

is now a graduate of the University of Arkansas, and a Public Policy Fellow with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute. How stupid it would be to send him to some other country that he does not know.

I also met Karen from Florida, age 22. She also was brought here from Mexico at a very young age. Now she attends college and owns a small business.

There was Fernanda from Alabama. She is 23 and graduated from a 4-year university with honors, thanks to the scholarships she could apply for once registered under DACA. How stupid it would be to say to her: Leave.

There is Brandon, age 19. He told me that he has a younger sister who was born here. He, of course, does not want to be separated from her as a result of being deported.

What kind of a judgment is it that we would divide a sister and a brother, particularly a brother who has made such a positive impact on his community?

Mr. Speaker, this issue is about real people. Real people. They are Americans in mind and in spirit because they grew up here, they love this country, and they contribute to building our communities and Nation every day. Let's not forget that.

That is why so many thousands of businesses and major business groups in America have said: Keep DACA in place. That is why the President said: Fix this, and I will sign the bill. That is why so many churches and communities and educators and medical personnel have said: Keep these folks here. They are making a positive difference for America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Speaker and the majority leader to bring a bill to this floor that will do what President Trump says we ought to do and put DACA in legislation. Pass the Dream Act. We are going to have an opportunity to do that at the end of this month, next month, and hopefully we will get that done.

Let's pass this bipartisan, bicameral Dream Act without delay so that Diego, Karen, Fernanda, Brandon, and so many thousands more who see America as their country, who are making a positive contribution to their country, can stay here. They know of no other home than America, and they want to be a part of building this country's future.

Mr. Speaker, immigrants have always made that contribution. It is immigrants who built this country. My father came here at the age of 32 in 1934. He came from Denmark. I am the son of an immigrant, born here in America. He served in World War II and became a citizen through his service in World War II.

I rarely quote Rush Limbaugh. He said: We are not going to send these kids home. Eighty-four percent of the American people, in that neighborhood, believe that we ought not to send these kids back to the countries of their

birth, which are not their home. That is bad policy. Let's listen. Let's act. Let's make the lives of these young people more secure and more productive for America.

OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATIONS IN BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize two outstanding organizations in my district that were recently honored by the Commonwealth Prevention Alliance for their dedication and leadership to prevent and eliminate substance abuse in Bucks County.

The Council Rock Coalition for Healthy Youth, represented by Director Debbie Moskovitz, received the Commonwealth's Coalition of the Year Award; and Melanie Swanson, a prevention specialist representing the Council of Southeast Pennsylvania, received the Maggie Marcopul Award, given in honor of Maggie Marcopul, a prevention professional who served Bucks County, and Pennsylvania on the whole, for more than three decades.

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Council Rock Coalition for Healthy Youth and the Council of Southeast Pennsylvania demonstrate every day that the targeted efforts of substance abuse prevention are effective. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, every dollar spent on effective school-based prevention programs saves approximately \$18 in healthcare and judicial costs resulting from substance abuse.

Fighting back against the opioid addiction crisis requires a multifaceted approach led by lawmakers, community leaders, healthcare professionals, and law enforcement. I am thankful that Bucks County has organizations like these that effectively prevent local substance abuse.

COMMENDING WORK DONE AT AARK WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION CENTER

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the work done by Aark Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center in Chalfont, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Founded by Mary Jane Stretch, the Aark focuses on rehabilitation, education, and training to help take care of orphaned and injured birds and mammals. Their goal is to rehabilitate these animals until they can be set free, take care of themselves, and learn the tools of survival. The Aark is the biggest wildlife center of Pennsylvania, serving over 5,000 animals.

In addition to rehabilitation, the Aark provides education programs for students to give them an appreciation for wildlife and the need to keep animals in their natural habitat.

I am pleased to stand by my constituents Mary Jane Stretch and her

daughter, Leah Stallings, at the Aark as they strive to rehabilitate animals and educate students and the public about how to care for wounded animals.

16TH ANNIVERSARY OF 2001 AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to really challenge my colleagues to restore Congress' constitutional oversight on matters of war and peace. Tomorrow marks the 16th year since Congress has passed an open-ended blank check for endless wars. That is the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force.

First, I just have to say that my thoughts and prayers are with the families, friends, and communities who lost loved ones, and our deepest gratitude to the first responders who so bravely saved lives. We will never forget you.

Three days after this horrific attack—actually, September 14, 3 days—I couldn't vote for this blank check because it surrendered Congress' constitutional authority and paved the way for perpetual war, the authorization to use military force. It is deeply disturbing to me that 16 years later this Congress has failed to revisit this war authorization and have an informed debate on the cost and consequences of endless war.

I opposed the 2001 AUMF because I feared it would become a blank check for any President to wage war anywhere in perpetuity. In those tragic days in the wake of 9/11, I was just as devastated and outraged as everyone. I wanted to protect our country from further attacks against terrorism. I wanted to bring the terrorists to justice. But looking at the authorization to use military force, I knew then that such an open-ended resolution would not make us any safer.

The resolution was 60 words, it was overly broad, and it set the framework for perpetual war. It was passed just 3 days after the attacks, with little debate, and has been used to wage endless war around the globe. In the 16 years since its passage, that is the only input, really, that Congress has provided.

This is just disgraceful.

Three hundred Members of the United States House of Representatives today were not serving when we voted on the 2001 AUMF, two-thirds of this Chamber that has never had an opportunity to cast a vote on going to war. For years, I have been trying to change that.

While Congress has been missing in action, these wars have spiraled out of control, just as I feared. A recent report from the Congressional Research Service shows that this authorization has been used more than 37 times in 14

countries to justify military action. These include operations at Guantánamo Bay, warrantless wire tapping, and recent military actions in Libya, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, and many more. This report only looked at unclassified military actions. How many more military actions are happening without the knowledge of the American people?

In the 16 years since the AUMF was enacted, three Presidents have used this legislation to wage endless war; and as long as this AUMF stays on the books, any President will be able to use this blank check to wage war anywhere, anytime, in perpetuity.

I have been trying to end this AUMF for years, and this summer we got closer than ever before when the Appropriations Committee agreed, in a bipartisan vote, to adopt my amendment sunseting the AUMF—that is after 8 months upon signing of the legislation, not right away. It would take 8 months for it to sunset.

The 2001 resolution was passed in 3 days. Certainly, we can debate and vote on a new AUMF in 8 months. Members of both parties agreed at the time that it was time for Congress to debate and vote on a new AUMF, one that reflected the national security needs of 2017, not 2001.

But then my bipartisan amendment was stripped out of the bill in the dead of night by Speaker RYAN and the Republican leadership with no debate or vote in the Rules Committee. They just wiped it out, an over 326-page bill. It just vanished.

But here is the bottom line: Republicans want a new AUMF. So do Democrats.

So my question to the Speaker is: What is the holdup? Why have you not scheduled a debate on this vital national security issue? What, Speaker RYAN, are you afraid of? And also, why won't the President submit a new one?

In 2017, American servicemembers have been killed in Yemen, Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. At what point will congressional leadership say enough is enough? How many young lives do we have to lose before Congress steps up to do its job? We owe this to our brave troops.

In 2001, when I opposed this authorization, I recalled the words of Reverend Nathan Baxter, dean of the National Cathedral. "As we act," he said, "let us not become the evil that we deplore."

RECOGNIZING PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the Ports-to-Plains Alliance on 20 years of hard work to ensure a voice for rural communities in America's heartland and for educating others on the importance of building out infra-

structure around feeding, fueling, and clothing America's cities in urban areas.

Let me start by recognizing the hard work and the leadership of my dear friend and predecessor who left big shoes for me to fill, and that man is Randy Neugebauer, who is, in my mind, the father of this great initiative. And we in west Texas and up and down the backbone of this country owe him a debt of gratitude. I extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Congressman Randy Neugebauer.

For those who aren't familiar, the Ports-to-Plains corridor runs north and south through the center of America's heartland, from my State of Texas to Montana, through New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, and North Dakota. It is strategically located to create jobs and increase economic efficiency by connecting rural areas to urban America, regional trade centers, and international transportation facilities.

Within the Ports-to-Plains service area, there are three congressionally designated corridors, high-priority transportation corridors, consisting of over 2,300 miles of highway and 38 million citizens.

The Ports-to-Plains region includes States that lead our Nation's energy economy, with 7 of the top 10 States in oil production and 8 of the top 10 States in wind energy generation, producing over \$44 million in agriculture goods, or about 22 percent of the United States' total production of agriculture.

The Ports-to-Plains corridor annually generates over \$166 billion in trade with Canada and Mexico, which is almost 20 percent of all U.S. North American trade.

The bottom line is: Middle America provides the food, fuel, and fiber that strengthens and protects our Nation, but that is only true when we can get the product to market. Unfortunately, nearly half of this region consists of two-lane, antiquated roads that cannot safely and reliably handle today's traffic demands, much less future traffic demands.

These roads were never designed to accommodate the kind of traffic and large trucks being used today, mainly by the energy and agriculture industries. The Ports-to-Plains Alliance, through its partnerships, has formed a strong voice for rural America promoting the importance of investing in its highway infrastructure.

I am honored to share the significance of this corridor and its needs by chairing the newly created Congressional Ports-to-Plains Caucus alongside—and this is a bipartisan effort—my House co-chairs Representatives SMITH, GONZALEZ, CUELLAR, and our counterparts in the Senate, Senators HEITKAMP and FISCHER.

If we are going to continue to feed and clothe the American people and fuel this great economy, we must make

the investment in our infrastructure, and we must make that investment in rural America. The return is incalculable, unmeasurable, unquantifiable, and we need to make that investment.

If you want to make America great again, support the people of rural America, support the products of rural America, and God help us support the values of rural America.

God bless America, and God bless America's beating heart in small towns all across this land.

IMPROVING AVIATION

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

Mr. DEFazio. Mr. Speaker, there are groups proliferating across America who want to improve our system of aviation. Most people are not anxious to get on planes these days, given the conditions on the airplanes themselves, the treatment they get, the charges to put their bag in the overhead or sit on the aisle—all of these things. It has become quite an unpleasant experience. And then you have the aggravation of delays that ruin your trip, your business meeting, and sometimes your vacation.

Last week, I talked about the Citizens for On Time Flights. Now we have a new group, another new grassroots group. Imagine this. It is called Flyers for Fairness. Now they want to fix the system. Their fix is to privatize the largest, most complex, safest system of air traffic in the world.

They say that we are trapped in the 1950s using World War II radar. Well, that is not quite so true. Actually, it is not World War II radar. We are still using radar. However, we do have a system where we can fly planes closer together, more efficiently use the airspace, called ADS-B.

They would have us believe that somehow this thing is infinitely delayed and overbudget and not happening. Well, actually, we had a GAO report last week that said, actually, it is on budget and it is going very well and, in fact, it is operational.

Well, then why aren't we using it? Well, because the airlines, many of them flying older aircraft, do not want to upgrade their GPS systems. It is very expensive: \$200,000 per plane. We calculated it for American Airlines. To equip every plane in their fleet, it would cost them 40 percent of their baggage fees—40 percent of their baggage fees. Now, Wall Street wouldn't like that, so they don't want to make the investment.

Just like the airlines haven't invested in their reservations and dispatch systems which have repeatedly gone down, stranding, cumulatively, millions of people over the last 5 years, but they say they could do a better job running the air traffic system.

Well, actually, the statistics don't quite bear out the arguments of Citizens for On Time Flights, and Flyers