

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

stakeholders, utilized the Antiquities Act to unilaterally designate 1.35 million acres of land as the Bears Ears National Monument. Last week, President Trump came to Utah to help resolve this issue by reauthorizing this monument into two much smaller national monuments, the Indian Creek and the Shash Jaa National Monument.

Although both executive actions have ignited widespread anger and resentment on each side of this issue, I still believe that both sides share many common goals and values and can work together for the benefit of Utah. We can all agree that these important lands must be responsibly managed for future generations to appreciate.

Now that Utah has two, more manageable monuments, the time has come for Congress to act to ensure that these archeological treasures and sacred Tribal lands are protected the right way. I believe the right way to manage these lands is to have input from Utah's Tribal members, local citizens, and government officials.

Additionally, there needs to be a management plan that protects important archeological sites and sacred Tribal land while also maintaining multiple uses of these lands, such as recreation, hunting, and grazing.

Lastly, the legislative process and constitutionally mandated system of checks and balances are the best way to both determine the best management of these lands as well as the creation of any new national parks, monuments, recreation, and conservation areas. That is why I have joined other members of Utah's House delegation to introduce the Shash Jaa National Monument and Indian Creek National Monument Act, which creates the first tribally comanaged monument area. It will safeguard these new monuments by establishing management councils comprised of representatives of local government and Native Americans.

This bill also authorizes law enforcement officials to protect these sacred and significant archeological sites and antiquities from looters, while preserving the multiple use and access to these lands for recreation, grazing, and hunting.

As a Member of Congress, my job is to bring forth solutions that add stability to this region and complement our mutually shared goals. That is the Utah way. It is my hope that, as Congress considers my Shash Jaa National Monument and Indian Creek National Monument bill, we can we bring all sides together to manage these important areas in the right way.

#### NET NEUTRALITY

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, this Thursday, the Federal Communications Commission is set to vote on their Restoring Internet Freedom proposal, to revisit the FCC's previous open internet order of 2015.

Over the past few weeks, I have received thousands of calls and emails from my constituents expressing their

support for net neutrality and for an open and free internet. I have personally read every single one of these emails, conducted townhall meetings, and listened to the phone calls. Today, I would like to share my views on this critical issue.

Many in this Chamber may not know that Utah is currently experiencing somewhat of a technical startup phenomenon. My district is known as one of the best places in the United States to start a business.

I recognize that the great success that we have been able to achieve in Utah and throughout the U.S. is largely due to the progress and advance of the internet. This is the most important technological advancement of our time, and the internet has become the backbone of our economy.

I believe the internet is successful despite government, not because of government. Because the internet has been open and free, we have seen exciting innovation and progress that was previously unimaginable.

Like so many of my constituents and colleagues in Congress, I support the principles of net neutrality and am opposed to any blocking, throttling, or paid prioritization of the internet. Because I do not favor a burdensome government regulatory framework over the internet, I feel a great burden to assure those in my district that the internet will remain open and free. The way to do this is for Congress to act.

It is more than time that Congress step up and modernize the statutes that control how the internet is regulated. A vast number of my constituents and small businesses are concerned about the future of the internet. They worry that large corporations will win out and deprive them of their ability to be competitive.

As a Congress, we can give them the protection that they need. It has been more than 20 years since Congress last reformed our national telecommunications laws. It is my sincere hope that we will come together in a bipartisan way to update this outdated regulatory framework and to ensure that the internet continues to be fair, open, and free so that it continues to benefit customers and advance and innovate, unhindered by burdensome government regulations. I66F

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#### THERE THEY GO AGAIN

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, there they go again. Donald Trump and PAUL RYAN are dusting off a familiar Republican playbook.

I will break it down for you:

Step one, slash taxes for millionaires and billionaires;

Step two, explode the deficit;

Step three, use rising deficits to justify cuts to Medicare and Medicaid;

Step four, accuse Democrats of being irresponsible for opposing said cuts;

Step five, repeat. Repeat as the rich get richer, repeat as the deficit grows larger, repeat as working families struggle, and repeat as the social safety net disintegrates.

We saw it a decade ago under President Bush, and we are seeing it again right now.

But you don't have to take my word for it, Mr. Speaker. The Republican tax bill will add \$1.5 trillion to our national debt over the next decade, yet PAUL RYAN is already claiming that we need to cut entitlements to get America's finances under control.

Last week, RYAN warned: "We're going to have to get back next year at entitlement reform. . . . Frankly, it's the healthcare entitlements that are the big drivers of our debt . . . that's really where the problem lies."

Not true, Mr. Speaker.

Our problem doesn't lie with life-saving healthcare programs like Medicare and Medicaid. Our problem lies with this monstrosity of a tax bill.

What if we tried a different approach?

What if, instead of slashing Medicare to pay for tax cuts for Trump's cronies, we said no to this scam of a tax bill?

What if we said no to raising taxes on middle class families?

What if we said no to hurting students to help the largest companies in the world?

What if we said no to a tax bill written by high-paid lobbyists for wealthy donors behind closed doors?

What if, just once, the Republican majority actually passed a bill to make life easier for Americans living paycheck to paycheck?

It is a crazy idea, right?

But if Republicans come to their senses and want to work on real tax reform for working Americans, they know where to find us, but I won't hold my breath.

#### CONGRATULATING ANDREA SANCHEZ

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

Mr. YOH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Andrea Sanchez—and I am excited about this—from Gainesville, Florida, for winning our district's 2017 Congressional App Challenge. Her app, iVolunteer, solves a problem she saw in her school and helps students log their volunteer hours, as well as incentivizing community service by letting students compete against their peers to see who can log the most hours.

Other submissions we received included an app that teaches students how to code and one designed to give people realtime information in natural disasters.

These apps came from young students who recognized a problem they were facing and employed various