

rural areas is clear: higher costs, fewer hospitals, fewer insurance options, and fewer doctors.

Insurance premiums in rural northern California average 25 percent more than in southern California, and the region will be hit with premium increases of an additional 29 percent this year. About 50 rural hospitals across America have closed, and over 280 more are now on the brink of closure.

Finally, in much of my district, costly ObamaCare mandates have left my constituents with just one option for insurance, a plan that many doctors in the region won't even accept.

Mr. Speaker, the debate is over. ObamaCare is destroying the ability of rural Americans to receive and afford health care. Along with the EPA, unmanaged or closed-off Federal lands, it looks like the President has a war on rural America.

It is high time that we end this failed law and focus on meeting the needs of those with preexisting conditions and those without health care, not simply increasing cost to those who already have insurance.

The budget reconciliation that just passed today will need only 51 Senate votes. It will help rural America on the ACA by opening up more options to people for their health care. It will repeal the ACA taxes and individual employer mandates, which, again, will help give more options to rural America, and it will defund Planned Parenthood, which many people are demanding. Indeed, this is a big step for good and responsible healthcare choices.

#### LET'S GO, NEW YORK METS

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, baseball has often been called the national pastime, and those of us in New York have watched this past week with pride as the New York Mets have advanced to the World Series, representing the National League.

I have watched those players play as a team, and they have worked really, really hard. Perhaps we in the Congress can learn a little bit from them, that teamwork is possible and that we need all of us to pull together to move ahead.

I am going to be at the World Series. I am going to really enjoy watching the New York Mets win. I am going to really enjoy the young players.

I want to congratulate the ownership, Fred and Jeff Wilpon and Saul Katz. I want to congratulate all of the great players of the Mets, from Daniel Murphy to David Wright, to Yoenis Cespedes, and the great young pitching of deGrom and Harvey and Syndergaard. They really, really make us proud.

I just want to sum up this 1 minute in three little words: Let's go, Mets.

#### LONG-TERM HIGHWAY BILL

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

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, today I stand to recognize an important step that took place this week. Yesterday the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, a committee I have the privilege to serve on, marked up and passed a long-term highway bill.

Included in that multiyear bill that authorizes the transportation needs of our Nation is a vital designation for the State of Nevada. With my assistance, this highway bill contained the designation of Interstate 11, which will run from the city of Las Vegas north along the I-95 corridor up to I-80. This designation is the next step in advancing the Intermountain West corridor, which is crucial for my State, all western States, and this country.

As the vice chairman of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee, I am proud to have worked with my colleagues to help make sure that the people in Nevada gain this instrumental project. The future of I-11 is growing. Jobs are on the horizon.

#### DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, on November 3, our Treasury Department has informed us that we are going to begin to default on payment obligations that the United States Government has already entered into.

So let's be clear. We are talking about obligations that this House made, the President has signed, and that we have obligated ourselves to pay.

This default would be the first time ever. It is going to damage our credit. It is going to increase our borrowing cost. It is going to damage our economy. It is really going to damage the welfare of millions of our constituents.

These are financial obligations that the Congress has already entered into and agreed to pay. We put the name of the United States behind these commitments. These are our bills. We need to pay them.

We should not be playing political brinksmanship with the future of the United States economy, but this is where some in the majority have brought us to once again.

#### MISSOURI'S FOREST PRODUCTS

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Forest Products Week.

Forest products provide more than 60,000 jobs and inject more than \$9 bil-

lion in Missouri's economy. In southeast and south central Missouri, we produce everything from charcoal, lumber, wood flooring, whiskey and wine barrels, pallets, telephone poles, railroad ties, gunstocks, and much, much more.

The number one obstacle to expanding in Missouri is the availability of timber. Folks cannot get enough wood to make more products and employ more people.

At the same time, we have trees dying in the Mark Twain National Forest faster than the government will allow industry to cut them down. Each year 50 million board feet of timber, with an estimated value of nearly \$5 million, dies in the Mark Twain National Forest. Instead of being harvested, this timber is wasted and becomes a fire hazard.

We have increased the amount of the timber harvest at Mark Twain National Forest from 38 to 50 million board feet recently, but we can do much better. Better forest management is good for the forest and will put people back to work.

#### YOUTH JUSTICE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, did you know that a child in the United States can go to jail just for skipping school or running away from an abusive home?

Did you know that the United States is the only country in the world that locks up kids for life without the possibility of parole, when nearly three in ten of those kids did not actually commit the crime and may not have been there at the time that someone was hurt?

For years we have been funding a juvenile justice system that is robbing children of their future and wasting billions of taxpayer dollars every year.

Today experts, academics, police departments, police chiefs, and sheriffs agree that we must change that system.

President Obama designated October as Youth Justice Awareness Month because it is time to stop wasting billions of dollars on a system that doesn't make our communities safer and is destroying a generation of our children.

This week I introduced two bills to make sure kids don't get put in jail for dumb reasons and to fund evidence-based intervention and prevention programs.

We must do better. We must not give up on our children.

#### PAKISTAN'S ACTIONS

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