

recovery, consistent with President Donald Trump's commitment to rebuild the military as he keeps his promises.

This legislation makes major reforms to the Pentagon bureaucracy, while adding more military personnel to all services. The NDAA also includes the largest pay increase for the military in 9 years.

As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, I am grateful that this legislation promotes rebuilding the military and supports readiness recovery by rehabilitating and replacing worn-out equipment, overcoming the crisis in military aviation, restoring America's strength at sea, and rebuilding crumbling military buildings and other infrastructure.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill that supports the men and women in uniform, along with military families, to promote peace through strength.

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

#### ENDANGERED SALMON PREDATION PREVENTION

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, the Pacific Northwest is facing an unprecedented and growing problem of sea lions who are decimating our endangered salmon and steelhead runs in the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.

Right now, in front of my district office in Oregon City, there are 24 sea lions sitting at the base of Willamette Falls gorging themselves on the spring salmon run. This is 127 miles from the Pacific Ocean, their natural habitat.

This salmon buffet of endangered fish costs Northwest ratepayers nearly \$1 billion a year: a third of our electric bill.

We need to pass H.R. 2083, the Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act, now. I introduced this bill, along with my Northwest colleague, JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER.

It will provide Oregon and Washington wildlife managers with the tools they need, that they requested, to quickly act to remove problem sea lions to protect these endangered fish.

If we don't act now, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife says that there is a 90 percent chance the Willamette winter steelhead run will go extinct in the next few years.

Mr. Speaker, it would be unconscionable to let this happen. We know the problem, and it is identified. Let's take action.

#### RECOGNIZING COLONEL JAMES BROWN

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel James Brown, a friend of mine, who has faithfully served the Tooele Army Depot and the United States Army. It is my honor to recognize the years of service Colonel Brown has given to our Nation prior to the upcoming change of command. Colonel Brown has been instrumental in expanding Tooele Army Depot's mission of readiness, as well as ensuring a safe and secure worksite for its employees.

I offer my sincere thanks to all those who served at the Tooele Army Depot, as well as those who have had the privilege to serve with Colonel Brown. I understand the sacrifices of our military men and women on behalf of our Nation. I am humbled by the work these men and women do every day to protect our freedom and our Nation's freedom as well. And we have to remember their families because their families—their spouses and children—also sacrifice.

Defending honor, duty, and country is the greatest service one can achieve in the United States military. Colonel Brown's courage and dedication is enduring, and his work will continue to support generations to come.

#### HONORING LISA LA RUSSO

(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, I rise today to honor our Nation's emergency medical service workers.

When crisis strikes, we turn to EMS workers. They are first on the scene to provide vital medical care when we need it most. Their lifesaving work requires skill, is often dangerous, and takes a great deal of courage.

We rely on people like Lisa La Russo, a paramedic with American Medical Response in Riverside County and proud member of AFSCME Local 4911. Lisa has been saving lives for nearly three decades and, like many in her field, goes above and beyond in service to her community. Her work responding to emergencies compelled her to start Splash Medics, a nonprofit dedicated to the prevention of drowning injuries and deaths through education about water safety.

I salute Lisa La Russo, her fellow union members, and all of the EMS workers across the Nation. They are the reason Americans rest assured that help is just a phone call away.

#### ALL AMERICAN WEEK

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

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of All American Week, the annual celebration of the 82nd Air-

borne Division's mission and the paratroopers who serve to uphold it.

Based in my district at Fort Bragg—the epicenter of the universe—the 82nd Airborne Division is our Nation's Global Response Force. These rapid reaction forces can mobilize, load, and deploy at a moment's notice. It is truly incredible.

There is ready, and then there is Airborne ready. As the old saying goes: When the President dials 911, the phone rings at Fort Bragg.

Since its inception, the 82nd Airborne has, time and again, answered the call of duty when our Nation needs it most.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Fort Bragg, I am so proud of the 82nd Airborne's legacy, of our paratroopers, and especially their families.

As the Airborne spirit takes flight this week, I ask my fellow Americans to join me in praying for our service members who are currently deployed and for their families. These heroes put country before self, and we are so grateful. God bless you. Airborne, all the way.

#### NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, May is National Foster Care Month, a time to renew our commitment to the thousands of children in our Nation's foster care system. That is why I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Youth Foster Caucus, which is dedicated to strengthening our Nation's child welfare system.

Today, we are celebrating the Congressional Foster Youth Shadow Day, a special day when more than 100 foster youth from across the country come to D.C. to spend a day with Members of Congress as we conduct our Nation's business.

I have the privilege today of hosting Esmeralda Masco, who is from my district in Stockton, California. Esmeralda is currently a student at Grand Canyon University, where she is studying public policy and aspires one day to become a civil rights lawyer. She is passionate about helping current and former foster youth and wants, one day, to open a resource center to help others in the foster care system to graduate and achieve their full potential.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Esmeralda and all of the participants in the Congressional Youth Shadow Day to our Nation's Capital.

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#### ONLINE PLATFORMS THREATEN FREE SPEECH

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest threats to free speech is the ongoing politicization of online platforms.

Some, which have millions of users, have allowed liberal interest groups to determine what content is available to the public. A recent example is the Southern Poverty Law Center being allowed to censor content that they deem hate speech.

The SPLC has a "hate map" that lists over 900 organizations. These include pro-life, religious freedom, and border security groups, all popular with the American people and all unfairly targeted by the SPLC.

Why do online platforms empower the SPLC to suppress conservative views? There is only one answer: They want to promote their liberal agenda even if it means stifling free speech.

This is a clear and present danger to democracy, and it represents another effort to control what the American people hear and see.

#### NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

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

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, May marks National Foster Care Month, a time for our country to come together to acknowledge the half million people in our child welfare system.

No one knows the child welfare system like the foster youth who have grown up in the system, and no one can raise their voices like foster youth voices.

Today, the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth and the National Foster Youth Institute have brought together more than 100 young people from every corner of the country here, to Washington, D.C., to shadow their Members of Congress.

The young people here today have traveled thousands of miles to share their stories, their challenges with abuse, trafficking, overmedication, or homelessness, but in addition, to share their successes with education accomplishments, mentorship, adoption, family unification, and community activism.

With me here today, from Los Angeles, is Megan Simon. She is 24 years old, and she was placed in foster care when she was only 1 year old. She was raised by her grandparents, and she has two other siblings who were involved in the system. She is actively involved in the National Foster Youth Institute Leadership Corps, where she attends meetings every Thursday night. She is an advocate and someone who wants to use her pain and her experience to make changes in the child welfare system.

She is a student at Los Angeles Trade Tech College, and she says that she is a leader, she is a survivor, and she is a winner, not because she wins every battle, but because she never stops fighting.

Mr. Speaker, too often the government—us—forgets our children. I hope that today's Shadow Day continues our fight to reverse that course.

#### HONORING THE FAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the Fayette High School marching band from my district for being selected to march in Washington's upcoming Memorial Day Parade.

The Marching Falcons found out in the fall that they had been selected to march in the parade, and their small community quickly rallied around them to raise the money they needed to go. Tomorrow they will board a bus, bright and early, to make the 14-hour drive here.

The band's director, Alex Kirby, told me the group has put in many hours of practice. School has already let out for summer vacation, but the dedicated band members still show up for practice 5 days a week, even the seniors who have already graduated.

I am so proud of this marching band and the dedication the students have shown in perfecting their music. I know that they will do a great job.

Congratulations.

#### DEMOCRACY REFORM

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, too many Americans feel that Washington is out of touch with their priorities. They feel that too few people have too much influence. Americans want the culture of corruption cultivated by rich lobbyists and massive corporations to end.

Look no further than Big Pharma, the pharmaceutical companies. Since 1998, they have spent \$4 billion in lobbying and campaign contributions. They employ 1,400 lobbyists, three lobbyists for every Member. No wonder the system seems rigged against commonsense solutions to lower drug prices.

Americans are getting a raw deal when big money controls politics. Democrats offer A Better Deal for our democracy: a bold, comprehensive program to bolster our Nation's ethics laws, overhaul our campaign finance system, and create more transparency and accessibility.

Americans deserve a government that works for them. They deserve A Better Deal.

I want to acknowledge Mimi Quin, with me today as part of Foster Youth Shadow Day.

#### FOSTER YOUTH SHADOW DAY

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hardships that many foster youth have had to endure and highlight the persistence and determination that they embody as they develop and transition to adulthood.

In Arkansas, we have over 5,000 children currently in the State's foster care system. As a member of the Foster Care Caucus here in the House, I am proud to cosponsor our resolution and have had the pleasure for the last 3 years to sponsor a former foster youth for Shadow Day here on the Hill.

This year I am honored to host Stefan Specht, a former foster youth from my district. Stefan is currently enrolled with Job Corps to obtain a certification in office administration and plans on working towards a degree in business.

Stefan is also a part of Immerse Arkansas, a vital program dedicated to helping foster youth with the difficult transition to adulthood. This program was a critical part of the changing point in Stefan's life and giving him a place to belong.

Many foster youth are not provided with programs like Immerse or a community to help support them in finding a career and home after they exit the foster care system. I am proud to be in this caucus and so proud to support our Shadow Day here on Capitol Hill.

#### LET'S PUT STUDENTS OVER SPECIAL INTERESTS

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, last year, the Republicans passed a corporate tax giveaway that adds \$1.9 trillion to the deficit. I was proud to join all of my fellow Democrats in voting against that.

Today I am here to talk about a new bill I introduced, the Students Over Special Interests Act. It shows what we could have done with some of that \$1.9 trillion.

I hear from constituents every day overwhelmed by student debt. For instance, Sam in Morrison, Colorado, a law enforcement officer, has been making student loan payments for years. Even at the age of 51, he has tens of thousands of dollars left.

What my Students Over Special Interests Act does is it forgives all student debt. That costs less than the Republican tax giveaway. In addition, it increases Pell funding and reduces the deficit.

Studies have shown that repealing student loan debt stimulates the economy, supports job growth, and takes something that is weighing down too many families.

After forgiving student debt and making college more affordable, my bill still costs less than the Republican tax giveaway that they passed into