

Although I am a Golden Tornado from Butler, Pennsylvania, I am proud to say: Go Ramblers, Go Greyhounds, and Go Rams.

THE GOP TAX PLAN

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, by now, enough of the harsh reality of the Republican tax plan has been discovered by Americans. That is why most are opposed. They oppose a huge transfer of wealth to those who don't need it from the majority of middle class Americans who do need help.

They are against giving hundreds of billions of dollars to the largest corporations and the richest Americans with increased borrowing on our children and grandchildren. Their proposal would cost about \$2.3 trillion in increased debt and interest.

They are raising taxes on almost 9 million middle-income people with very high medical bills. The Alzheimer's tax is a bad idea and people hate it.

People noticed that the huge permanent tax breaks for businesses and the wealthy—they have got theirs—but the tax relief for middle-income Americans is temporary and will disappear over time.

By 2023, the average American who makes \$30,000 a year or less will see a tax increase. By 2027, all tax brackets under \$75,000 are going to see a tax increase. Because the Republicans will change the way that tax brackets are adjusted for inflation, we are going to see people pulled up into ever higher tax rates—a stealth tax increase. For middle class Americans, their tax relief is a political football while the rich and the powerful are protected.

Of course, there are other strange things that are going to come out on an ongoing basis because of the crazy way this has been put together, and it is still being massaged behind the scenes. For example, we found just last weekend that some professionals who make between \$500,000 and \$650,000 a year are going to pay a marginal tax rate of over 100 percent. For that extra \$100 they make, they are going to pay \$107 in taxes. Absolutely insane.

People are noticing that this proposal is triggering spending cuts for Medicare—\$25 billion scheduled for next year—and Medicaid cuts for the elderly and disabled are on the horizon.

There are more reasons to oppose this proposal than I have time to list here this morning, but perhaps the most fundamental flaw has not been given nearly enough attention. The Republicans would change taxation based on how you make your money, not how much you make.

The very highest taxes will be on the way that 80 percent of Americans make their income. W-2 salary and wages are going to pay the highest rate. It is

going to be collected on each paycheck and very hard to cut corners.

This is going to open a whole new industry when people find that a CPA who works for a corporation making exactly the same money as somebody who is an independent professional doing exactly the same job but pays far more in taxes, people are going to cash in on a whole new industry in terms of how people can change how their income is characterized.

There will be a professional corporation, a passthrough business, a proprietor, partnerships, and closely held corporations. They will all be treated differently based on ownership, the day-to-day level of involvement, and the organizational structure. In short, all the people who employ lobbyists are going to be able to find a way to pay a lower tax rate than people who just get a paycheck for salary and wages.

Since when does reform of the tax system take this perverted form?

In fact, those people who are going to be changing the form to those other structures will be able to deduct, as corporations will, their State and local property taxes, but individuals will not. It is unfair and it is unwise. This massive transfer of wealth to the people who need it the least, financed by our children and grandchildren with higher debt, and creating a different class of taxpayer based not on how much you make but how clever you are to be able to utilize differences that are created by the army of lobbyists who are at work here on Capitol Hill. It should be rejected.

REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICES MADE BY OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say thanks to our Active Duty military men and women who serve our country and protect our freedoms; and a special thanks to those soldiers from my home State of Kansas, the soldiers from Fort Riley who represent the Big Red One, the First Infantry Division, whose lapel pin I proudly wear today; and to say thanks to the soldiers of Fort Riley and the airmen and -women at McConnell Air Force Base who so proudly serve this country.

As we approach the holiday season, many of us will be surrounded by loved ones. But we must not forget those in uniform who sacrifice time with their families during the holidays for the safety of our Nation.

Keeping our troops in our thoughts is not enough, however. Congress must move past the brinkmanship and procrastination that leave our government funding moving from one continuing resolution to the next. Failure to provide funding for a full fiscal year not only creates self-imposed crises and uncertainties about paychecks, but it

robs our national defense agencies of the ability to plan, to make smart funding decisions, and to ensure our warfighters are being sent to battle with every advantage at their disposal.

Fiscal reductions and budgetary uncertainties have eroded the readiness of our military. Defense Secretary Mattis stated that the sequestration has done more to harm our troops' readiness than any enemy abroad. As threats continue to expand across the globe, it is imperative that our troops have the resources needed to complete their mission successfully and return home safely.

As the holiday season approaches, I want to urge those at home to remember the sacrifices being made by our soldiers to ensure we celebrate the holidays safely. I also urge my colleagues to address these crises by passing a full-year spending bill for the military, to raise the defense spending caps, and to give our troops the raise they deserve. While our troops have performed exceptionally under an uncertain budget and limited resources, it is past time Congress does its part.

PASS A HURRICANE DISASTER SUPPLEMENTAL AND SUPPORT HARVEY VICTIMS

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the thousands of hurricane disaster victims in our district in Houston and Harris County, Texas, along the Texas Gulf Coast, who are suffering this holiday season due to the Federal Government's inaction and Congress' delay in passing an adequate disaster supplemental bill.

People from Texas, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are all U.S. citizens.

Hurricane Harvey's destruction was beyond anything witnessed in living memory in Texas. The Houston area typically gets 49 inches of rain throughout the year. A record 52 inches of rain fell in Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast, causing catastrophic flooding in our Nation's fourth largest city.

Harvey damaged over 300,000 homes and apartments in the city of Houston alone. Statewide, nearly 600,000 homes have been inspected by FEMA for flood or wind damage. Most tragically, 88 Texans lost their lives in Harvey's wrath.

Texans are a proud and independent people. We take pride in our self-reliance and can-do attitude. This was best seen in the actions of our brave first responders and countless volunteers from all over the country who rescued their neighbors during the worst flooding.

Unfortunately, many Harvey victims, and especially our seniors and low-income families, continue to be in great need and must rely on others for help.

A report released last week by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that African-American Texans, Hispanic Texans, and Texans with lower income were the most likely to have suffered property damage or loss of income due to Harvey.

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The same report found that over 50 percent of all Harvey disaster victims in Texas have been denied assistance from the Federal Government or are still waiting for a final answer.

To date, the Federal Government has provided just \$10 million in aid for Harvey victims. Much more Federal aid is needed to rebuild Houston, Harris County, and the Texas Gulf Coast.

After Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana and Mississippi, Congress responded by passing a series of disaster spending bills that provided \$120 billion to rebuild New Orleans and surrounding areas. The Governor of Texas has requested \$60-plus billion.

Three months after Sandy made landfall, Congress passed a \$50 billion disaster relief bill to help New York and New Jersey rebuild.

Yesterday, I learned the House leadership is planning on delaying the disaster supplemental for Harvey and the other hurricanes that ravaged Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands for another month, until after Christmas and New Year's. These funds are needed now.

December 25, Christmas Day, will mark the 4-month anniversary of Harvey's landfall. Mr. Speaker, the people of Texas deserve better. Today, thousands of Texans in my district and throughout Houston and the Gulf Coast are living in tents, in their cars, and in flooded, moldy houses that are unsafe for our children and the elderly. America can do better than this.

During this season of giving, Congress must act and help these disaster victims in need or Texas will suffer a second man-made disaster by the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING QUAKER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, not only was western Pennsylvania hit by a flurry of snow this past weekend, but by great pride in high school football. This past Saturday, my hometown Quaker Valley High School football team won the State championship trophy in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Class 2A division.

With preseason rankings that would merit them as underdogs and a new coach that stepped in just before the start of the season, the Quakers tackled their way into history. They defeated their opponents handily by 17 points.

Mr. Speaker, these State champions are to be commended for their grit and perseverance. It was an excellent game to cap off an outstanding season.

Congratulations to Coach Jerry Veshio, the entire coaching staff, and the players who are excelling in this western Pennsylvania tradition.

CONGRATULATING PINE-RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, in front of a crowd exceeding 2,000 people at snow-covered Hersheypark Stadium, western Pennsylvania's Pine-Richland Rams charged victoriously into the history books.

With a 41-21 victory, the Rams won the State championship in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Class 6A division. Indeed, it was an unforgettable win that cemented their exceptional State championship season.

Congratulations to Coach Eric Kasperowicz, the entire coaching staff, and the players for excelling in this great western Pennsylvania tradition.

Well done, Rams. Your dedication and hard work has made Pine-Richland High School and all of western Pennsylvania proud.

RESPECT THE HOME RULE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, 44 years ago this month, Congress passed the District of Columbia Home Rule Act. A Republican President signed it. A Democratic Congress, together with the Republican President, freed the Nation's Capital from government by three unelected commissioners.

The irony is that the self-government the District of Columbia enjoys today is a virtual replica of what a Republican Congress and a Republican President granted to the District of Columbia right after the Civil War. It granted the Home Rule Act and, of course, a Delegate to Congress.

But, with Reconstruction and Democratic control, Democrats took back what Republicans had granted and, once again, Democrats denied the District of Columbia self-government.

Then, 44 years ago, with bipartisan support, after 100 years of struggle, the District of Columbia finally won what we call home rule.

My colleagues should respect their own history. It was Richard Nixon who signed the Home Rule Act, acting on the most revered, as far as we are told, Republican principles of local control, that local residents should always have a democratically elected local government controlled entirely by their government. The District has become one of the most successful jurisdictions in the United States since home rule, with a \$14 billion budget.

Before and after home rule however, District of Columbia residents have always paid Federal income taxes.

Today, D.C. residents rank number one—that is first—per capita in taxes paid to support the government of the United States.

In signing the bill for the Home Rule Act, President Nixon wrote: "One of the major goals of this administration is to place responsibility for local functions under local control and to provide local governments with the authority and resources they need to serve their communities effectively."

Since Congress granted the Home Rule Act, it has shown no interest in governing the District of Columbia, but it requires the D.C. budget to actually be passed again here, by Congress, for the sole purpose of seeking to overturn local laws that Members of Congress don't support.

The basis for our federation of States is that each has its own laws and they must be respected, yet there are eight different laws pending here to be overturned by the Congress of the United States.

I believe I will be able to retain most of these laws for the District of Columbia, but why should I have to spend any of my time protecting local laws passed by my local jurisdiction?

They range from trying to get rid of all the District's gun laws; making the District pay for private schools out of local funds; the medical aid in dying law, which six States already have and DC would not be allowed to have, although two Republican leaders have such bills in their States; no budget autonomy law; repeal of the non-discrimination law that the District has based on reproductive choices of family members; no local funds for marijuana commercialization, though that is now done by eight States; and the prohibition on spending for abortions for low-income women. That is done by 17 States.

This is a sampling of what is pending, Mr. Speaker. Congress allows these same laws to exist in their own local jurisdictions.

The way to commemorate self-government for the District of Columbia granted by Congress 44 years ago is for Congress itself to respect the Home Rule Act it passed in 1973.

SHASH JAA NATIONAL MONUMENT AND INDIAN CREEK NATIONAL MONUMENT

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, as you can see in this picture, Indian Creek, located in southeastern Utah in my congressional district, is home to some of the most beautiful and majestic scenery in the world, but it has also become an epicenter of an ongoing conflict between those whose livelihoods depend on multiple uses of these public lands and groups focused on advocating for limited use of those lands.

Almost exactly 1 year ago, President Obama, over the objections of many