

This means that the current National Flood Insurance Program is both insane and bankrupt. It is insane because taxpayers pay when others' homes are flooded. They pay again when the same homes are flooded a second time and a third time and a fourth time.

The GAO confirmed that the National Flood Insurance Program has created a flood of taxpayer debt; \$23 billion in March of 2016. Three recent major hurricanes on the Gulf Coast doesn't help.

Because Texas 22 had record floods when Hurricane Harvey hit in May, I was proud to be one of 237 Members to vote for needed reform, the 21st Century Flood Reform Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Senate colleagues to do the same. Give America a Christmas present before Santa Claus comes to town.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO CRAFT A TAX REFORM BILL

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will vote on H.R. 1, the so-called Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which Republicans say will support America's middle class. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

Middle-income Americans will receive, at best, one-fifth of the promised benefit of these tax cuts.

According to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center, H.R. 1 will raise taxes on 36 million hardworking middle class American households.

It scraps benefits our families depend on, like the student loan interest and medical expense deductions. Imagine, in a time when access to higher education is critical to a family's economic well-being, making it even more expensive.

This legislation was written behind closed doors, in secret, without Democratic input and without any hearings.

Mr. Speaker, a bill to overhaul the Tax Code, the results of which will affect every American for decades to come, deserves open and transparent consideration. I urge my colleagues to work together to instead craft a tax reform bill that truly lifts up the middle class and invests in our future.

THANKFUL FOR CHANGE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Thanksgiving 2017, I am thankful for the change since election 2016 and the positive success of President Donald Trump and Vice President MIKE PENCE to cut taxes to create jobs.

In the House, led by Speaker PAUL RYAN, there have been records set on productivity. As of this week, there have been 458 bills passed out of com-

mittee, more than the last five administrations; 407 bills passed out of the House, more than the last five administrations; and 82 bills signed by the President. There is progress for limited government and expanded freedom.

President Trump has also restored trust in America as a beacon for freedom with his strong friendship with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, and President Emmanuel Macron of France. He has championed liberty with 50 Muslim nations in Saudi Arabia, with stunning tributes in Warsaw and with the National Assembly in Seoul this week.

President Trump's success in creating jobs is clear with the Dow Jones, achieving 50 new highs and soaring. Consumer confidence is at a record high, establishing 261,000 new jobs in October alone.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

THE GOP TAX PLAN

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues have gone too far. Their tax scheme gives \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts to millionaires and billionaires as well as wealthy corporations. It raises taxes on 36 million middle class families; makes deep cuts to Medicaid and Medicare, education, and infrastructure investments; and creates more incentives to ship American jobs overseas.

Now they are planning to sneak in a provision that targets the heart of the Affordable Care Act and strips more than 13 million Americans of their access to healthcare. This is not a tax reform plan. It is a tax scam.

Democrats and Republicans should be working together to fix an economy and a Tax Code that is rigged against working people. The American people need real tax reform that invests in middle class families, stops corporations from shipping jobs overseas, and protects Medicare and Medicaid and other vital investments in healthcare, education, and infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does just the opposite. It deserves to be defeated, and the American people deserve a better deal.

RECOGNIZING THREE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS IN MICHIGAN

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

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here today to recognize three National Blue Ribbon schools in my district.

Each year, the Department of Education recognizes some of the top

schools from across the United States. The Blue Ribbon award is a remarkable achievement that recognizes the outstanding work done by exceptional educators and the hard work of dedicated students.

I would like to congratulate Hamlin Elementary School; Brewster Elementary School; and my own alma mater, Rochester Adams High School, for being recognized as being some of the best educational institutions there are.

I know this personally, as two of my children attend Rochester Adams High School. From my experience with these schools, what sets them apart is the teachers don't wait to generate enthusiasm for learning. Each and every student is empowered to do things for themselves, to take on challenges, to push their minds, and to think of things in different ways.

All of these schools are exceptional and are filled with the love of learning and are devoted to preparing students for all stages of life. All three schools serve the Rochester community and my hometown of Rochester.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations again to all these outstanding schools. Their selfless devotion to their students is something for which we all can take to heart. Our children are our future, and these Blue Ribbon schools are committed to making it a bright one.

ROLLINS DEMOCRACY PROJECT IS A SUCCESS

(Mrs. MURPHY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in a nationwide competition, Rollins College achieved one of the highest student voter turnout rates in the 2016 Presidential election.

I want to recognize the hardworking students and faculty at the Rollins Democracy Project for this accomplishment, which reflects the school's commitment to preparing the next generation of engaged citizens and global leaders.

As Justice Brandeis once observed, the only title in our democracy superior to that of President is the title of citizen.

Our democracy withers when our citizens are disengaged from and cynical about the political process. However, it is strongest when our citizens are engaged and informed. Our democracy works best when our citizens use their voice and their vote to hold elected leaders accountable. It thrives when our citizens understand that, while the right to vote is sacred, it is only powerful if it is exercised.

Mr. Speaker, that is why what this school accomplished is so important and why I am so proud to represent Rollins College in Congress.

IT IS TIME FOR CONGRESS TO REPEAL OBAMACARE'S INDIVIDUAL FORCED MANDATE

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise President Trump and my Republican colleagues in the House and Senate for coming together to develop the first major tax reform plan that our Nation has seen since 1986.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act we are considering is going to deliver real tax relief to middle class families and small businesses.

However, there is more work to be done. Here in the U.S., we don't settle for good enough. Congress can make the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act even better for the American people by including a repeal of ObamaCare's individual mandate.

No American should ever be forced to purchase something that they don't want. That is not freedom. That is not the American way. For 3 years now, Federal Government bureaucrats have forced Americans to purchase insurance they can't afford and don't want.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to repeal ObamaCare's individual forced mandate.

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DEPORTATION OF VETERANS

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, most Americans would be outraged to learn that hundreds, if not thousands, of veterans have been deported after serving honorably in the United States military, but this is the shocking truth about our broken immigration system.

These unjust deportations of veterans are still occurring. Let me cite the case of Chong Hwan Kim, a South Korean immigrant who has lived in this country since he was 5 years old. In 2009, he was deployed to Iraq and was honorably discharged a year later. Legal permanent residents qualify for citizenship if they serve just one day on Active Duty during a time of war.

Suffering from PTSD and facing the same challenges that many veterans face reintegrating into society, Kim broke the law, and because he never completed the process of becoming a citizen, he currently awaits deportation.

Veterans like Chong Hwan Kim deserve better. They deserve the dignity and respect that we afford to all who serve, and they deserve to enjoy the rights they risked their lives to protect.

HONORING MAGGIE McNEILL OF ASHE COUNTY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to salute a brave, dedicated nurse of Ashe County, North Carolina, Mrs. Maggie McNeill.

Recently, the Fifth Congressional District of North Carolina experienced torrential downpours and flooding, causing severe damage to many residents and their property.

Mrs. McNeill, scheduled for her shift at Ashe Memorial Hospital, found her car's path blocked by flood waters and a downed tree. Undeterred by this danger, Mrs. McNeill hiked on foot up a steep hill to her helpful father who gave her a ride to the hospital in time to help deliver two babies.

What a fantastic role model Mrs. McNeill is. She understood she was needed, and she risked herself to get to her patients. She exemplifies the best characteristics of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for many when I say that future generations of the Ashe County community are blessed by Mrs. McNeill's dedication to her calling.

OPPOSING THE TAX BILL

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Republican's tax scam that has been jammed through this Chamber without normal order, without public debate, and without consideration for our Nation's future.

I represent the heart of Las Vegas, a city that was one of the hardest hit during the financial crisis. Many of my constituents are just beginning to recover from the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, and this tax bill will greatly hinder their progress.

Some 20 percent of my constituents itemize their deductions, the vast majority of whom earn under \$75,000 per year. These families will all see a tax hike if this bill becomes law because the deductions for student loans, medical expenses, sales tax, and some mortgages will all disappear.

The sad reality is, they won't just feel the hit on April 15, tax day. They will feel it every single day. The deficit that this bill will create will lead to State and local governments missing out on needed Federal funding, and they will either have to slash vital programs or raise taxes at that level. If the Senate has its way, they will cut Medicare by \$25 billion and repeal the ACA. This is not a tax reform. It is a system that will be rigged.

NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH AND FINDING A CURE

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of November as National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and to highlight the need for continued funding to find a cure.

In 1983, when President Reagan designated this month to help raise awareness for Alzheimer's, there were less than 2 million Americans who suffered from this disease. Today, there are nearly 5.4 million Americans with Alzheimer's.

Finding a cure to this disease is a smart health policy decision we can make, and it might also be the most critical economic proposal. The cost of caring for Alzheimer's patients in the U.S. was estimated to be \$236 billion in 2016, which is more than \$200 billion greater than the total funding for research provided by the NIH for all diseases.

Investments in research have led to some great news in Kansas. The University of Kansas announced that it will participate in the trial of a new drug intended to prevent or delay Alzheimer's. Further, KU researchers are continuing to work on other preventative studies.

Mr. Speaker, as we must continue to provide resources that we need to find a cure for this disease, I am proud of the work being done at KU and across the Nation. We will continue to be relentless in our fight to cure Alzheimer's.

DEPORTED VETERANS

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of veterans of the United States Armed Forces who have been unceremoniously deported.

In the 1990s, the immigration law changes eliminated judicial discretion and reclassified many low-level, non-violent offenses as aggravated felonies mandating deportation. As a result, the United States has banished an unknown number of veterans. In many cases, these were minor offenses committed by veterans who succumbed to the difficulties of readjusting to civilian life.

Many are combat veterans who sustained physical wounds and emotional trauma in conflicts going back to the war in Vietnam. This banishment effectively denies these men access to often critically needed medical care.

Regardless of immigration status, all U.S. military veterans are entitled to treatment at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, yet very few of these deported veterans are granted the necessary waivers to access the care either in the States or abroad.

In fact, most of these veterans, the only way they are going to return is in a box, dead, because they do have the right to be buried in a veterans' cemetery. Let's do the right thing and bring these veterans home so they can get the care they need.