

So, Mr. Speaker, I will speak the names of those two children again: Felipe Gomez Alonzo and Jakelin Caal Maquin. We must have the courage to recognize their humanity.

#### THANKING THE PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD FOR ITS WORK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week I had the honor of meeting with the Pennsylvania National Guard Association, which is solely dedicated to more than 19,000 Guard members and more than 67,000 Guard veterans and their families.

The National Guard is an essential element of the United States military. Founded in 1636 as a citizen force organized to protect families and towns from hostile attacks, today's National Guard soldiers hold civilian jobs or attend college while maintaining their military training, always ready to defend the American way of life in the event of an emergency.

The mission of the Pennsylvania National Guard Association is to ensure the Pennsylvania National Guard is fully funded, manned, equipped, and trained to perform their Federal and State missions. That also includes ensuring that members and veterans have the benefits that they have earned.

Mr. Speaker, the Pennsylvania National Guard mostly hails from the Commonwealth, and they are prepared to serve the Nation at a moment's notice. In fact, Pennsylvania Guard personnel provided extraordinary support to areas affected by the disastrous 2018 hurricane season. They offered aviation support, restored lines of communication, and lent a helping hand to their fellow Americans in their time of need.

More than 1,000 Guard members assisted in domestic operations, including snowstorms and floods. In 2018, Guard members were deployed throughout the world in support of mobile operations. They also participated in training events at home and abroad to enhance readiness.

As part of its Federal mission, approximately 1,000 Pennsylvania National Guard personnel deployed throughout the world in 2018 in support of mobile operations, including Operation Spartan Shield, Operation Freedom Sentinel, and missions in support of U.S. Air Force's Central Command, Air Force Special Operations Command, and NATO.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to visit members of the Guard's 28th Infantry Division over the Thanksgiving holiday. I led a codelast November to Kuwait, where we met with members of the 28th Infantry Division who were deployed in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

The servicemembers that we visited, while serving honorably overseas, were also serving in one of the Army's most

historic units. The 28th Infantry Division is the oldest continuous serving division in the United States Army. In 1918, it earned its nickname "Iron Division," fighting during World War I, and 100 years later, the same division continues to defend freedom and liberty around the world.

Since the attacks of 9/11, more than 35,000 Pennsylvania National Guard members have deployed overseas. In fact, Pennsylvania's Fort Indiantown Gap is the busiest Army National Guard training center in the Nation.

The Pennsylvania National Guard is also home to the 56th Brigade Combat Team, which is one of the Army's nine Stryker Brigade Combat Teams. This is a team that my son Logan belonged to when he was in the National Guard before he went to Active Duty. It was the only National Guard Stryker brigade in the United States Army.

Mr. Speaker, the Pennsylvania National Guard continues to serve the Commonwealth and the Nation with pride and distinction. I look forward to its continued success. I thank all of our citizen soldiers, past and present, for their service.

#### E-COMMERCE IS AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, recently I spent the day in the Mount Washington Valley, with local businesses, hearing from small business owners about the challenges that they face.

I met with the owners of White Mountain Puzzles, a second-generation family business that produces 1.6 million made-in-the-U.S. puzzles a year and sells them all over the world.

Later in the day, I stopped by Lupine Pet, another terrific locally owned business that sells durable pet collars and harnesses.

Mr. Speaker, in keeping with our proud Live Free or Die tradition in the Granite State, we pay no sales taxes on goods and services.

White Mountain Puzzles and Lupine Pet are just two of the many small businesses that have thrived under the rules of the road of our State's economy. Unfortunately, a recent Supreme Court decision is casting a dark shadow over these entrepreneurs. It is threatening those who have brick-and-mortar operations in our State and make a living from online sales to customers across the street and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, in June of 2018, the Supreme Court upheld decades of precedent. In its decision in the Wayfair case, the Court ruled that a jurisdiction may legally impose sales taxes on customers of sellers that don't have a physical presence within that jurisdiction's borders.

Unfortunately, States across the country are now rushing to capitalize on this new taxing power, to the det-

rimment of businesses in New Hampshire that don't impose sales taxes on consumers and aren't prepared to collect them.

Ultimately, the Wayfair decision could force untold numbers of small retailers in my State to stop doing business altogether over the internet. That is a possibility that should alarm every American.

We should be empowering entrepreneurs and innovators, the true driving force of the American economy, not stifling them with burdensome tax collection requirements.

Here is the bottom line, Mr. Speaker: Businesses in my district should not be punished simply for using the internet to reach their customer base.

Clearly, the time has come for Congress to act, and there are common-sense steps that Members of both parties should embrace, regardless of the tax laws in the States that we represent.

First and foremost, we should prevent sales taxes from being imposed retroactively, and we should give businesses enough time to understand this Court decision. As a business owner myself, I can tell you how unreasonable it is to expect companies to somehow meet this new tax collection obligation at the drop of a hat, a financial burden that they couldn't possibly have anticipated.

Second, given the high cost and complexity of complying with different sales tax laws in nearly 11,000 jurisdictions, we should create an exception to collection requirements for these small businesses.

The great folks at White Mountain Puzzles have a special talent for creating incredible jigsaw puzzles, not for navigating complex unique sales tax rules from every State and municipality in America.

Dave and Scott at Lupine Pet don't have a legal department or a big team of accountants to assist them in collecting and remitting the right amounts. And they say the cost of compliance, including the software solution for their small business, adds up to at least \$25,000 a year.

Let's give them and millions of other small business owners a well-deserved break. Let's give them the protections that they deserve.

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Mr. Speaker, e-commerce is an American success story. Online sales have created millions of jobs and connect Americans from coast to coast.

Internet retailers give rural America the opportunity to participate more fully in our country's economic success.

Let's give these online sellers, including hundreds of small businesses in the Granite State, the support and certainty they deserve to continue to grow and prosper.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

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

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, those who have answered the call to serve our country can be found all across the 23rd Congressional District of Texas. From Monahans to Alpine, Fort Davis to Eagle Pass, my team crisscrossed the 29 counties I represent and heard from 23 of our Nation's heroes whose stories will be preserved for generations to come through the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project.

From those who just finished serving in the military to veterans of the Vietnam war and Second World War, these men stood in the trenches overseas, flew aircraft over Nazi Germany, and put themselves in harm's way to protect our Nation from threats across the globe—from the Axis Powers to ISIS. They paved the way for today's servicemembers who keep us safe every single day.

I thank the Library of Congress for preserving these stories so that we can learn about our past and teach future generations the value of selfless service.

I thank all who have served, and God bless these United States of America.

SAN ANTONIO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SWIMMING  
TEAM STATE TITLE

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the outstanding achievement of the San Antonio Christian School swim teams for winning both the girls and boys Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division 2 State Championships last week.

This achievement is truly a testament to their dedicated work ethic and incredible talents. What a fantastic way to end an undefeated season. Hard work and practice paid off. Their parents, peers, and community are proud of them.

Included in this group is a former in-tern of mine, a gifted athlete and rising star—Michael O'Brien of San Antonio, Texas. Well done, Michael.

Enjoy these great moments. You will treasure them for the rest of your lives. Go Lions.

RUNNING START

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 2019, there are more women serving in Congress than at any other point in American history. This is a tremendous achievement for our Nation and a trend I hope will continue, because while women are half the population, they still make up less than one-quarter of my congressional colleagues.

I rise today to recognize an organization that is doing crucial work to bridge this gap. Since its inception in 2007, Running Start has trained over 10,000 young women to run for office. I am proud to be a congressional co-chair of Running Start because our elected leaders must better reflect the makeup of our country.

With all the problems we face as a nation, the only way we are going to solve them is by working together, and that will require including more women in the conversation. Running Start is training the next generation of women leaders who do just that.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting the incredible young women in Running Start's network and encourage the young women in their lives and our lives to never let anyone ever tell them they are not capable of running for office.

CLIMATE CHANGE WAITS FOR NO  
ONE

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

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the very survival of humankind is in peril, and there is no greater threat to our continued existence than climate change. From the inaction of this administration, you would never guess the seriousness of the risk confronting us. For the sake of our very survival, I urge my colleagues to put aside their concerns about how our party leaders or how our base will judge us.

All that truly matters is how our grandchildren will judge us. There are those who claim they don't believe in climate change. Those doubters deserve no more of our time or attention than those who don't believe in gravity. Science doesn't care. There are those who claim we can't make progress until we have a new occupant of the White House and a Democratic majority in the Senate. To those I say, We have no time to wait. Two years of inaction is 2 years we can never get back.

We in this body need to begin tackling climate change now, and we need to start by talking about it differently, not as an unproven scientific theory, not as a political inconvenience and not as a job killer. It is an economic opportunity. Action on climate change can be the path to making the U.S. more globally competitive.

I don't speak on this floor today as a theorist. From 2000 to 2016, I built multiple companies with missions to profitably reduce greenhouse gas emissions. My colleagues and I made U.S. manufacturers more competitive by reducing their energy expenses. We built more than 80 projects and \$300 million of capital investment, and I can now say three things with certainty: One, there are no thermodynamic barriers to drastically lowering CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; and two, there are no economic barriers to businesses pursuing profits. That leads me to three, that there are a lot of legal barriers to profitably reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

This gives us an opportunity, because while we can't change the laws of thermodynamics, and we can't change the laws of economics, we can change the laws of the United States. We don't need to reinvent the wheel. Switzer-

land, Germany, and Denmark all use half as much energy as we do per dollar of GDP. Those countries have the same access to talent, the same access to capital and technology as we do, but they use half as much energy. If all we did was copy them, we could cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 50 percent.

I think we could do better. Consider this: in 2007, over a decade ago, Congress tried and failed to pass the Lieberman-Warner climate bill which was seen by some as being too ambitious because it sought to cut U.S. electric sector emissions by 17 percent. It didn't pass, and there was a powerful Senator who said at the time that the bill would drastically increase energy costs and cost millions of American jobs, all for no environmental gain.

As Warner Wolf says, "Let's go to the videotape." CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since then in the electric sector are down by nearly 25 percent per megawatt hour and real power prices are down by 4 percent over the last decade. Just imagine what we could have done if we tried.

So why did emissions fall? Because of economics.

We have gradually been building more efficient, cleaner, and cheaper power plants, and once those plants are built, they always run more than the older, less efficient plants, because here is the little secret: businesses like to make money, and you make more money if you spend less on fuel.

Mr. Speaker, if my colleagues take nothing else away from this speech, I hope they will understand that point. Everything we do to make our economy less dependent on expensive fossil fuel lowers CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and makes our businesses more profitable. That protects American jobs and makes our citizens wealthier.

So let me take this opportunity to speak to those who don't believe the science and to those who believe the science but think a warmer world is a good thing: Keep your beliefs. Hold on to them. All I am asking is that you be greedy. Greedy for America, as our President has boasted. Because if you are greedy, you will work with me to see CO<sub>2</sub> reduction as an opportunity for cost reduction and profit maximization.

I mentioned at the start of my remarks that the primary barrier to meaningful CO<sub>2</sub> reductions are U.S. laws. That is not to say that those laws have been written with bad intent. To the contrary, many of those well-intentioned laws have had unintentional, negative consequences. Well-intentioned aspects of our Tax Code often cause capital to flow to the least economic technologies. Well-intentioned social policies obscure the true cost of fossil fuels, distorting capital markets away from cheaper alternatives.

But that is great news because we can fix all of those things. So let's make U.S. manufacturers more competitive. Let's help them cut energy