

SECURING AMERICA'S BORDERS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss work in the House to secure our borders and address the Obama administration's unilateral actions on immigration.

This week, the House will consider the 2015 Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill, which takes a number of steps to bolster border security and law enforcement efforts.

To start, the legislation provides for the largest operational force levels in the history of the Customs and Border Protection agency. The measure also supports several critical border security initiatives, including around-the-clock surveillance of air, land, and sea approaches to the border.

Furthermore, the legislation boosts internal enforcement efforts and strengthens related domestic and international investigations.

Finally, the legislation will provide for the amendments that will stop the President's executive actions on immigration.

Mr. Speaker, the President's unilateral executive orders should be of concern to each and every Member of this body. I call on colleagues from both sides of the aisle to do what is right—support this legislative package. It protects the borders, it restores the rule of law. The American people deserve as much.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening in opposition to the House Republican plan to tear apart millions of families through extreme amendments to the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill.

In the face of inaction by this House last year, our President was forced to use his constitutional authority to bring millions of our neighbors out of the shadows to fix a broken immigration system.

Through scrapping the Secure Communities Program and ensuring that parents of American citizens could no longer live in fear of deportation, the President's executive order has moved our country forward. However, it is no substitute for the bipartisan congressional action that the majority of the American people feel that we need and that passed the Senate 2 years ago.

By undermining the President's executive actions through amendments to DHS appropriations, my colleagues are not only jeopardizing critical funding for our Nation's security but also ignoring the pain and suffering they will cause to millions across our country.

IT IS COOL TO BE FROM NORTH DAKOTA

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

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, Aristotle said, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."

Mr. Speaker, this weekend, the North Dakota State University Bison football team was in Frisco, Texas, attempting to win their fourth consecutive NCAA Division I FCS national title.

After a long stampede with a talented flock of Illinois State Redbirds hot on their tail, they finally ended up in the end zone. The only ones in the winner's circle were the Thundering Herd.

The seniors finished their careers with more national championships, Mr. Speaker, than losses. I am especially proud of the boys from North Dakota.

Bismarck Century's Carson Wentz earned MVP status by quarterbacking his team to success, and BHS' Esley Thornton sealed the deal with a last-minute interception.

All of the teammates from the Rough Rider State and beyond, you have made us proud again, and you remind us why it is so cool to be from North Dakota.

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AN ANTI-IMMIGRANT CANCER

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent one of the most diverse districts in the entire Congress. Approximately 33 percent of the people whom I represent were born outside of the United States of America. Folks from all over the world come to Brooklyn and to Queens to pursue the American Dream. This is part of what makes America great; yet there is an anti-immigrant cancer spreading in this town that is moving like a malignant tumor amongst some on the other side of the aisle.

As a result of this invidious infliction, there are some in the House GOP who are prepared to shut down the Department of Homeland Security, even though America continues to be a top target for terrorists all across the world.

This is shameful. This is reckless. This is irresponsible. The American people need to rise up to stop it from happening.

NORMALIZING U.S. RELATIONS WITH CUBA

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was in Havana, Cuba, when the President of the United States declared that he was going to relax the restrictions that we

have on the embargo in Cuba, and I tell you that the people in Havana rejoiced. In the streets of Havana, they said there were two basic things they liked about America: one was American movies, and the second was everything else.

When I got to come back home through Miami, at the airport, people with Cuban backgrounds—Americans—were so excited about the opportunity for America to rejoin the family of nations and to recognize the contributions that Cuba can make. We thought that, today, we would be hearing a rejoicing for those people who should have never been in jail in Cuba who were released. Obviously, there are some people who have a different opinion.

I am here today to say that, with all due respect to those Americans and to those Cubans who suffer under the dictatorship in Cuba, we feel their pain, but now, American policy should override the pain that a few feel for what is in the best national interest of our great Nation.

A HOUSE OF GAMES

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of games being played at this time of year. Tonight, we are going to have a national championship game for the NCAA national football championship, playoff games for the NFL championship. We have basketball games being played and hockey games. The American people don't need games being played in the House of Representatives, but that is exactly what we are seeing this week.

The Republican majority is holding hostage the security of this Nation—holding the Department of Homeland Security's budget hostage—so they can advance some ideological provisions on immigration reform.

This is nothing but a big pout on the part of the Republican majority because they are upset with the President's executive action. If they want to undo what the President has done and proceed toward a sane immigration policy, we have an entire body of Democrats and Republicans who is waiting to do that. I was part of the bipartisan group last year that worked for the entire Congress in trying to get that done. I know it is possible.

No more games, Mr. Speaker. We need action—we need sane action—and not holding our national security hostage.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF MARIO CUOMO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUCK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.