

The House recently passed the Save American Workers Act, which would restore hourly wages cut by ObamaCare's 30-hour workweek rule. This bill remains stalled in the Senate's legislative graveyard.

The House has passed bipartisan legislation that would renew the Federal Government's commitment to actively and adequately manage our Federal forests. Where we have well-managed Federal forests that are managed in a healthy way, we have healthy rural economic communities where we grow jobs. Today, that bill is gathering dust on the Senate Leader's desk, awaiting action.

Mr. Speaker, we were elected to solve problems. It is about time we got about the people's business. Hardworking Americans deserve as much.

INEQUALITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, when I think of most Americans, I know that one of the major components of our work ethic is that we believe in working hard. We are not standing in line for government subsidies or handouts. We simply want to be able to have an opportunity.

Last evening, I was on the floor speaking of the unfortunate circumstances of this past week, such as the mischaracterization of what affirmative action really means, which is an opportunity for all of our students to go to institutions of higher learning with a diverse student body that embodies and reflects America, responding to the decrease in numbers of African Americans since the dismantling of affirmative action at schools like the University of Michigan, Berkeley, and others.

We then follow that decision with untimely and unfortunate comments, first by an owner of a national basketball team. It baffles me when the owner indicates that he does not want to see Black people at his stadium. It amazes me because if he looks out onto the playing floor, he might see a lot of them. We find that sports is something that brings us all together, from all walks of life.

Then we have an individual that represents himself as one of the true traditions of America, a rancher—and much of that is done in Texas—who wants to suggest that African Americans would be better off picking cotton and having gardens and chickens.

The reason I raise these issues today is because we have parts of our society that reflect those injustices. We have parts of society that ignore the ills that befall those who are more impoverished than others.

Many people don't realize that even though slavery ended in the 1800s, the 20th century found itself with individuals or segments of the population being treated unequally for more than

half a century. Even when those laws changed, like with the 1964 Civil Rights Act, minds and hearts did not change. And so the inequities followed people of color: language minorities, like Hispanics, and African Americans in particular.

I have a document that reflects that inequity right in the city of Houston and the district that I represent.

Yesterday, we came out with the Children at Risk research on the level of high schools that were not functioning. They list North Forest High School, Madison High School, Jones High School, Wheatley High School, Sterling High School, Kashmere High School, and Worthing High School at the bottom of the list. Why? They are all in inner city areas. The investment in people is not there.

And so this wealth inequality is not about someone who wants to get a handout; it is to reflect what is happening.

The highest unemployment is among Latinos and African Americans, which are the red and purple bars. Because of the barriers to access to credit, the lowest number of business ownership in this country is with African Americans. It has the lowest number of business owners. When we faced the recession and mortgage collapse, the highest number of bankruptcy filings were among Latinos and African Americans.

No, they are not looking for a handout. We are looking for policies that in fact will invest in education and make sure that when we invest in people, we overcome the barriers that deal with race and racism.

When we lost all of the home equity, which was one of the greatest assets of African Americans, the decline in home equity and ownership fell upon many of us in a high number, from Asians to Whites to Latinos and African Americans. And when I say this, I speak of those who are White and equally face obstacles.

Many know that one of the major movements of Senator Robert F. Kennedy was his visit to Appalachia and other places.

So my question to my colleagues today is how we can come together to look at a way of empowering those impoverished and making sure that the educational system, regardless of your level of income, has the ability to treat you equally so that the school that you attend every day—your parents pay taxes and send you there—is not giving you the bottom rank in opportunity and that your family is not in the category with no assets or retirement, no ability to help you go to college. Highest number, 62 percent for African Americans; Latinos, 69 percent, which is partly due to the fact that many Latinos live in a “shadow society,” many of them because we have not passed comprehensive immigration reform.

So, Mr. Speaker, rather than to accuse individuals and call people names and use racist categories, it is time for

us to come together and be united to lift the boats of all Americans.

□ 1030

TRIBUTE TO A PATRIOT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGELL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute, to honor, to remember, and to celebrate the life of an outstanding American patriot whom I greatly admired, Marine General Carl E. Mundy, Jr.

It is not often, I would think, that a former sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserves becomes friends with a Four-Star General and a former Commandant of the Marine Corps, but such was my good fortune.

I met General Mundy—he served as our 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps—through my father, Ike. They lived in the same retirement community in Florida and shared the special bond that binds one generation of American marines to the next.

It is a connection that transcends grade and rank, officer and enlisted, and that my father fought in the battle for Iwo Jima, which is a sacred memory for all marines, made their friendship and their mutual respect that much deeper.

It was at my dad's encouragement that I reached out to General Mundy when I sought this office. When I met him, he was 73 years old, yet he exuded, without effort and without pretense, the dignity and the military bearing that we would expect of a Marine Commandant.

It was his humble spirit, however, that I truly found myself pondering and admiring long after our meetings and conversations had ended. Though the general always encouraged me to call him Carl, I never could. He was always, of course, General Mundy.

Always a leader, the general encouraged me in this effort to, again, serve my country, not in uniform, but through public service; and I suspect he lent his good name and reputation to help me more out of respect for my dad than for me.

Of the many endorsements I was so fortunate to receive, the general's meant the most. I believe all who favored me with their endorsement—and I think especially those who served in our United States military—will understand why the Commandant's endorsement was particularly meaningful.

Not long after General Mundy lost his wife of 56 years, Linda Sloan Mundy, the general was diagnosed with cancer. My parents passed him in the neighborhood 1 day when he was still well enough to take his afternoon walks.

Dad shared with me the account of how, when the general saw my parents coming and he recognized my father, he stopped, he came to full attention, and offered a respectful hand salute to

my dad who, again, was a World War II marine sergeant—a nice, crisp hand salute.

Now, this is the spirit of the man and the marine, the humble warrior that I knew and so deeply respected. It is good to see the young people in the House today. As I reflect upon General Mundy's life and his service, I am reminded that we are a free people because good men and women have willingly set aside differences to fight for that, which binds us together as fellow Americans.

General Mundy inspired many of us to serve, including his two sons, Brigadier General Carl Mundy III and Colonel Timothy Mundy, both of whom are on Active Duty as United States Marines.

So I join my fellow marines especially, including my father, Ike, and grateful Americans across our country, in expressing heartfelt condolences to the Mundy family.

It is with eternal gratitude and respect that I will offer a final hand salute in tribute and in memory to the 30th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, an American patriot whom I was so fortunate to count as my friend.

General Carl E. Mundy, Jr., United States Marine Corps, mission accomplished, sir.

Semper fidelis.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Autism Awareness Month.

Modern science has helped control or eliminate many once deadly and debilitating diseases and conditions, but our understanding of autism remains an unsolved puzzle.

More children than ever are being diagnosed with communication and behavioral disorders that lead to a diagnosis of autism. Autism now affects one in every 68 children, according to the CDC. My nephew Trey is one of them.

I have seen firsthand how autism strains families, stretches their resources, and makes life more challenging in many ways. I have also seen the amazing joy that an autistic child can bring to a family. Trey has sure brought a lot of joy to ours.

Families with autistic children do everything they can to help their kids maximize their God-given abilities, whatever they choose to be; but it is not always easy, especially in a world where many don't understand the unique challenges that autism presents.

Helping these families better navigate this treacherous world would make a huge difference for my brother and his family and millions like them, but doing so would be much more than just helpful to those families.

It would be good policy too. That is because autism imposes tremendous costs on families, many of which are shared by the schools their children attend and the many medical and developmental specialists involved in their care.

Studies have found that it can cost parents up to \$21,000 a year to care for a child with autism, more than it requires for one without. Children with autism have annual medical expenditures that exceed those without autism by up to \$6,000 a year.

The average medical cost for Medicaid-enrolled children with autism are about six times higher than for children without autism. In addition to medical costs, intensive behavioral interventions for children with autism can cost \$40,000 to \$60,000 per child, per year.

There are several steps that Congress can take right now to help ease these burdens for families. The House should pass H.R. 647, the Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE, Act, which is legislation I have cosponsored, to allow for the creation of tax-exempt savings accounts for individuals with disabilities.

Congress also must reauthorize the Combating Autism Act, which expires in September. This vital legislation provides Federal support for critical autism research, services, and treatment.

Mr. Speaker, I have often said that autism is the polio of our time, and together, as a Nation, we can beat this challenging disease.

Families struggling with autism face challenges that many of us can't imagine. They neither need nor want our pity, but they deserve our help.

National Autism Awareness Month, which ends tomorrow, should serve as a call to action for us to address the urgent and long-term needs of people affected by autism and, hopefully, one day, piece together the autism puzzle, so as few children as possible are impacted by this disorder.

THE SECRET SCIENCE BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, last evening, I had a couple of articles sitting on my desk and had the opportunity to read through them. I was somewhat—what's the term—oh, yeah, outraged at some of the comments in there, so that is the reason I am standing here on the floor today.

I want to walk through a concept and then try to ferret out why is the agency so terrified of this concept, something very simple. If you are going to make public policy, shouldn't it be based on data that is available to the public?

That public data, properly vetted, is used to make public policy, sort of this concept of almost the crowdsourcing of information.

So if there is a rule set made by an agency, we can all believe in it. We all know it has been properly looked at. It wasn't produced by a small silo of very smart elitists who may be ideologically set one way or another; but the data, the information that creates the rules that we all live under, belongs to all of us.

So how would you feel if you pull up a piece of paper and on that piece of paper is an article about a speech that Administrator McCarthy gave on Monday morning? And I do hope she is misquoted because we have treated her very kindly from the Science Committee and my subcommittee.

But if I came to you and read a line that McCarthy told the audience, on Monday morning, that she intends to go after a—one more time—go after a small but vocal group of critics, in light of what the IRS has done, doesn't that send chills down someone's back when you hear that an agency intends to go after its critics?

And then there is this arrogance that was, I hope, misquoted that only qualified scientists should be allowed to see, real scientists.

So you are telling me that a grad student or a leftwing group or a conservative group or just someone that has an interest in data shouldn't be allowed to see the datasets that are making public policy that literally cost trillions of dollars?

The concept of having a government that runs substantially on secret information is outrageous. So that is why I am trying to push forward on a bill—and maybe the title of the bill is a little inflammatory. It is called the Secret Science bill, a very simple concept that you make public policy with public data and that public data that we all have the right to vet and look at.

Look, the vast majority of Americans will never look at it, but shouldn't you have the right to access it?

Then there is this outlier that the agency is using that is complete obfuscation of the truth: well, there is personal data out there, and we don't know how to protect it.

Every single day, whether it be the Census Bureau, the CFPB, the Commerce Department, they collect personal data. There are standards out there where you blind data. As a matter of fact, there are actually protocols for the protocols on blinding data that we all get to use. It is done every single day.

Somehow, the EPA doesn't want to have that conversation because, somehow, they don't want you, the American public, and the academic community of all ideological stints to have the right to access it.

Mr. Speaker, Administrator McCarthy was quoted as saying:

You just can't claim the science isn't real when it doesn't align with your politics.

She is absolutely right. I am not asking for ideological data. I am just asking for data to belong to the public and