

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2713, the title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act, a bipartisan bill that I authored with my Nursing Caucus co-chair DAVID JOYCE.

When President Johnson first signed these programs into law, he observed that the Nurse Training Act of 1964 was the most important nursing legislation in our Nation's history. And, indeed, it has been.

Over the past 50 years, title VIII programs have bolstered nursing education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study, not only supplying our Nation with needed healthcare providers, but also strengthening the nursing education pipeline to train the nurses of tomorrow.

These programs are targeted to address specific needs within the nursing population, nursing workforce, and America's patient population. Simply put, title VIII nursing workforce programs are a direct investment in our Nation's health.

The Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2015 is a bipartisan effort to simply ensure that these critical programs are available for years to come. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to cosponsor H.R. 2713.

□ 1230

IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a matter that is critical to the future security of not only the United States, but to our allies and international security.

Yesterday, the President announced a nuclear agreement had been reached between Iran and six other nations led by the United States. Throughout these negotiations, I have been skeptical of the concessions made by this administration to Iran, despite its history of dangerous and defiant behavior.

Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism and has consistently shown a pattern of noncompliance. I have serious concerns this deal will fail to prevent a nuclear Iran while rewarding the Iranian Government's past actions with billions of dollars in sanctions relief.

Mr. Speaker, as Congress continues to evaluate the deal, I believe we must reject any agreement that further bolsters the Iranian regime; endangers our allies, especially Israel; and fuels instability in the region.

Far too much is at stake to accept a bad deal that puts the security of our Nation and our fight to combat violent extremism at greater risk.

Mr. Speaker, how can you have a deal with someone you can't trust?

THE PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD AMERICA ACT

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, today, we are going to be asked to vote on another short-term funding patch for the highway trust fund. We have done this over 30 times, but what we need is a bipartisan plan and a long-term transportation goal that is fiscally responsible. It is what we have always done throughout our history.

Think about it. President Lincoln built the transcontinental railroad, put thousands of people to work, and helped lead an economic boom. President Eisenhower invested in the interstate highway bill, which built our interstate commerce system and transport system and put thousands of people to work and led to an economic boom.

Mr. Speaker, let's think big. That is what we do as Americans. Let's invest in ourselves. Let's come up with a long-term highway trust fund bill that invests in our infrastructure; puts thousands of Americans to work; and lets us lead an economic recovery not just in the United States, but in the world.

That is what we do as Americans; we think big. Mr. Speaker, let's get this done.

THE IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT JEOPARDIZES NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in response to the Obama administration's announcement of reaching an agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran, a state sponsor of terrorism, regarding its nuclear program.

This agreement jeopardizes our national security and that of our allies by giving Iran the ability to continue its march towards nuclear capability. Where are the restrictions that the American people and her allies were promised? Where are the "anytime, anywhere" inspections? Where is the dismantling of Iran's nuclear infrastructure? I do not see these restrictions, Mr. Speaker.

Additionally, this deal will hand Iran billions in sanctions relief for it to continue funding terrorism and promoting instability in the region.

This agreement jeopardizes our closest ally, Israel, and relies on the hope that Iran, which has proven to shirk agreements in the past, complies with the terms. In short, this agreement does not stop Iran from being on the doorstep of nuclear capability. We cannot allow that to happen.

Mr. Speaker, any deal that ends in a nuclear Iran is a bad deal and should be rejected.

WEAR RED WEDNESDAY

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, we wear red to bring back our girls.

This week, Boko Haram said it will free the Chibok girls in exchange for the extremist group's leaders. We who have raised our voices to shout "bring back our girls" knew that this would come.

Mr. Speaker, Boko Haram could not risk killing the Chibok girls, but to hold 219 girls hostage for more than a year and then parade them out only as bargaining chips shows how little Boko Haram values these precious girls.

If I can speak to the girls, I would tell them: We value you. Your friends and family who pray for you daily value you. Your new President who has taken steps to defeat Boko Haram values you. Your friends in Congress who wear red on Wednesdays to bring attention to your values and to your cause value you.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to tweet, tweet, tweet #bringbackourgirls; tweet, tweet, tweet #joinrepwilson—until we bring back our girls.

DRUG TESTING FOR WELFARE RECIPIENTS ACT

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

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, if you work, you should be better off than if you don't work. That is why, earlier this week, I introduced the Drug Testing for Welfare Recipients Act. This bill is designed to improve welfare programs by requiring recipients who have a known history of drug use to pass a drug test for eligibility.

I am a firm believer that we have a moral obligation to help those in need who cannot help themselves; yet it is critically important to get the incentives right so that these programs are not abused.

Mr. Speaker, most employers require workers to pass a drug test as a condition for employment. The government should expect the same of people who receive welfare benefits. If recipients can't meet the basic standards of employment, in essence, they are trapped in a cycle of welfare dependency.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this bill is one step in the right direction to improve our welfare programs, and I encourage my colleagues to support this common-sense bill.

THE CARLTON COMPLEX WILDFIRE

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, roughly 1 year ago today, the Carlton