

American Revolution, the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle, Libertae, The Open Link, YWCA Bucks County, and the Central Bucks County Family YMCA—Doylestown Branch. The productive and frank conversations facilitated by these organizations is a tribute to both these nonprofit leaders and their members.

Bucks County is made a better place because of the amazing people we have committed to our nonprofit community. We thank them for giving their time, their energy, and their passion in serving a cause bigger than themselves.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEREMIAH GRANT

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate a group that I have worked with for some time, the Jersey City H.O.N.E.Y. Bees Double Dutch team for their big wins at the American Double Dutch League's 44th international competition.

But tragedy intervened. Sadly, on October 28, one of the H.O.N.E.Y. Bees passed away. I ask my colleagues to join me in honor and remembrance of the life of Jeremiah Grant.

Jerry was a student at the Ollie Culbreth Jr. School in Jersey City, New Jersey. He excelled in academics and in the world of competitive jump rope. At only 8 years old, Jerry was the youngest member of the H.O.N.E.Y. Bees. He was also the only boy on the team and was called Prince Bee. Jerry was a winner, and his legacy of love will live on in north Jersey.

May Jerry "Prince Bee" continue flying high in eternal peace.

CHIP AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 3922, the Community Health and Medical Professionals Improve Our Nation Act. This legislation reauthorizes the Children's Health Insurance Program—or CHIP, as we know it—as well as funding for community health centers in a fiscally responsible manner.

These programs have proven to be a valuable asset for many of the people in this country and many of the constituents that I have back home in Louisiana who don't qualify for Medicaid but still need assistance in accessing affordable health insurance.

In Louisiana alone, insurance providers have projected that rates will increase substantially next year as healthcare options continue to dwindle. For that reason, many Americans are choosing to forgo healthcare cov-

erage altogether rather than suffer under the weight of the new, increased costs.

In times of high uncertainty in our healthcare system due to ObamaCare, this legislation makes meaningful reforms to ensure the most vulnerable among us, our children, remain protected.

The Community Health Center Fund has proven to be a critical resource for Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District by delivering much-needed resources to my local community health centers.

I just want to say this program, in particular, is vitally important for the safety and security of our children. Republicans in Congress have worked tirelessly to draft this legislation to ensure that this bill maintains important safeguards for our children and families and protects their access to critical care.

SAFE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE PATHS

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my greatest sorrow for the New Yorkers, their families, and visitors who were affected by the tragedy in Lower Manhattan just 2 days ago. I offer my sincere condolences and prayers to their family members.

After this senseless and indiscriminate attack, Mr. Speaker, we cannot wait for another tragedy to pass before we decide to better protect pedestrians and bicyclists, especially in areas of high foot traffic.

The sidewalks and bike lanes of Times Square, the Financial District, and other city centers nationwide remain vulnerable. The STOP Act is a bipartisan bill that I have introduced, along with my colleague Congressman DAN DONOVAN from New York, just this last month and was recently introduced by Senator GILLIBRAND in the Senate.

As we saw in Charlottesville, Barcelona, and in Times Square months ago, vehicles are increasingly utilized in terror attacks worldwide. We must prioritize the safety of our constituents first, including the safety of pedestrians and of our communities. The STOP Act will provide for the installation of bollards in areas of high foot traffic.

This attack does not define New York, just as no other attack can crush the spirit of our city. We rise above those threats when we continue being a city that embraces people of all cultures and teaches love and respect.

RECOGNIZING RACHEL CHAMPNEY

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rachel Champney, a marksman who was recently awarded the 2017 Rimfire World Championship title in the ladies limited division.

A 15-year-old sophomore at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School, Rachel began shooting only 2 years ago but has developed a deep love and respect for the sport. She learned how to shoot through local marksmanship programs before being encouraged to compete nationally by members of the Trenton Fish and Game Club. Now, Rachel can fire through six targets with deadeye accuracy in under 3 seconds.

With Rachel's success has also come a passion to share her advocacy for gun safety. Rachel spends her free time teaching new shooters, including her family and friends, proper firearm safety measures. As Rachel grows as a marksman, she continues to grow as a community leader.

Congratulations on this amazing accomplishment, Rachel, and I hope to have the honor of shooting with you in the near future.

CALLING FOR CHIP REAUTHORIZATION

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

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak on the importance of reauthorizing the Children's Health Insurance Program, commonly referred to as CHIP.

In my home State of Virginia, there are 66,000 children and 1,100 pregnant women who rely on CHIP. Almost 6,000 of those children and pregnant women live in my district. They need a clean reauthorization of CHIP. Instead, this week, we are expected to vote on a bill that will put my constituents at risk.

As reported from committee, this new version of CHIP, the so-called HEALTHY KIDS Act, is loaded with poison pills that would undermine the Affordable Care Act, Medicare, and Medicaid. According to the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, CHIP with Medicaid boosted the rate of children's health coverage to more than 95 percent.

Mr. Speaker, why tamper with such success? I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to bring a bill to the floor that reauthorizes CHIP and supports our constituents.

TAX REFORM

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, today House Republicans introduced H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

This day has been a long time coming. Since Republicans gained the majority in 2011, there have been numerous congressional hearings and briefings, feedback from constituents on

what tax reform might look like, and even the introduction of a comprehensive reform bill introduced in the last Congress. Republicans campaigned on a better way to tax reform in specified areas for reform, and we followed that up earlier this year with a framework document setting forth our principles.

Today is the culmination of more than 6 years of work, but our work is not done. Now Members of Congress and the public will have the opportunity to study the legislation in detail. When all the dust settles, two questions will remain:

Will this put more money in the average American's pocket?

Will this put America in a much better position in the global economy and allow us to finally break through years of stagnation with much healthier growth, more jobs, and higher incomes?

That should be our focus. I encourage everyone to visit fairandsimple.gop, and I look forward to a real debate on how tax reform and tax cuts will relight opportunities for all Americans.

SUPPORTING THE STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEDUCTION

(Ms. ESTY of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, for weeks we have heard that the partisan tax plan crafted behind closed doors might include the elimination of the deduction for families' State and local income taxes. Today the rumors became reality. The tax plan announced today would drastically reduce the State and local tax deduction.

Let me be as clear as I can be. This proposal is a tax increase on middle class families, and I oppose it. Working people in my State already send more dollars to the Federal Government in taxes than they receive back in support. For every dollar we send to Washington from Connecticut, we receive back just 83 cents. By attacking the State and local deduction, this tax plan would make life even harder for real people in my district.

A senior citizen in Simsbury, Connecticut, called me to say that she might lose her home if this tax deduction is taken away from her. Seniors who live on a fixed income shouldn't have to risk losing a roof over their head just so that Congress can cut the corporate tax rate.

Families who are already struggling to pay their bills, put their kids through college, and buy their first home shouldn't have to suffer in order to cut taxes for the wealthiest Americans.

The President promised that tax reform would help our middle class and would bring jobs back. It is doing neither.

I urge my colleagues to support keeping the State and local deduction.

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SUPPORT REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, here in Washington, we are in the midst of a major debate on tax reform, tax simplification, and tax cuts.

The plan unveiled by House Republicans today is a tax cut plan for middle-income, middle class families in America. If you are a family of four making \$59,000, which is the median family income in America, you will receive a \$1,200 tax cut as a result of the plan that we unveiled today.

That is real money for middle class families in North Carolina. Maybe it is not real money in Washington, D.C., but it is real money in western North Carolina.

We need tax cuts. We need tax simplification. We need economic growth, more American jobs, and a more competitive environment in America so that we can keep jobs here in the United States and not offshore those jobs. We need middle class families to win. Our plan does that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support our efforts.

FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE TAX BILL

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle released their fiscally irresponsible tax bill.

I am still reading my way through the 492-page proposal, but it doesn't take long to notice a huge flaw in the process: the majority is using the partisan budget reconciliation process, a process traditionally reserved for deficit reduction, to add over \$1.5 trillion to the deficit and jam a reckless bill through the House without hearings, study, or debate. We don't have to operate that way.

Let's compare where we were the last time Congress reformed the Tax Code in 1986 to where we are today.

When Congress last took up this monumental task, it took over 2 years. There were 4 months of public hearings, more than 450 witnesses, 26 days of markup, and months of debate. This wasn't easy, but what did we get?

We got a simplified Tax Code that did not add to the deficit and a bill that had broad bipartisan support in the House and the Senate, and the support of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, let's work together on a bipartisan basis. Let's reform the Tax Code in a way that helps the middle class and does not add to our children's deficit in the future.

BURN PITS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, we need a hearing on burn pits immediately.

Burn pits are used by our military at bases in Iraq and Afghanistan to eliminate tons of waste, including chemicals and plastics. They cause giant clouds of black smoke containing carcinogens.

Thousands of our men and women in our military are exposed to these cancer-causing hazards. I know because my constituent and friend, Jennifer Kepner, a 39-year-old wife, mother, and Air Force veteran, died from pancreatic cancer 2 weeks ago. Her oncologist made the most probable link between her exposure to burn pits while serving in Iraq and her pancreatic cancer.

Congress must act. Too many questions remain. Are burn pits still being used? What are the DOD and VA doing to help veterans who have been exposed?

On behalf of Jenn and all concerned veterans, I, along with Republicans and Democrats, demand hearings in the Armed Services and VA Committees immediately to get answers.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS: REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, today, the Republicans released their tax plan. Unsurprisingly, it is a gift-wrapped tax cut to the rich. Christmas came early, Mr. Speaker. From huge corporate tax cuts to the elimination of the alternative minimum tax paid by the wealthiest Americans, this tax plan will hurt our economy and prioritize the top earners of our country. But there is one person—maybe a group of people—who is very thrilled about this tax plan, Mr. Speaker, and that person is Mr. Money Bags. Mr. Money Bags is really going to benefit from this tax plan.

First of all, the President himself will greatly benefit from the tax plan. It is impossible to know exactly how much because we still don't have his tax returns. He has refused to release them. We would really appreciate, and we demand, frankly, that the American