

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2015*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the one hundredth anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and to honor Armenia for the enormous strides they have made since that unspeakable tragedy. On April 24, 1915, approximately 1.5 million Armenians suffered the first deliberate act of systematic mass murder by the Ottoman Empire and the unspeakable crime of genocide was born. I believe we are all morally obligated to never forget this dark episode in history and call for an honest acknowledgment of the facts from all parties.

I would also like to point out that this is also an opportunity to celebrate the resiliency of the Armenian people. Armenia has been a great champion of freedom and democracy. I expect our two nations will continue to build on our close ties and support peace and stability in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to express my sympathy to the survivors and descendants of the Armenian Genocide. I hope we can all take time to reflect on this solemn day of remembrance and take this occasion to reinforce our bond and renew our commitment to end tyranny and protect democracy.

OPPOSITION TO ESTATE TAX  
REPEAL

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2015*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it was barely three weeks ago that the Republicans came to the floor with their “work harder, get less” budget. While making everyday life harder on working Americans, the Republican budget disinvests in the future of our nation by making deep cuts to education, infrastructure, and scientific research. Under their plan, Americans would face smaller paychecks and have a harder time getting ahead or buying a home; kids would have a harder time affording college; and seniors would have a harder time ensuring a secure retirement, with the end of the Medicare guarantee and immediate higher costs.

The Republican plan also took budget quackery to a new level. Their budget claimed to repeal the ACA, but relied on its revenues and savings in order to claim it balanced in 2025. It made no accounting for the costs of the almost \$1 trillion in business tax cuts that Republicans called for in the 113th Congress. The Republican budget also included all the revenue from the current estate tax.

Today, Republicans are fully abandoning any claim to balancing the budget, and show-

ing once again that they prioritize wealth over hard work. Instead of investing in America in a fiscally responsible way, Republicans want to give the very wealthiest households a \$269 billion dollar tax cut by repealing the estate tax, while still refusing to close a single special-interest loophole to pay for it.

The estate tax is designed so that it only affects the very wealthiest households. Today, you do not have any estate tax obligation as a couple if your estate is less than \$10 million. That means that only 5,500 of America’s richest families will pay the estate tax this year. There are cruise ships that hold more people than that. 99.8% of households will never pay it. We do have an estate tax on the amount over \$10 million, because we do not believe that people should get ahead just by the wealth they inherited from others—Americans pride themselves on getting ahead through their own hard work.

But instead of rewarding work, Republicans are passing a massive giveaway for just 5,500 of the wealthiest households in the country. The average tax cut will be \$3.3 million. Three-quarters of the cost of this bill goes to households with estates over \$20 million. For households with estates worth over \$50 million, the average tax cut would be \$22.5 million. And right now, the wealthy have rarely been better off. The top 1% of income-earners now hold 42% of all the wealth in the United States. Last week was the 90th anniversary of *The Great Gatsby* being published, and we are heading towards levels of wealth concentration not seen since then.

And yet, Republicans want to give tax cuts to the very richest families without doing anything for the middle class. In fact, the Republican budget would raise taxes on American workers—it ends the American Opportunity Tax Credit for higher education, ends the expansions to the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, does nothing to expand the EITC for childless workers, does nothing to expand tax credits for child or elderly care, and does nothing to help two-earner families. This bill also destroys any pretense of the Republicans balancing the budget in ten years. This is not just me talking—the non-partisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget said, “if the estate tax were repealed, the budget would no longer balance.” And they did not even take into account the lost revenues from repealing the Affordable Care Act or unpaid for extensions of expiring tax provisions. If you add those altogether, in 2025, the Republican Budget is hundreds of billions of dollars in the red.

Of course, this is nothing new. In the two years of the 113th Congress, the Republicans passed tax bills on the House floor and in the Ways and Means Committee that, including debt service, would have increased the deficit by a trillion dollars. The Republicans in this Congress are doing their very best to surpass even that level of fiscal irresponsibility. When you add up all the tax bills approved by Ways and Means Republicans in this Congress, the debt would grow by \$700 billion—and it’s only

April! Just today, in addition to the estate tax, the Republicans brought another permanent tax extension to the Floor without closing any loophole to pay for it—not the loophole for corporate jets, for hedge fund managers, or for shipping jobs overseas.

The House Democratic Budget is focused on the priorities of the American people—boosting the economy to create more broadly shared prosperity, making critical investments in our future, and keeping our promises to seniors. Our plan would grow workers’ paychecks and provide tax cuts for the middle class and for Americans who are working hard to get by; invest in our infrastructure and transportation network; help students pay for college; support working families and reduce the cost of childcare. And we do it in a fiscally responsible way.

Today is more proof that Republicans are not seeking balance. Rather, they want to cut crucial supports for children and the elderly, voucherize Medicare and cut investments in research and infrastructure, all so that they can give America’s wealthiest families multi-million dollar tax cuts.

We need to foster shared prosperity and reward hard work, not give a tax cut to multi-millionaires. I urge my colleagues to vote no on H.R. 1105.

HONORING ISRAEL’S 67TH  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2015*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, every year I am reminded of the extraordinary accomplishments of the young State of Israel. See, our birthdays are just a few days apart. This year we both turn sixty-seven.

When I think of some of my own milestones I inherently think about Israel.

We came into the world at the same time, but while I was being cared for by loving parents, Israel was forced to fight for its very survival when it was attacked by surrounding Arab armies immediately after declaring independence in 1948.

As I entered my college years at Boston University in 1967, Israel retook control of the holiest site in Judaism during the Six Day War, allowing Jews to once again pray in the old city of Jerusalem where they have prayed for thousands of years.

During my days as a law student at Georgetown, in the early 1970s, Israel elected an American-born woman, Golda Meir, to lead the country as Prime Minister—one of the first women to ever lead a nation.

In March of 1979, following the birth of my son Ben, Israel reached a ground-breaking treaty with Egypt, ceding the entire Sinai—a landmass larger than the current State of Israel—in exchange for recognition and peace.

In the early 1990s, as a State Legislator, I took my second trip to Israel meeting with

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