

We, as a Congress, must come together and pass meaningful policy to understand this condition and find a cure. I remain committed to supporting Federal funding for autism research and helping families obtain appropriate therapies for children living with autism.

I know my colleagues share this passion with me.

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES CONCEALING OBAMACARE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, according to a recent article in *The Wall Street Journal*:

The Obama administration said Friday it would let States decide whether to implement a key part of the health care law's small business exchanges next year, extending an earlier delay.

The Department of Health and Human Services said, in rules released Friday, that it will be up to State insurance commissioners to decide whether employers and employees at small businesses using health exchanges for workers in 2015, if they can show it would be in the best interest of the insurance market of the State.

The lengthy list of implemented ObamaCare delays confirms the President knows his signature health care law is unworkable and destroys jobs. Changing the law without congressional approval also shows the President wants to conceal the true consequences of this failed law until after the midterm elections in November.

We must put politics aside and do what is best for the American people and repeal ObamaCare to promote jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL TOURETTE SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month. I commend advocates like the New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome and the National Tourette Syndrome Association for their untiring pursuit to improve the life of those individuals impacted by Tourette syndrome.

Tourette syndrome is an often misunderstood and stigmatized disorder that affects as many as 1 in 100 Americans.

While symptoms can be suppressed over time, too many individuals, particularly children, face the everyday challenge of trying to manage tics, whether at school or in various social settings. Once diagnosed, many families are at a loss for how to manage this disorder.

Organizations like the New Jersey Center and the National Association provide answers through referrals to an array of services and training for families and peers. Through extended research, we can learn more about the cause and treatment of the disorder.

I have introduced the CARE for Tourette Syndrome Act to assist individuals living with Tourette syndrome by expanding and coordinating efforts towards research for the disorder.

By collecting more data and increasing research efforts, we can better understand the cause of Tourette syndrome. It is my hope that, through a better understanding of Tourette syndrome, we can lift the veil of this disorder and enhance the lives of so many.

THE CLOCK IS TICKING FOR MERIAM IBRAHIM IN SUDAN

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking for Meriam Ibrahim in Sudan.

It is 7 p.m. now in Khartoum, and a young, frightened Sudanese woman is shackled in a prison cell for refusing to renounce her Christian faith. Her husband, an American citizen, is seeking to draw attention to her plight and that of her 18-month-old son who languishes in jail with her.

Meriam Ibrahim is 8 months pregnant, and her draconian sentence of death by hanging is being delayed until she gives birth. The clock is ticking.

Congressman TRENT FRANKS has sought to shine a bright light on this injustice, and today, Senators BLUNT and AYOTTE of New Hampshire are urging the Secretary of State, John Kerry, to provide political asylum to Meriam.

The administration should urgently act to save this innocent woman's life. President Obama should immediately appeal for her release and offer her safe haven here in the United States.

MILITARY HAZING FOR FY 2015 NDAA

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, my nephew, Lance Corporal Marine Harry Lew, was a victim of military hazing while stationed in Afghanistan. After 3½ hours of a brutal beating and torment by fellow soldiers, he took his own life. Since then, I have dedicated myself to ensuring that the Department of Defense addresses hazing within its ranks.

Because of my bill, the Harry Lew Military Hazing Accountability Act, the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, required each military branch to submit a report to Congress on what they are doing to address hazing.

The reports were inconsistent. We learned that most branches don't track

allegations and incidents of hazing and that standard tracking results in unreliable data.

That is why I urge support for my amendment to this year's NDAA. It requires the Government Accountability Office to provide Congress with a much more thorough and, most importantly, independent report.

We must protect the young people that we send off to war from abuse by their own soldiers.

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR WILLIAM E. HIGH, JR.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Sergeant Major William E. High, Jr., of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, or JIEDDO, who will retire from the United States Army on May 22, 2014, after 32 years of distinguished service.

Today, one of the greatest threats faced by our servicemen and -women is the IED. While serving at JIEDDO, Command Sergeant Major High worked tirelessly to ensure our men and women serving in harm's way have the necessary capabilities and training to protect them from this lethal threat.

His contributions made a profound difference and enabled the organization to achieve tremendous success in countering the IED threat.

Command Sergeant Major High's numerous awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation, and Army Commendation Medal, among others; and he also served as a drill sergeant during his 32-year career.

I am proud to share in the celebration of Command Sergeant Major High's military career. I would also like to congratulate his wife, Ingrid, and his children—Brant, Jared, Nathaniel, and Gabriel—whose love and support has aided and strengthened Command Sergeant Major High as he served our great Nation.

I wish him all the best in his retirement.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the wildfires that have ravaged southern California over the past week. Thanks to our brave first responders, these blazes are nearly contained, but not before destroying dozens of homes and forcing thousands to evacuate.

The sight of brush fires burning across the county has become all too

familiar in the San Diego region in recent years, but this won't be an ordinary year. So far, we have seen twice as many fires as usual, and the worst months are yet to come.

Many who have been forced to leave their homes speak of how, in those moments when they fear they might lose everything, they realize what is most important to them.

Now, it is time for Congress to remember what is important, the vital programs that Americans rely on in times of crisis.

With natural disasters worsening across the country, it is more important than ever to ensure that agencies like the Forest Service, the National Weather Service, and FEMA have the resources they need to keep Americans informed and safe.

This appropriations season, I urge my colleagues to come together, as I have watched San Diego County residents do, and prioritize these lifesaving services for all Americans.

□ 1215

THE \$4 BILLION INTEGRATED ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD PROJECT—HALTED

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, it was April 2009 when President Obama said that he was going to form an integrated electronic health record project to take the records between the DOD and Veterans Administration and, together, he said that it "would represent a huge step towards modernizing the way health care is delivered and benefits are administered for our Nation's veterans. It would cut through red tape and reduce the number of administrative mistakes."

Fast forward to February of 2013. The Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration announced that they were going to halt this program. It was a \$4 billion—not \$4 million, not \$40 million, not \$400 million—a \$4 billion project. Secretary Hagel, and I quote him: "I didn't think we knew what the hell we were doing."

So after all these years, \$4 billion later, they totally halted and abandoned this project that was going to improve the quality of health care for our veterans. It wasn't for a lack of money, but there was a lack of leadership and management and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, this cannot stand. We do need to do better for our veterans. This has got to be a national priority.

PREPARE FOR EXTREME WEATHER

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, for the first time ever, the threats posed

by extreme weather were added to the GAO's High Risk List, which lists the most pressing fiscal exposures our Federal Government faces. In the past 2 years alone, extreme weather events resulted in 109 Presidential major disaster declarations, 409 fatalities, and \$130 billion in economic losses to our Nation.

As somebody who firmly believes we must better prepare for extreme weather, protect government and private sector resources, and create a more resilient society, I have drafted legislation that utilizes these recommendations of the GAO. The PREPARE Act requires agencies to implement government-wide resiliency, preparedness, and risk management priorities; improves regional coordination; and disseminates best practices and actionable data. And possibly even more important is the cost of this legislation: \$0, while having the possibility of saving taxpayers billions.

BRAND USA

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support policies that will grow our economy.

The travel industry employs over 1 million Floridians. Recently, tourism to Florida has resulted in more than \$70 billion of revenue, and it has generated nearly \$900 billion nationally.

I recently introduced the Travel Promotion, Enhancement and Modernization Act, which would extend the activities of Brand USA, a public-private partnership that markets the U.S. as a tourism destination. This will continue to promote job growth in Florida.

Florida's trend, however, is not reflected nationwide, unfortunately. Sadly, over 800,000 Americans gave up looking for work in April alone. This should not be the new normal.

The House has passed over 40 jobs-related bills that will promote private sector growth. The Brand USA reauthorization is another jobs bill that will get America working again. I urge support to grow our economy.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak out against the refusal to extend a critical lifeline for the unemployed. On December 28, the Republicans' failure to extend Emergency Unemployment Compensation left 1.3 million jobless Americans out in the cold. Since then, more than 332,000 Californians have lost their benefits, including over 8,000 people in Alameda County, where my district is located.

And I would like to remind my colleagues across the aisle that the long-

term unemployment rate is still at 35.3 percent, the highest it has been since World War II.

This Tea Party-controlled Congress has decided to turn their backs on these unemployed workers when their need is greatest. These workers paid into unemployment so that, in their time of need, it would be there.

This failure to act has already cost our economy nearly \$5 billion. This failure to act is mean-spirited, it is economically foolish, and it is morally wrong. Republicans won't support investments in job creation, infrastructure, or workforce training. They gut the safety net in the Ryan budget and won't extend unemployment benefits. My goodness, what in the world are people going to do? This is not the American way.

I urge us to take up this unemployment compensation bill; and let's pass it, and pass it right away.

HONORING ILLINOIS' WINNERS OF THE EARLY CAREER RESEARCH PROGRAM FUNDING

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipients of the Early Career Research Program grants. Only the best and brightest in the country are chosen, and I am pleased to say that five out of the 35 winners are from Illinois. Two of the winners were Fermi scientists from the 14th District of Illinois, and another is a joint appointee with the lab and Northwestern University.

Under this program, scientists will receive at least \$150,000 per year to aid them with their research efforts in the next 5 years. I am confident that the continued work of all of the talented winners will lead to breakthroughs we cannot even predict.

Innovative minds like those at Fermilab are essential for the continuing success of our country. We should continue supporting their essential work and help show the next generation that there is a future for them in science.

EXTEND EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TODAY

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, it has now been more than 4 months since Congress let emergency unemployment insurance expire. In that time, more than 2.8 million job seekers, including 200,000 veterans, have lost the ability to provide for their families. Another 72,000 Americans are losing critical unemployment benefits every week.

Let's be clear: these are people actively looking for work who lost their jobs through no fault of their own. Both are requirements for receiving