

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, can anyone seriously dispute that our Federal fiscal house is seriously out of order?

Our national debt stands at \$23 trillion, doubling in just the last decade alone. No end is in sight, as we just registered \$1 trillion annual deficit in the last fiscal year, and this fiscal year looks the same or worse. Interest payments alone will exceed defense spending by 2025.

We need look no further than into the mirror for the root cause. It is our collective inability to face the music of fiscal responsibility and sustainability. We clearly need help.

H.R. 5211, the Sustainable Budget Act, reintroduced today with my colleague from Arkansas, the ranking member of the Budget Committee, Mr. WOMACK, would follow the models of Simpson-Bowles and other such independent commissions charged with focusing on our debt and recommending a sustainable path forward for an up-or-down vote by Congress.

In that, our bill is similar to other measures I have also reintroduced: H.R. 4907, the TRUST Act, with Representatives GALLAGHER and MCADAMS; and H.R. 5178, the RAFT Act, with Representative BURCHETT. Together, they offer a far better way forward to tackling our debt crisis, and I urge their prompt consideration and passage.

FUNDING FOR PUERTO RICO'S MEDICAID PROGRAM

(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. Madam Speaker, today I rise, and I am pleased to say that the continuing resolution to keep our government open until December 20 extends, once again, the provision of the 2018 BBA to provide Puerto Rico a 100 percent Federal Medical Assistance Percentage in the Medicaid program.

However, the time available for an extension is quickly coming to an end. Unless Congress acts quickly to adequately fund this vital program, Puerto Rico will face a \$1 billion shortfall as early as March of 2020, putting in grave jeopardy the 1.1 million American citizens in my district who rely on this program.

This insecurity in funding also makes it impossible to negotiate long-term provider contracts, and it disrupts the ongoing implementation of important transparency and integrity measures.

Without decisive and long-term funding, the progress into stabilizing Puerto Rico's Medicaid program could be reversed as payments to providers would once again fall close to 40 percent Medicare fee schedule and accelerate provider exodus.

Puerto Rico will also not be able to pay for lifesaving hepatitis C medicines

that positively impact the quality of life, while decreasing long-term health costs.

Puerto Rico will also not be able to subsidize dual Medicare B premiums and shift those healthcare costs to Medicare, where they belong.

The lack of a solution for Puerto Rico's Medicaid program, such as the one proposed by the House, could have a ripple effect on our healthcare system.

I urge my colleagues to act on Medicaid provisions.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF VERNA CAMPBELL

(Mr. ROSE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in solemn memory of Ms. Verna Campbell, a constituent, beloved mother, grandmother, and eternal fighter for the working class.

Ms. Campbell left us on October 22 but leaves behind a powerful legacy in my community. She was a loving mother to 10 children and step-children, and always worked to support her second family, 1199 SEIU.

Ms. Verna was a long-time delegate for 1199, where she fought for labor rights, fair pay, and dignity for all workers.

She devoted herself to the Staten Island Democratic Association, the Staten Island NAACP, the Staten Island Women's Political Caucus, and the 120th Precinct Council.

Ms. Verna was a founder of the Staten Island African American Political Association and, over the years, has worked to bring African Americans into Staten Island politics.

Ms. Verna also played key roles in electing numerous African Americans to public office throughout her life.

Staten Island and all of New York City will deeply miss Ms. Verna Campbell, but we are all blessed for her membership in our community throughout her lifetime.

□ 1300

HOUSE DEMOCRATS ARE WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE

(Mr. TED LIEU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, the House of Representatives this year has had one of the most productive sessions in U.S. history. We have passed over 275 bipartisan bills to the United States Senate. Let me just say that again: We have passed over 275 bipartisan bills to the United States Senate.

Unfortunately, the Republican-led Senate has not gotten around to letting these bills go for a vote.

Some of these bills include common-sense legislation such as the Violence

Against Women Act reauthorization, the Save the Internet Act, Securing America's Federal Elections Act, the Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act, the Climate Action Now Act, the Paycheck Fairness Act, and the Raise the Wage Act. It is time for the do-nothing Republicans to start doing their jobs.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, today is National Rural Health Day.

More than 60 million Americans live in rural areas. Unfortunately, these individuals tend to be in poorer health than those who live in urban and suburban areas. They experience greater rates of chronic disease than the rest of the U.S. population.

The U.S. Virgin Islands is one of these rural areas. Like most rural America, the VI has high rates of chronic disease, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and experience unique challenges in accessing healthcare.

The Virgin Islands, however, due to geographic distance from the contiguous United States and our territorial status, face even further challenges, including inequitable Federal funding. Our health providers and families have to make difficult decisions, not based on care but on distance and funding.

All Americans deserve easy accessibility to high quality healthcare. I want to take this time to recognize the healthcare providers in the Virgin Islands for their tireless work and commitment to the health and well-being of our people.

RECOGNIZING LINDA LAURIA FOR 34 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

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

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a long-term public servant and New York-14 constituent, Linda Lauria.

On November 30, 2019, Linda Lauria, public affairs specialist, will retire from the Social Security Administration. Linda's retirement will mark the close of a phenomenal 34-year career that spans multiple decades of public service.

Linda began her career with the Social Security Administration in August 1973 as a claims development clerk in the east Bronx Social Security office as a GS-2, as she proudly notes. Linda was subsequently promoted to positions in the field, including service representative and claims representative.

Linda has been instrumental in the timely resolution of several thousand cases, eliminating barriers between our