

House will raise the wages of 40 million Americans.

It has been 10 years—10 years—since the Federal minimum wage has been increased. It has been stuck at \$7.25 since July 24, 2009. During that time, the cost of living has gone up 18 percent.

Today, a full-time worker earning the minimum wage working year-round without even a week's vacation, they earn only \$1,250 a month, or \$15,000 a year. It is far below the monthly expenses for the average family of \$3,000, which is what the monthly expenses are.

A new report from the Joint Economic Committee on which I serve as vice chair shows that today's minimum wage doesn't even cover the cost of housing for the typical American family. The minimum wage is far from a living wage.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Raise the Wage Act and increase it to \$15 by 2024.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING EMILY KATHRYN GOSS

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Ms. Emily Kathryn Goss of Caesar, Mississippi, whose life was unfortunately cut short on July 12 at the age of 17.

Emily was a captain of the cheer team at Hancock High School, where she would have been a senior this upcoming fall semester. She was a hard-working honor student who stayed active in various clubs. When she wasn't at school, Emily worked at the Country Side Diner and was also a babysitter.

Emily is remembered for being a loving, kindhearted young woman who was always smiling and loved life. She was a faithful member of her youth group at Union Baptist Church.

She is survived by her parents, Kevin and Christina Goss, as well as her sister, Elise, whom she shared an inseparable bond with. My thoughts and prayers are with her loved ones as they grieve the loss of Emily.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in a moment of silence to honor the life of Ms. Emily Kathryn Goss.

HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, we learned of two Facebook groups in which CBP agents made hateful comments about the women, children, and asylum-seekers under their custody and, therefore, their responsibility.

This kind of racism, xenophobia, and violent misogyny is unacceptable. CBP

must be held accountable to end these shameful comments and the cruel, inhumane treatment of children in their custody.

We can't simply fund supplies and expect a behavior change. That is why I am grateful to Homeland Security Committee Chairman THOMPSON and to Chairman NADLER and Chair LOFGREN of the Committee on the Judiciary for holding a markup of my bill, the Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in CPB Custody Act, to ensure our treatment of children, women, and families is consistent with the principles of basic human dignity.

My bill sets the basic standards we need to create a comprehensive public health approach to the humanitarian challenges at our border. Together, we are moving this bill forward to prevent children from dying and restore humanity to our treatment of children under the custody and responsibility of the Federal Government.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF EVA MOZES KOR

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible life of Eva Mozes Kor. Eva was a friend, a Holocaust survivor, and an inspiration to us all.

As a young girl, Eva and her family were held at the Auschwitz concentration camp. While at Auschwitz, Eva and her twin sister, Miriam, were subjected to inhumane medical experiments by the Nazi doctor Josef Mengele until their liberation in 1945.

Eva and her sister were the only members of their family to survive the horrors of Auschwitz. Despite this dark atrocity, Eva used her life to spread the message of forgiveness.

Eva married Michael Kor in 1960 and later that year moved to Terre Haute, Indiana, in my district, where they raised two children.

Eva also spent decades teaching Hoosiers the importance of finding peace, healing, and hope. In 1995, Eva opened the CANDLES Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute, creating a permanent home to remind us of the power of forgiveness and compassion.

Eva passed away, peacefully, at the age of 84 during her annual trip to Poland.

Eva Kor was an incredible woman of integrity, spirit, and forgiveness, and her story will be shared for generations to come. May her memory be a blessing.

AMERICAN WORKERS DESERVE A FAIR WAGE

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, this week, for the first time

in a decade, the House will vote to increase the Federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour. This legislation is long overdue.

Most economists believe that our country is suffering from a crisis of income inequality. It is virtually impossible for a working family to get by, let alone get ahead, working a—or several minimum wage jobs.

Instead of actually increasing wages, this President and our Republican colleagues have showered the wealthiest with trillions in tax cuts that will never have a meaningful impact on economic growth and opportunity.

This Congress needs to promote the dignity of work, and that starts with increasing the value of that work and paying Americans a fair wage. And the economic security that a fair wage will provide gives families the opportunity to participate in the economy and not struggle in its shadows.

So as a matter of basic fairness and dignity, I urge my colleagues to support the Raise the Wage Act.

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WIDOW'S TAX: STILL TIME TO DO THE RIGHT THING

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it has been 3 legislative days since House Democrats undermined the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act by shifting the bipartisan bill into a partisan NDAA.

There is still time to correct the widow's tax on spouses of servicemembers whose lives were lost during Active Duty or through a service-connected cause.

Members of Congress know this legislation is critical, with over 365 cosponsors being 86 percent of the Members of Congress.

Congress needs to act out of respect of members of the military and their families.

According to the ongoing WUSA 9 report, thousands of surviving military spouses feel their government has abandoned them. This is unconscionable.

As Edith Smith, a surviving spouse, said, those who died earned this benefit. It is not a gratuitous benefit. They earned it.

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

WE ARE ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, the President used racist, xenophobic tropes to divide the country and evoke fear and anger.

These words were a deplorable, bigoted act that betrays the principles of our great Nation and demeans the memories of all those who sacrificed so much in our ongoing pursuit of a more perfect Union.

Whether you were born here, arrived as an immigrant, or came as a refugee, every citizen, naturalized or otherwise is an American, every bit as much as our Founders.

Our country is stronger because of our history as a people of diverse backgrounds with diverse experiences.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today, the grandson and great-grandson of immigrants who fled the persecution of Jews in Russia a century ago to build a better life in America for themselves and their future generations. We have seen from history what happens when good people stay silent.

To quote the late Elie Wiesel: "We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

I urge my colleagues: Do not remain silent. Speak out and defend the values we all share as Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS GRANT HELMS AND ASHTON WHITE

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two exceptional students from Rowan County, North Carolina.

Recently, Grant Helms, a rising senior at West Rowan High School, and Rowan-Cabarrus Community College student Ashton White competed in the SkillsUSA Championships, a national competition for career and technical education students.

Grant and Ashton each won first place in secondary and postsecondary masonry, respectively, and we couldn't be more proud of them.

None of this would have been possible without Rodney Harrington, the masonry teacher at West Rowan High School and mentor to these students.

Mr. Speaker, these skills are imperative in helping build and grow our economy, so I think it is worth mentioning H.R. 2353, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education Act.

This monumental bill, which became law last year, has given States like mine more flexibility to meet the unique needs of their students, educators, and employers.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE SENECA FALLS CONVENTION

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I often reflect on the wise words of Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Never has this proven more true than when women of all ages and circumstances gathered in Seneca Falls in upstate New York 161 years ago this week and changed forever the course of history.

These thoughtful, dedicated, passionate women stood up and declared to the world that all men and women are created equal.

The convention sparked a fire in women across the country, formally birthing the women's rights movement and eventually paving the way for women's suffrage.

We hear the echoes of their voices today as we continue the fight they began so long ago. Let this anniversary reinvigorate us as we carry on its legacy, fearlessly committed to securing equal rights, equal pay, and the fundamental right of every woman to choose what happens to her body.

HEALTHCARE PARITY FOR TERRITORY RESIDENTS

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in full support of the Territories Healthcare Act, which is scheduled to be considered in full committee markup tomorrow.

This bill addresses the multiple disparities of the Medicaid program in all U.S. territories, including Puerto Rico.

Medicaid on the island has a funding cap and a limitation of 55 percent of the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages, impacting the island's ability to furnish healthcare costs and services for close to 1.4 million people in Puerto Rico.

This bill will address these issues, increasing the cap and adjusting the FMAP for 4 years. If we do not address this issue, we are challenging medical access and services to approximately 1.4 million of my people.

Current social and political problems should not eliminate our understanding of what the people need and our responsibility toward them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue their support and advocacy for healthcare parity for territory residents.

TRUMP'S TWEETS MERIT CENSURE

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

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call out the blatant racism in the President's tweets.

I believe his rant and his defense of that rant merit censure from this body.

The phrase "Go back where you came from" is a racist trope that has been used by segregationists, neo-Nazis, White nationalists, and the Ku Klux Klansmen to create a framework in which non-White people are not truly American.

Describing non-White countries as "broken" and "crime infested" echoes the racist trope the President has used before that such countries are dysfunctional, dirty, and violent because their populations are Black.

His comments are indefensible, and so is the silence from my colleagues across the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't bother seeking an apology from him, but I do hope Republicans here will join us in fully and roundly condemning his words, and I would remind them that history won't look kindly on those who refuse to stand up for what is right.

It is not lost on me, however, and I hope not my colleagues either, that this is simply a distraction from the President's friendship with a documented pedophile and news reports that he lied to the Supreme Court about his census question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HEALTHCARE AFFORDABILITY

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in my district in northern Illinois, many farmers are struggling with the challenges that come from a delayed planting season and an uncertain market.

But, recently, Kaylee Heap invited me to her family's farm to share her story about yet another challenge: healthcare costs.

Kaylee and her husband, Kevin, own a pumpkin farm in Minooka, Illinois, and Kaylee dreams of being able to work on the farm to grow their business.

Unfortunately, that is not an option because health insurance is too expensive for them to purchase on their own—easily over \$20,000 per year in my district—so Kaylee works for an outside employer in order to afford health insurance for their growing family.

Having to make the choice between entrepreneurship and healthcare is unacceptable, and that is why I introduced the Health Care Affordability Act, H.R. 1868, to reduce insurance premiums.

My bill would reduce premiums by hundreds of thousands of dollars for approximately 20 million Americans, 39,000 of whom reside in my district.

A typical Illinois family like Kaylee's would see their premiums cut in half, saving over \$750 per month—and that is real money.