

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, there are very few legislative days left this calendar year, and the House has yet to debate and vote on the Dream Act or any legislative proposal that would shield our DREAMers from deportation.

The administration created an arbitrary deadline of March 5 before the DACA program begins to phase out. However, Mr. Speaker, we cannot, we should not, and we must not wait until the very last minute to take action.

Every day that goes by, DREAMers are losing protections; they can't get that job they so desperately need; and they can't apply to the school that they want. Simply put, their lives have been put on hold.

Mr. Speaker, Members have seen me come to the floor time after time to advocate for these hardworking, young Americans because I wholeheartedly believe that we need to get this done rapidly. The American people agree, and many of our colleagues from both sides of the aisle agree.

So I urge each one of my colleagues to look at the ideals of compassion and opportunity that have long characterized our generous and great country and allow a vote to help our DREAMers. The time for Congress to take action is now.

HONORING U.S. ARMY COLONEL JOSEPH TOPPIN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

(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, I rise today to honor Colonel Joseph Toppin of Edison, New Jersey, on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Colonel Toppin entered the military in 1948, the same year that a wavering President named Harry Truman finally prohibited racial discrimination in the Armed Forces. Colonel Toppin rose to become the first African American to serve as battalion commander for the Army's 40th Infantry Division.

The colonel has dedicated his life to improving the quality of our democracy and making the world a safer place. He helped with postwar planning for the development of Korea. He also was the principal planner for the Army's ship-to-shore discharge operations along the west coast of France. And Colonel Toppin was the inspector general for Fort Dix in New Jersey.

Upon leaving the Army, he had an illustrious career at Bethlehem Steel Corporation.

Colonel Toppin is now retired, but he has still not stopped inspiring those around him, which is why I stand here tonight. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Colonel Toppin on his 100th birthday and for his service to the United States of America.

DISAPPEARANCE OF RHINOS AND ELEPHANTS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, wildlife trafficking is a much larger problem than many realize. This illegal activity is connected to two major concerns: one, extinction of species; and, two, the funding of terrorist organizations.

Rhinos are killed for their horns, and elephants are killed for their tusks. The handful of rhinos in Africa are almost extinct, and 100 African elephants are killed by ivory poachers a day.

Illegal wildlife trade serves as a source of cash flow for thugs like terrorists and international criminal organizations. They fund many of their deadly activities by poaching animals and then selling the parts internationally.

Adding to the problem is the fact that some foreign authorities are corrupt and complicit in trafficking.

All nations must take an aggressive stand to prevent this trafficking. This starts with the stopping of the illegal transport of ivory and rhino horns.

The nations of the world must tighten the screws against those who participate in this destruction of wildlife; otherwise, the only place our kids will see rhinos and elephants is on the Disney Channel.

And that is just the way it is.

AMTRAK CASCADES ACCIDENT

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

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, no Member of this body ever wants to come to this dais and say what I am about to say.

This morning, a train derailed as it crossed Interstate 5 near DuPont, Washington, in the heart of my district, sending railcars to the roadway below.

Lives were lost and families were shattered. Loved ones are severely injured, including a family member of one of my staffers. All this, of course, right in the middle of the holiday season.

Right now, many questions beg for answers. We need to determine what went wrong, and the NTSB will be investigating. But, for now, I am grateful for our first responders and the community for stepping up. So many set aside their grief and reported for duty, including many first responders who came in on their day off.

Our hearts go out to the families impacted by this horrific tragedy, and we ask for everyone's prayers for the victims to continue to recover.

IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR END-STAGE RENAL DISEASE PATIENTS

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor and supporter of the bipartisan Dialysis PATIENTS Demonstration Act, which provides better care for patients who are suffering from end-stage renal disease, also known as kidney failure.

Currently, there are about 9,000 Minnesotans who suffer from end-stage renal disease. Many of these patients spend hours and hours enduring multiple hospital visits each and every week to treat this disease; and, on top of that, they oftentimes also have to travel to a different location to get treatment for other health conditions they may have as well.

This legislation will allow dialysis centers to provide integrated care for patients by bringing in providers so that people can receive comprehensive treatments all in the same place. These patients will also be able to see additional benefits, like transportation services, dental care, and vision care.

Mr. Speaker, let's pass this bill so we can improve the quality of life for this vulnerable patient population by coordinating the care system and making it easier for them to receive their treatments.

REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the Members of the House will cast a vote on the tax conference committee report, the final version of the Republican tax plan.

The Republican leadership rushed this bill to the finish line at the expense of small-business owners and working families. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no."

As a former small-business owner, I understand firsthand the importance of tax simplification. Unfortunately, this bill does the opposite: it complicates our Tax Code while giving companies fewer than 2 weeks to adjust before it goes into effect. This creates serious uncertainty for small-business owners who create jobs and invest in our communities.

I support reforming our Tax Code, but I ask my colleagues to stop rushing this process and to put working families first. There is simply too much at stake.

We can simplify our tax system without exploding the national debt and spiking healthcare premiums. For the sake of our economy and our future, we need to kill this bill.

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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