

in my home State of Hawaii, where women have traditionally been part of the workforce—like my two grandmothers who worked in the sugarcane fields—still earn 82 cents to the dollar earned by a man.

Equal pay is not just a woman's issue. It is a family and a community issue. Women are one-half of the paid workforce. Two-thirds of the women are either primary or cobreadwinners for their families, but women are two-thirds of the workforce who are earning minimum wage.

Closing the wage gap cuts poverty in half, and women and their families then benefit. Nearly half a trillion dollars is then added to our economy.

Remember, the President said, when women succeed, America succeeds.

Please bring H.R. 377, the Paycheck Fairness Act, to the floor.

VENEZUELA

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak for those who are being violently muzzled by the autocratic Maduro regime in Venezuela.

This regime has used every arm of the state to attack its political opponents, resulting in at least 39 dead and many more imprisoned.

One of these leaders is Leopoldo Lopez, whom we can see in this poster, who has been unjustly detained in a military prison for almost 7 weeks and who now faces a 14-year prison sentence just for protesting peacefully to promote democratic principles.

The arrest of Leopoldo Lopez has nothing to do with justice and everything to do with silencing the political opposition and the Venezuelans' call for democracy; yet the Obama administration still has not taken any action against Maduro, and it has failed to hold human rights violators accountable.

This communicates a dangerous indifference that is painful not only to the Venezuelan people, but to all who care about freedom and human rights, and it further erodes the little credibility we have on the international stage.

Let's listen to the people of Venezuela.

A GOOD DAY FOR OUR NATION'S SENIORS

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

Mr. GARCIA. Madam Speaker, I have always been a strong supporter of Medicare for the simple reason that our Nation's seniors deserve to keep their hard-earned health care.

That is why we have been working on a bipartisan basis to fight any potential cuts to Medicare and Medicaid.

I am pleased to announce that, yesterday, the administration reversed potential cuts to these health care plans.

I would like to say a few words in Spanish:

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows.)

Mr. Speaker, I always have and always will support Medicare for the simple reason that our nation's seniors deserve to keep their hard-earned health care.

That is why I have been working on a bipartisan basis to fight any potential cuts to Medicare.

I am pleased to say that the Administration stepped up yesterday and reversed potential cuts to Medicare Advantage health plans.

I'd like to say a few words in Spanish for my Spanish language constituents.

Siempre he apoyado y voy a seguir apoyando a Medicare porque creo que las personas mayores de nuestro país merecen mantener su seguro de salud que han ganado.

Por esa razón es que he colaborado con mis colegas de ambos lados para combatir los cortes potenciales de Medicare.

Me complace anunciar que la Administración escuchó nuestras preocupaciones y ayer eliminaron los posibles recortes a los planes de salud de Medicare Advantage.

Es un buen día para los mayores de nuestra nación.

It is a good day for our Nation's seniors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida will provide the Clerk a translation of his remarks.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FULTON-MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fulton-Montgomery Community College on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Since its founding, the number of students attending the college has grown from 350 to today's population of 2,850—remarkable growth. These students are now becoming specialists in one of 40 academic programs, including business, electrical technology, media communication, nursing, radiologic technology, and one in which I have had direct involvement, clean room science.

Under the current leadership of President Dusty Swanger—and I must add, he is a very effective leader and a much-respected leader—FMCC is the region's partner for quality, accessible higher education, economic development, and cultural and intellectual enrichment.

Although the institution officially turned 50 in September, this is truly a year of celebration as the school continues to grow and boost our communities in the greater capital region of New York.

Again, I congratulate the FMCC administration, faculty, support staff,

and students for their hard work each and every day, which makes us very proud.

NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis was reopened. It is a spectacular display with all of the up-to-date technologies of civil rights in America, from the Middle Passage to April 4, 1968, which was the assassination of Martin Luther King at the Lorraine Motel, the site of the museum.

As I toured the fabulous museum, I thought about how far America had come and how much farther it needs to go. There are stories about the Voting Rights Act; yet I thought about the Supreme Court's striking down provisions and about the impossibility of getting sponsors here sufficient to pass a renewed Voting Rights Act, which is so necessary to America's fulfilling its purpose.

I thought about the Affordable Care Act and efforts to repeal it, to simply give health care to individuals, many of whom are poor and haven't had health care before. I thought about jobs bills because, without economic justice, you don't have social justice in full effect.

You need infrastructure bills. You need minimum wage, and you need unemployment insurance. We have a long way to go to fulfill Dr. King's dream.

I am pleased the museum reopened. It is spectacular. I urge all people to come to Memphis and visit it, and I urge all people to think about Dr. King and to try to fulfill his dream by passing those measures that are necessary.

BUDGET WEEK

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

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor today, actually, with three of my constituents from Lawrenceville—Keeran and Hailey and Ashley—because this is budget week. This is when we decide what our priorities are, and there is not going to be a man or a woman in this Chamber who does not believe that what we do, we do for this next generation of Americans.

The question will be: What do we do?

The rule that we are going to take up here this afternoon is going to make every single substitute amendment offered in this Chamber available for a vote on this floor, so that America can see what our priorities are and can choose among them.

Madam Speaker, this is the very best of our Republic that will be on display this week, budget week, and I am just pleased and honored to be a part of it.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 8, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 8, 2014 at 8:50 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2195.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3979.

Appointments:

Joint Committee on Taxation.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 8, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 8, 2014 at 10:35 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 92.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

□ 1215

ELECTING CERTAIN MEMBERS TO
CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 546

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE: Mr. Byrne.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY: Mr. Johnson of Ohio.

Mr. WOODALL (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H. CON. RES. 96, CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015, AND
PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS
DURING THE PERIOD FROM
APRIL 11, 2014, THROUGH APRIL
25, 2014

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 544 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 544

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024. The first reading of the concurrent resolution shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution are waived. General debate shall not exceed four hours, with three hours of general debate confined to the congressional budget equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget and one hour of general debate on the subject of economic goals and policies equally divided and controlled by Representative Brady of Texas and Representative Carolyn Maloney of New York or their respective designees. After general debate the concurrent resolution shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The concurrent resolution shall be considered as read. No amendment shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, and shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. All points of order against such amendments are waived except that the adoption of an amendment in the nature of a substitute shall constitute the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment. After the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment and a final period of general debate, which shall not exceed 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget, the Committee shall rise and report the concurrent resolution to the House with such amendment as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution and amendments thereto to adoption without intervening motion except amendments offered by the chair of the Committee on the Budget pursuant to section 305(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to achieve mathematical consistency. The concurrent resolution shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question of its adoption.

SEC. 2. On any legislative day during the period from April 11, 2014, through April 25, 2014—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 3. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 4. Each day during the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

SEC. 5. The Committee on Appropriations may, at any time before 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, 2014, file privileged reports to accompany measures making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, it is budget week. I have been trying to contain my smile all week long. I have the great pleasure of sitting on both the Budget Committee and the Rules Committee here in this House. The rule that we have before us today, House Resolution 544, does candidly what I think my friend from Massachusetts and I came here to do, and that is to have an open debate on the floor of the House about absolutely everyone's ideas.

I want to tell you what that means, Madam Speaker, because we sit on the Rules Committee, my friend from Massachusetts and I, and part of that responsibility is deciding whose voice gets heard and whose doesn't. It is a very solemn responsibility, one that neither of us takes lightly. I believe we would both say that whenever possible we should err on the side of having more voices instead of less. What we have today, Madam Speaker, is a rule that provides for absolutely every budget alternative written, drafted, and presented in this House, every one.

I want you to think about that, Madam Speaker, because this ought to be a place where we debate ideas. This ought to be a place where we talk about what tomorrow looks like, how can we make tomorrow better than today. And on this day, we will be voting on a rule that will make every single alternative idea available for robust debate on the floor of this House.