

turned the corner on the immigration debate.

When Sean Hannity and Senator RAND PAUL and a group of others in the Republican Party begin saying it's time to rethink the party's approach to immigration, we've probably reached a milestone. When Donald Trump says the Republican policy of asking 12 million people to self-deport is a "crazy policy" that likely cost the Republicans the White House, you've turned a corner. Any time I agree with Donald Trump, hope for a bipartisan agreement should be running high.

Most Americans believe that Election Day demonstrated that it's time to move beyond the same old politics, the same tired blame game on immigration. So, when I saw a Republican-sponsored STEM visa bill on the House calendar this week, I thought, well, maybe House Republicans are changing their tune. On the campaign trail, we heard Governor Romney say he supported stapling green cards to the diplomas of every math and science graduate from our universities. Why should we educate some of the best minds on Earth and then say, "Sorry, no room in the U.S. economy for you"? It makes no sense. They go away and compete against us rather than innovating and creating jobs here.

Then I took a closer look at what the Republicans are actually proposing. They haven't turned a corner at all. In fact, they haven't even stepped out of their houses. They certainly didn't learn anything from the last election. The STEM visa bill on the House floor this week was actually voted down in September. It was introduced with a few changes but with absolutely no consultation with Democrats.

I want to find a bipartisan solution on immigration. I am committed to it. I know it won't be easy. They say a journey of a thousand miles begins with just one step. The problem is my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to take one step and have the Democrats travel the other 999.9 miles. Certainly, this bill isn't even a step—it's a shuffle; it's a shell game. It has exactly the same problem that the STEM bill in September had. It moves visas from a legal immigration program, which works, over to a new visa category where there may or may not be sufficient demand to use those visas each year.

Immigration is always a zero-sum game for my colleagues on the other side: we will only increase visas for immigrants we like if we can eliminate immigration for immigrants we don't like. But it isn't even a zero-sum trick they're pulling here. Best estimates are that only 20,000 STEM visas would be issued to graduates, meaning that the other 35 visas would just disappear.

Which immigrants do they want to exclude in order to play this game?

They're people from around the world who want a chance to make a new life for themselves in the U.S., people like the fathers and mothers and grand-

parents of almost every Member of Congress. In this case, half of the people who come to America legally, through the Diversity Visa program, come from the continent of Africa, over half of them. Yet they come from all over. So the Republicans would have us say to the good people of Ghana or South Africa—but also to the people of Sweden and Ireland and New Zealand and Taiwan who apply to come here legally—sorry, we have to withdraw the chance you had at 50,000 visas so we can divert them to, maybe, 20,000 STEM graduates. Maybe. Once again, the Republicans' math doesn't add up.

Here is something I'll bet you didn't know about the Diversity Visa program, which is that many of them come to this country and join the Armed Forces of the United States of America. But these legal immigrants are the target of the Republican bill.

I have news for my friends on the other side of the aisle: you can't fool immigrants. You can't pretend to be pro-immigrant and then eliminate immigration from one group to allow another group to come.

I woke up the day after the election and I saw a new landscape for the immigration debate. It is one in which Democrats and Republicans work together to solve tough problems facing the United States. We should not treat this as an opportunity for politicians to score political points again, but sadly, that is what is happening here. I want Republicans to know that Democrats support STEM visas. We don't need to kill other legal immigration programs to create a STEM program, but Republicans are more interested in killing the Diversity Visa program than in creating a program for STEM graduates. For this bill, no matter what happens on Friday, it will not pass in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we can turn the corner on real immigration reform but only if Republicans are willing to put on their walking shoes and take a few steps with Democrats, walking side by side, for a greater, better America.

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#### HONORING LOUIS GIACOMELLI

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Louis Giacomelli of New Britain in my home of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. A devoted husband and a loving father, Louis passed away earlier this week after a long life of service to his community and to his country.

As a young man in the Army, Louis answered his country's call and honorably served in the Korean War and was awarded a Purple Heart for his service. Upon returning home from the war, Louis went on to serve his community with the Philadelphia Police Department for over 20 years.

I had the opportunity to visit the Korean War Memorial here in our Nation's capital with Louis earlier this year. I was fortunate to have been able to spend that time with him and proud to have called him my friend.

His life of service is an example to each of us, and I wish his family all the best in these difficult times.

#### PITS FOR PATRIOTS

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the exceptional work of an organization operating in my district called Pits for Patriots. This innovative program strives to save not just one life, but two.

The Chicagoland organization currently trains rescued pit bulls to become service dogs for veterans in need. In addition to helping our country's patriots, the program is committed to educating the public about the loyalty, devotion, and commitment of the pit bull breed. Their service dogs are trained to help improve a veteran's quality of life in their day-to-day activities, such as opening and closing doors, retrieving items, and assisting with mobility problems.

I had the honor of attending a training session and meeting a dedicated veteran, Sergeant Danny Randall, and his companion dog, Shiloh. After serving for 9 years in the Army, Danny felt an emotional disconnect between military and civilian life. Reentering the civilian workforce had been a difficult adjustment. Danny suffers from posttraumatic stress disorder, making it difficult for him to remain calm in large crowds or tight spaces. He is not comfortable sitting with his back to a door or window and feels stress when strangers enter his personal space. But Danny has found a way to help battle some of the aftereffects of war. Danny's medicine is in the form of a four-legged pit bull dog that goes by the name of Shiloh. Shiloh helps Danny to remain calm when going out in public and increases his comfort level and socialization skills.

Shiloh and other pit bulls do more than just facilitate the day-to-day lives of the recipients; they provide a sense of independence and unconditional love. For the veterans, caring for a companion animal can provide a sense of purpose and fulfillment, while lessening feelings of loneliness, isolation, and depression.

There are over 22 million veterans in America today. And although the number of servicemembers being deployed in today's wars are fewer than in wars of the past, those returning from war are suffering from increasingly severe disabilities, such as traumatic brain injury, numerous amputations, and posttraumatic stress disorder.

Over the past decade, the number of vets in need of disability compensation has more than doubled, from 600,000 in