

Fairness Act. That law would strengthen the Equal Pay Act by requiring employers to demonstrate that wage differences are not due to gender, and they would hold employers accountable for discriminatory actions.

This bill, which I proudly cosponsored, is only one step forward. Congress must also pass legislation to address family leave and fight to protect a woman's right to choose, because, ultimately, the challenges and burdens women face are shared by all Americans, and when half of our citizenry is in any way impeded from their full potential, all of our country suffers.

MICHIGAN FARMERS AND TRUCKERS AID WILDFIRE VICTIMS

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the selfless actions of farmers in my district and across Michigan. In early March, wildfires spread through Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Colorado, devastating families and destroying crops and livestock—farmers' income for next year.

Hearing of the devastation, Michigan farmers and truckers mobilized quickly to bring aid to the farmers in need of immediate assistance. Selfless individuals have donated their resources, including over 250 bales of hay, fencing, cattle feed, financial support, and more. Convoys of volunteers, farmers, and truckers have volunteered their time and their vehicles to drive these resources hundreds of miles to affected areas. Farmers in 68 of 83 Michigan counties have donated supplies or driven to deliver aid, and their efforts are expanding. This weekend, 50 students from Sanilac County 4-H are delivering aid to Ashland.

These selfless acts are truly inspiring and humbling. I am proud to recognize their efforts and was happy to be able to aid some of these efforts by getting permits issued for their travel.

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it is Equal Pay Day, and I am privileged to rise in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act today. This legislation would strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 by ensuring that women can hold employers accountable for what they earn and challenge discrimination. Representative ROSA DELAURO has introduced this bill for two decades, which is two decades too long.

Women in Ohio make 75 cents for every dollar a man makes, which is unacceptable. It is time we close the decades-old loophole that prevents the United States from closing this gender pay gap once and for all.

The Paycheck Fairness Act would close loopholes in the Equal Pay Act of

1963, by holding employers accountable for discriminatory practices. The bill would end the practice of pay secrecy, ease workers' ability to individually or jointly challenge pay discrimination, and strengthen the available remedies for wronged employees.

President Trump said on equal pay: "If they do the same job, they should get the same pay." Boy, do I agree. So let's make it happen.

WAS SURVEILLANCE OF TRUMP ILLEGAL?

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, criminal laws may well have been broken when the Obama administration conducted surveillance of candidate and then-President-elect Trump and those close to him, including his family members.

It is reported that a former national security adviser under President Obama ordered the names of Trump associates to be revealed rather than kept confidential, as would normally be the case with any American citizen.

This exposing and disseminating personal information may well have been a criminal act. A serious question is: Who authorized the surveillance in the first place? To direct intelligence or law enforcement agencies to conduct surveillance of political opponents is a violation of the Constitution and a threat to our democracy. But the Obama administration wrongfully asked the IRS to target conservative organizations, so anything is possible.

One thing is for sure—the American people need to learn a lot more about what the Obama administration did and who did it.

NEW YORK IS NUMBER ONE IN CLOSING THE GAP

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, think all the way back to New Year's Day—94 days ago—and contemplate for just a moment the fact that if a full-time working woman were to take all of the money she made between way back then and today, and she added that to what she had made working all of last year, well, she just now would have an amount equal to what a typical man made just last year. Well, welcome to Equal Pay Day.

The exact size of the gender pay gap can vary. It tends to be smaller when you are younger, worse when you are older, and worse still if you are a woman of color. Even where you choose to live can make a difference.

My thanks to the Democratic staff of the Joint Economic Committee, where I sit as the ranking member, for producing a new report that updates all these numbers, as well as State-by-State numbers on the gender wage gap.

I encourage all my colleagues to take a look at this report to see just how your State is doing. The best news I read all day was that New York State is number one. That was good news.

RECOGNIZING GREENBERG TRAUURIG

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greenberg Traurig, an iconic law firm located in my congressional district whose growth, over the past 50 years, has been symbolic of the growth of our south Florida community.

In 1967, attorneys Larry Hoffman, Mel Greenberg, and Robert Traurig saw an opportunity to capitalize on south Florida's emergence as a center of global commerce and joined together to found the law firm Greenberg Traurig Hoffman. Over time, these visionaries played an important role in defining the south Florida skyline and its corporate landscape. Now their firm has expanded across Florida, across our country, and even internationally.

Fifty years after its founding, Greenberg Traurig today has more than 2,000 attorneys practicing in 38 locations on three continents. With a culture strongly rooted in providing legal excellence for clients and an unparalleled commitment to community service, Greenberg Traurig prospered and grew alongside Miami to the extent that both are now global influencers.

I am truly proud to have Greenberg Traurig, founded in my congressional district, as a continued partner in the growth of south Florida, and I wish the firm another 50 years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING ZACH MAIORANA AND HIS BATTLE WITH CYSTIC FIBROSIS

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my constituent, Zach Maiorana, and his ongoing battle with cystic fibrosis. At birth, Zach was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis and has been courageously battling this condition for the past 2½ years.

Cystic fibrosis is a complex, genetic disease that primarily affects the lungs and digestive systems. Those diagnosed with CF require intensive daily treatment and regular physician visits to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Despite this diagnosis, Zach and his family have channeled their determination into becoming advocates for those impacted by cystic fibrosis—a true testament to their perseverance and will to live their lives to the fullest extent possible.

Now it is up to us. This Congress can be the one to prioritize research and