

The underlying issue here is runaway spending. We all know it. The American people know it. The lion's share of that spending is for mandatory spending. Mandatory spending is government spending on autopilot.

Today, mandatory spending makes up 70 percent of the entire Federal budget. In terms of growth in spending, over the next 10 years, 90 percent of the growth will come from mandatory spending.

We will never solve the national debt problem on discretionary spending alone. We must deal with mandatory spending, which means entitlement reform is the most serious and realistic opportunity to address our national debt.

□ 1215

Many of our entitlement programs are nearing insolvency. Without immediate action, some of these important social safety net programs will not be there for the next generation. With 10,000 baby boomers entering retirement every day—the largest generational retirement in the history of the world—these critical safety net programs, like Medicare and Social Security, will be insolvent; Medicare by 2030, Social Security by 2034.

We no longer have the luxury of kicking the can down the road. We are long overdue for action and we are fast approaching yet another debt ceiling.

The debt ceiling has been in existence since 1941, 70 years, and every time very little has been done to rein in spending as a result. It was supposed to serve as a warning so that we pause and consider the risk of borrowing more money that 74 times we have effectively just blown past through it.

We cannot continue to increase our borrowing capacity every time we hit the debt ceiling without some countervailing action to address our deficit and debt.

At what point is enough enough? How far do we want to put our children and grandchildren in the debt hole before we decide that this is a moral obligation and this is truly a looming crisis?

As Congress works to deal with the debt ceiling and our spending package that is here on the immediate horizon, it is important that we also introduce structural spending reforms. We need to have a balanced budget, for heaven's sake. We need to move some of the mandatory over to discretionary.

We need to set targets for reducing our debt. And if we don't meet those targets because we don't have the courage to do it, then it should be forced on us to cut across the board until we get this debt down to a manageable size for our children and for the future of this country.

Balancing our budget and reducing our country's debilitating debt is the challenge of the 21st century. It is my generation's greatest challenge. It is time for Congress to step up to the plate and get to work addressing the biggest problem facing our country.

That means less partisan obstruction and thinking about our political futures and more courageous leadership and thinking about our children's future.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) at 2 p.m.

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You have blessed us with all good gifts, and this past week, with thankful hearts, we gathered with family and loved ones throughout this great land to celebrate our blessings together.

Bless the Members of the people's House, who have been entrusted with the privilege to serve our Nation and all Americans in their need. Grant them to work together in respect and affection, and to be faithful in the responsibilities they have been given.

Much is left to be done. Bestow upon them the gifts of wisdom and discernment, that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## IN TRIBUTE TO IRIS CAMPBELL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, former first lady of South Carolina, Iris Campbell, wife of the late Governor Carroll Campbell, passed away last week. South Carolinians are grateful for her dedication to our citizens.

Born in Greenville, Iris Campbell was married to the love of her life, Carroll Campbell, for 46 years. Together, they built successful small businesses and then served the people they loved for three decades, being instrumental in the development of the two-party system, with Carroll Campbell being the first Republican elected to Congress from Greenville-Spartanburg in over 100 years.

As South Carolina's first lady from 1987 to 1995, Iris Campbell devoted herself to service organizations, including the American Cancer Society, the March of Dimes, and Carolina Children's Home. She served on the board of trustees for Richland Memorial Children's Hospital.

When Governor Campbell was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Iris Campbell devoted herself to caring for him and to raising money for Alzheimer's research and the Carroll Campbell Place for Alzheimer's Care of Lexington Medical Center in Lexington.

Roxanne and I join all South Carolinians in thanking the Campbell family, especially sons Carroll, Jr.—Tumpy—and Mike for sharing Iris with us. She has made South Carolina better, and we will miss her.

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

## REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF POLICE OFFICER BRIAN SHAW

(Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of the death of Brian Shaw, a brave, young police officer who was recently killed in the line of duty in my district on November 17.

What began as a routine traffic stop turned into a pursuit on foot and an exchange of gunfire that left Officer Shaw mortally wounded.

Brian was just 25 years old when he was murdered doing the job he loved. He was a universally loved and respected member of his community. He was well liked and respected by his fellow officers. His life was brutally cut short, but there is no denying it was a life well lived.

Brian was a graduate of Burrell High School, Slippery Rock University, and the Allegheny County Police Training Academy.

He served as a police officer in Cheswick, Frazer, and Springdale Township before joining the New Kensington Police Department this June.

Friends have said that Brian always wanted to be a police officer. Brian said that he became a police officer because he wanted to make a difference. I want my colleagues and the whole Nation to know that he did.

Throughout his service as a police officer, he upheld the law, and he served the communities with dedication, compassion, and a warm smile. He knew the risks that come with being a law enforcement officer, and he accepted them willingly.

I had the honor of attending the memorial service for Officer Shaw at Mount St. Peter Church last week. The turnout was amazing. The church was packed to the rafters. Thousands more stood outside, including more than 1,000 police officers. I can't think of a more tangible expression of respect and appreciation for Officer Shaw's service and his sacrifice.

In closing, I want to express my deepest sympathy to Officer Shaw's parents, Lisa and Stephan; his brother, Steffan; his fellow police officers; his family; and his friends.

#### HONORING POLICE OFFICER BRIAN SHAW

(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, I want to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for his remarks regarding Officer Shaw.

The Book of Wisdom teaches that "the souls of the just are in the hands of God, and no torment shall touch them."

The family and friends of New Kensington, Pennsylvania, Police Officer Brian Shaw today must trust in that Scripture as they continue to grieve his loss.

Officer Shaw was only 25 years old when he was taken in an act of senseless violence, but in his short life, he learned a great deal, and what he learned allowed him to give even more.

Brian Shaw knew his vocation, to serve as a police officer and, as he said, to make a difference. His former supervisor, Frazer Township Police Chief Terry Kuhns, recalled that when Brian gave that answer during his job interview, he knew he meant it as he looked in his eyes and his smile.

Perhaps what Chief Kuhns saw in Brian were virtues our world desperately needs more of: authenticity and sincerity. Those virtues contributed to what New Kensington Police Chief Jim Klein described as Brian's incredible passion for his work.

To Brian's parents and family, you raised him right. May Brian Shaw, a just man, evermore rest in the hands of God.

#### WE NEED TAX REFORM

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share some of the feedback I have heard from my constituents about the tax bill that has already passed this House and is now under consideration in the Senate.

More than 2,000 of my constituents have taken the time to reach out to me and share their overwhelming opposition to this bill.

I have heard from people like the 83-year-old man in Lake Forest who will face financial hardship when he is no longer able to deduct his medical expenses; or the professor at Rosalind Franklin University in north Chicago who emailed that she is worried about what the elimination of the tuition waivers will mean for her medical students; or the man in Libertyville who fears that, with the elimination of the State and local tax deduction for property taxes, he will face both a higher annual tax bill and more than a 10 percent hit on the value of his home.

Mr. Speaker, we need tax reform. I remain committed to working across the aisle to achieve it, but this partisan proposal is not the way. I urge my colleagues to listen to their own constituents, abandon this fatally flawed bill, and work in a bipartisan way to accomplish fair, responsible tax reform.

#### HIGHLIGHTING THE RISING SEVERITY OF ILLEGAL MARIJUANA GROWS ON FEDERAL LANDS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to highlight the rising severity of illegal marijuana grows on Federal lands.

In 2016, the DEA Cannabis Eradication Program found a 60 percent increase in the amount of assets seized from marijuana raids compared to just the previous year.

The same year, the Forest Service eradicated nearly \$1.5 million worth of marijuana plants from over 240 sites on National Forest System in the Pacific area alone.

Local sheriffs from my district have expressed to me their great concern for public safety, environmental destruction, a lot of time which farmers end up getting blamed for for water quality and the chemicals and stuff that get left behind, not the farmers' fault, but indeed these illegal grows, and even human trafficking gets caught up in all this.

What is currently being done to address the amount of marijuana grows on our public lands? Not nearly enough. People feel endangered by going out into their public lands, whether it is adjacent private property owners or what have you.

Timber harvest needs to be done, forest thinning needs to be done, taking

care of the environmental needs for our wildlife, all that, and it can't happen due to these illegal grows and the danger they bring. They should be able to enjoy them, and we should be able to stop this illegal practice. We need many more assets poured into our Western forest lands to eradicate this illegal grow.

#### CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF MONSIGNOR FRANKLYN CASALE

(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 the career of Monsignor Franklyn Casale, who will retire this coming spring after serving as president of St. Thomas University for the past 24 years.

Monsignor Casale has led an exemplary life of service, including many leadership positions. In south Florida, we are most thankful for the monsignor's distinguished presidency of St. Thomas, which included the expansion of campus facilities, positioning the university as a leader in the fight against human trafficking, and the establishment of the university's first doctoral program.

During his tenure, Monsignor Casale created a legacy of committed service, which transformed St. Thomas into one of the Nation's leading universities, and prepared thousands of his graduates to become leaders in their fields.

Once again, congratulations, Monsignor Casale, on a well-deserved retirement and on a remarkable career advancing St. Thomas' legacy of academic achievement and spiritual development. Your lifelong emphasis on Catholic values, diversity, and student success has helped empower many students to take on the world with compassion and strong conviction.

"Congratulations, my friend,"  
"Felicidades, mi amigo."

#### CONGRATULATING ST. CROIX NATIVE TIM DUNCAN

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Croix native Tim Duncan on his induction to the Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame.

In 1989, Tim was training to be an Olympic swimmer when Hurricane Hugo struck the Virgin Islands, destroying all of the Olympic-size swimming pools. With no place left on the island to train, he turned his focus to basketball.

At Wake Forest, he helped lead the team to four NCAA tournaments, was named the National Association of Basketball Coaches Player of the Year three times, the ACC Player of the Year twice, and the National Player of the Year in 1997.