

know if she will ever be a U.S. Senator when she is eligible to run in 20 or 30 years, but I will tell you one thing I am pretty sure of: in less than 10 years, she will be old enough to vote, and her older siblings, even sooner than that.

Madam Speaker, do you think she will remember which party prevented reform or threatened to sue the President if he spared her dad from deportation?

Take a look at the picture. Republicans, they are hoping the dad gets deported and the mom never becomes a citizen; but the poor children are Americans already and will someday have a vote and, from the looks of it, will be voting for decades to come. I suggest, Madam Speaker, you do the math.

JOBS BILLS STYMIED IN THE SENATE

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

Mr. MARINO. Madam Speaker, earlier this week, our friends on the other side of the Capitol, the Democrats, burned the midnight oil in a strange effort to call attention to global warming. Unfortunately, for some of our friends in the Senate, hot air from the Chamber will not bring down the temperature in our atmosphere.

Instead of stoking the rhetorical flames through hours of meaningless grandstanding, I hope the Democrat Senate will use some of its time to hotline the critical job-creating bills that have been put on ice on HARRY REID's desk.

Madam Speaker, our constituents don't want to be left out in the cold. We need action today on bills to create jobs.

Madam Speaker, I hope Members of this body will join me and hold the Democrat Senate's feet to the fire by calling on them to pass bills that will refire America's economic engine.

TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT ACT

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, nearly 4 years ago, I stood in this Chamber and talked about a deficit that was chipping away at our government. No, it wasn't the fiscal deficit, though that certainly is weighing us down; rather I warned of the deficit of trust that has caused the American people to lose faith in government and, quite simply, give up on Washington.

Back then, stories of scandals and ethics violations led nightly newscasts, and trust in government was at an all-time low of just 19 percent. Now, 4 years later, trust in government is still at 19 percent, though Congress' rating has dropped even lower, to 9 percent in recent polls. I regret to say that little

has changed, including our efforts to rebuild that trust.

If Illinois politics has taught me anything, it is very hard to lead without that trust, and the only way to earn it back is to increase transparency and openness throughout our government. As Justice Brandeis said, Sunlight is the best of disinfectants.

That is why I am introducing the Transparency in Government Act, which will shine a light on every branch of the Federal Government, strengthening our democracy, and promoting an efficient, effective, and open government because the fact is that the mission of government matters.

What we do here in this Chamber matters, so much so that it is written in the very bedrock of American Government. We have been sent here to form a more perfect union, to promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, but how we execute this mission matters.

The Transparency in Government Act utilizes 21st century technology to expand access to information, strengthen oversight of Federal spending, increase disclosures from both lawmakers and lobbyists, and improve judicial transparency.

The TGA will bring unprecedented accountability to the Federal Government and empower everyday citizens to be the government's best watchdog.

American taxpayers have a right to know how their hard-earned dollars are being spent, so TGA requires Members of Congress to post their official expenditures online, allowing every constituent to scrutinize their Representative's office budgets and spending reports.

It also requires Members to be up front about their personal finances, providing greater details about foreign travel and gifts; and when it comes to knowing who is working to influence the legislative process, the TGA establishes new definitions for lobbyists and stricter rules governing how and with whom they meet.

This bill also ensures Americans have access to the same expert nonpartisan information that shapes the policy decisions we make every day. It makes taxpayer-funded reports available for free to the public and requires all committees to make public hearing schedules, witness testimony, and even transcripts and recordings available online.

In the executive branch, the TGA requires clear and prominent disclosure when communications and advertising are sponsored using Federal funds; and it improves access to visitor logs for the White House and agency heads, so we know who is meeting with our Nation's highest leaders.

It strengthens the Freedom of Information Act, requiring agencies to put all completed FOIA requests online in a format that is searchable, sortable, and downloadable, and ensures that all agencies utilize the Web site FOIAonline to log, track, and publish requests.

Finally, the TGA calls for the judiciary branch to meet similar financial disclosure requirements that are already applied to the executive and legislative branches and make those disclosure statements publicly available online for anyone to review.

For the first time, this bill inscribes into law the public's right to hear oral arguments in the Supreme Court as they are delivered; and in an effort to use 21st century technologies, this legislation calls for a study on using live-stream video to air Supreme Court proceedings.

These are just a few of the bill's many reforms that will pull our government out of the past and modernize public access to information. The Transparency in Government Act has ambitious goals, but these reforms are no less than what our constituents expect and deserve.

It has been 4 years since I first introduced this bill, and we can't waste another minute allowing the status quo to erode Americans' faith in government. The time to act is now.

Let's usher in a new era of open government, win back the people's trust, and prove to our constituents that we are worthy of the responsibility we have been entrusted with.

PRESIDENT OBAMA IS DIFFERENT THAN SENATOR OBAMA

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, 2014 started out the exact way President Obama wanted. Over \$2 trillion of more debt piled upon our kids and grandkids. President Obama is very different than Senator Obama. These are the Senator's words on the Senate floor March 16, 2006:

The fact that we are here today to debate raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. It is a sign that the U.S. Government can't pay its own bills. It is a sign that we now depend on ongoing financial assistance from foreign countries to finance our government's reckless fiscal policies.

Over the past 5 years, our Federal debt has increased by \$3.5 trillion to \$8.6 trillion. That is trillion with a t. That is money that we have borrowed from the Social Security trust fund, borrowed from China and Japan, borrowed from American taxpayers.

Numbers that large are sometimes hard to understand. Some people may wonder why they matter. Here is why: This year, the Federal Government will spend \$220 billion on interest.

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Senator Obama later explained:

That is more money to pay interest on our debt this year than we will spend on education, homeland security, transportation, and veterans' benefits combined.

After talking about Hurricane Katrina, Senator Obama shifted to the debt tax:

And the cost of our debt is one of the fastest growing expenses in the Federal budget. This rising debt is a hidden domestic enemy, robbing our cities and States of critical investments in infrastructure like bridges,

ports, and levees; robbing our families and our children of critical investments in education and health care reform; robbing our seniors of the retirement and health security they have counted on.

Every dollar we pay in interest is a dollar that is not going to investment in America's priorities. Instead, interest payments are a significant tax on all Americans—a debt tax that Washington doesn't want to talk about.

Senator Obama finally brought up our debt to unfriendly nations:

Now, there is nothing wrong with borrowing from foreign countries. But we must remember that the more we depend on foreign nations to lend us money, the more our economic security is tied to the whims of foreign leaders whose interests might not be aligned with ours.

Increasing America's debt weakens us domestically and internationally. Leadership means that "the buck stops here." Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better.

I therefore intend to oppose the effort to increase America's debt limit.

Today, America's debt is over \$18 trillion—with a t. Clearly, President Obama has forgotten Senator Obama's words. But the American people remember, and on their behalf, I ask President Obama to decrease our debt by working with Congress to end the debt tax by growing our economy and shipping American natural gas to friendly countries like Ukraine, like India, like Japan, and like South Korea.

WELCOMING ENDA KENNY TO CAPITOL HILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MESSER). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, as the world prepares to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and this afternoon we welcome the Irish Prime Minister of the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, here to the Capitol, I want to pause for a moment to recognize the anniversary of a pivotal event in the peace process in the north of Ireland.

Twenty years ago, against the advice of his own State Department, President Bill Clinton granted a visa to the leader of Sinn Fein and its president, Gerry Adams, to visit the United States. It was at the time an unpopular decision, but history has proven it to be a catalyst for the peace process which, again, has proved to be most durable. It helped to bring an end to the longest standing political dispute in the history of the Western World. Simply put, Bill Clinton took an extraordinary risk that has paid huge dividends.

I was one of a handful of Members of Congress at the time who urged President Clinton to approve the visa. When Gerry Adams arrived in the United States after stopping in Boston, he made his way to my hometown of Springfield, Massachusetts, and ad-

ressed a core group of thousands at the John Boyle O'Reilly Club, and he thanked them for their support.

During his campaign for President, we had urged then-candidate Clinton to make peace in the island of Ireland a top foreign policy priority if he was to be elected. After his inauguration, to our great and pleasant surprise, he sent his National Security Adviser at the time, Tony Lake, to Capitol Hill to tell us that they were to elevate Ireland to the same category of priority as the Middle East.

A year later, on January 31 of 1994, the visa was issued to Gerry Adams, and the American dimension to the Irish peace process was born. Fourteen years later, the Good Friday Agreement was signed, and a society in the north of Ireland was transformed overnight.

On the night that Mr. Clinton offered that visa—it was one of the more memorable events in my career—I defended the Clinton administration that night on the BBC's Newsnight Hour, which would be the equivalent of Nightline here in America. I debated the leader of the UUP, Ken Maginnis.

Later today, I am hosting a briefing with Gerry Adams and the Congressional Friends of Ireland, and I urge our friends to visit with him if they can, and later on to meet the Irish Prime Minister at 3:30 this afternoon.

When we contrast where America and Ireland were in this special relationship that dates back three centuries, it is important to recall what it looked like in the north of Ireland 30 years ago. There were 30,000 British soldiers in an area the size of the State of Connecticut. There was a police force that held the position that nationalists need not apply—the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The British soldiers are gone and the Royal Ulster Constabulary are gone today. The watchtowers that monitored the activities largely of the nationalist community have been taken down, and you can cross from Derry to Donegal without knowing that you have moved from the north of Ireland to the Republic of Ireland or through Newry and County Down, as well, without being stopped, searched, and, in some instances, being frisked by British soldiers.

America's role in bringing about this success story provides an argument for the reach and the role of the United States in addressing some of the most difficult issues in the world. Ireland represented the longest standing political dispute in the history of the Western World, and America's role was pivotal to helping make that change. That model has become, today, something that could be emulated worldwide, and, in fact, the people who participated travel the world to talk about how they found common ground and a path forward.

There is a representative democracy in Belfast today in what is known as Stormont, where parties sit some days in disagreement and other days in

agreement, but always with the idea that they are in charge of their own destiny and their own future. That is the genius of representative democracy.

I call attention to this issue today because of many of the stubborn problems that plague the world, with the understanding that men and women of good will in the crucible of politics can indeed chart a path forward, and not to miss the fact that it was still the risk-taking of the Clinton administration that took up the notion that the nationalist voice on the island of Ireland and in the north of Ireland and six small counties should be heard, and today the result is all around us.

So as the political parties visit on the eve of St. Patrick's Day all across the island of Ireland, we can satisfy ourselves with this achievement: the notion, once again, that good will and understanding the other side's arguments can, in fact, be heralded in the sense of achievement, but also, again, in the Stormont government that has been duly elected.

So, today, we in America take great satisfaction as to the role our men and women played in bringing about this success story and also to recognize something on a personal basis. I and many others here were allowed to participate in all of these "it can never happen" moments. Thanks, America, for help, once again, in leading the way.

CONCERNS OF INADEQUATE CBP STAFFING AT MIAMI INTER- NATIONAL AIRPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a great sense of urgency over the critical need to have more Customs and Border Protection officers at Miami International Airport, known as MIA. MIA, which I humbly represent, is not only the busiest airport in the State of Florida, but it is also the second largest international gateway in the Nation. In fact, international passenger traffic at MIA has steadily grown over the last few years far more than any other U.S. international gateway. However, the insufficient Customs and Border Protection officers, known as CBP, staffing levels at MIA pose a threat to this welcome growth of travel and tourism into our country.

Passengers are experiencing long wait times for immigration and customs processing. For example, just a few days ago, last Wednesday, the 7,681 passengers who arrived at the Federal Inspection Service at MIA's North Terminal were held in line for more than 2 hours. Out of the 72 lanes available to assist passengers, only 20 were open. And there is only one simple explanation for this problem. CBP staffing does not meet the numbers needed for