Texas Women's hall of fame in 2002. Among her various accolades, she was honored at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC as a part of the Masters of African-American Choreography series in 2005.

Mrs. Williams had the vision to create a diverse and community-oriented dance institution with a strong emphasis toward the African-American community. Over several decades, Mrs. Williams built the Dallas Black Dance Theatre from the ground up, growing it to become one of the most well-known Dallas-based nonprofits. It has garnered recognition from the City of Dallas, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre is the oldest continuously operating professional dance company in Dallas and is host to a multi-ethnic troupe of dancers who specialize in contemporary modern dance. Since its founding in 1976, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre has brought cultural and artistic value to millions of people throughout 30 states and 14 different countries such as Great Britain, Japan, and Canada.

Mr. Speaker, under Mrs. Williams' direction, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre has become an invaluable addition to the Dallas arts community. The Dallas Black Dance Theatre has contributed greatly to the revitalization of downtown Dallas by bringing added educational and artistic capital to the area. I would like to recognize Mrs. Williams for her contributions and I join my constituents in wishing her a fruitful and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING ERNEST BEDROSIAN

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Ernest Bedrosian, who passed away on January 1, 2014 at the age of 80. Ernest was a leading raisin grower and packer in California's San Joaquin Valley and played an instrumental role in the development of the raisin industry in the United States and abroad.

Ernest was born in Parlier, California and attended California State University, Fresno, where he graduated with high honors receiving a bachelor's degree in Agriculture. Upon graduation in 1955, Ernest joined the United States Army and was a food specialist stationed in New York. In 1958 Ernest moved back to the San Joaquin Valley and started working on his family's raisin and wine vineyard. Shortly after, he began serving on various raisin boards and committees. Ernest established the Raisin Bargaining Association (RBA) in 1966 and served as the first acting President. The efforts of the RBA organized raisin growers, stabilized the national raisin market, and expanded domestic and international demand for raisins.

Ernest and his brothers opened the National Raisin Company in 1969 and developed the ''Champion'' brand for raisins and other dried fruits. Today the Champion brand is the largest independent raisin, prune, and dried fruit operation in the world and the National Raisin Company provides hundreds of jobs to Central Valley residents.

Ernest served as an elder at his Church, the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, and was also a member of the church's various building committees. Ernest will be remembered as not only a great businessman, but also as a devoted family man with a strong faith and an eagerness to help his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Mr. Ernest Bedrosian.

HONORING TOUGALOO COLLEGE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable school, Tougaloo College. Tougaloo College is one of the United States' premier historically black college and universities. The American Missionary Association (AMA) founded Tougaloo in 1869. Early in that year the AMA had commissioned Allen P. Huggins, a former Union officer, to look for land for a normal-agricultural school. He found the former plantation of John Boddie about seven miles north of Jackson, Mississippi and negotiated to buy it from its owner, George McKee, for $10,500. The money for the plantation was provided by the Freedman's Bureau.

In 1871 the Mississippi State Legislature granted the school a charter with the name ''Tougaloo University.'' In 1892 the state discontinued funding but the Normal Department was recognized as a teacher training school. College credit first became available in 1897, but qualifying for accreditation by the Southern Association took a number of years to achieve. Improvements in the library, academic degrees for teachers, and endowments led to state accreditation in the 1930s. With this, graduates who had taken 18 semester hours of education courses were granted a lifelong professional teaching license. Tougaloo had again undergone a name change in 1916 to Tougaloo College.

In 1954 Tougaloo College merged with the Southern Christian Institute (SCI) in Edwards, Mississippi, because the two schools had similar missions and goals. The new school was called the Tougaloo Southern Christian College, but in 1962 was once again renamed Tougaloo College. Tougaloo was very active in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and maintains a reputation for strong social commitment.

Today Tougaloo, with approximately 1,000 students, is a private, coeducational, four-year, liberal arts school. It has a selective admittance rate, but is committed to providing those from challenging circumstances with a good education. The student population is primarily African American, but all are welcome to apply. Nearly 40 percent of the practicing African American physicians and dentists in the state of Mississippi are Tougaloo graduates, and 35 percent of all current Mississippi educators are. More than 66 percent of Tougaloo graduates enroll in graduate or Ph.D. programs immediately after graduating. Tougaloo has won national respect for its high academic standards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tougaloo College for their dedication to serving.

MRS. ANNIE LAURA WORD DAY

HON. HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, Ninety years ago a virtuous woman of God was born in Collierville, Tennessee on December 30, 1923; and

Whereas, Mrs. Annie Laura Word was born Annie Laura Walker to Mr. Albert and Mrs. Blanche Walker, she was educated in the local school system as a child, when she became a young lady, she married Mr. Henry C. Word on May 16, 1942 and through their union was blessed with three children, eighteen grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren; and

Whereas, this Phenomenal Proverbs 31 woman has shared her time and talents as a Wife, Mother and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to advance the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. Word has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Word along with her family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, her 90th Birthday, we pause to acknowledge a woman who is a cornerstone in our community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Word on her birthday and to wish her well and recognize her for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim December 30, 2013 as Mrs. Annie Laura Word Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 30th day of December, 2013.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF MICHAEL WILLIAM PEARSON

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to Michael William Pearson, a Navy veteran and small business owner from Southern California.

Mike was a true gentleman, and he will be missed by everyone who had the good fortune to know him. He will be remembered for his generosity, patriotism, and love of life.

Mike was born on August 6, 1939 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. God called him home on December 26, 2013.

Mike proudly served in the United States Navy as a medical corpsman. He served in the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and was honorably discharged in 1960 with the rank of Petty Officer, 3rd Class.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Mike began his career as a driller in 1960. He traveled the United States to drill in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Washington, DC, and other locations.

Mike was proud to have participated in the construction of the Rayburn House Office Building in the early 1960s.

Mike returned to California in 1970 to start his own drilling company, Pearson Drilling. Mike was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, and neighbor.

I first met Mike when he was my neighbor in Diamond Bar, California.

We were both in the residential construction field, so we crossed paths many times over the years outside of our neighborhood.

Mike became the stepfather of my Senior Policy Director, Lesli McCollum Gooch, in 2006.

I can tell you first hand what a blessing Mike was for Lesli's mother, Loretta Stevenson, and for their family.

Mike will be sorely missed, but I know his legacy will live on in his family, which includes two children, three stepchildren, and eight grandchildren.

Mike was caring and active in his community, and he shared his passion for the United States, founded in the ideals of liberty and free enterprise, with his family and friends.

Our community was strengthened by his life of service, and our country has been immensely bettered by his patriotism, optimism, and goodness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all of our colleagues in the House to join me in remembering Michael William Pearson, and to honor him for his service to our country and community. We are grateful for the legacy he has left for our nation.

REDUCING EXCESSIVE DEADLINE OBLIGATIONS ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 10, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2279) to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act relating to review of regulations under such Act and to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 relating to financial responsibility for classes of facilities:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2279, which would needlessly complicate efforts to clean up our most dangerous Superfund sites by letting polluters off the hook for cleanup costs and creating conflict and confusion between state and federal law.

One in four Americans lives within three miles of a hazardous waste site, frequently in vulnerable communities. These sites endanger human health, increasing risk for cancer, birth defects, acute poisoning, and injury from fire or explosion. They are also blights in communities—vacant lots and underutilized land that that impede economic development.

Our nations' Superfund law, passed in 1980, gives the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to compel polluters to pay to repair the damage they caused, either by cleaning up themselves or by reimbursing the federal government for its cleanup efforts. The cleanup process requires assessing and ranking sites to prioritize the most hazardous areas, and working with states and private parties to remediate the land.

Today's bill would undermine the requirement that high-polluting industries obtain insurance or post bonds to ensure that areas would be cleaned up if they become Superfund sites, reducing the incentive to limit contamination and sticking taxpayers with the bill if cleanup is necessary. It would prohibit the EPA from enforcing financial responsibility requirements in any state that sets its own rules, even if those rules are inadequate to protect taxpayers. It also confuses federal and state responsibilities on cleanup sites, subjecting federal employees to fines or imprisonment if they fail to comply with state orders even when they conflict with federal law. This confusion will only lead to increased litigation, delay, and wasted resources.

Superfund sites are dangerous threats to public health and economic progress in our most vulnerable communities, and we should be working to make the cleanup process as seamless and efficient as possible. This legislation would hinder that effort, and I urge a no vote.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNEST ARMEN BEDROSIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay to tribute to the life of Ernest Armen Bedrosian who passed away on January 1, 2014 at the age of 80. Ernie had a significant role in the raisin industry, and his advocacy on behalf of farmers throughout California will undoubtedly be missed.

Ernie grew up in Parlier, California with his two brothers; Krikor and Kenneth, and his sister, Clara. His parents, Murad and Elizabeth, were first generation immigrants who survived the Armenian Genocide. Growing up in an immigrant family with strong parents, Ernie quickly developed great values and principles.

In 1955, Ernie graduated from Fresno State College with a Bachelor's Degree in agriculture. Upon graduation, he joined the United States Army and became a food specialist. A year into his service, Ernie married the love of his life, Carlotta Ketchian. They raised two children; Bryan and Tammy.

In 1958, Ernie completed his time with the Army and went back to work on his family farm. Ernie and his brothers began a grape harvesting business, and in his spare time, Ernie served on various raisin boards and met stakeholders who farmed throughout the Valley. In 1966, he formed the Raisin Bargaining Association (RBA). Ernie served as the first president of the RBA and guided the association through its early years. Today, the RBA is the most successful and largest raisin bargaining association in the country.

While Ernie was establishing the RBA, he and his brothers were also expanding their farming operation. In 1967, they decided to go into the raisin packing business and opened National Raisin Company (NRC). The Bedrosian brothers and their partner Harry Rustigian developed the "Champion" brand. Ernie served as the president and was responsible for sales and daily operations. The NRC had a strong beginning and decades later, it still continues to prosper. It is the largest independent raisin, prune, and dried fruit operation in the world.

It is obvious that Ernie was an extremely successful businessman, but he never took full responsibility for his accomplishments. He attributed his success to Carlotta and his sister in-laws; Katherine and Jane, who served as a support system to the Bedrosian brothers while they were forming their business. Ernie loved the raisin industry, but family always came first. He was a loving and devoted husband and a supportive father. He also enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren; Corney, Tyler, Armen, and Lillian.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Ernest Armen Bedrosian. His presence will be greatly missed, but his legacy will surely live on in the Central Valley.

HONORING CITY OF HOPE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, U.S. Representatives, JUDY CHU and ADAM SCHIFF, to congratulate the City of Hope on the 100th anniversary of their first patient served and to thank Dr. Michael Friedman for his 10 years as Chief Executive Officer.

City of Hope started from humble beginnings in the San Gabriel Valley. Founded by a group of volunteers to treat tuberculosis patients in two large army tents on a 10-acre lot in Duarte, California in 1913, City of Hope has since grown to become a world-class health care facility that includes more than 100 buildings and is still growing.

Today, City of Hope is a leader in medical discovery. As one of 41 comprehensive cancer research centers in the United States, City

of Hope has been credited with developing over 200 patents with 3 of the top-selling cancer drugs on the market being based on discoveries from their laboratories. This institution is also a pioneer in the field of bone marrow transplantation with over 11,000 bone-marrow transplants performed since the institution's creation.

Under the leadership of Dr. Michael Friedman as Chief Executive Officer, City of Hope has entrenched itself as a scientific and medical institution of national renown. Throughout his 10 years as CEO, Dr. Friedman has maintained and expanded one of the largest and most successful cancer research and treatment institutions in the country. On Saturday, January 11th I have the honor of attending a gala on the 100th anniversary of City of Hope's first patient to recognize Dr. Friedman, his successor Ronald W. Stone, and Chairman of City of Hope's Board of Directors Norm Payson.

Mr. Speaker, Representatives CHU, SCHIFF and I ask all Members to join us in celebrating the centennial anniversary of City Hope's first patient and recognizing Dr. Michael Friedman for his service.

HONORING ALBERT ''AL'' LITTLE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an innovator of the community, Mr. Albert ''Al'' Little and Al's Flower Shop.

Albert, a native of Yazoo City, Mississippi, decided to return to Yazoo County, MS after living in Chicago for 40 years, where he worked in real estate. Upon retirement Al decided that Chicago was too cold and decided to make a change.

After returning to Yazoo City in 1995, Al worked with Mary Anderson, who handled landscaping for the city. Mr. Little credits Mary for teaching him about plants and flowers. Al is the owner of Al's Flower Shop located on Broadway in Yazoo City, Mississippi.

Inside the shop, the static clears and the antique radio picks up some lively tune from the 1930s. ''This business is really just a fun hobby to me. I love doing it, and that's all there is to tell.'' says Al Little.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Albert ''Al'' Little for giving back to the community in which he was born.

TRIBUTE TO GRANDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students at Cherry Creek School District's Grandview High School for their victory in the Classroom Law Project's We The People competition on December 16, 2013. Grandview will now move on to Washington, DC, where they will represent the great State of Colorado in the national contest.

The knowledge of democracy and the Constitution demonstrated by these young men and women is inspiring. It always encourages me when younger generations take an interest in government and I am privileged to represent these bright young students in the House of Representatives.

This team has studied hard and I look forward to seeing them compete for our home state. I am certain they will represent Colorado well in the national competition and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Grayson Abele, Sofia Carrillo, William Coleman, Cierra Cowden, Samuel Ehrhard, Jacob Fogleman, Selamawit Gashaw, Renee Hansen, Tae Woo Kim, Emily Neff, Khoa Nguyen, Riley Purnell, Margeaux Reed, Paul Salame, Jordan Shank, John-Rudolph Smith, Zachary Talpas, Ande Troutman, and Jonathan Woronoff for their achievement at the Colorado State We The People competition and to wish them the best of luck at the national level.

HONORING JACKSON-HINDS COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Central Mississippi Civic Improvement Association, Inc. (CMCIA), d/b/a Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center. It was incorporated in October 1970 as a nonprofit 501c(3) organization to engage in planning and development of comprehensive health services for residents of poor, largely non-white, communities in Jackson, Mississippi and surrounding areas.

Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center (JHCHC) is the largest community health center in Mississippi. Since its inception, JHCHC has grown from a ''one-bus-and-Sunday school-classroom'' operation to become a multi-site, multi-disciplinary provider of health services in Hinds, Warren, and Copiah counties. Jackson-Hinds is one of only two federally qualified health centers (FQHC) in the state operating a clinic for the homeless and the only FQHC operating a HUD housing complex for low-income elderly and disabled residents.

A seventeen-member Board of Directors governs JHCHC. Its members represent civic and religious organizations, homeless persons, homemakers and residents of medically underserved communities that utilize center services and programs. Throughout its thirty-two year history, the Board of Directors, management and staff of JHCHC have delivered services consistent with its mission statement: To provide low cost, quality, family-based health care and social services to people who may not otherwise have access to them.

A $16 million per year operation, JHCHC has an annual economic impact of approximately $32 million on the community. It employs over 180 health professionals throughout its three county service area, purchases goods and services from many local vendors and suppliers and serves as a training site for undergraduate and graduate students in various health care disciplines. Furthermore, JHCHC saves community resources by providing patients with more effective, cost-efficient care and reducing inappropriate use of local emergency rooms.

As the largest provider of primary health care services to the poor, uninsured and underserved population in central Mississippi, the prime objective of JHCHC is to eliminate disparities in health care access for these groups, which often fall between the gaps of private insurance and personal income.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center for their dedication to serving.

HONORING DAVID R. WHITMER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Whitmer upon his retirement as Agriculture Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures for Napa County. I thank Mr. Whitmer for his thirty-three years of dedicated service to the people of Napa County, during which time his support for agriculture in Napa Valley and the State of California is both admirable and deserving of recognition.

Mr. Whitmer was born and raised in Napa Valley. He attended Napa Valley College before transferring to California State University, Chico, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Biology. He returned to Napa, where he served the county for thirty-three years, including five four-year terms as Agriculture Commissioner.

As Agriculture Commissioner, Mr. Whitmer worked to protect local crops from invasive species, including the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, a major carrier of Pierce's disease. When the European Grapevine Moth was discovered in Napa County in 2009, Mr. Whitmer worked with state, federal and international partners to detect, treat and quarantine the threat. For his efforts, he was awarded the first-ever ''Special Achievement-Manager Award'' from the California Agriculture Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA). During his years of service, Mr. Whitmer took on a leadership role with CACASA, where he served as both President and as Chair of the Pesticide Regulatory Affairs Committee and the Legislation Committee. Now that he has retired, Mr. Whitmer plans to work with Circles USA, a national campaign to combat poverty.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Mr. Whitmer for his invaluable service to the County of Napa. David Whitmer's unyielding dedication to protecting and promoting agriculture in Napa Valley is greatly appreciated by the entire Napa community and we wish him a most enjoyable retirement.

HONORING CHESTER H. STANFORD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a challenge-oriented

young man who understands that it takes tenacity and self reliance to reach the highest success, Mr. Chester H. Stanford.

Chester H. Stanford was born November 26, 1995 in Chicago, IL to proud parents Travis and Nora Stanford. He attended St. Elizabeth Catholic School in Chicago, IL for two years in kindergarten and first grade. It is this institution that he credits for giving him an advanced perspective of what knowledge is and what can be done to obtain it.

In September 2003 Chester and his mother relocated to Vicksburg, MS to care for his grandmother. Chester believes the responsibility of caring for his grandmother in the absence of his mother is what taught him to care for others, which in turn made him want to do all he can to help the next person.

Chester is a member of the Vicksburg High School JROTC, which he credits for molding his character. Chester has climbed the ranks in JROTC. Starting his freshman year, he went from being a Cadet Private to Cadet Corporal his sophomore year; he progressed from Cadet Corporal to Cadet Second Lieutenant and gained the position of the Battalion Training Officer.

Currently, during his junior year, he progressed from Cadet Second Lieutenant to Cadet Captain. Through this program he has learned what service truly is. He has participated in and led several community service events at nursing homes, community events, and elementary schools. He has also participated in charity events for the local Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Center through the Culinary Arts Program, through which he, along with 20 other students, prepared thousands of hot meals that were sold to gain money for the organization.

Chester credits his mother for being the backbone of the family and directing his path. His motto is, ''that all things can be done through the love and service of your fellow man.''

Chester is a member of Mt. Carmel M. B. Church where he has served as secretary of the Sunday School Department since 2008 and in 2011 became a Sunday School teacher.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Chester H. Stanford for his hard work, dedication and a strong desire to achieve through adversity.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SILVERDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, we are proud to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Silverdale Volunteer Fire Co. and commend the early founders and today's volunteers for contributing to the safety and protection of their neighbors from one generation to the next. The Silverdale Volunteer Fire Co. has prevailed as a well-trained, dedicated company of first responders. In November 1914, a fire in a local bakery was the impetus for the formation of the first volunteer fire company in the small borough of Silverdale, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The new company's first fire call came on Aug. 8, 1915—a result of a lightning strike at a farmer's barn. Since then, many Silverdale residents demonstrated their dedication through involvement with the company, helping it grow along with their thriving community. Heartiest congratulations to the officers and members of the Silverdale Volunteer Fire Co., who continue to safeguard the community around the clock, reflecting a century of public service at its best.

HONORING JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable school, Jackson State University, that is located in Jackson, Mississippi. Jackson State University was founded in 1877, becoming a college in 1899, and is a historically black institution. It was granted university status in 1974. The University now awards Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral Degrees. It is a Carnegie Doctoral/Research-Intensive institution.

Jackson State University is known as ''Mississippi's Urban University.'' It operates the Mississippi Urban Research Center, which ''develops and offers instructional programs, forums, conferences and workshops on urban life.'' Although this is not the mission statement of the University, the University's degree programs are largely in areas which have some bearing on urban life, such as public health, business, education, engineering, and public administration. Some of the liberal arts are represented, but largely the traditional ones such as English, Chemistry, Political Science and Mathematics.

Jackson State was founded in 1877 as Natchez Seminary by the American Baptist Home Society. The State of Mississippi gained control of the college in 1940 in order to train teachers. The University's current name was adopted in 1979.

The University is composed of ten different colleges and divisions: the College of Education and Human Development; the College of Business; the College of Public Service; the College of Science, Engineering, and Technical Arts; the College of Liberal Arts; the College of Lifelong Learning; and the Divisions of Graduate Studies, International Studies, and Undergraduate Studies.

There are seven undergraduate schools within the Colleges. Bachelor's Degrees are awarded in the Schools of Allied Health Sciences, Business, Education, Engineering, Liberal Arts, Science and Technology and Social Work. Graduate degrees are awarded in Allied Health, Business, Education, eleven Liberal Arts areas (including Public Policy and Administration and Urban and Regional Planning), Science and Technology, and Social Work. The school awards Doctoral Degrees in nine areas. The Education Specialist (Ed.S.) Degree is also awarded. Jackson State houses the College of Business, Education and Human Development, Liberal Arts, Lifelong Learning, Public Service, and Science, Engineering and Technology. Also available are the Divisions of International Studies, Library and Information Resources, and Undergraduate Studies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jackson State University for their dedication to serving.

IN MEMORIAN: GENERAL BEN GARRIDO BLAZ

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands extend their condolences to the people of Guam on the passing of their former Delegate to Congress, General Ben Garrido Blaz.

Especially, we extend our sympathies to his sons, Mike and Tom, and to all of General Blaz's family for their great loss.

Ben Blaz was a trailblazer for all the Chamorros of the Mariana Islands, the first of us ever to rise to the rank of General in the U.S. Armed Forces.

And he served here from the 99th to the 102nd Congresses, often looking out for the interests of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, whom I represent, as well as for his own constituency in Guam.

Beyond those professional accomplishments, Ben Blaz was a warm and caring man.

He was knowledgeable about policy, committed to finding solutions, and in his passing, the Marianas have lost an important leader.

The people of the Northern Mariana Islands share the sadness of our friends and neighbors in Guam.

And I thank Ms. BORDALLO for bringing us together here this afternoon to salute General Ben Garrido Blaz.

May he rest in peace.

SAVE WOMEN'S LIVES: COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, January 11, is Human Trafficking Awareness Day—a day on which we remember that more than 20 million human beings toil and suffer as slaves across the globe. A day to rededicate ourselves to creating an environment of zero tolerance for human trafficking in all its forms.

When I first introduced the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 1998, the legislation was met with a wall of skepticism and opposition. People both inside of government and out thought the bold new strategy that included sheltering, asylum and other protections for the victims, long jail sentences and asset confiscation for the traffickers, and tough sanctions for governments that failed to meet minimum standards, was merely a solution in search of a problem.

For most people at that time, the term trafficking applied almost exclusively to illicit drugs or weapons. Reports of vulnerable persons—especially women and children—being reduced to commodities for sale were often met with surprise, incredulity or indifference. It

took two years to overcome opponents and muster the votes for passage.

Now, after the enactment of my Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (P.L. 106–386), and subsequent reauthorizations of the original landmark law, we see strong efforts to fight trafficking at both the federal and state level.

This year New Jersey ranked first in the country—with one other state—for enacting aggressive anti-human trafficking laws—i.e. we are leading the nation both on helping the trafficking victims, who are mostly women and children, and on cracking down on the thugs who coerce them into this modern day slavery.

Being first in the nation is a distinction of which New Jersey can be proud especially as we apply our strong anti-trafficking laws for Super Bowl XLVIII.

Along with welcoming enthusiastic fans, New Jersey is also preparing for an influx of traffickers who will bring with them trafficking victims in an attempt to cash in on the Super Bowl crowds.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reports that more than 10,000 prostituted women and girls were moved to Miami for the Super Bowl in 2010.

According to Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, the Super Bowl can be described as ''the single largest human trafficking incident in the United States.'' A 2011 study conducted by Traffick911 with law enforcement agencies found that online escort ads increased dramatically in Dallas from 135 in mid-January to 367 as the Super Bowl approached. One hundred thirty three arrests were made for underage prostitution (a key indicator for trafficking) in Dallas during the Super Bowl 2011.

Capt. Doug Cain, Louisiana State Police spokesman, said after the 2013 Super Bowl in New Orleans, ''Any time you have a large influx of tourists in town and they're spending a lot of money, there's a criminal element that moves in to take advantage of that.''

In light of this history, New Jersey's location on the I–95 corridor, and easy access to bus stations, trains and airports, the state can expect to be a target for an influx of prostituted women and girls at Super Bowl XLVIII. Still, if New Jersey properly prepares and trains—promoting ''situational awareness''—it can undercut traffickers and help save their victims.

For several years now, I have pushed efforts to enhance training not only for law enforcement but for tourism personnel such as hospitality industry workers and transportation operators—bus drivers and station operators, train conductors, taxi drivers, trucking associations, and airline industry personnel.

In 2010, I chaired a conference—focused on the airline industry—bringing together the relevant U.S. agencies, such as Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), various U.S. airlines, and nongovernmental organizations—to train commercial carrier employees in the identification of trafficking victims.

Best estimates show that every year 600,000 to 800,000 trafficking victims are moved across international borders. Millions more victims are moved within national borders. Speakers at my conference explained how flight attendants were the ''first line of defense'' in the fight against human trafficking.

The federal government has responded with the Blue Lightning Initiative—a voluntary training program in which airlines can collaborate with the Departments of Transportation and Homeland Security and the CBP. They work together to help train flight crews and airline personnel about common signs of human trafficking and how they can safely report suspected human trafficking cases.

With minimal modifications, the training is easily adaptable to professionals in other transportation industries as well as workers in the hotel industry.

The New Jersey Human Trafficking Task Force, which was originally launched and funded through a program created by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and its reauthorizations, is the key anti-trafficking coordinating agency for New Jersey. In anticipation of the Super Bowl, the Task Force has taken a hands-on approach expanding the reach of New Jersey's anti-human trafficking law enforcement unit as well as victim services.

They have also increased print and electronic public service announcements and training programs and symposiums for law enforcement officials, health care workers, lawyers, transportation workers and hoteliers.

The New Jersey Department of Homeland Security and Preparedness has also stepped up to combat trafficking at the Super Bowl, distributing flyers to EMS, fire department, law enforcement, and other emergency care professions so that these front line professionals will know when to be concerned that someone is a trafficking victims and how to respond appropriately.

By the end of January, New Jersey is expected to have thousands of law enforcement personnel and civilians with the goal of not only ramping up New Jersey's anti-trafficking efforts for the Super Bowl, but using the event to fully institutionalize reforms going forward—so that more women and children will be protected in the future.

This concept has proven straightforward, effective—and it is catching on. In December, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which is made up of 57 countries from Europe and North America, endorsed my plan to make anti-trafficking training for airline employees, other public and commercial carriers, as well as hotel workers a primary goal in the international strategy to combat human trafficking. In an earlier session, the OSCE parliamentary assembly adopted my resolution to implement such trainings in each member country.

Any country that competes to host the next major sporting event must be fully aware of the human trafficking vulnerabilities associated with such events and the best practices for protecting and rescuing the victims. The Super Bowl—and every other major sporting event worldwide—should not have a dark side of human trafficking, plain and simple.

This year, let us mark Human Trafficking Awareness Day by remembering that trafficking awareness training for individuals likely to interact with trafficking victims in their daily jobs—and being aware ourselves—can create an environment of zero tolerance for human trafficking. Awareness can and will save lives.

HONORING CANDACE WINDOM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a self motivated leader and innovator of the community, Ms. Candace Windom and Miyori's Massage.

Born and raised in Rolling Fork, Candace graduated from South Delta High School and completed her studies in massage therapy at Antonelli College in July 2012. She earned her license as a state board certified therapist shortly after.

In late January 2013 Candace was hired as the only full-time massage therapist at Harlow's Casino in Greenville, Mississippi. At the age of 26, Candace opened the doors to Miyori's Massage at 133 Walnut Street in July 2013.

Miyori's Massage offers a wide variety of massage techniques. ''This is my hometown,'' Windom said, ''I want to give back to my community and bring something here we've never really had.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Candace Windom for giving back to the community in which she was born and reared.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, January 13, 2014.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 13 public bills, H.R. 3841–3853; and 2 resolutions, H.J. Res. 106; and H. Res. 456 were introduced.

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Additional Cosponsors: **Page H163**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act of 2014: The House passed H.R. 3811, to require notification of individuals of breaches of personally identifiable information through Exchanges under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, by a yea-and-nay vote of 291 yeas to 122 nays, Roll No. 11. **Pages H139–50**

H. Res. 455, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2279), (H.R. 3362), and (H.R. 3811), was agreed to yesterday, January 9th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, January 13th at 12 noon for Morning Hour Debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business. **Page H152**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H149–50 . There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Committee Meetings

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled "The Science Behind Discovery: Seismic Exploration and the Future of the Atlantic OCS". Testimony was heard from Walter Cruickshank, Deputy Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of Interior; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

Employment Situation

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the employment situation for December 2013, after receiving testimony from Erica L. Groshen, Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, markup on H.R. 3826, the "Electricity Security and Affordability Act", 4 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, January 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of S. 1845, Unemployment Benefits Extension. The filing deadline for first-degree amendments to the bill is 3 p.m., and the filing deadline for second-degree amendments to Reid (for Reed) Amendment No. 2631 to the bill, is 4:30 p.m.

At 5 p.m., Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Robert Leon Wilkins, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Robert Leon Wilkins, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Reid (for Reed) Amendment No. 2631 to S. 1845, Unemployment Benefits Extension.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 p.m., Monday, January 13

House Chamber

Program for Monday: Consideration of the following measures under suspension of the rules: (1) H.R. 1513—To revise the boundaries of the Gettysburg National Military Park to include the Gettysburg Train Station and certain land along Plum Run in Cumberland Township, to limit the means by which property within such revised boundaries may be acquired; (2) S. 230—A bill to authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; and (3) H.R. 841—To amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes, as amended.

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