

should be protected and families should remain intact wherever possible, but it is clear the President has other notions.

In the President's world, families can and should be cut off from healthcare coverage. So he is working with Republicans to take coverage away from 20 to 30 million Americans so they can say they made good on a campaign promise, regardless of the consequences in real people's lives.

In the President's world, children, especially his children, don't have to be honest when they apply for security clearances or disclose all their meetings they had with the Russians.

In the President's world, children and grandchildren can be convenient political props, like when a 6-year-old granddaughter is sent into the Oval Office to interrupt an interview with The New York Times, especially when the interview isn't going well for him.

But grandchildren and grandparents in the President's world do not have a "bona fide" family connection when it comes to being refugees. In the latest incarnation of his Muslim and refugee ban, the President excluded grandparents from the category of those close family members—only in the Republicans' mind.

Well, let me tell you something. If the President can be interrupted by his grandchild to shake up an interview that isn't going so well, I can ask my grandson to help me make a point here in Congress.

Here is Luis Andres. Luis Andres is my grandson. You see, in the Gutiérrez family, grandparents and grandchildren are pretty close family members and have a bona fide family connection. In fact, Luis Andres lives downstairs from me with his mom and dad in the ground floor unit of a two-flat in Portage Park in Chicago, and growing up with Grandma and Grandpa upstairs has distinct advantages. There is always someone to feed you, watch you, help you study, or just joke around.

Throughout much of the world and throughout American history until fairly recently, the idea that families do not include grandparents is laughable. Multiple generations live together or very nearby, and grandparents, even great-grandparents, are an integral part of the family unit and share child rearing responsibilities.

So when you are in Syria or Yemen, Central Africa or Central America, places where surviving day to day without being killed by gunmen, government, or gangs is not easy, extended, multigenerational families not only live together and support each other, occasionally they have to flee to safety together.

But not if Donald Trump has his way they don't, or at least not when it comes to coming here to America.

Thankfully, the American court system disagrees with our President on this. Hawaii sued the President again and won an injunction again, and the

Supreme Court, which would ultimately determine the fate of America's commitment to refugees and religious tolerance will determine the case later this year.

But in the meantime, over the objections of the President, grandparents are officially part of the family and have a bona fide relationship that allows them, under the law, to bypass the President's attempt to keep them out.

Thank you, courts, for recognizing and defending families and giving our President a lesson in the obvious.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, I learned about a tragedy in San Antonio where a truck packed with immigrants was discovered and at least 10 people were killed. The truck had no ventilation or air-conditioning. There was no water for those inside who had paid a lot of money to risk their lives to live in America—10 dead and another 20 near death, some of them children, under the hot Texas sun in an apparent smuggling operation.

You see, if you cut off legal immigration channels and make people wait decades for a visa, if they are eligible to apply at all, it strengthens the hands of smugglers. If you turn asylum seekers around, in violation of our own laws and international law, those seeking freedom are driven into the arms of smugglers.

If, by going through our legal system in requesting asylum, your entire family becomes vulnerable to deportation, being sent back to a place you fled because death was a certainty, then people will pay smugglers to go around our system because there are no ways to go through it.

A border wall like the one Republicans will slip into the military spending bill this week in the House will not help matters, but only make them worse. Forcing people to enter the black market because there is no way to go through our visa system will undoubtedly increase the number of times we hear about tragedies like the one in Texas and the number of parents, grandparents, and children who lose everything because we have failed to create and maintain a functioning immigration system.

When Luis Andres turns 18 and is able to vote, just like a million young Latinos like him every year are eligible, I know he will remember which party stood for and stood by families and which ones did not. Grandparents, they are part of the American family even if the Republicans don't seem to think so.

#### SHARING THE STORY OF HADAR GOLDIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share and honor the story of Hadar Goldin, an Israel Defense Forces soldier who was killed by Hamas terrorists and whose remains have yet to be returned to his family.

I met Hadar's parent in south Florida earlier this year, and they told me about their son, his love of freedom that inspired his service to Israel and their just cause.

On August 1, 2014, 23-year-old Hadar was killed by Hamas terrorists. His body was then dragged away from his home and into an underground tunnel. Hamas terrorists then stripped him and left his clothing and took his body with them. For nearly 3 years, Hamas has held Hadar's remains from his parents, who merely want to give their son a proper burial.

Mr. Speaker, Israel is one of our strongest allies, our greatest ally, and our support sends a clear message to all terrorists, including Hamas, that the United States will continue to firmly stand with Israel and its people.

No parent should ever face the heartbreak of outliving a child, but those who do should expect a proper burial. Hadar's parents have been denied that basic decency by the Hamas terrorists that murdered their son. So today I am urging those holding Hadar to let him come home so that his parents can say good-bye.

#### SOLIDARITY WITH VENEZUELA

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Venezuela, once a beacon of economic prosperity in South America, has descended into chaos and turmoil. An oil-rich nation, it now struggles as Maduro's policies have led Venezuela to having the hemisphere's highest inflation rate, resulting in critical shortages of food and medicine, as well as the collapse of the Venezuelan currency and rampant crime.

The Maduro regime's incompetence in managing Venezuela's finances and systemic corruption has led to a crack-down on human rights and violence against democratic demonstrators. The country is lurching towards single-party, totalitarian rule.

Rather than working with the opposition to serve the interests of the Venezuelan people, Maduro is using his influence to grasp onto power, first, by having his henchmen on the Supreme Court attempt to strip the National Assembly of its powers, and now, by calling for an unelected constituent assembly to rewrite Venezuela's Constitution. This is just another attempt to usurp and replace Venezuela's Democratic National Assembly with a puppet parliament loyal only to him.

This idea was recently rejected by 98 percent of the 7.2 million Venezuelans that participated in a nonbinding referendum last week. Fortunately, the United States has been quick to show solidarity with these freedom-loving people. I am grateful for the President's show of support and his direct warning to Maduro of the strong and swift economic sanctions the United States will take if he proceeds with the constituent assembly.

The United States will no longer stand by and watch Maduro and his thugs ignore human rights and the rule of law. There is a bipartisan consensus

that Maduro's undemocratic and tyrannical rule is unacceptable.

All options are on the table, and I look forward to continuing to work with this administration and my colleagues here in Congress to stand in solidarity with the democratic opposition and the people of Venezuela.

#### RAISING THE GAS TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we begin an unusual week here on Capitol Hill, although unusual is sort of the new usual in Washington, D.C.

The Senate begins deliberations on an 8-year Republican mission to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and they don't fully know what it is exactly they are voting on.

There is uncertainty in the House over both the budget and appropriations, but, you know, there is an opportunity for Congress to take a step back, to do something that will make a huge difference for everybody from coast to coast, something that can bring together a wide coalition of support and meet unmet needs.

□ 1015

I am talking about addressing the unmet infrastructure needs for a country that is falling apart as we fall behind.

We haven't raised the gas tax in 24 years. And in the course of that 24 years, we have watched the value of the Federal gas tax actually erode 40 percent, due to inflation and increased fuel efficiency, while our needs continue to go up each and every year.

Congress has put together a series of stopgap measures—gimmicks here and there—which have not adequately met those needs, and they have actually increased the budget deficit.

I think back to Ronald Reagan making his Thanksgiving Day speech in November of 1982, when he called on Congress to come back from their recess and more than double the gas tax because, he pointed out, it would put people to work and improve road conditions that were actually damaging people's cars more than what modest increase they would pay. Well, Congress did it, and we were better off as a result. I think each of us would do well to look back at that speech that Ronald Reagan gave, calling on Congress to step up and do its part.

The States are not sitting back. Since over the last 5 years, more than half of the individual States have gone ahead and raised their transportation funding. So far in 2017 alone, California, Indiana, Montana, Oregon, Tennessee, West Virginia, and South Carolina raised the gas tax. In fact, South Carolina raised the gas tax by overruling a Republican Governor's veto.

There are opportunities here for us to be able to step forward and build on

this vast coalition. It really isn't a profile in courage to support legislation that is endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the AFL-CIO, contractors, a variety of labor unions, road builders, engineers, trucking companies, and AAA. The widest coalition of people supporting any major issue before us deals with increasing the fuel tax.

And it is interesting, for those who are worried that maybe there is some political downturn, despite the fact that the States have been able to summon the courage. The American Road and Transportation Builders Association did an extensive survey about who were those intrepid legislators that voted to raise the gas tax since 2012. What they found is that those legislators who had the courage and the vision to do what was right for their States were reelected by an over 90 percent rate.

But this shouldn't be about elections. It should be about what is right for the American people. Stepping up, meeting our obligations, so that the Federal Government is a full partner, working with State and local governments, working with the private sector, to be able to meet the over \$1.1 trillion of critical transportation needs between now and 2025 ought to be the order of business.

I would hope that my friends in Republican leadership would allow us to have just 1 week of hearings on this issue so that we can hear from the president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the president of the AFL-CIO, the truckers, AAA, Republican legislators of principle, people across the country who talk about the need to rebuild and renew America, make our communities more livable, our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

#### STUDENT DEBT CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, we continue to hear about the challenges for college students who borrow more and more to pay higher tuition rates and then are saddled with huge debt loads that they will have great difficulty paying back.

The average debt for a 4-year college student today is nearly \$37,000. We need to explore new ways to ensure that every student has the opportunity to go to school, to develop their skills, and then pursue their dreams without feeling deterred by the price tag.

I think we need to look at a new approach, an approach that would help students pay for college. It is a concept known as an income-share agreement. It is a concept that would provide students the funding that they agree to pay back as small, affordable portions of their income over the years following graduation.

Income-share agreements are interest free, and students only will make those payments if they are employed and if they receive an income that meets a certain threshold. This method of financing puts less pressure on students to keep up with fixed high-interest payments while they are faced with job uncertainty.

Rather than accruing debt under the traditional student loan structure, this makes the investment in these students' future more equity-based. Their payments are guaranteed to be affordable, rather than fixed, and a certain price.

This is a much more manageable plan for students, Mr. Speaker, who are eager to get a career underway after graduation and want to make sure that they are putting their degrees into practice in a field that they have studied and have a passion for, rather than feel constrained by the impending weight of paying back loans right away.

That is why I am co-authoring the Investing in Student Success Act. It is modeled after a program at Purdue University. At Purdue, an average student received a little over \$13,000 in funding for tuition, paired with a student promise to pay back that money in 6 to 10 years after graduation in small percentages of their income.

The bill provides a legal framework for private organizations to invest in individual students through implementing similar income-share agreements. Doing so creates more options for payment and increases accessibility for higher education.

Today, the cost of tuition at a public 4-year university is nearly quadruple what it was back in 1974. Due to rising tuition costs and the increased need for a college degree in the workforce, it is more important now, more than ever before, to address the student loan debt crisis and provide students with the resources they need to graduate with minimal loans.

Income-share agreements also provide the flexibility that students need when faced with an uncertain job market and provide an alternative to the traditional student loan repayment structure.

Mr. Speaker, as we look for ways to make higher education more affordable and more accessible, we should be advancing new innovative solutions to help students go to college without that burden of high debt after graduation, and income-share agreements are another way of accomplishing this.

#### SNAP CUTS IN HOUSE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, just weeks after President Trump released his devastating budget which guts SNAP, our Nation's first line of defense against hunger, House Republicans