

Right now, I think House Republicans are at a crossroads. Many, including the Speaker, I think, want to get the immigration issue resolved before the 2016 elections. They know that the next few weeks offer the only chance Republicans have to both solve a tough American issue and get some of the credit for doing so.

Others are already crouching in their anti-Obama bunkers and want to play it safe this year, regardless of the consequences for the future. Conservative columnist Juan Williams calls this the “trap” Obama is setting for the Republican Party. Williams knows, as I do, that President Obama can act with or without Congress, given the latitude he already has under existing immigration law. Williams wrote in Roll Call:

The House’s lack of action could open the door for Obama to take unilateral action on immigration reform.

And I will tell you, he will take unilateral action.

He goes on to state:

The political result would be to make heroes of the President and his congressional allies while leaving Republicans to explain why the Tea Party element in the House refused to deal with the immigration crisis.

He further states:

Such an outcome would cement political loyalty between the growing Latino vote and Democrats. It would also stir the Democrats’ liberal debate for the 2014 midterms.

Williams is right. You have 18 legislative days to write the policy, whip the votes, and pass the bill. That is not a lot of time.

Let us work together to put my 200 Democrats together with 60, 70, or 80 Republicans that we can get on board to get a bill—or a series of bills—passed, and let’s get it done for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest to the Republican majority that they do it for Abraham, they do it for George. Do it for any little boy or any little girl in America who wants to grow up to be a Republican President. But most of all, do it for our country.

BREAKFAST AT THE BELL

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Donna Lombardi, the director of nutrition for the Worcester Public Schools in my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts, for receiving the Healthy Start Leadership Award. This award is being presented by the EOS Foundation, a Massachusetts-based foundation that is committed to expanding universal free breakfasts in the classroom across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I want to thank Donna for her tireless work at the Worcester Public Schools. She is a leader in our efforts to provide quality, nutritious meals to all kids in our school system. She recognizes the critical importance of not

only providing nutritious meals to our kids, but also ensuring that every single child in our school system starts off the day with a healthy, nutritious meal.

The breakfast at the bell plan, where every child would receive a nutritious meal in the classroom after school starts, is an important part of the schoolday and should be implemented in every school across this country. There are two important reasons why universal free breakfasts, or breakfast at the bell, is the right policy for every school to implement.

First, we know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Kids physically and mentally develop better when they eat healthy meals. That is a simple fact. But we also know that kids learn better on a full stomach than they do on empty ones. Hungry kids do not learn. And that breakfast each morning is as essential to their ability to learn as a textbook.

Second, universal breakfast served at the beginning of school ensures that every kid gets to eat and not just the ones who get to school early. It removes a stigma that adults may not recognize but that children feel: it is that feeling that a child is different, that because they are poor, they need to come in early to get the food that they don’t have at home.

Donna Lombardi is a leader in breakfast at the bell, and I am proud of the fact that she is leading Worcester Public Schools in this direction, and I am proud to call her my friend.

Now, unfortunately, not everyone is on the same page. Many school districts and employees are opposed to this idea. There are some who think that it is too onerous on schools, that it creates too much waste, and that it isn’t a good use of time in the morning. I think those are shortsighted excuses, and I am dismayed that there are those who continue to cling to these notions that have been disproven time and time again. We know what works, and we know what doesn’t work; and we know that breakfast at the bell is one of those policies and programs that works.

I want to congratulate the EOS Foundation for its hard work and dedication on this issue.

Most importantly, I want to say that Donna Lombardi is an incredible individual with the passion and talent for providing nutritionally balanced meals for the children of Worcester. Sadly, as in every community in our country, too many of our children go to bed hungry in Worcester. Donna has made it her mission to feed them, to reach them first thing in the morning with a nutritious school breakfast and throughout the day with school snacks, school lunch, after-school meal programs, and summer meals too—school by school, classroom by classroom, child by child. The magnitude of her impact on the lives of thousands of children inspires me and inspires all of us, and I am delighted to congratulate

Donna on this much-deserved recognition.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would say to my colleagues, let us learn from Donna’s example and replicate what works all over this country, and let us be inspired by those who work to end hunger in our country and make that our mission as well. We can end hunger now.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, in New Town, North Dakota, right in the heart of the Bakken oil patch, an elderly woman once told an FBI agent that she knew human trafficking was taking place in her community because she saw young girls taking different men back and forth to various rooms. And when the agent asked the woman for her name so they could investigate, she was too afraid to report it.

The horrific nature of this crime can shock individuals and communities to such a degree that they are unable to conceive such heinous crimes are even possible, much less taking place right in their rural communities.

All around the country, law enforcement and public citizens are encountering difficulties in identifying human trafficking victims, and our justice system is too often ill-equipped to assign the appropriate penalties for a fast-growing international crime, such as human trafficking. And what is worse, too often, the victims are treated as criminals, dropped into a judicial system not equipped to provide the health and protective services that these women and young girls often need.

I held a roundtable with my friend and colleague, Representative ERIK PAULSEN from Minnesota, earlier this month in Williston, North Dakota. Along with being the fastest growing micropolitan in the Nation, Williston is newly dealing with an increase in human trafficking. It was encouraging to hear how local law enforcement and victims’ advocates in Williston are working hard with Federal agents and officers to reverse the trend and to prevent trafficking while restoring the lives of victims, but they are very much in need of a series of Federal laws designed to aid the very important work that they are doing.

To show our commitment, Congress will enact legislation like the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act, which ensures minors who are trafficked are treated as victims and not as defendants, and the SAVE Act of 2014, which helps address the root of the problem by making it a Federal crime to profit from knowingly advertising for the commercial exploitation of minors and trafficking victims.

Mr. Speaker, we know the most important work to stop human trafficking will be done on the ground by