

Human Genomics at the University of Miami Medical School for their hard work and dedication to this valuable research.

The University of Miami will continue to take steps to improve our knowledge about Alzheimer's so that families will not have to feel the pain of watching their loved ones being slowly ravaged by this terrible affliction.

□ 1545

EXPIRATION OF 45G CREDIT

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, for 7 years now, my colleague Mr. POMEROY and I have worked to preserve transportation connections for communities that would be disconnected but for their short line and regional freight railroads. Our bill, H.R. 1132, which extends the section 45G short line railroad tax credit, is supported by 259 of our colleagues.

Unfortunately for Kansas businesses that depend upon rail service, the 45G credit expired last year. As a result, small railroads like the Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad, the Kyle Railroad, and the Nebraska, Kansas & Colorado Railway are unable to maximize their infrastructure investments to best serve their customers. The 45G tax credit generates nearly 7 million good-paying track worker hours each year. More importantly, the tax credit helps farmers and coops in rural communities of Kansas move grain to food processors in Kansas City and manufacturers in Wichita to move steel and their finished goods to market.

I rise today to express my hope that we can find a path forward to continue the economic development and sound transportation policy fostered by the tax provisions contained in H.R. 1132.

UNFUNDED MANDATES ON STATES

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I received a letter from a member of the Pennsylvania State House explaining a resolution he has introduced to stop the Federal Government from imposing unfunded mandates on the State. The resolution cites the Urban Institute as estimating Pennsylvania will see an additional 818,390 people eligible for Medicaid under the health care reform law. The cost to the Commonwealth of that additional burden totals \$2.31 billion between 2014 and 2019. Some 12 percent of Pennsylvania is now enrolled in Medicaid, making welfare entitlements one of the top-spending categories in the budget.

The resolution states that on September 9, 2009, the President promised

that health legislation being considered by Congress would not add to the Federal deficit but was silent about States bearing the weight of unfunded mandates. The proposed legislation asks Congress to refrain from imposing unfunded mandates on the State and asks that every Member be given a copy.

We already have a law against unfunded mandates, but that did not stop the Democrat majority from adding a huge burden on the States with this new law. I agree with this resolution and will encourage Pennsylvania legislators to support it.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS MIA

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a bipartisan group of Members representing all the southern border States today called for armed National Guard troops at the border. Our border State Governors have been specifically asking for troops over a year. Violence is escalating. Law enforcement lacks the manpower and equipment they need to protect the people on the border. National Guard troops must be armed and sent to the border, with clear and concise rules of engagement that allow them to defend themselves if fired upon.

Seventy-nine American citizens were murdered in Juarez, Mexico, just last year. Last month, an Arizona rancher was shot dead on his own property. His murderer was tracked to the border. Assaults against Border Patrol agents have increased 16 percent so far this year. Border Patrol Agent Robert Rosas was murdered in July—execution style.

Border States need help. The Federal Government has been missing in action. National Guard troops should be sent to the border to help the Border Patrol and local sheriffs protect the safety and security of the people.

And that's just the way it is.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DRIEHAUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

MORE NEWS FROM THE BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. I bring you news from the third front—that being the southern border of the United States with Mexico. The first front, of course, is that engagement in Iraq; the second, in Afghanistan; the third, on our violent southern border. People are com-

ing into the United States from all over the world through the country of Mexico. Because Mexico has a vast coastline in the Atlantic and the Pacific, people go to Mexico, sneak into Mexico, and then sneak into the United States through our southern border. Part of those people that are coming in are called drug cartels. They're coming in to sell narcotics—a profit of over \$40 billion a year to the drug cartels that smuggle dope into this country. But also other people are coming into the United States.

Here's a photograph that was taken in Zapata County, Texas. I'm sure you've never been there, Mr. Speaker, but it's down on the Texas-Mexico border. It's a small county. This is an RV parked near the border. But this happens to be a helicopter. It turns out it's a Russian-made helicopter with Mexican markings on it. It's about a mile and a half to two miles into the United States across the border.

Now, the border with Mexico and Texas is not a land border. There's a river there. So there is no way somebody can be mistaken when they accidentally, they say, come into the United States. We don't know the intentions of this helicopter. Two weeks before this photograph was taken, other photographs were taken of either this helicopter or a similar helicopter, once again, coming into the United States—intentions unknown. Are these folks guarding a shipment of drugs? Are they working with the drug cartels? Are they looking for bad guys, or what are they doing? We don't know.

The problem is the border is porous. The southern border of the United States is porous with that border of Mexico. The violence in Mexico is escalating. Of course, it comes into the United States. There are 14 border counties in Texas that border Mexico. I recently talked to the sheriffs of those counties on the same day and asked them this question: How many people in your local jail are foreign nationals charged with crimes that are not immigration violations? The total number was 37 percent. That's right, 37 percent of the people in border county jails in Texas are foreign nationals charged with misdemeanors and felonies. That's a lot of folks. That costs somebody a lot of money. And that is because the crime problem goes back and forth across the border. It's in Texas and it's also in Mexico. It's because the borders are porous.

We have down on the border with Mexico the Border Patrol. They're doing as marvelous a job as they possibly can, but they need some help. Here's a photograph, Mr. Speaker, that was also recently taken. This is a Border Patrol vehicle. It has been improvised. It's a pickup truck. They call these things the "war wagons." Now why do they do that? Because they think they may be in a war zone down on the border. If you notice, Mr. Speaker, there's a mesh steel wire across the windshield, across all of the windows.

There's even a mesh cage that protects the emergency lights on top of the vehicle.

The question is, Why do they have that stuff on their Border Patrol vehicles? Well, you see, when they patrol the border with Mexico, people who wish to come into the United States illegally pelt rocks at our Border Patrol. And so they have to protect themselves and their vehicles by putting this wiring, this cage, around their own vehicle. Now, if somebody threw rocks at a police officer in the United States, normally those people get arrested and go to jail. But it doesn't seem like that is what is occurring, and so they have to protect themselves.

This is just one example of the violence that is occurring. Border Patrol in the Tucson area, assaults against them this year are up 300 percent from last year. That's right, assaults on our agents who are trying to protect the border, protect us. So we have to do more than that. We have to support the Border Patrol, the sheriffs that work along the border; and we have to do what the Governors of some of those States have asked for, and that's send the National Guard down to the border.

We protect the borders of other nations. Why don't we protect our own? We don't know. I think it's politics. It's time that we have the moral will to secure the dignity of the United States. It's about border security. It's about national security. It's not an issue of immigration. It's an issue of whether or not people can come into the United States legally or illegally. We must have the moral will to keep the criminal gangs, the drug cartels, the human smugglers out of the United States. They know our borders are porous. People in other countries know our borders are porous. They go through Mexico and come into the United States.

The Federal Government has been missing in action. It's time that they show up on the border and send the National Guard to support our troops, support the border sheriffs, and support the Border Patrol.

And that's just the way it is.

ARIZONA PROTECTS ITS CITIZENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in a recent editorial praising Arizona for its action to enforce immigration laws, Investor's Business Daily said the following: "There are 460,000 illegal immigrants in Arizona, a number that increases daily, placing an undue burden on the State's schools, hospitals, and law enforcement. Arizona has a window seat to an illegal invasion and on the escalating and violent drug war in Mexico that has put American lives and society at risk.

"President Obama calls Arizona's tough new law 'irresponsible' and 'mis-

guided.' But it wouldn't be necessary if the Federal Government fulfilled its responsibilities to secure the border. We are a Nation of immigrants—legal immigrants—but we are also a Nation of laws that 70 percent of Arizonans and most Americans want to see enforced. The first duty of the Federal Government is to protect the rights, property, and lives of U.S. citizens."

I couldn't agree more.

DON'T STOP WITH IMPROVING DEFENSE PROCUREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, this body took an important step today by passing the IMPROVE Acquisitions Act, which will bring badly needed reforms to the defense procurement process. The Pentagon, of course, is legendary for bureaucratic inefficiency, cost overruns, and even outright corruption in its purchasing practices. Remember the \$640 toilet seat that the Navy bought back in the 1980s? Remember our soldiers in Iraq sifting through scrap heaps for makeshift body armor?

□ 1600

For too long, Mr. Speaker, the Pentagon has been the irresponsible teenager who gets a ridiculously generous allowance, loses part of it, and then spends the rest on junk food. With this new bill, though, mom and dad will begin to exercise some oversight over that allowance. Given the size of the DOD budget and the nature of its mission, it is about time. It's remarkable that up until now, there's been no effective performance metric system to assure that taxpayers are getting value for their defense dollars.

We're living through a time, Mr. Speaker, when nearly every American family is tightening its belt and making sure that every dollar it spends is on something it truly needs. We owe it to these families to ensure that the government agency charged with keeping them safe is doing the same.

As pleased as I am with the passage of the IMPROVE Act, I can't help but think that we are nibbling around the edges of a much, much larger problem. The issue is not just a managerial one of how the Pentagon goes about its acquisitions. The more significant matter is the Nation's overall defense policy and budget priorities. For example, we continue to spend billions of dollars every year on sacred cow weapons systems that were designed for a bygone era.

Finally, last year, we cut off funding for the F-22 Raptor, designed to neutralize the next generation of Soviet planes. I guess it took almost 20 years to figure out there has been no generation of Soviet plane because there's been no generation of the Soviet Union. But we're still throwing money

at the V-22 Osprey, a plane so wasteful and unnecessary that even former Vice President Cheney was trying to kill it as far back as the late 1980s when he was Secretary of Defense. According to our analysis at the Congressional Progressive Caucus, we can save \$60 billion, at least, a year by eliminating such Cold War relics.

And, Mr. Speaker, then there's the biggest ticket item of all, purportedly keeping us safe but actually spending us into bankruptcy and undermining our national security interests. I'm referring to the ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Every day, at a predicted price tag of around \$1 trillion, we are sending American soldiers to die for a strategy that is a moral outrage and a practical failure. For a fraction of the cost, we could take a smarter approach by expanding poor countries' capacity to provide for their own people. That means more resources for democracy promotion, physical infrastructure, human capital development, et cetera, et cetera. That would be the way to fight terrorism—with compassion, not aggression; using diplomacy, not destruction; by investing, rather than invading.

So let's do more than streamline procurement, because, Mr. Speaker, if we overhaul the way we go about protecting America and we redefine what it means to provide for the common defense as the Constitution instructs us to do, we will do the right thing, and the right thing will be to start by bringing our troops home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CHU). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRATULATING ALLISON NOVACK FOR BEING NAMED THE TOP OUTSTANDING SCHOOL YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a wonderful mission—to recognize a local student, Allison Novack. Allison has recently been named the Top Outstanding School Youth Volunteer of the Year for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools system. Our superintendent of schools, Alberto Carvalho, presented her with this impressive award at Miami's Jungle Island earlier this month.

As a senior at Miami Beach Senior High School, Allison has volunteered in numerous capacities. She has served as the president of the Miami Beach chapter of the Junior State of America. She has served as producer for the non-profit group 1308 Productions. She is