

Florida has invested millions in our ports in preparation for the expansion of the Panama Canal, and this bill before us today is a complement to Florida's investment in world-class maritime infrastructure. Without this bill, Florida and, indeed, our Nation, as a whole, are at risk of losing jobs to nearby foreign ports and their ready or soon-to-be ready deep draft harbors.

Simply put, this bipartisan water resources bill will create good American jobs and will grow local economies. Let's pass it, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1215

JOBS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, last week, Congress finally took action to end a painful, unnecessary government shutdown that cost our economy \$24 billion, forced hundreds of thousands of Federal workers to stay home, and brought us to the brink of defaulting on the full faith and credit of the United States.

While the hardworking men and women I serve in Rhode Island's First District are relieved that Congress finally did its job, they want all of us to get back to work on addressing the urgent challenges facing our Nation—creating jobs, strengthening the economy, fixing our broken immigration system, repairing our crumbling infrastructure, and finding responsible ways to reduce the Federal debt.

Like all Americans, Rhode Islanders want their elected officials to get beyond the political battles of the moment and work together on implementing effective policies and innovative solutions that will put our country on the right track and get Americans back to work.

Over the past several years, the House has voted over and over again on bills that would repeal ObamaCare, restrict reproductive freedom for women, weaken critical environmental standards, and limit collective bargaining rights for workers, even though there is no chance these divisive proposals would ever be signed into law. It is time now to get things done.

Each of us should commit to abandoning the partisan rhetoric and working as colleagues to overcome the challenges facing our country and those we have the privilege to represent here in the Congress.

OBAMACARE AFFECTING GEORGIANS

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, now that ObamaCare has had 23 days of what has been a disastrous rollout and hundreds of thousands of

Americans are getting health insurance cancellation notices, I want to give you a couple of examples of what is happening in Georgia.

In our State, the news is not good. One constituent tells me:

Not only are premiums higher, but we have to pay more out of pocket. We will end up spending about \$500 to \$600 a year on durable medical supplies that have always been covered 100 percent. That does not help the middle class.

Another shared the news that he recently learned from his employer:

My premiums are going up over \$1,200 a year, my deductible is going up by over \$1,000 a year, and my out-of-pocket maximum will move from \$3,500 to \$6,500.

That is more than a house payment for many Georgians, Mr. Speaker.

These are hardworking, middle class families in my district who were promised by the President that if they like their insurance, they could keep their current health plans. Now these plans are more expensive and my constituents have less coverage. This is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

Contrary to the President's promises, ObamaCare is driving up costs, threatening jobs, and kicking Georgians out of the plans they like and were promised they could keep.

REMEMBERING FORMER CONGRESSMAN MAJOR OWENS

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this week, New York City lost a Brooklyn original and our Nation lost a tireless champion for the powerless.

Representative Major Owens' district included parts of my current district, and I can attest firsthand that he was beloved throughout Brooklyn.

A librarian before entering politics, service to community was simply part of who he was—and that is reflected by his accomplishments. His work led to the creation of the YouthBuild initiative at HUD, which, to this day, creates opportunity for thousands of disadvantaged youth through construction in low-income communities.

Major will also be remembered for his work on the Americans with Disabilities Act. Always a voice for the voiceless, he shepherded that historic bill to enactment, creating a more just society for millions of Americans.

He is, perhaps, the only Member of Congress known for composing rap lyrics. Performing at open mic sessions, he spoke to the issues of our time, addressing peace, war, poverty, and social justice through the power of hip-hop.

Mr. Speaker, those of us in New York and Brooklyn today mourn the loss of a neighbor, while our Nation honors the passing of its public servant.

I hope all my colleagues join me in paying tribute to and remembering our friend and former colleague, Major Owens.

OPEN ACCESS WEEK

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of greater accessibility to taxpayer-funded research.

This week is Open Access Week in America, and I am proud to be a lead cosponsor of the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act, better known as FASTR.

Access to scientific research maximizes research investments and improves the quality of science while assuring transparency and efficient use of tax dollars. Simply put, taxpayers should not have to pay for taxpayer-funded research over and over again.

Policies like FASTR have been a tremendous success already at the National Institutes of Health, and some of the best research institutions in America, like my alma mater, the University of Kansas, have helped lead the charge by instituting open access policies of their own.

Now it is time to make open access the law of the land for all publicly funded research. I urge my colleagues to make a real impact on the quality of science and lifesaving research conducted in America, and urge them to cosponsor and support the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, an opportunity to stand with the millions of victims who have suffered in silent fear in their own homes.

Approximately three women are killed each day as a result of domestic violence, according to the National Network to End Domestic Violence. While our country has made enormous strides in combating domestic violence, gaps in Federal law leave millions vulnerable. In this Nation, one in six women will find themselves a victim of stalking in their lifetime. Many of these encounters turn violent and, tragically, women are hurt or killed by their stalkers because of a glaring loophole in Federal law.

Under current law, convicted stalkers of "intimate partners" are prohibited from possessing firearms, but women who have had no romantic relationship with their stalker are left unprotected.

I have introduced the Protecting Victims of Stalking Act, legislation that would address this glaring loophole and prevent stalkers under restraining orders from purchasing firearms. I hope you will join me in this effort to reaffirm our commitment to protecting the victims of domestic violence.