

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