CUTS TO EPA FUNDING

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was dismayed to see the Interior, Environment Appropriations Subcommittee approve a 2014 funding bill that cuts EPA funding by 34 percent. Such a drastic, unnecessary cut would prevent EPA from addressing critical air quality, water quality, and climate change issues that have direct impacts on human health.

As everyone knows by now, we are already feeling the impacts of climate change—stronger storms, more severe droughts, hotter heat waves. But it's our children and our grandchildren who will bear the brunt of these impacts in the future.

Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change. We've already seen that there are higher rates of asthma and infectious diseases in children. These proposed cuts to EPA will only make things worse.

Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity and the responsibility to act now to protect our children and our grandchildren from the impacts of climate change.

I urge my colleagues, let's stop these shortsighted political games and start taking action to address climate change and protect the long-term health of future generations.

KILAH DAVENPORT CHILD PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. PITTINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask once more that my colleagues in Congress will help protect children by cosponsoring the Kilah Davenport Child Protection Act.

Until recent changes by the North Carolina legislature, the punishment for someone who caused permanent, severe, mental and physical injury to a child in our State was just 4 to 6 years. Sadly, inadequate, and ambiguous child abuse laws are not unique to North Carolina.

My little friend Kilah was severely abused by her caretaker, who smashed her head against a wall, leaving her with minimal function for the rest of her life. As a father and a grandfather, I was deeply moved by her situation, as I'm sure you are.

Now is the time to find an appropriate response to ensure the safety and the protection of our most precious treasures—America's children. This new legislation focuses on child abusers guilty of the most heinous acts of abuse. Those who destroy a child's future should receive much more than a slap on the wrist.

May God bless Kilah and her family and all whom we seek to protect.

REPRESENTATIVE STEVE KING'S DISGRACEFUL REMARKS

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the disgraceful remarks recently made by another Member of this body.

My parents brought me to this country at the age of 11. They brought me here for the freedoms, they brought me here for the opportunities, and they never told me to strap 75 pounds of marijuana on my thighs so we can sell it in America.

It is disgraceful that a Member of this body would demean this House and what this country represents when you make remarks like that. I recognize that not all Members of this body feel the same way.

I represent Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, two monuments that symbolize the history of America as a Nation of immigrants. So when you make remarks like one of the Members made, it's not only ignorant, but quite frankly stupid, not recognizing the history of this country.

CALLING ATTENTION TO PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE ZHU YUFU

(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 bring attention to the plight of Zhu Yufu.

Today, Zhu Yufu has been in prison in China for 520 days. He is a prisoner of conscience, unable to enjoy the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

An advocate for democracy, Christian dissident and poet Zhu Yufu helped found the unrecognized Democracy Party of China. For this, he was arrested for ''inciting subversion of state power.''

Zhu Yufu cannot speak for himself, so others, including myself, must advocate on his behalf. My own efforts in support of Zhu Yufu are part of a project created by the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission through which Members of Congress can bring attention to the plight of prisoners of conscious.

Through this work, we seek to pierce the darkness and shatter the silence that has enveloped Zhu Yufu and others like him.

Silence is not an option. Silence means Zhu Yufu likely will remain in prison and the Government of China will elude accountability for its deplorable human rights violations.

I call on all people of conscience to raise their voices in support of Zhu Yufu.

WE NEED A NEW AGENDA

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I was shocked to hear the new standard for productivity, leadership, and good governance set here in the House of Representatives. Rather than looking at the success of the American people, the Speaker of the House said we should be judged by the number of laws we repeal.

This isn't a standard; this is an excuse for failure. Good governance is not measured by the 38 times that we voted to repeal health care. It is measured by the ability to compromise and create substantial solutions to the issues facing this country.

While House Republicans continue to obstruct, repeal, and repeat, 11 million undocumented immigrants remain in the shadows; 7 million students bear the burden of high student loan rates; 16.7 million children risk going to bed hungry; and every single woman in this country makes 77 cents to the dollar made by a man.

I say it is time that we need a new agenda and certainly a new standard for success.

RECOGNIZING HELEN SILLIMAN AND FLOSSIE BRAGG

(Mr. COLLINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor to recognize the contributions of two great women from New York's 27th Congressional District.

Tonight, Helen Silliman and the late Flossie Bragg will be honored in South Wales for becoming the first female firefighters in Erie County 50 years ago.

It was back in 1963 when Helen and Flossie decided to join the ranks of what was then an all-male department. In doing so, they made history in not only South Wales, but all of Erie County.

As a result, Helen and Flossie became pioneers for women in the fire service in western New York, leading the way for women to join the ranks of volunteer fire companies, which is now commonplace.

Today, it is estimated there are 35- to 40,000 women involved in volunteer fire services across this great country.

I want to thank and acknowledge Helen and Flossie for helping to lead the way.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERS' ''TO DON'T'' LIST

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, a new NBC poll says that 83 percent of Americans disapprove of the job Congress is doing. But that shouldn't be surprising when we are not doing any job at all.

House Republican leaders are working off of a ''to don't'' list: don't pass