

House Republicans have done nothing. They refused to act. If the Republicans are unwilling to use their power to act, then the President must act. In fact, recently, 117 of my colleagues and I sent a letter to President Obama urging him to act now.

Since 1952, every single President, regardless of political party, has used their broad executive authority to shape our Nation's immigration policy. So the President's decision to use executive action is not unprecedented. Neither is it ideal. But, unfortunately, it is necessary.

We can no longer stand by while we separate mothers from their children, throw young people out of this country. The only strategy that the Republicans in this House have had has been deport, deport, deport.

ISRAEL TERROR ATTACKS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest condolences to the families of the four Israelis, three of whom are also American citizens, who were murdered by Palestinian terrorists in Jerusalem during morning prayers in a synagogue.

My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Israel who again have to endure another tragedy at the hands of Palestinian terrorists.

It is no coincidence that this latest string of attacks on innocent Israelis comes after the Supreme Leader of Iran urged Palestinians to use violence against Israel and called for Israel's destruction, as did the terrorist group Hamas.

This is another example of Iran's dangerous meddling in an effort to attack our U.S. interests and Israel, and Hamas's continued incitement of violence and terror.

There is now a clear link to terrorism in both the West Bank and Gaza, and there can be no U.S. taxpayer dollars going to support a unity government that is backed by Hamas and the Palestinian Authority.

INCREASE FUNDING FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support increased funding for medical research. In the last decade, funding to the National Institutes of Health has been cut by nearly 25 percent, and America's health, position as global leader, and economy are paying the price.

In 2013, NIH funded 640 fewer competitive research projects than the year before. Fewer opportunities sent a signal to young people to avoid careers in medical research. Meanwhile, as

America is falling behind, Japan, Germany, China, and India are dramatically boosting medical research funding.

Underinvestment in medical research is financially shortsighted. Every dollar of NIH funding generates \$2.21 in local economic activity.

We should be investing in ways to alleviate the burden of chronic diseases, such as Alzheimer's, which costs the Nation \$200 billion a year, and cancer, which costs the Nation another \$216 billion.

We cannot afford to wait. I encourage my colleagues to join Congresswoman DELAURO and me in supporting H.R. 5580, the Accelerating Biomedical Research Act. The time to reverse these cuts is now.

NEW GERMAN-AMERICAN CAUCUS LEADERSHIP

(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 rise today to acknowledge the efforts and hard work of the German-American Caucus over the past several years and the great leadership of caucus Cochairman JIM GERLACH.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. GERLACH since before I was elected to Congress, and I am honored to take his place as the next cochairman of the German-American Caucus alongside Congressman BILL KEATING.

Under Mr. GERLACH's leadership, the caucus has grown to nearly 100 members and helped foster a great appreciation for the many ties and connections shared between our two countries.

From meeting with very important government, business, and industry leaders to hosting networking events on the Hill, the German-American Caucus has served as an important medium for the exchange of information.

Pennsylvania is proud of its German heritage. The Commonwealth hosts one of the largest German populations in the country. Accordingly, I look forward to working with Ambassador Peter Wittig and Congressman KEATING and the leaders of the German American Business Council as we move towards the 114th Congress.

I promise to do my best to live up to the leadership that has been provided by my good friend Congressman JIM GERLACH.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we observe American Education Week, I would like to pay tribute to America's public schoolteachers and administrators for their leadership and service to our communities.

Teachers are proof that you really can change the world if you care

enough. That is why so many, even when faced with diminishing resources and budget cuts, work tirelessly to ensure our students receive the education they deserve.

Our promise as a nation depends on our teachers. We all must do our part to support America's educators. That is why I oppose sequestration cuts that threaten school districts and teachers. That is why I worked to pass bipartisan legislation to provide food nutrition programs to schoolchildren during the summer months.

I have donated nearly 1,500 books to schools in my district and was proud to have launched the Robin's Readers program in my district, which is a literacy partnership between my office and Second District schools.

This week, I encourage you all to reach out and get to know your local schools. Offer to volunteer your time and energy to their efforts. But, most importantly, thank an educator.

REAGAN DEFENSE FORUM AND SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, from day one as a Member of Congress, I have always known that our number one constitutional responsibility is to the common defense of this Nation at home and abroad.

We should make the smart financial investments in our men and women in uniform—their readiness, their training, and their weapons—as if our lives depend on it. Because their lives do.

This weekend, I gathered with some of the greatest defense minds in our Nation to discuss the safety and security of our country at the annual Reagan Defense Forum. A common narrative from this forum was that the defense cuts under sequestration are dangerous and undermining our national security.

If so, then why are these dangerous cuts allowed to stand?

The American people, the military, Members of Congress, and even the President recognize the world is not becoming a safer place but much more dangerous. Ronald Reagan's policy of peace through strength worked, and it worked well. The time has come to remove these cuts and restore our Nation's strength so we can live up to our constitutional responsibility.

ACT ON IMMIGRATION REFORM NOW

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, we all agree that it is up to Congress to overhaul the broken immigration system. However, despite all the talk and promises, there is one thing that is clear: this Republican Congress has done

nothing to address immigration reform and has only been an obstacle to this process.

Now is the time for the President to act. His legal standing is solid. It is time for us to act. Now is the time to do what is right, what is fair, what is just, not only for the immigrant community, but for this great country.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

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

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because this coming Saturday, November 22, is designated as National Adoption Day.

Each year, thousands of families navigate a complicated and expensive adoption process and welcome a much-wanted child into their families and into their lives. This Saturday, we will recognize, honor, and say “thank you” to these families.

We will also raise awareness of the over 100,000 children who are currently in the foster care system who have not found permanent homes or a permanent family to belong to. Sadly, 32 percent of these children will wait over 3 years in foster care before being adopted.

Globally, estimates are that there are 153 million orphans. U.S. families have adopted more than 7,000 of these children in 2013, but that is just the start. It may feel and appear to be overwhelming, but we can make a difference one child at a time.

I am proud to report that adoption rates in west Michigan, my hometown area, are among the highest in the country. Since the beginning of 2014, just one west Michigan adoption agency alone has processed 38 domestic infant adoptions, 26 intercountry adoptions, and helped many others.

We want to say thank you to them for their work.

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NEW YORK STATE HUNGER ACTION NETWORK

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to families across this country going without or simply scraping by as we enter the holiday season.

Food pantries and organizations like the Hunger Action Network of New York State do a great deal to care for our neighbors who are cold, hungry, or homeless—but they cannot do it alone. These organizations need Washington’s help, and the people these organizations care for need it even more.

A uniquely American tradition is helping those in need. In my congressional district, one in 10 households lives below the poverty line. These

families live each day with struggles that are reflected across our great Nation. These struggles can be fixed by a Congress that pursues policies that ensure a livable wage, that supports programs that help the less fortunate, and that invests in job creation instead of in cuts to critical programs like SNAP.

It is my hope that this House will work together more than it has in recent years to make progress for all Americans, especially for those whom this Chamber seems to have forgotten about. We do not need to wait for the next Congress to take action. I can think of no better time than this holiday season to make progress on these critical issues.

REMEMBERING GROVE HILL MAYOR LEVON HICKS

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a loyal community servant, Grove Hill Mayor Levon Hicks. Sadly, Mayor Hicks passed away on November 14 after an extended illness.

He devoted his life to serving his family, his church, and his community. He was a dedicated member of Jackson Church of Christ for more than 50 years, serving as an elder and attending several mission trips over the years. He served two terms on the Grove Hill Town Council before becoming mayor. He also served around 40 years as a volunteer fireman and was an active member of the Lions Club. He worked tirelessly for the betterment of the Grove Hill community and enjoyed fishing, traveling, and the University of Alabama football.

Mr. Speaker, to Mayor Hicks’ wife, Helen, and his children and grandchildren, we say thank you for sharing Levon with us. We will miss him greatly.

THE PRESIDENT’S EXECUTIVE AMNESTY

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues against the President’s unilateral amnesty plan.

Unlike the President’s amnesty, I support an immigration system that is accountable to the American people and the democratic process. Like most Americans, I believe immigrants who work hard, play by the rules, and contribute to our communities are good for our country.

Immigration laws should be properly controlled and strictly enforced, but under President Obama, this is not the case. Just look at the numbers: In 2012 alone, 11.7 million foreign nationals resided in the United States without authorization. Visa overstays are estimated to be up to 57 percent of that unauthorized population.

Unilateral amnesty ignores the will of the American people, it is unfair to legal immigrants, and it hurts U.S. citizens who are seeking jobs. Put simply, those who follow the rules should be rewarded, and lawbreakers should be punished. The President’s executive amnesty does the exact opposite.

HUMANITARIAN GENEROSITY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I love living in a country, Mr. Speaker, that is known around the world for its humanitarian generosity.

In the State of Texas, there are almost 1.3 million undocumented individuals. They are undocumented, but they are working. They are undocumented, but they are paying taxes. They are undocumented, but they love their children, many of them citizen children who everyday go to school or work or college to try and make a difference.

Mr. President, you do the right thing, and that is to use your executive power vested in article II of the Constitution that allows you to give humanitarian relief as indicated by the Arizona decision in 2012.

This is a time for courage, not politics. It is a time for truth, not misrepresentation. This is not amnesty—this is prioritization; this is saving money; this is keeping families together; this is allowing children to not come home to places where their parents have been thrown from their places of work and taken away from them.

I am excited about the courage of this President. I look forward to America finally understanding the gifts that you are given. Let us not be a selfish nation. Let us be a generous nation, and let us help those who are in this country who are working every day, including many of our soldiers.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 18, 2014 at 9:45 a.m.:

That the Senate adopted a resolution relative to the death of Howard O. Greene, Jr., Former Senate Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate S. Res. 579.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.