

My bill would allow the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State to develop specially tailored, open-source watch-listing and screening systems to help our foreign partners disrupt terrorist travel. We have an interest in providing it to several foreign countries, and we should do that.

However, as a matter of overarching Federal policy, this bill does not choose open-source over proprietary. Indeed, the Federal Government should consider proprietary and open-source software and make an educated choice on which one fits the need the best. In this case, providing our partners with software they trust simply makes sense.

Thousands of ISIS fighters have Western passports, and if our overseas partners don't stop them first, we might have to confront them here at home. Yet many governments lack the capacity to properly vet travelers and weed out known or suspected jihadists. That is why we must act today on this legislation and send a clear signal to our allies that America is ready to lead this fight.

I want to thank my fellow members on the task force for their hard work, and I want to particularly thank Mr. VELA and Mr. KEATING, on the Democratic side, for their leadership and support for this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this measure.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, seeing as I have no additional speakers, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4403, the Enhancing Overseas Traveler Vetting Act.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would just say this for the Members. The 9/11 Commission Report was pretty prescient on this point. It said: "The U.S. Government cannot meet its own obligations to the American people to prevent the entry of terrorists without a major effort to collaborate with other governments."

The report said further: "We should do more to exchange terrorist information with trusted allies and raise U.S. and global borders security standards for travel and border crossing, over the medium and long term, through extensive international cooperation."

This is what the bill does. And, frankly, the Department of State here and the Department of Homeland Security, giving them this authorization to develop this open-source software, to vet those travelers against terrorist watch lists and against those law enforcement databases, is absolutely vital.

I will just mention that the so-called Islamic State—we call it Daesh or ISIS—has already threatened to send hundreds of its European fighters back to the continent to carry out attacks like those attacks that they have already carried out in Paris and Brussels and, frankly, attacks like the one they carried out in San Bernardino, Cali-

fornia. So I think this measure really deserves our unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HURD of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4403, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE FUTURE FORUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Future Forum to provide an update on our past year's work and activity and to discuss the work we must still do to move America's millennials forward.

Yesterday, April 12, marked the 1-year anniversary of Future Forum, and what a year it has been. I encourage everyone at home to follow along as we talk about these issues this afternoon at #futureforum on Twitter or Instagram and Facebook. Send us your questions. I will look at them live here on the floor and talk about them and continue the dialog beyond today's conversation.

Our membership has grown from 14 members a year ago when we started, to 18 of the House's youngest Members. We have traveled to 14 cities now across this great Nation, from San Diego, California, to Manchester, New Hampshire, and to, most recently, last week, hosted by Representatives DEGETTE, POLIS, and PERLMUTTER, Denver. We were even joined there in Denver by our House Minority whip, STENY HOYER.

On each visit we talk to young people at universities, community colleges, coworking spaces, and startup companies, to learn about the issues most important to them, the issues that they are finding as their own personal barriers to success.

Overwhelmingly, we have heard millennials across the Nation share that they are most concerned about issues relating to student loan debt, college affordability, climate change, and campaign finance reform. I want to talk about a few of these issues, and I first start with student loan debt.

At many of these sites with a polling app we ask people: What issue is most important to you? Across the country, the issue that we have seen most often, regardless of what part of the country we are in, what crowd we are in front of, has been student loan debt.

Now, this is an issue that is very personal to me. I just brought my own stu-

dent loan debt just under \$100,000 within the last few months; and I have seen, in my own life, in my constituents' lives in California's East Bay and with the people we have talked to at these Future Forum discussions, that student loan debt has put an entire generation into financial quicksand, and it affects almost every life decision that young people are making.

The biggest decisions you will make in your life: the decision to start a family, we are delaying that decision by about 5 years later than the generation before us; the ability to buy a house, we are perhaps the least home-owning generation America has ever known; the decision and the ability to go out on your own and start your own business—well, actually, millennial entrepreneurship is on the decline. From 2014 to 2015, 5 percent fewer millennials started a business.

How is that?

You look at Silicon Valley, you look at Silicon Alley, you look at Silicon Beach, you look up in the Northwest at Silicon Forest, you see all of these startups across our country and you think, well, this is the startup generation.

In fact, we are more risk averse than you would think. It is because of the student loan debt that we carry that makes it so hard to go out on your own to find that capital you need to take that risk to start a business to create jobs that will help grow our economy.

These are the four issues we are seeing that student loan debt is affecting: starting a family, buying a home, starting a business, and then, finally, being able to save.

We are also the generation that has saved the least of any generation that has ever come before us. And it makes sense, right?

Every month, you have approximately 40 million young people, with \$1.3 trillion in student loan debt, hundreds of dollars each month going out the window, going to pay off this debt, making it very hard for you to rent near where you work, let alone even realize that American Dream of homeownership.

Now, while higher education also remains a worthwhile investment, we have found on our tour that, by 2018, 63 percent of new jobs will require a college education. But here is the problem. The cost of college continues to go up.

One of our biggest challenges, perhaps, is making and having generations that have come before us understand that what they experienced 30, 40 years ago, is just not what young people are going through today. It is apples and oranges in terms of experiences. In fact, the cost of college tuition has gone up higher and faster than any other good or service that Americans consume.

In California, for example, in the sixties and seventies, if you were qualified and you were able, you could go to a UC—University of California—school

and walk away with, essentially, a debt-free education.

The return on that investment, when Californians and the Federal Government valued public education as a public good, was a workforce that built the greatest tech and biotech economy that the world has ever seen. The tech economy that drives northern California, the biotech economy that is thriving down in San Diego, the minds that are powering the inventive forces in the entertainment industry down in Los Angeles, that is the return on investment that we received when we treated education as a public good in California, and you could have an UC degree and walk away with a debt-free education.

Now, an issue that is also important to millennials and new to Future Forum and affecting young Americans is the issue of diversity in the tech industry.

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We love the tech industry in California. It has created so many new jobs and a lot of traffic to go with it, but people who are driving to good-paying jobs.

Silicon Valley in the bay area is at the helm of America's burgeoning tech industry, which is constantly developing innovative ways to interact within a global environment and compete in the 21st century. These cutting-edge companies are creating new ways to communicate, travel, buy, sell, and listen.

The tech industry is led by some of the best and the brightest our Nation has to offer. But there are some statistics about the tech industry I want to share with you that are quite disturbing. The tech industry is not as diverse as California or our country is.

Millennials are at the center of this industry. They are the largest generation in the U.S. workforce. By 2020, millennials will make up 50 percent of the global workforce.

However, over the past 2 to 3 years, major concerns have been raised that tech lacks one major component. We are the largest workforce America has ever known, and we are the largest and most diverse generation America has ever known, but the tech industry is missing a diverse workforce.

Despite making up significant portions of the U.S. population, women and minorities are drastically underrepresented in this industry. Let me give you an example.

In the United States, women compose 50.8 percent of our population. However, women only make up about one-third of the tech workforce.

Ethnic diversity in tech tells a similar story. Eight percent of the tech workforce is Hispanic, 7 percent is African American, 23 percent is Asian, and 60 percent is White.

How can we resolve this? Many tech firms have made great strides toward improving workforce gender and ethnic diversity by releasing workforce data

and creating internal programs to address this disparity.

However, action must continue to be taken every single day to address the root of the problem, like improving access to STEM education. The tech industry also needs to seriously examine recruitment measures in order to encourage a more diverse workforce.

I recently introduced the STEM K to Career Act. This bill would provide Federal loan forgiveness for STEM teachers in low-income schools, create a tax credit for paid STEM internships and apprenticeships, and ensure that 7 percent of Federal Work Study funds are used for STEM jobs.

This would help make sure that every corner in America, every classroom across our country, is treated equally and receives the same amount of funding for STEM and make sure that every child has that freedom to dream.

I am also a cosponsor of Representative RICK LARSEN of Washington's Youth Access to American Jobs Act, which will connect students to training in STEM skill positions to prepare them for well-paying jobs. Just last month I signed a letter urging for an increase in Federal support of Hispanic-serving institutions.

Someone in the House who has worked on this issue who is my neighbor in the east bay and someone I have been proud to serve with is Congresswoman BARBARA LEE. I would like to welcome my distinguished colleague to add to this discussion.

I will start, Congresswoman, by asking: This is an industry that has expanded beyond just San Francisco and Silicon Valley. We are seeing major investments put into Oakland and also out in the tri-valley.

What are you hearing back in the bay at home, outside of that Warriors fever—because tonight they are going to set the NBA's single-season wins record—but outside of that fever, what are we hearing at home about the tech industry and what we can do better?

Ms. LEE. First of all, I thank the gentleman so much for his tremendous leadership in Future Forum. I want to thank him also for really stepping up since he has been here in Congress not only in showing dedication and phenomenal representation for his constituents, but, also, he has shown such a tremendous ability to organize his peers and to really focus on the issues that really give our young people, the millennials, a hope that they can actually achieve the American Dream. So I thank the gentleman very much.

I am really proud to share our region with Congressman SWALWELL. I want to first congratulate him also because I think today is the anniversary of Future Forum. One year?

Mr. SWALWELL of California. That is right. One year.

Ms. LEE. The gentleman is doing such critical work to make college affordable and debt free and to really provide opportunities for our young

people and our millennials. So I thank the gentleman.

We represent the east bay, as we have said. For years now, this is nothing new to us. I have my office full of cases that go back, actually, 10 years of qualified people of color who wanted to work in the tech sector and never could get in the door.

Let me also say that 40, 50 percent of the jobs in the tech sector are non-tech-related. They are human resources attorneys, lawyers, jobs that many people of color qualify for and still they have been shut out from these opportunities. So this is an important issue to talk about.

Tech is making a home for itself in my district and your district, and it is creating new jobs.

Unfortunately, too many of my African American and Latino constituents have been locked out of these opportunities for years, which have been created by the region's booming sector.

Believe you me, it is not unique to your district or my district. It is a systemic problem that we need to address across the country.

When major tech firms have released workforce data—and, mind you, many have not—we have seen that, at some firms, employees that are African American can make up as much as 7 percent of the workforce. At other firms, this can be below zero percent.

I don't know how you get below zero percent, but some don't even think about it, despite the fact that African Americans, for example, make up 14 percent of the American population.

So that is why I am really honored to serve with our Congressional Black Caucus chair, Chairman BUTTERFIELD, as his co-chair of the CBC Diversity Task Force.

In May of last year, our task force launched the TECH 2020 initiative to increase diversity and inclusion in the tech sector by 2020, specifically as it relates to African American diversity.

Let me just take a moment to thank Reverend Jesse Jackson and Rainbow PUSH because they have been for several years now really making sure these companies commit to releasing their data and coming up with a plan to address inclusion and diversity.

The core principles of TECH 2020 initiative let me lay out very quickly. T, transparency; education and training; corporate responsibility and investment; hiring and retention.

Transparency means ensuring that companies set and achieve inclusion goals, release their data annually, and put this information in a central location for the public to access.

Education and training, STEM education, commitment to long-term STEM investments, working with minority-serving institutions, Hispanic-serving institutions, HBCUs, and advancing public and private investment in education.

Corporate responsibility and investment means working to increase board of director diversity. When you look at

the boards, you don't see much inclusion at all in diversity.

We have to target philanthropic investments, expand venture capital to diverse ideas, to new, young ideas, seek out diversity in the supplier area and helping young, millennial small businesses grow.

The last principle, hiring and retention, means encouraging companies to provide specific programs, goals, and timetables focused on inclusion and recruit from minority-serving institutions and invest in African American and Latino employees.

The TECH 2020 initiative—we have taken these principles on the road to the boardrooms of some of the biggest names in the tech sector.

So I am pleased that we are continuing this conversation tonight with the head of Future Forum because this really is about the future.

In our district, we have many, many young people, many young African American young men and women, who are working on coding, BlackGirlsCode.

When you look at some of the investments that the Kapor Institute, Mitch and Freeda Kapor, have made in terms of investments in firms that require inclusion in STEM education, it is really phenomenal.

We have seen companies add highly qualified people of color, business leaders, to their board of directors, not enough, only a couple, but we are going to continue to work to develop and implement and, most importantly, disclose their diversity and their inclusion plans.

We have also made progress in gaining commitments to investments in science, technology, engineering, and math—of course, the STEM pipeline—to help educate and create the next generation of coders, innovators, and tech leaders.

Last year I was proud to lead a letter—and it was cosigned by 67 of our colleagues—to support the President's Computer Science for All Initiative, which will ensure that every student from preschool to grade 12 will be able to learn how to code.

This initiative specifically focuses on girls and students of color and will help us close the achievement gap in STEM education.

These are all steps in the right direction, but we can and we must do more. America has become more and more diverse. Increasing diversity and inclusion within the tech sector really is not only a moral imperative, it is an economic imperative.

As a former businessowner myself, I can tell you that diversity is really good for business. It is good for the bottom line. When you have a diverse and dynamic employee base, new doors of opportunity open.

So I am very pleased to be helping to lead this effort with our chair of the Black Caucus, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and other colleagues and yourself to achieve parity in the tech sector.

I also look forward to working with Future Forum in addressing these crit-

ical issues as we move forward with Future Forum in terms of the next generation of leaders.

Young people are concerned about student loan debt, college affordability, and climate change, all the issues that really create a planet worthy of the future of our young people.

As future members of the modern workforce, they are also concerned about equity. So I have to commend the gentleman once again in Future Forum for his vision and his efforts to engage and empower our future leaders.

I know that together we can and we will achieve a future where people of color, African Americans and Latinos, are fully represented within every level of the tech sector, from entry-level coders and H.R. representatives, legal professionals, C-suite officers, and corporate directors.

Finally, let me say that one effort that some of the companies are mounting, which I think you know about, which we need to talk a little bit more about in the future and Future Forum should look at, are the unconscious bias studies that these companies are undertaking.

Because oftentimes it is the culture of the organization and unconscious biases that translate into policies and programs that create a discriminatory effect which, in fact, need to be addressed and dealt with, and they are so unconscious that people don't even realize that this is the ultimate outcome of those unconscious biases.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Do you think that shining a light on workforce data is probably one of the best ways to kind of reverse an unconscious bias, that unless you are forced to look at the numbers and the behaviors of your company, you are not going to make a change that results in having a diverse workforce?

Ms. LEE. Yes. Absolutely. If you don't have the facts, if you don't have the data, how do you know, first of all, that there is an issue and a problem of exclusion?

Secondly, oftentimes people hire people and work with people whom they are familiar with. There are some systemic issues that, unless you have the data, you don't know what these systemic issues are.

So that is absolutely essential. That is why we continue to ask tech companies to release their data and to really be transparent.

So you have to know what the issues are and what the problem is before you can look at how to rectify it and how to move forward.

So I think that many employees and many corporate officials want to do the right thing. They just have not done the right thing, and they are trying to begin to understand what to do next.

So Future Forum, the Congressional Black Caucus, our Tri-Caucus, all of us here, our Dem Caucus, have really been working hard to try to get this movement forward.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. In your district, you have one of the best universities in the world, UC-Berkeley, and we have heard on our Future Forum's tour from young students who are either right out of college or about to be out of college that the amount of debt they have is driving the decision about where to work, that a lot of times their choices are limited to where their parents live because they know they can't afford to live in the bay area. So they are going to have to boomerang back home with their parents who have just gotten used to their being out of the house.

So what have you heard from the students or the recent graduates in your area about how student loan debt is affecting major life decisions?

Ms. LEE. Student loan debt really is hampering our young people from moving forward. They are concerned mainly about how to get a job that is going to pay enough money to pay down their debt when, really, they should be looking at how to move forward and get the type of job they want, buy a home if they want, have a family or do some of the things that their dreams have been in their minds, in their vision, and in their heart for years. Now their dreams are deferred because they have to just hang on with their families and pay student loan debt.

Secondly, in our area, the cost of housing is outrageous. We met with the Secretary of HUD last week to try to determine what the Federal Government could do to help with, first, displacement and, secondly, to help develop more affordable housing, which, of course, will help young people because they can't afford to live now in the east bay or in the bay area, really.

Our region is just excessively expensive, and we have to figure out how young people can stay where they want to stay and how they can have the type of life they deserve.

They have gotten a degree. I went to UC-Berkeley. That is my alma mater—go Bears—and I know what a phenomenal education it is.

But I also know, when you get out, you think that that degree, that piece of paper, is a ticket to something better, and here you end up having to go back home, live with your parents, and pay down your student debt. That is outrageous. It doesn't make any sense. Our young people deserve more.

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Mr. SWALWELL of California. That is right. A lot of times I have told young people our generation is the least home-owning generation America has ever known. In the bay area and the L.A. area, they say: Forget home owning. We just want to be able to rent near where we live.

Right now, rents are so expensive. Oakland now ranks in the top five most expensive rent cities.

Ms. LEE. I think it is the fourth in the country.

It is outrageous. Homeownership is not even a dream anymore that young people have.

How do you acquire wealth in this country?

When you look at what happened to African Americans, for example, and Latinos during the subprime meltdown and crisis, our net worth is gone. Most of that was equity in our home.

Young people deserve to be able to buy a house so they can begin to acquire some wealth, so they can begin to do what they want to do with their lives. Until we get this housing piece right, we are not going to get anything else right in terms of inequality and equity for our young people or for people of color.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. That is right. As we talk to young people and we listen to these stories across the country, it is heartening, though, to offer solutions. I know you are a part of many of the solutions that the Future Forum has been promoting.

One of them is the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing bill—it is JOE COURTNEY's bill, our colleague—which says that if the banks can refinance at the lowest rate, if a homeowner can refinance at the lowest rate, and an auto loan can be refinanced at the lowest rate, why can't our students refinance at the lowest rate? Why should they have to pay so much money in interest and not get more competitive rates?

Ms. LEE. There is no reason why. Here you have young people starting out making a life for themselves. They should be able to do the same thing. The banking institutions should allow young people the same opportunities as they do other people who own mortgages and who own cars. This, to me, is discriminatory.

I am really pleased to be a cosponsor of the bill. I hope we can pass this on a bipartisan basis. I would give young people just a bit of hope that it can be done, that they can be made whole, and that their college education, the sacrifices that they made, was worth it because now they are going to the next step.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. That is right. In the bay area, young people are so collaborative and inventive that they have powered this innovative innovation economy. Then they look at Washington and they wonder, why isn't the majority party in the House collaborating on these student loan bills?

If you look at every student loan bill that is out there right now, I think 9 out of 10 of them have been offered by our side. This is an issue that should not be owned by a political party. People are hurting out there.

Ms. LEE. Republican young people are hurting also. I would think that the majority party would want to help their young people also find a path to the American Dream. Certainly refinancing student loan debt is a major step. It should be bipartisan, it should be nonpartisan, and we should be working together to get this passed.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I don't know if you have any constitu-

ents who are in bankruptcy because of student loan debt, but we found that three things in this country will follow you to your grave and have no statute of limitations: murder, treason, and student loan debt.

We have constituents who have had their Social Security garnished because of outstanding student loan debt and people who cannot discharge as they get that second chance in life, that jubilee that bankruptcy is, they can't discharge their student loan debt. It hangs over them until they go to the grave.

Ms. LEE. Many constituents are in very similar circumstances, Congressman SWALWELL. On top of that, their credit score goes down, so then they can't even buy a car, even if they wanted to. They are not able to do anything else because they are delayed on their payments. They are behind because they can't afford it. They get dings on their credit score, and then they can't buy anything else on credit. It is a vicious cycle. They end up in debt and out there not being able to participate in the mainstream economic fabric of our society because of that.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. That is right. Another bill we have to support that is the Private Student Loan Bankruptcy Fairness Act, offered by Congressman COHEN of Tennessee, who seeks to address this issue and relieve young people from having to have this follow them for a lifetime.

Congresswoman, I am glad you came to join us to talk about diversity in tech and about larger Future Forum goals. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the east bay and across our country to take as many young people as we can out of financial quicksand.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SWALWELL, and I thank him for his leadership. I am confident we can with his leadership and with all of us working together.

I know that both Democrats and Republicans want the same thing, I am confident of that, but we are just not matching our rhetoric with reality. Hopefully they will begin to understand, the majority will, that this is good for America, not just for Democrats and not just for our young people.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. That is right. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. LEE.

I also see in the House with us this afternoon is another California colleague, someone who I was hoping maybe could talk a little bit about what students in her part of California are going through, one of the youngest Members of the House as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES).

Congresswoman, we are just talking about student loan debt. In California, we have got the greatest education system in the world, but because of the amount of student loan debt young people are facing, it is just putting them, as I said, in financial quicksand. We have got a lot of solutions here in the House.

Is there anything you are hearing in your Congressional District from young people and what they want to see from their leaders?

Mrs. TORRES. Absolutely. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SWALWELL for bringing this topic to the forefront.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. We are celebrating a year of the Future Forum tonight.

Mrs. TORRES. One year. That is wonderful.

This issue is not limited to the students. At a Congress in Your Corner last November, I heard from parents of a constituent who were nearly in bankruptcy because the student loan from not one child, but two, was so much that it was actually more than their mortgage payment. So here they are working in their late 60s to try to help make payments for their students.

This is a critical issue. They are not able to purchase a vehicle and they are not able to purchase a home. I bought my home in my early 20s. I know that 20-year-olds today, or 23-year-olds today, could not do that because of the high student loan ratios that they have.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. That is right. I call it getting lapped, which is we are seeing parents today who are still paying off their student loans, then their kids are going off to college, and now they are doubling down. It has become a family matter.

We talked on a Future Forum tour to a mother who showed up to an event that had 200 millennials in Boston. She kind of sheepishly raised her hand and said: I know I am not supposed to be here, but I am here because I am worried about my daughter. She was the first in our family to go to college. We were really excited. We sent her off and we missed her dearly for that first year she was gone. We got used to her being gone in years two, three, and four. We never expected that she would boomerang back home because she couldn't afford to live near where she works.

This was at the same time that this mother's own mother was going into a costly assisted living facility. It is a family matter. It is squeezing baby boomers right now because their kids are incurring student loan debt and their parents are taking on costly assisted living. So you are right.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. TORRES for sharing what is going on in her area.

Maybe my other colleague, another one of California's millennial-minded Members down in the L.A. area, TONY CÁRDENAS, what is he hearing as we celebrate a year of being on the road with Future Forum and talking to thousands of young people? What is he hearing about student loan debt or any issues that are important to millennials?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS).

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SWALWELL for bringing this issue to the floor. It is incredibly important not just for millennials, but as

our colleague, NORMA TORRES, pointed out, for people who are at retirement age, people who want to retire but can't because they have these generational issues that are costly and they can't move on and then follow through with their version of the American Dream in different phases of their life.

What I am hearing is that this is not just an issue of young people who are in college. This is an issue of entire families wondering whether or not their children can afford to do that and whether the family can come together for that bright individual who wants to succeed and wants to get that education, and yet they are doubting themselves as to whether or not that is the path for them.

That is unfortunate because the fact of the matter is that the United States of America for many, many generations has been the place for hope and expectation of a brighter future for generations. Yet, at the same time, because, in my opinion, Congress is not doing enough to make sure that we can right the situation, we can make sure that we can right size the environment of making sure that when a young bright person in America wants to get an education, that there are ways in which they can afford to do that, regardless of where they come from, regardless of whether their parents are farm workers, like my parents, or whether their parents live on the other side of town where they can afford to do that.

Our environments and the universities shouldn't be left only to the individuals who have the affluency to be able to be in that environment. One of the reasons why we have created these wonderful universities that have 5,000, 10,000, 20,000, and 30,000 people there is so that they can be an eclectic environment, so people can learn to become friends with people that otherwise they might not have rubbed elbows with.

What I am hearing is that people are afraid. Too many Americans are afraid. I am hearing that too many bright individuals are doubting whether or not they can afford to get that degree, not that they can't do it, not that they are not bright enough.

The problem that I am hearing from my constituents and people around America is that it is tough to make that decision because too many young people now have examples that they are in debt \$100,000, \$200,000, \$300,000. And then on top of that, they can't find a right size job to fit their skill set. And then on top of that, they have got this mounting debt. That is something that too many people are afraid to enter into. That is unfortunate. It shouldn't happen in our country.

I am glad that Mr. SWALWELL is bringing this issue up. Let's continue to try to do many, many things about righting the ship that we have about our young people being too afraid to incur the kind of debt that they are forced to do in order to get an education.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Amen. Well said.

I think young Californians, in my experience, want us to be as collaborative in solving this problem as they are in charting the innovation economy. You are right. Out of those environments in our UC and Cal State systems and our community colleges, we are creating minds and experiences that are building this new economy. So they look to us and say: Why aren't Democrats and Republicans working together?

Right now, I see our caucus is the only one that is offering solutions. I think we are putting our hands out there saying: Work with us, we are ready to talk about this, but you have got to come to the table because Republican and Democratic kids across this country are in financial quicksand and are counting on us.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mrs. TORRES.

That will conclude our one-year celebration of Future Forum. We are certainly not looking backwards. We are looking to the future. We have more visits ahead across the country, across California, and, of course, with my colleagues who have participated already.

Continue this conversation with us at #FutureForum or, of course, follow @RepSwalwell on Twitter, Snapchat, and Facebook.

This generation is aspirational and optimistic. It just needs its leaders here in this House and the majority party, I think, to join with the Democrats to put forward solutions that can move our generation forward.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES) for 30 minutes.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, California is a much warmer State and much more beautiful, if I may add that.

I rise today to recognize National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

After 17½ years as a 911 dispatcher, I know firsthand the challenges our public safety dispatchers face, the stress they are put under, and the critical importance of their work. That is why I am proud to introduce a resolution commemorating National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

I remember working the graveyard shift at the LAPD, sitting four floors below ground, taking calls from people from all walks of life, often during their most vulnerable time in their lives.

□ 1615

In fact, it was my work as a 911 dispatcher that got me involved in politics.

When I was working for the LAPD, I took a call from a little girl who ended up being murdered at the hands of her uncle. When I answered that 911 call, all I could hear was thumping. Later, I learned that that thumping noise was her head being bashed against the wall. Soon after, five shots were fired, and she was murdered—11 years old, murdered at the hands of her uncle.

I yield to my colleague, the gentleman from the San Fernando Valley, Congressional District 29, TONY CÁRDENAS, to share with us some information about how he supports 911 dispatchers in his district.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. I thank the gentlewoman.

To my colleague, NORMA TORRES, thank you for bringing up this very, very important opportunity for awareness of this issue on the floor of the House of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, yes, it is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, but it is really important for us to understand that, in America, everything starts with us—the individuals.

I will just add to this dialogue that it is up to all of us to keep our communities safe. If we do that well, maybe we won't need so many 911 operators. We have heard so many times and too often of those frantic calls when someone is calling 911 because the action has already started, because the atrocity has already begun. As Americans, we should be vigilant and understand that we all have a collective responsibility to be the safe keepers of our communities so that we minimize the number of 911 calls any one individual in our neighborhoods or in our communities across America would ever have to make.

I take this opportunity to mention someone, Krystal Blackburn, who is the assistant supervisor at the Harrodsburg Police Department. She has been a 911 operator for some time now, and I quote one portion of what was mentioned on the House floor this afternoon:

911 has changed my life. It has shaped me, and I have grown into a role that I wasn't even sure I wanted in the beginning. It has become a way of life that I wouldn't change for any reason. I am 911.

Once again, ladies and gentlemen, I think it is important for us to take the opportunity to recognize and appreciate the eclectic responsibilities that friends and neighbors have in every community across America. In every situation, let people take on that professionalism so as to be the solution—to be the go-to person—when we need them most. It is important for people to understand that our dispatchers at 911 and that our safety community around America deserve our support and deserve our recognition. Most importantly, they deserve our thanks.

I thank the gentlewoman for giving me the opportunity to express my thoughts on this very important issue.

Mrs. TORRES. I thank the gentleman.