

Moldova, just like Ukraine, wishes for a better relationship with their European neighbors, but could see its attempts to cement friendships undermined by pro-Russian provocateurs.

We should make it clear that any effort to undermine Moldova's sovereignty will not be tolerated. Last week, I introduced a bipartisan resolution that calls on this House to support Moldovan independence and oppose aggression by the Russian Federation.

It is clear that Vladimir Putin will take advantage of any sign of weakness. We need to display strength on behalf of our friends in the region, engage them, and support their right to defend the independent Republic of Moldova from aggressive actions.

#### INTRODUCING THE PLANNING ACTIVELY FOR CANCER TREATMENT ACT

(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, I rise to draw attention to the serious gaps in our cancer care system, a system the Institute of Medicine has deemed in crisis.

For too many cancer patients, the process of a cancer diagnosis and treatment is overwhelming. Patients must navigate treatment provided by multiple providers, with little help to coordinate the treatments, the side effects, and the psychosocial impacts.

While some providers involve their patients actively in their cancer care, we need to make it the standard, not the exception. That is why I have introduced the Planning Actively for Cancer Treatment, or PACT, Act with my Republican colleague, Representative BOUSTANY from Louisiana.

The PACT Act would provide a personalized roadmap to cancer care developed by the patient and provider. These plans have been shown to improve patient outcomes, increase patient satisfaction, and reduce unnecessary utilization of scarce health care facilities.

That is why cancer patient research and provider groups like the Lymphoma Research Foundation and the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, they all support this bill.

With the PACT Act, we have an opportunity to make cancer patients better, along with the health care systems that care for them.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important bill.

#### BLATANT MISMANAGEMENT OF THE VA

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I am outraged over reports involving the care of our veterans and the blatant mismanagement at the VA.

We have made promises to our Nation's veterans, and, yet, wounded veterans are waiting months and even years, with some even dying due to backlogs at the VA.

I found out yesterday a veteran in my district died from excessive delays because he was unable to get necessary heart surgery. Delays at the VA hospital in Phoenix may have led to additional deaths.

Reportedly, VA officials have ordered hospital workers to shield this information in order to hide incredibly long waits. Workers at a VA clinic in Fort Collins, Colorado, were supposedly told to falsify appointment records to escape retribution for not meeting agency-imposed goals. If they didn't do that, they were going to end up on a bad boys list.

Mr. Speaker, if true, these reports demonstrate a serious problem within the VA. The brave Americans who served our country did not wait months or years to answer the call to protect our freedom. They deserve the best care that we can give them in a timely manner.

Unfortunately, under current leadership at the VA, that seems impossible. If Secretary Shinseki can't get this done, President Obama needs to find somebody who can.

#### ENSURING THAT ALL VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES HAVE ACCESS TO EARNED BENEFITS

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, last week, during the VA approps debate, I spoke about Madelynn Taylor, a veteran being denied the right to be interred with her spouse, Jean, in the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery because they are lesbians.

Idaho does not recognize their marriage and is denying the couple the honor and dignity earned through Madelynn's service in the U.S. Navy. Clearly, LGBT veterans continue to face discrimination.

Nearly a year after the landmark decision striking down DOMA, the VA still does not have a clear policy to ensure all veterans and their spouses have access to their earned benefits.

In response to the situation, Idaho resident and 27-year Army veteran, Colonel Barry Johnson, offered Madelynn and Jean his plot at the State cemetery stating:

Madelynn loves her country. She wants her partner by her side, and she wants to eternally rest among veterans in the State she made home.

She deserves that. We need more people like the colonel here in Congress, willing to speak up on behalf of all our veterans and their families who deserve to receive the benefits that they have earned.

#### CONGRATULATING HEBREW ACADEMY JUMP TEAM

(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. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the team from Hebrew Academy in South Florida for winning this year's National Council of Synagogue Youth JUMP competition.

Schools across the country were charged with creating events related to Israel advocacy, Jewish values, Holocaust remembrance, and bullying prevention. Through this competition, students develop and build critical aspects of leadership that can be applied throughout their lives.

For their team's winning project, the Hebrew Academy JUMP team created an Israel awareness day, developed a bullying awareness week and discussion groups about cliques and bullying, and created a remembrance project that engaged Holocaust survivors to have their stories integrated in their school's Holocaust curriculum.

I congratulate these impressive students on what they have accomplished for our community and for their victory in the national competition.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit into the RECORD the names of the exceptional Hebrew Academy JUMP team members.

They are students Jackie Olemberg, Alix Klein, Ariela Stein, Jacob Mitrani, Ariela Isrealov, Merah Frank, Adina Bronstein, Shane Hershkowitz, Madison Emas, Danny Bister; and faculty Rabbi Avi Fried.

#### CONDEMNING THE ABDUCTION OF THE NIGERIAN SCHOOL GIRLS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last night, I introduced a bipartisan resolution condemning the abduction of Nigerian school girls by the terrorist group Boko Haram, which has claimed responsibility.

Leadership of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Subcommittee on Africa joined me and co-sponsored House Resolution 573.

Mr. Speaker, I am personally deeply disturbed by this atrocity, and it shines a light on the terror that so many girls face around the world every day in attaining the basic right of an education.

We must do everything in our power to ensure the safe return of these precious children and strengthen efforts to protect them from those who conduct violent attacks.

I support Secretary Kerry's decision to send a security team to Nigeria. It will take the efforts of the Nigerian Government, the United States Government, and the international community to rescue the missing young

girls. These young women could be our daughters, our sisters, our nieces.

Mr. Speaker, the terror is still continuing as I stand and address this House. We must end this nightmare for these girls and for girls all over the world.

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE REPORT 113-415 AND AN ACCOMPANYING RESOLUTION, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 565, APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 568 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

**H. RES. 568**

*Resolved*, That if House Report 113-415 is called up by direction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: (a) all points of order against the report are waived and the report shall be considered as read; and

(b)(1) an accompanying resolution offered by direction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform shall be considered as read and shall not be subject to a point of order; and

(2) the previous question shall be considered as ordered on such resolution to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except: (i) 50 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform or their respective designees; (ii) after conclusion of debate one motion to refer if offered by Representative Cummings of Maryland or his designee which shall be separately debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (iii) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 565) calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups by the Internal Revenue Service. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except 40 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman 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. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule, H. Res. 568.

House Resolution 568 provides for consideration of two important resolutions. Both resolutions are critical to getting to the bottom of the IRS' targeting of conservative nonprofit groups, and they are critical to holding this government accountable.

The groups who are discriminated against deserve to know the full truth and so do the American people. To this day, Mr. Speaker, no one has been held accountable for the actions of the IRS.

I wish that the underlying resolutions weren't necessary; but, once again, the self-proclaimed "most transparent administration in history" hasn't been helping much in providing the answers to the American people that they so rightly deserve.

For example, one of the underlying resolutions, H. Res. 565, calls for the Attorney General to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting that took place.

Again, it is frustrating that this House even needs to take this step, Mr. Speaker; but as we have come to find out, the Justice Department chose a Democratic political supporter to lead their investigation into the IRS' actions. This attorney donated over \$6,000 to President Obama's election campaigns, and if that is not a conflict of interest, I don't know what it is.

That is extremely disappointing to me because this administration had the opportunity to give Americans assurances that they wouldn't stand for the IRS' conduct, they wouldn't allow an agency to be a tool to punish people for their political beliefs and would work diligently to root out this behavior and hold the appropriate people accountable.

Instead, the administration severely undermined the credibility of the investigation at every turn. We need impartiality and objectiveness from this administration; and, Mr. Speaker, we just didn't get it.

We have hit a wall, Mr. Speaker. It is time we had a special counsel to look into the issue so we can fully understand the depths of the targeting.

What we do know, Mr. Speaker, is that all signs point to Lois Lerner as a central figure in this scandal. Ms. Lerner has been unwilling to answer questions before the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, despite giving testimony to two other bodies.

Her actions to this point beg the question: What is she trying to hide?

Ms. Lerner has roughly a year—she has had a year to work with the committee and ample time to comply with this subpoena. Unfortunately, she has refused to do so.

When called to testify before the committee, Lois Lerner simultaneously asserted her innocence, while

depriving the American people of the opportunity to get their questions answered.

Ms. Lerner made 17 separate factual assertions before invoking her Fifth Amendment right—17, Mr. Speaker.

In the words of my colleague from South Carolina, that is a lot of talking for someone who wants to remain silent.

□ 1230

Some people believe—me being one of them—that you can't do that. You can't make selective assertions and still invoke your Fifth Amendment right.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Mrs. Lerner's conduct shows contempt for this body. I certainly do. I truly believe that. But that is what we are here today for, to have a debate, to see what the majority of this body believes.

This rule allows for the debate to happen and a vote to happen. It allows Congress to do its job, providing oversight of the executive branch.

If the contempt vote passes, it will place the issue into Federal court. It will be up to them to decide if we are accurate or off base. Let the court decide that. That is the appropriate step, because that is where the dispute between these two branches is supposed to reside. The judicial branch is the arbitrator between the executive branch and the legislative branch when it comes to issues like this. That is how a three-branch system works. We should let the process take place.

I support this rule, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, welcome to witch-hunt week here in the United States House of Representatives. Our economy is slowly recovering, slower than any of us would like. Millions of unemployed Americans have been left behind because their unemployment benefits have expired. Our immigration system is broken. Millions of Americans are living in poverty because they don't earn enough to make ends meet. And we have a pay equity issue where women, on average, earn less than men for doing the same job. I mean, climate change is a real issue and is getting worse.

So what is the response from the House Republican leadership? A jobs bill? No. A fully funded transportation bill? No. An extension of long-term unemployment benefits? No. Comprehensive immigration reform? No. An increase in the minimum wage? No way. A pay equity bill? No. A sensible energy policy? No. Of course not, not from this leadership.