

and Democrats, conservatives and liberals, they will say you need a balanced approach. We need to cut spending. We need to restrain spending and we need to balance the cost of what we provide with the income that we have. Every businessperson, small, medium, and large, understands that concept. We have not followed it, and we did not follow it in the last decade.

I regret the fact that the gentleman doesn't like the President going around the country and telling the truth saying what the consequences may well be. Now, are they going to be on March 1? No. But will they inevitably occur if the sequester stays in place? The answer to that I think is an emphatic, "Yes." I think the President is going around the country saying these are the alternatives.

And saying that the Senate won't act or the President won't act—people did not elect me, I will tell you, to make the President act or to make the Senate act. They didn't think I could do that. What they did think I could do was make STENY HOYER act. And if I were the majority leader, they expected me to have the House act, even if people didn't agree with legislation I put on the floor. They expect us to do our job, not to cop out, with all due respect, to the fact that the President is not doing something or the Senate is not doing something.

We have a responsibility here in this Chamber, the people's House, as representatives of 435 districts, to do our job. And if the other folks don't do their job, we can lament that, we can criticize them, we can inform the American public of that, but we cannot say that's why we are not acting.

So I would hope that next week we would, in fact, act and bring legislation to the floor. And I would be, as the gentleman knows, my friend knows, I'm for a big deal. I'm for getting us to that \$4 trillion that Simpson-Bowles recommended, because I think that would give real confidence to our economy, really grow businesses and put our country on a fiscally sustainable path.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2013

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. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

PENNSYLVANIA SPECIAL OLYMPICS

(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, today I rise to recognize

more than 20,000 individuals who represent the Pennsylvania Special Olympics.

The Special Olympics is about people helping people. It's a global movement that has flourished due to the commitment and passion of its local volunteers and the determination of its participants and athletes.

In March of each year, the Pennsylvania Special Olympics hosts more than 300 athletes and 100 coaches for the State Floor Hockey Tournament. This year's 2-day competition in team and individual skills floor hockey will be held at my alma mater, the Bald Eagle Area High School in Centre County, Pennsylvania, where I will have the opportunity to attend and lend a helping hand on Saturday, March 2.

I would like to commend the Pennsylvania Special Olympics for their years of hard work, from expanding an ever-growing volunteer base to providing more opportunity for athletes to develop physical fitness, courage, and the lifelong relationships that are gained as a result of these games.

I look forward to sharing these experiences with our local community and wish all of our participants the very best in this week's competitions.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, the sequester is scheduled to go into effect in less than 24 hours, and I stand today to call out a particularly objectionable concept that this is not taking effect today, that this is going to somehow not affect people today, it's going to roll out over time; and that's just not the case. Because if you're a family who is facing layoffs or furloughs; or if you're an admiral or a general who is trying to figure out how to defend the country and you've got to be spending your time worrying about what jobs you're going to stop and who you're going to lay off; or if you're that scientist, that budding scientist, who is thinking about where are you going to do your science, whether it's here in a country that invests in science or abroad, someplace where it looks like you will get better opportunity, those impacts are happening today.

And that's why, today, we should not adjourn. We should be staying here, working on the sequester, avoiding these cuts. Let's stay at work and get this problem solved.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the President seems to think that the only way for us to replace the arbitrary spending cuts, known as the sequester—the sequester which the President's own

operatives came up with—is to enact more tax increases. But should we really be talking about raising taxes when so many examples of government waste abound?

Do we need to spend \$1.2 million to have the National Science Foundation pay people to play video games?

Do we need the EPA to give away over \$100 million in grants to foreign countries like China?

Or what about bankrolling Tax TV? The IRS spends \$4 million of our tax dollars every year to run its very own full-service television studio.

Instead of raising taxes, let's get serious about cutting waste. The House has acted to replace the sequester with commonsense cuts and reforms. It's time to see a serious plan from the President.

□ 1240

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN WASHINGTON STATE

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it's a beautiful day back in my hometown of Olympia, Washington—of course it's raining cats and dogs, but that's what passes for beauty in our corner of the world.

It's a beautiful day at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge near Olympia, and it's a beautiful day at Mount Rainier National Park, which you can see from my neighborhood. But Mr. Speaker, if we don't replace sequestration, I'm worried about how many more beautiful days there are ahead.

If we don't replace sequestration, then some of the 7.5 million visitors who are scheduled to visit one of our 13 national parks aren't going to be able to. They have already announced that they are closing the Ohanapecoh Visitors Center at Mount Rainier. All of this because Congress can't—or won't—do its job.

Mr. Speaker, it is a beautiful day in Washington State, but I don't know for how long.

LAKELAND LINDER REGIONAL AIRPORT

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

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for Lakeland Linder Regional Airport.

Unfortunately, with the pending sequester, the Federal Aviation Administration announced that they may close 238 control towers, including the tower at my local airport.

Lakeland Linder Regional Airport hosts the annual 6-day Sun 'n Fun fly-in that celebrates aviation and is the second-largest event of its kind in the world. This Sun 'n Fun fly-in is also the second largest convention in the State of Florida. It provides a \$50 million economic impact to the region

each year. The potential closure of the tower is unacceptable.

As we know, President Obama initially proposed the sequester in 2011. I voted against its creation, and I voted twice to replace its arbitrary cuts. Americans deserve real solutions and genuine accountability. Improper payments by the Federal Government exceeded \$115 billion in 2011. Surely, the President would be willing to address those improper payments before allowing the sequestration cuts to take place.

IMPACTS OF SEQUESTRATION

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

Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring awareness to the automatic trigger cuts—known as sequestration—and the impact they will have on domestic programs in California.

I thank my colleagues who voted today for a commonsense piece of legislation known as the Violence Against Women Act. This landmark legislation comes on the eve of looming budget cuts that will have devastating impacts on domestic violence preventive programs throughout California, which already operate on tight budgets.

The Obama administration estimates almost \$1 million of funds that provide services to victims of domestic violence in California will be cut, resulting in 3,000 fewer victims being served. Although we have made significant strides towards safeguarding all women by passing this important bill, we must ensure that we continue to strengthen these programs by avoiding this sequester.

IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, President Obama's sequester will take effect tomorrow. Because of the President's irresponsibility of cutting just pennies of waste for every dollar Washington spends, the men and women of the 122nd Air National Guard in my district face furloughs. Across the globe, our national security will pay the price for Washington's failures.

How did this happen? It seems that during his Chicago-style campaigning, President Obama forgot that his primary responsibility is to serve as Commander in Chief. Today, instead of working to replace these security cuts with cuts to waste, President Obama and HARRY REID are trying to pass a tax hike in the Senate, a tax hike that the nonpartisan CBO says will increase our deficit for the next 2 years. It seems that instead of solving the problem, President Obama and his allies are only making it worse.

Mr. Speaker, it's time to get serious about the \$3 billion we borrow every

day and cut spending in a responsible way that saves the American Dream and keeps our national security strong.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, unless we do something, Friday will be a day that none of us want to see but that very few of us seem to have the courage or conviction to prevent.

Today, we stand here with two options: devastating, meat-cleaver cuts or political courage.

Last week in my district I met with the leadership of the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base. California military cuts of almost \$70 million would put this base at risk.

Who are we talking about? These are our first responders, our firefighters, our citizen soldiers. These are the people that will be affected by sequestration.

If we must choose between cuts or political courage, I choose political courage. We must come together to do what is right.

I ask for a balanced approach to deficit reduction that eliminates sequestration. I support Congressman VAN HOLLEN's bill, H.R. 699, and I ask unanimous consent to bring this bill to the floor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded on page 752 of the House Rules Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the gentleman's request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

TRIBAL PROVISIONS IN VAWA

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, this is one of those moments where you come up here for 1 minute, and I wanted to share a certain frustration, particularly the votes we just had here in the House.

I come from Arizona. We have 22 tribal communities, 21 actual designated reservations. I lived almost my entire life alongside the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian community. It's a sophisticated tribe with wonderful outreach into the community. They've come light years in the last 10. They've done amazing things.

We have been working with that community and Congressman COLE's office trying to work on language that would work with them in VAWA, and yet Congressman COLE and Congressman ISSA were not allowed in the process to offer their amendments. That's of great frustration to me because there was months of months of labor and work put into that.

But there was also another irony here. I heard some folks on the right

and a lot on the left talking about the self-determination court process within those tribal communities. Okay, great. Are we now ready to have this body step up and help our tribes in Arizona that are sophisticated manage their own finances and their own health care? Because they're asking for that self-determination.

SEQUESTER

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give voice to the concerns I am hearing from my constituents and my community when it comes to the sequester.

El Pasoans are worried about cuts to public education, canceled flights, delays in processing Social Security and veterans' benefits, and fewer resources for law enforcement.

They are also worried about their jobs. For example, I represent 20,000 workers and their families who are going to be facing furloughs. We are concerned that wait times at our ports of entry will increase to 4 or 5 hours if the sequester happens and furloughs result in 7,000 fewer Customs and Border Protection officers. This undermines those employees and their families and the trade that supports nearly 100,000 jobs in the El Paso region.

Mr. Speaker, let's fix this. Let's vote on legislation that will replace the sequester with responsible cuts and revenues.

I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 699.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

□ 1250

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the impending cuts to the Federal programs that are harmful to our national security, education system, transportation infrastructure, and economy. If we allow the sequester to take effect, Americans will see more teachers laid off in their neighborhood schools, indiscriminate cuts to special education, a loss of 4 million meals for seniors, and debilitating cuts to health care for military families.

The severe and arbitrary cuts caused by sequestration will go into effect tomorrow. Unless we vote on a resolution today, these cuts will deeply hurt the constituents that I represent in the north Texas Congressional District 33 and also citizens across the Nation.

I was not in Congress when sequestration was passed 2 years ago as part