

Madam Speaker, almost a year with no serious movement forward on immigration reform in the House, I am beginning to wonder whether Republicans will get serious about immigration before they run out of time. Well, I want to be helpful, so I have done a little calculating. Including today, we have 34 legislative days before the July 4 recess.

Madam Speaker, let's be honest. If Republicans have not gotten an immigration bill seriously rolling down the tracks by the time we break for Independence Day, Republicans might as well just fold up the tent they are always talking about. One thing is for sure: Republicans won't be pitching a tent at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue any time soon.

I talk to Republicans, and they know the truth: if Republicans don't work with Democrats and bring an immigration bill to the floor, they are giving up on a chance to stand for justice, a sense of peace, and fairness for immigrants until after the 2016 Presidential election. That means Republicans will have to head into the 2016 Presidential election as the party that blocked immigration reform that would have finally brought justice to immigrant communities across our Nation. You will have said "no" to the dreams of DREAMers and "no" to millions of families and "no" to communities in every city across our country.

Oh, and, Madam Speaker, if you think the Republican Party alone controls the future of 11 million undocumented immigrants, you will be sadly disappointed. If you don't act in the next 34 days, if you refuse to give the President a bill he can sign because you say you don't trust him to enforce immigration law even though he has spent more money and deported more people than any President before him, I believe he will act without you.

He has alternatives under existing law. There are concrete ways within existing laws to help keep families together and spare U.S. citizens from losing their wives, their husbands, and their children to deportation in spite of your lack of action, and I believe the President is going to use those tools. I saw it in his eyes when I met with him. He didn't run for office so that he could deport 2 million people and put thousands of American children in foster care. He is heartbroken by the pain deportation has caused.

Do you think he will simply sit by and do nothing because you refuse to act? The Republicans threaten lawsuits and even impeachment if the President acts to spare American families being broken apart by deportation; but this President will act if you refuse to, and the country will rally behind him because that is what Americans do in the face of humanitarian crisis.

The Republicans threaten to impeach the President? What is new, Madam Speaker? Look, you have got to remember, for the first 3 or 4 years he was President, leaders in the Repub-

lican Party—I mean Presidential candidates and entire cable TV networks—questioned the President's own immigration status. We had "birthers" denying the President was born in America. They questioned whether he was an undocumented immigrant himself. They demanded to see his papers. Now we have "deportation deniers" falsely suggesting President Obama is not enforcing the law. Oh, he is really not deporting people, they say. That is all fake, something Obama, Univision, and Telemundo cooked up.

The President knows the kind of pain that congressional inaction has caused for families and children.

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The President wants to be an emancipator, not a deporter, and he will act if he has to. If you give him no choice, this President is going to take charge himself, as well he should.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, we offer a lifeline to the Republicans. Let's work together to pass a bill before the President, faced with no other choice, takes action himself. You have 34 legislative days left until July 4, and you had better make good use of them. The American people are waiting.

SUPPORTING AUTISM AWARENESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Autism Awareness Month. April is Autism Awareness Month, and today, April 2, is Autism Awareness Day.

Autism is serious. It does not discriminate. People in all racial, socioeconomic, and ethnic groups are impacted. One in 68 children is diagnosed with autism. Let me say it again: one in 68 children. This is a very disturbing statistic.

Mr. Speaker, Florida has a lot of great programs and resources for individuals with autism. The Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities, or CARD, all across the State of Florida will be offering resources and awareness month activities. The Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism pairs teachers and schools with a professional from one of the many CARDS across Florida to assist students with autism. This program's motto is to "provide quality educational programs to students with autism spectrum disorders."

It is the graciousness and generosity of organizations like these and of the individuals involved with them that help in the fight against autism. It is important to raise awareness. It is important to provide programs to assist children and adults with disorders on the autism spectrum. Ultimately, through groups like these and through public and private partnerships, we can continue to work towards a cure.

I am committed to this cause, and I encourage my fellow Members on both

sides of the aisle to get involved. This is an issue that truly overcomes partisan lines. The Light It Up Blue campaign draws awareness for autism as well. Today, thousands of businesses and landmarks will be lit blue. Together, we can shine the light on autism.

ANTHONY P. "TONY" REARDON

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Anthony P. "Tony" Reardon, Deputy Director of Legislative Liaison for the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force. A command navigator from West Palm Beach, Florida, with 1,700 flying hours in the RF-4C, Tony Reardon has excelled both in the cockpit and at the Pentagon. I want to offer him my congratulations on his recent selection as Director of Strategy, Resources and Integration for the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs.

This recent promotion is no surprise to anyone who knows Tony. Throughout his life, he has displayed exceptional leadership and judgment. He graduated in 1977 from Forest Hill High School in West Palm Beach, and even then he was known for his intelligence, his loyalty, and his integrity. He was a drummer in the marching band, a pitcher for the baseball team, and a participant in the American Legion Boys State program, which encourages young people to grow into engaged and responsible citizens.

After graduating from Florida State University in 1981, Tony was selected to attend undergraduate navigator training at Mather Air Force Base in California. He quickly garnered the role of RF-4C instructor weapon systems officer in the 12th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron at Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas. Tony's talents were needed on the front lines of the cold war, and he was reassigned to Zweibrucken Air Base in Germany. Following the end of the cold war, Tony was transferred back to Bergstrom, where he continued to pass his wealth of knowledge and experience on to the next generation of weapon systems officers.

Realizing his talent for leadership, his commander transferred him to Air Combat Command Headquarters at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, where he excelled in the Plans and Programs Directorate. After a successful tour, he was once again sent overseas, this time as an air liaison officer at Camp Red Cloud, Korea. Later, he was assigned to Pacific Air Forces Headquarters, returning to the Plans and Programs Directorate at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. After 3 years in Hawaii, he began numerous assignments at Headquarters Air Force at the Pentagon.

As Deputy Director of Legislative Liaison for the Office of the Secretary of