

systems in the Nation, and my parish school at St. John of the Cross has one of the best schools in the archdiocese. Right next-door, the Joliet Diocese also has a thriving Catholic school system. The focus of this year's Catholic Schools Week, "Faith, Academics, Service," reflects my own Catholic education. The knowledge, discipline, desire to serve, and love of learning it instilled in me enabled me to earn my doctorate and to become a teacher before being elected to Congress.

In recognizing Catholic Schools Week, we pay a special tribute to dedicated teachers and administrators who sacrifice so much, in most cases working for less than they could earn elsewhere. I have many fond memories of my teachers, including those of many nuns, who taught me the value of faith, learning, and service. Throughout the United States, millions of others have similar memories of dedicated sisters, priests, and lay teachers who gave their hearts and souls to their students.

This week, I had the honor of celebrating Catholic Schools Week at a number of schools, including St. Andrew School in Romeoville, Everest Academy in Lemont, St. Michael School in Orland Park, Cardinal Joseph Bernadine School in Orland Hills, and my alma mater, St. Symphorosa in Chicago. I also joined St. Linus School in Oak Lawn in celebrating, not only Catholic Schools Week, but also the school's prestigious Blue Ribbon award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the outstanding education Catholic schools provide to Americans across the country as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

SUSAN G. KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise quite saddened by the news that the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure has made a political decision—a fine nonprofit that I have been associated with for years. I've run in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. I've walked in the Race for the Cure. I have been the emcee of a number of events locally that they have held. So I have been a big booster of the Susan G. Komen organization. But not anymore.

Their announcement yesterday that they are no longer going to fund any organization that is being investigated by a Federal, State, or local body means that Planned Parenthood is no longer going to receive \$600,000 a year. Now, ironically, yesterday, the Komen organization also announced, and with great concern in a statement, that the dismal rate of breast cancer screening with women who do not have insurance is something like 38.2 percent.

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Last year, the Planned Parenthood organization was responsible for over

700,000—700,000—breast cancer screenings for women who are poor, for women who don't have insurance, for women who seek to get the health care they get through Planned Parenthood. So over the last 5 years, there have been 4 million breast cancer screenings by Planned Parenthood. Komen has funded about 170,000 of them through Planned Parenthood.

So what does this mean? Well, I guess it means that Susan G. Komen has decided to become a 501(c)(4), because no longer do they want to be providing nonprofits. They want to become a political advocacy group.

Last time I checked, we were all presumed innocent until proven guilty and we looked to investigations in the Federal judicial branch; we looked to investigations by the U.S. Attorney or the district attorney. Far be it from us to rely on the House of Representatives holding a hearing as being emblematic of justice, because oftentimes it's a political sandbox.

Now, this ostensible investigation is one that has been called on by Mr. STEARNS, who is the subcommittee chair of Energy and Commerce on Oversight. The hearing has never been held. So why would Susan G. Komen take the remarkable step of saying they are no longer going to fund Planned Parenthood?

I suppose when we review NIH and bring them under some investigation that they will stop funding NIH to the tune of a million dollars, or I suppose that when we have a pharmaceutical company that we bring to the Hill to ask them questions about a particular activity that they will stop accepting sponsor money from that particular pharmaceutical company.

All of you across this country that feel that Susan G. Komen should stick to what it knows, and that is breast cancer research, breast cancer screening, and support and promote those activities by organizations that do the research and do the screening. I ask you to call them at 1-877-465-6636 and tell them that you want them to stick to what they know.

Let's not make this a race to the political bottom.

POVERTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, as the founder of the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus, I rise today to continue talking about the tide of poverty sweeping across this country.

Americans who are struggling to find work cannot wait. Americans whose homes are underwater cannot wait, and the nearly 50 million Americans who are living in poverty cannot wait.

We must act, and we must act now to extend vital unemployment benefits and the temporary payroll tax reduction while our economy continues to recover. We should be coming together

now to enact bold programs and policies that provide equal opportunity and equal access for every single American, no matter their race, no matter their employment status, and no matter their humble beginnings. Instead, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, this Tea Party-led Congress continues to do nothing but distract from the real issues and waste the American people's time.

The Republican caucus failed to pass a single jobs bill last year, and by the looks of this week's calendar, it looks like they might be committed to doing more of the same. This Nation cannot afford any more of this do-nothing Tea Party Republican House. Instead of passing a jobs bill, Republicans in the House today are attacking American families in need.

This bill that's coming up today, H.R. 3567, is really a distasteful and misleading bill that tries to make it seem to like every low-income family is somehow criminal. Nothing could be further from the truth. Very few people want to qualify for welfare. They don't want to be distressed enough to meet these qualifications. This is the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Act which is being attacked today. That's what it's called today. Actually, it's called TANF.

TANF recipients are struggling through the most difficult time of their lives, and they want nothing more than a good job to support their families. This bill that's coming up again today is really a sad attempt to re-create the Ronald Reagan era about the Cadillac-driving welfare queen. It wasn't true then nor is it true today. TANF benefits did not pay for Cadillacs to fund lavish lifestyles.

Mr. Speaker, as a single young mother who once relied on food stamps and public assistance during a very difficult period, I'm really appalled to see Republican politicians attack these families just because they are facing hard times and need a helping hand. TANF benefits keep children in homes and in schools. They keep American families from suffering abject poverty.

What we should be doing is helping these families by creating jobs, by removing these obstacles and barriers, and we should be helping them to reignite the American Dream, not insulting them, which is what this bill does. This Congress should be working together to create more opportunity for the long-term unemployed and the millions of Americans suffering in poverty.

We should at least extend unemployment benefits for the chronically unemployed who have hit the 99-week limit, can't apply anymore because they are ineligible, and we should be voting, for example, for the bill, which Congressman SCOTT of Virginia and myself have written to help those looking for a job and who can't find a job. We have to remember now that there is only one job for every four individuals looking for a job.