

strengthening protections for pre-existing conditions to protect those individuals.

We passed the Equality Act to ensure that every American enjoys the same rights and is protected equally under the law. The Equality Act is so important.

I fought to improve our water infrastructure, to address the strain on this precious resource brought by drought and climate change to ensure that we have clean, safe drinking water for all of our communities.

In the San Joaquin Valley, sadly, we have many communities that don't enjoy clean, safe drinking water standards.

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I have worked hard to implement the farm bill, to lead education and outreach programs for farm programs to help farmers improve not only their water sustainability, but their ability to market their crops.

In immigration, we have passed the funding bills to help alleviate the humanitarian crisis at our border and advanced legislation to secure a pathway to citizenship for millions of undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States; our Dreamers, over 800,000, who came here through no choice of their own, and for them America is the only country they have ever known. They need and deserve legal status.

I am proud that, in the last 6 months of work, this week we will consider H.R. 3239, the Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Custody Act.

Many of us have been to the borders, and we do have a humanitarian crisis there, and we need to do what is right. We need to ensure that those individuals receive good standards of water, beds, and access to healthcare, and that they are treated humanely. That is the American way. These are basic living standards.

Finally, the budget deal that was agreed to on a bipartisan basis over the weekend is important, not only as it relates to our discretionary and non-discretionary spending for the next 2 years lifting the budget cap, but in addition to that, to ensuring that we produce a budget on time; that we avoid a government shutdown; that we ensure that our men and women serving in American Armed Forces have the adequate funding that they need; that our veterans get the support and our VA hospitals that we have promised them.

These are the things that are part of an overall budget deal. It avoids the kind of circus that we had over the last year where we had a government shutdown, a government shutdown we should never have. We should never have that impact on our economy; our Federal workers to be expected—whether they be in air traffic control or food safety—to go to work and not to receive a check. That is irresponsible.

So the budget deal is good. It is a bipartisan effort. It, frankly, gives the sort of discretion that Congress needs to make budget decisions to prioritize our needs in America.

So, for that, I thank the Congress.

#### CONGRATULATING SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY ON THEIR APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION GRANT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Saint Francis University on a well-deserved grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, otherwise known as ARC.

ARC recently announced Saint Francis University as the recipient of a \$150,000 grant to support advanced patient simulation training equipment for the university's new Health Science Experiential Learning Commons that will open this October.

The Commons will include much-needed space for classroom, laboratory, and clinical education, including five state-of-the-art simulation suites where students can practice real life clinical scenarios on computer-controlled mannequins with the assistance of their instructors through two-way audio-video conferencing.

The grant will be used to invest in this cutting-edge technology to provide students with the technology needed to close the skills gap and better prepare them for situations they will likely encounter in their professional careers.

Saint Francis University has committed itself to career and technical education in the health science field, and this grant will help provide hundreds of students with the training necessary to prepare for rewarding careers and, quite frankly, service to their community.

Investments like these are playing a critical role in developing the 21st century American workforce, in developing a workforce full of talented individuals who can help meet today's ever-growing demand for healthcare professionals.

Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District, in particular, is in need of healthcare professionals, and Saint Francis students are rising to the occasion. The grant will not only support current Saint Francis students; ARC rightfully noted, "local employers will have access to a pipeline of highly-skilled healthcare professionals to meet labor demands, help create jobs and expand the local economy, and provide quality healthcare to citizens in Appalachian Pennsylvania."

Reverend Malachi Van Tassell, President of Saint Francis University, noted the value that this grant adds for the students who are seeking an education in health science. He said, "This equipment will allow our students to prac-

tice hands-on patient care procedures in a simulated environment and to learn how to work in an interprofessional, team-based setting. Beyond the benefit to our students, it will also enable us to provide advanced training opportunities to area emergency medical services personnel and first responders."

Mr. Speaker, this grant is not just an investment in Saint Francis, it is an investment in Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District. It is an investment in the lifeblood of our local communities.

When we empower learners and provide them with the necessary resources for a conducive, innovative learning environment, our students will thrive personally and professionally, and will provide the best possible care to Pennsylvanians in need.

#### COMMEMORATING ASSYRIAN GENOCIDE MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate August 7, Assyrian Genocide Memorial Day.

Many Americans are already familiar with the horrors of the Armenian genocide. But not nearly as many know about the genocide of innocent Assyrian civilians by the Ottoman Empire; which is why I am leading a resolution to finally recognize the genocide of Assyrians in the Middle East.

Many of my Assyrian friends and neighbors in California's Central Valley still carry the weight of this horrific event.

Beginning in 1914, the Ottoman Empire is estimated to have slaughtered 300,000 innocent Assyrians; but some experts believe the true death toll is much higher. On August 7, Shovah b'tabakh, we remember those who were lost, and we say never again.

My resolution would take simple steps to do both. It would assert that Turkey, the inheritor of the Ottoman tradition, must recognize the genocide; and it would condemn any efforts to associate the U.S. with genocide denial.

My resolution would recognize the resilience of the Assyrian people who endured the genocide, the Simele massacre, and are now threatened once again by holdouts in ISIS. And they have survived all of this without a homeland to call their own.

Today, we remember the Sadih, the martyrs. We think of their families. We recommit ourselves to upholding the rights of all people to live freely and in safety.

#### AMERICA IS AN AMAZING PLACE

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, America is an amazing place, and we too