

BENEFICIARY TRAVEL FOR VETERANS SEEKING TREATMENT OR CARE FOR MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I join my colleagues as we address one of the challenges within Veterans Affairs—our goal: ensuring our veterans are provided the best possible care to heal from the wounds associated with being a victim of military sexual trauma.

As has been noted by the Veterans Affairs inspector general, obtaining travel authorization to the most appropriate clinics to address the specialized care required of military sexual trauma victims has been an obstacle. This bill, H.R. 642, will take care of that.

The bottom line is that victims of military sexual assault trauma should be able to obtain the specific care necessary to address their individual needs and not be trapped by a bureaucracy that fails to give them access to treatment because it cannot reconcile how to pay for travel to get to and from a treatment facility.

Please join me and my colleagues as we stand up for veterans who are victims of military sexual trauma and enable them to obtain the treatment that they need.

□ 1215

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET PROPOSAL

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, President Obama's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016 lays out a fiscally responsible plan to invest in our future and makes sure that hardworking Americans are able to benefit from an economy that is finally improving. I am particularly pleased that the President is committed to making strategic investments in our Nation's research and development.

The budget invests \$146 billion for R&D across the Federal Government, which is a 6 percent increase. The budget provides for \$7 billion in clean energy funding throughout the Federal Government and \$2.4 billion to further advance manufacturing technologies. This funding improves our scientific knowledge, creates technologies with widespread benefits, and strengthens U.S.-global competitiveness.

The budget also makes investments in public health, including \$31 billion for the National Institutes of Health, which is a \$1 billion increase over the 2015 level, and \$1.2 billion across several agencies to combat antibiotic resistant bacteria, for advanced precision medicine, and for targeted therapies for patients.

I mention all of these, Mr. Speaker, because I do believe—and every evi-

dence shows—that research investment creates jobs, promotes innovation, and increases economic development. That means more jobs. I hope that the Republicans will support the President's budget.

HAROLD EATMAN

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harold Eatman of Matthews, North Carolina, who is a 99-year-old brave patriot who volunteered for the 82nd Airborne at the start of World War II because he wanted a tough assignment.

Mr. Eatman is one of the few paratroopers to make all four World War II jumps—into Sicily, Italy, Holland, and Normandy. For his bravery in helping to liberate France from Nazi brutality, the French Government on Tuesday awarded Mr. Eatman the prestigious Legion of Honor medal, an award created by Napoleon.

Mr. Eatman's dedication extends beyond the battlefield. Following his discharge after World War II, he volunteered for another year's Active Duty to help escort the bodies of fallen soldiers as they were returned home.

Please join me in thanking Harold Eatman for his bravery and sacrifice in fighting for freedom—an exemplary example of the Greatest Generation.

MS. WALTER BARBOUR, A TRUE TRAILBLAZER

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a true trailblazer, Ms. Walter Barbour—the first Black woman to serve on the Fort Worth City Council.

Just like many of the constituents I serve, Ms. Barbour was a product of the segregated I.M. Terrell High School in Fort Worth. Ms. Barbour graduated from I.M. Terrell in 1937 and went on to earn her bachelor's degree from Prairie View A&M University and her master's degree from Atlanta University in Georgia.

Ms. Barbour served on the Fort Worth City Council from 1977 to 1979. During her tenure on the council, she advocated for a health clinic that now sits in the Stop Six community, which is where she lived; for summer food programs for low-income children; for recreational facilities for the community; and she cleared the way for the first fire station in the Stop Six-Eastwood area on Ramey Avenue and Edgewood Terrace.

Ms. Barbour is survived by her daughter, Hollie; her son, Robert Barbour, Jr.; as well as two grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring a true legend, Ms. Walter

Barbour, who broke so many barriers at a time when women and African Americans faced so many obstacles, but she still worked hard to live the American Dream.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET PROPOSAL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, while I am very proud to represent Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, we woke up on Groundhog Day to a budget proposal that feels like the infinite loop—loaded with the same tax-and-spend policies that have not worked for the President or for the American people.

The President's budget proposal is a hard left U-turn that attempts to undo the three consecutive years of more responsible, less discretionary spending. While Congress only has the power of the purse, this budget altogether ignores our staggering national debt, which is more than \$18.1 trillion.

Despite \$2.1 trillion in proposed tax increases, President Obama's budget never balances—ever. Since 2009, \$7.5 trillion has been added to the national debt, and expenditures amount to more than \$21.1 trillion. The President's budget request recommends adding a staggering additional \$8.5 trillion to the debt.

Mr. Speaker, we need smart budgeting to fund our priorities without doing harm to families, small businesses, and future generations. The American people deserve no less.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this week, President Obama unveiled his fiscal year 2016 budget, which outlines his funding priorities for the year ahead.

This proposal builds on the economic progress we have made by properly focusing on middle class initiatives, and it supports initiatives that create jobs, educate young people, increase access to affordable child care, repair our crumbling roads and bridges, and keep communities safe—all to ensure that the American economy works for everyone and that recovery reaches all Americans.

The President's proposal is a strong starting point for Congress to work together to produce a smart and sensible budget that reflects the priorities of working Americans, that keeps our country safe and our economy growing.

I urge my Republican colleagues to drop their misguided proposals that benefit special interests, that repeal the Affordable Care Act, and that restrict women's health care decisions, and to focus instead on a bipartisan

budget agreement that ensures all Americans share in our country's growing recovery and that makes the right investments for our future.

TAXPAYERS RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I believe the American people deserve to know how their hard-earned tax dollars are spent. That is why I introduced the Taxpayers Right-to-Know Act.

Congress is known for its complex bills, but this one is pretty simple. It requires each Federal agency to provide taxpayers an annual report card of what they are doing with the money they have been given. With a government this large it is no secret we have waste and duplication. By better tracking government spending, we can look back and identify the outdated programs that should be eliminated or streamlined to save money.

As the people's representatives, we are here to be responsible stewards of their tax dollars, and this bipartisan bill is a good start to stopping wasteful spending.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass legislation that limits the role of money in politics. Since the Citizens United decision in 2010, the role of fundraising and spending in political campaigns has gotten even more out of control than it was before.

That is why I introduced a constitutional amendment, H.J. Res. 24, which allows Congress and the States to rein in campaign contributions. It is also why I cosponsored the DISCLOSE Act, the Government By the People Act, and the democracy for all amendment—all designed to limit the influence of money in our political system.

The American people need to know that their elected officials are here to serve them and not big campaign contributors. The overwhelming amount of money spent on campaigns weakens people's faith in our political system.

Mr. Speaker, I urge House leadership to take up legislation to address this issue. We need to change our laws to get money out of politics and to keep our focus where it belongs—doing the right thing for the American people.

SUPPORTING OUR ALLIES

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, with the rise of ISIS—or ISIL—in Syria and

Iraq, we have seen the brutality of Islamic extremism to an extent previously unimaginable.

In just the last week, ISIL beheaded two Japanese citizens and revealed that a Jordanian pilot had been burned alive in a cage. This is why it is more critical than ever that we support our moderate allies in the region and praise their efforts to protect religious minorities.

In Egypt, President el-Sisi recently became the first modern leader in the country's history to visit a Coptic Christian church on Christmas Eve. The cathedral he visited had been attacked just 2 years earlier by Islamic extremists. By contrast, in regions controlled by ISIL, groups that have lived in the same community for more than 1,000 years have been killed or have fled for their lives.

We must never forget that the mission of the extremists is not regional but global dominance, and it is aimed at all who refuse to submit to their harsh interpretation of their religion. We must stand together with leaders like the King of Jordan and the President of Egypt, who speak up and act to defeat Islamic extremism, and give them our strong support.

VACCINATIONS

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, once again, our country is seeing the dangerous effects of failing to listen to science.

In 2000, the United States had effectively eliminated endemic measles—an effort 40 years in the making—but all of that progress is quickly coming undone, not by an act of nature but by willful ignorance.

Last year, there were 644 cases of measles in the United States—the highest number in 20 years. Already this year, there have been 102 cases in 14 States, including in my home State of Illinois.

This is a dangerous game and one that some elected officials are encouraging. As leaders, it is our duty to inform the public of the truth. For those of us with scientific and medical backgrounds, this duty falls even more seriously.

When you fail to vaccinate, it is not just yourself and your children that you are putting in danger; it is everyone you come into contact with. And when politicians give voice to misinformation and paranoia, they are putting us all at risk.

Measles may not spread as fast as erroneous sound bites and tweets, but they both have the potential to cause a great amount of damage.

I know that many of my colleagues have reminded us that they are not scientists as they use this as an excuse for their advocacy of bad public policy, but it does not take a scientist to realize that opposing vaccines is wrong.

Absent a valid medical reason for exclusion, vaccines are critical for every man, woman, and child in our country—period.

NATIONAL CANCER PREVENTION DAY

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the important health care issues surrounding the National Cancer Prevention Day.

This day is an opportunity for health care providers, policymakers, and other community leaders to educate people on the healthy activities and behaviors that can prevent this disease. While we learn more and more every year about how to best treat cancer, more must be done to focus on preventing cases from ever occurring. Today is a reminder to patients to make it their business to learn of activities and behaviors to decrease the incidence of this disease.

As a doctor who treated patients in northern Michigan for over 30 years, I am far too familiar with the devastating impact that cancer has on countless lives every day. I hope that all of my colleagues in the House and the Senate will join me in the 114th Congress to remember the victims of cancer, to honor its survivors, and to do everything in our power to prevent future cases of this disease.

PROVIDING TRAVEL BENEFITS FOR VICTIMS OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to again partner with my colleague JACKIE WALORSKI from Indiana to reintroduce legislation to extend veterans' travel benefits to veterans who are traveling to seek treatment for injuries resulting from sexual trauma in the military.

It is an honor to serve with Mrs. WALORSKI on the Veterans' Affairs Committee—one of the most bipartisan committees in the House—and it is a privilege to work with all of our colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, in service to our Nation's veterans. We must ensure that victims can access the high-quality care that every veteran is guaranteed when he or she joins the military.

The occurrence of sexual trauma in the military is outrageous enough, but it is something our brave servicemen and -women should never be forced to experience. What is even worse is that many survivors of military sexual trauma have trouble accessing the physical and mental health services they need when they return home because the VA does not provide travel benefits to all victims of MST.