

cost of living adjustment to Social Security benefits next year.

This news has seniors in western New York worried. The price of food, housing, and health care have increased. Without a corresponding increase in benefits, seniors will be asked to do more with less.

The formula used to determine cost of living adjustments is not properly reflecting the senior economy. Seniors spend more on housing, food, and medical care and less on travel and education. That is why I support legislation to adopt a new formula, called the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly, that would give weight to price increases in housing and medical care and more accurately reflect the costs incurred by seniors.

Unless Congress acts, the incomes of 60 million Americans will be effectively reduced. That would be bad for our economy and worse for the vulnerable Americans that we are here to protect.

GRATEFUL RESPONSE TO SOUTH CAROLINA FLOOD

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, despite the destruction of the thousand-year rain event flooding, it was a testament to the people of South Carolina working together. Led by Governor Nikki Haley and Adjutant General Bob Livingston, our State is a model for disaster response.

I am grateful for our State Emergency Management Division, led by Director Kim Stenson, for over 1,500 successful rescue missions and to all of our first responders for the countless rescues.

Credit is due to Director Christy Hall and the South Carolina Department of Transportation for their tireless work. During the flooding, over 500 roads and bridges were closed. I know firsthand, as the road I live on was washed out, the location of our family home for the last six generations, which was named by my grandmother.

Donations and volunteers have come from across the Nation. The Salvation Army, led by Major Roger Coulson, has provided over 50,000 meals to displaced persons in the flooding. The Red Cross, inspired by national president Gale McGovern's visit, has operated 26 shelters.

I appreciate the positive spirit of the people of South Carolina spontaneously coming together as family and neighbors before turning to government.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and the President by his actions must never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Thank you, Coach Steve Spurrier, for developing winning Gamecocks.

MUST-ACT DEADLINES

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, well, even some of my Republican colleagues acknowledge that there is chaos in their conference and that chaos has consequences. Governing from one manufactured crisis to another, we have piled up a whole series of must-act deadlines.

In just 8 days, the U.S. Government will default unless Congress acts. Once again, Republicans are jeopardizing the full faith and credit of the United States.

Unfortunately, that is just one of the deadlines that we face in this calendar of chaos. In just weeks, we have got to pass another budget or face another GOP-engineered shutdown.

We have to pass a highway trust fund bill. Hopefully, it is not another short-term patch but something that actually gets Americans working and rebuilds our infrastructure.

Sadly, the Export-Import Bank still sits idle. Fortunately, a handful of courageous Republicans joined all Democrats, and next week, hopefully, we will be able to get that moving again. It shouldn't take that kind of an extraordinary measure. We ought to be able to do it through the normal course of legislation.

This chaos is out of hand.

Hardworking Americans go to work every day. We need to do our job in Congress, and that is to do the business of the American people. Mr. Speaker, we have long passed time. We need to get to work.

SOAR ACT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the House this week will vote on H.R. 10, the SOAR Reauthorization Act, known as the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act. This will authorize the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program for an additional 5 years.

At the core of this scholarship program is a simple premise that every American child deserves the opportunity to receive a great education. No child should be forced to attend low-performing public schools when alternatives for parents and their children are available right around the corner.

Education is essential to climbing the ladder of success in this Nation, and this bill takes a positive step forward in giving parents the ability to provide more opportunities and choices to pave the way to a better future for their children.

I urge my colleagues to support this responsible measure, and I thank Speaker BOEHNER for bringing this legislation to our floor.

BALANCED BUDGET PROPOSAL

(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 bring responsible budgeting to our Nation's Capitol. First of all, this means funding the government every year without a shutdown, but also it means balancing the budget.

Since I have served in Congress, we have been consumed by fights over deficit reduction and budget priorities. We have gone from crisis to crisis, never coming up with a long-term plan. After the crisis is over, nothing happens.

Recently, I introduced a balanced budget amendment that would add discipline to the budget process and require the government to spend within its means. Balanced budget proposals are not new. But unlike most proposals, my amendment protects Social Security, enables long-term capital investments, and ensures that we can respond to emergencies.

In Delaware, like most States, the law requires the State to have a balanced budget. As Delaware Secretary of Finance, I helped make that happen. We should hold the Federal Government to the same standard.

If the United States is going to continue to be the strongest economy in the world, we need to address our budget deficits now. I urge my colleagues to bring order and responsibility to our budget process by passing my amendment.

□ 1215

NATIONAL DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, October is National Dyslexia Awareness Month. This is something that is very close to my family. My wife and I watched our daughter struggle to learn to read. She dreaded reading aloud in class, and worrying what her classmates thought affected her self-esteem.

With hard work, our daughter was able to catch up and surpass many of her classmates. Over time, she discovered her strengths in math and science, which helped her increase her confidence.

It wasn't until high school that we found out she actually has dyslexia. This diagnosis has helped her understand how her brain works and realize that her difference gives her some advantages.

We are extremely proud of how hard she has worked to overcome these challenges and not let them get in the way of her success. Mr. Speaker, it is important that we bring awareness to dyslexia and educate our communities about the impact on families.

NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

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

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the importance of the forest products industry as we celebrate National Forest Products Week.

In my home State of New Hampshire, we have a rich tradition of supporting working forests and recognizing the ways in which our forests contribute to our State's economic livelihood and the vitality of our rural communities.

The forest products industry employs over 7,000 Granite Staters. These men and women proudly continue our State's legacy of responsible forest stewardship. From timber production to biomass energy, our forests provide a wide range of sustainably sourced products that citizens and businesses rely on throughout our country.

My district is home to both biomass power plants and wood pellet manufacturing facilities that are important job creators in the renewable energy sector, and I am proud to serve as co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Biomass Caucus.

As part of our efforts to underscore the economic and environmental contributions to our Nation's forests, we must rededicate ourselves to preserving these treasured lands for future generations to come.

NDAV VETO THREAT

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I think this is absolutely nuts. Yesterday the House and the Senate sent the President the National Defense Authorization bill requesting his signature, which he has now threatened to veto.

I was an Air Force pilot for 14 years, and I sit on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. I understand how critical it is that our military be prepared; and to be prepared, they have to be adequately funded.

Vetoing NDAA means that we simply don't provide authorization for funding for our troops. It means we cut our military readiness. It means we can't continue our fight against ISIS. It cuts such critical programs that protect us as our missile defense program. I just simply don't understand it.

The President doesn't have any specific objections to this bill. It funds to the exact level that he has requested. By doing this, the President has ignored the primary responsibility that the Federal Government has to defend and protect the United States.

I hope that the President will not fail in that responsibility. I hope he will sign this critically important bill.

WE MUST TAKE ACTION ON GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, today marks 3 weeks since the mass shooting at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg that cost nine innocent Americans their lives. As that tragedy fades from the headlines, the daily tragedy of gun violence in America drums on.

Last week, in south Florida, Janel Hamilton was shot to death by her godmother's son while watching TV. She was 19 and dreamed of becoming a lawyer.

Last weekend, in Chicago, a 3-year-old boy named Eian Santiago was shot to death by his 6-year-old brother. They were playing cops and robbers.

Last night, in New York City, police officer Randolph Holder succumbed to a gunshot wound in the head. He was responding to gun violence in East Harlem.

In the last 96 hours alone, 91 Americans have lost their lives to gun violence. That is nearly 1 person killed by guns every hour in the United States.

The American people expect us to take action. They expect us to stand up to those who fight to prevent us from taking action; yet, hour by hour goes by in this Congress without hearings, without debate, and without action.

Mr. Speaker, I will be back next week and the week after that and the week after that. Gun violence won't stop until this Congress takes action, and neither will I.

OUR MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, our mental health system is abusive and neglectful to those with a serious mental illness. Worse yet, these policies disproportionately impact minorities and the poor. African Americans are 50 percent less likely to receive psychiatric treatment. Out-patient mental health spending for African Americans is 40 percent lower.

While there is an overall shortage of mental health professionals, only 3 percent of psychiatrists and 2 percent of psychologists are African American. The rate is similar for Latino mental health professionals and worse for Native Americans.

If you are a minority or low income and have a serious mental illness, you are more likely to end up in prison, where 80 percent of inmates don't receive any treatment.

If you are low income, Medicaid makes it harder for you to access inpatient mental health treatment, won't let you see two doctors on the same day, and says, you can't take the medications your doctor prescribed.

Stop this discrimination. I ask Members to cosponsor and pass the Helping Families of Mental Health Crisis Act, H.R. 2646. People with serious mental

illness can and do get better with help, but where there is no help, there is no hope.

IT IS TIME TO GET REAL ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, it is time to get real about gun violence in America. As the entrusted voices for millions of Americans, we have a responsibility to address gun violence. In our schools, in our movie theaters, and even in our churches the threat is ever present.

Most recently a dangerous individual went on the campus of a community college in Roseburg, Oregon, and opened fire, taking nine lives and injuring seven. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends as they mourn.

Chris Mintz, a veteran from Randleman, North Carolina, was among those injured while rushing into the crossfire in an effort to defuse the situation. I am honored by his bravery, and I wish him a speedy and full recovery.

From Newtown to Blacksburg, to Aurora, to Charleston, these senseless shootings are becoming far too common. It is not just mass shootings that are bothersome because every day 88 people die because of gun violence. That is more than 30,000 Americans killed every year.

How many lives must be lost before we say that now is the right time to pass commonsense legislation to keep guns out of the wrong hands? We can make a difference. We must, but we must take action now.

PREVENTABLE CHILD AND MATERNAL DEATHS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of our children and salute the medical researchers and the pediatricians who are seeking to find cures for debilitating and preventable childhood diseases.

The leadership of the U.S. is crucial in helping end many of these childhood and maternal deaths. That is why we have included specific provisions in 21st Century Cures for children.

Cures bring benefits. Let me give you an example: polio. In 1988, the World Health Organization had a resolution to support the worldwide eradication of polio. Through the work of American researchers, private citizens, and Rotarians, polio vaccines have nearly eradicated this scourge worldwide.

American leadership should continue to help end preventable childhood and maternal deaths.