

with separate, lower standards. The bill fails to ensure that students succeed in the classroom or after graduation by gutting accountability standards. These are standards that help ensure that students graduate from high school, which we know is so intimately linked to economic success.

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This bill simply fails to provide our teachers and students with the resources they so desperately need to succeed.

It is time to go back to the drawing board. It is time to actually focus on providing students, schools, and teachers the ability to be more successful with an ESEA that puts the focus where it belongs, on investing in education.

We need an ESEA that returns to its original purpose of fighting poverty and ensuring equity, one that holds States and districts accountable for providing equitable resources, one that includes a system of supportive interventions for struggling schools and students, one that deals with the fact that two-thirds of the achievement gap is due to poverty—and does something about it—such as funding community schools, one that provides our teachers with the resources and support they need to help our young people succeed.

We can do better, Mr. Speaker. We must do better. This is simply too important.

I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the so-called Student Success Act.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF HELEN KILROY

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the memory of Helen Kilroy of Galveston County. Helen Kilroy was a woman of service who always put community and others first.

In March of 1989, her son, Mark Kilroy—her and Jim’s son—disappeared during a spring break in Mexico. Unfortunately, the Kilroy’s ultimately learned that their beloved son was murdered by a cult practicing human sacrifice.

Losing a loved one, especially a son or daughter, can be debilitating; instead, Helen and Jim Kilroy decided to channel their grief into action. The memory of their son was honored through their support of causes to help those in need.

In 1995, the Kilroys founded the Mark Kilroy Foundation to support the Safe Communities Coalition. The coalition works to promote drug-free communities, violence prevention, and anger management. It also provides counseling for at-risk children.

Helen Kilroy’s selflessness did not stop at the creation of the Mark Kilroy Foundation. Helen was a foster parent to seven children and a district leader

for the Bay Area Council Cub Scouts from 1976–1983. She was a Meals on Wheels volunteer. She was a Santa Fe Parks and Recreation Board member, a dedicated church Eucharistic minister, as well as a volunteer EMT and a paramedic for Santa Fe, Texas, EMS.

On December 22, 2014, Helen Kilroy lost her battle with ALS—Lou Gehrig’s disease. She died after fighting that long battle. She is survived by her husband, Jim Kilroy; her son, Keith; her daughter-in-law; two grandchildren; three sisters; two brothers-in-law; numerous cousins; nieces; and nephews.

The many individuals helped by the Mark Kilroy Foundation and by her many service roles are a living legacy to her selfless nature. Helen’s impact on our community was unparalleled. It takes a strong person to take a family tragedy and turn it into a lasting influence on our community. Helen’s servant heart truly changed and even saved lives.

Helen, you are missed.

Jim, your beloved life is a legacy to the both of you.

Helen, may you rest in peace.

Jim and family, you all are in our prayers.

WE ARE ONCE AGAIN ON THE BRINK OF A SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, we are only days away from a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security.

When Republicans took control of the House and Senate, they pledged to avoid more government shutdowns. Instead, we have, sadly, learned that Speaker BOEHNER and Leader MITCH MCCONNELL went nearly 2 weeks—2 weeks—without talking, and their failure to govern us has us, once again, on the brink of a shutdown.

I have been shocked and disappointed to hear some of my Republican colleagues say that a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security would not be a serious issue and try to minimize its impact on people, minimize its impact on workers, and even try to minimize its impact on America.

In my home State of New Mexico, a border State, where we have many men and women who proudly serve our country as employees of the Border Patrol, the TSA, and other agencies, getting furloughed or working without a paycheck is a serious issue.

If Republicans continue down this path, paychecks will stop, but rent and mortgages and utility bills for these workers will not.

Time and again, House Republicans have failed to govern, moving only from one crisis to the next. Sadly, the failure to fund DHS is the latest manufactured crisis that will have a real impact on working families in New Mexico and across America while need-

lessly putting our national security at risk.

It is time for congressional Republicans to stop putting their political security ahead of national security and pass a clean bill. It is time for House Republicans to stop catering to the extreme anti-immigration wing of their party that is willing to sacrifice our Nation’s security in order to attack DREAMers who are going to college and serving our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the eyes of the American people are watching this Republican-led Congress, and so far, all they have seen is gridlock and dysfunction.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Senate is moving forward to fund the Department of Homeland Security. House Democrats are ready to support a clean bill. The only ones standing in the way of preventing a Department of Homeland Security shutdown are House Republicans. For our country’s sake, let us hope that changes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that will keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the House is in session solely for the purpose of conducting morning-hour debate. Therefore, that unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

AN EXAMPLE OF FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, during our recess, I had the opportunity to attend Oakland Heights Baptist Church in beautiful Cartersville, Georgia, as they celebrated a very special occasion.

While Oakland Heights is a prominent church in our community, it would not be considered a large church in most metropolitan areas. The congregation consists of mostly average, hardworking Americans who love God and their families and are eager to help a neighbor in times of need.

Throughout the years, the church has been a beacon of hope to those seeking truth and a haven to those seeking help. As a body of Christian believers, Oakland Heights also believes that it has a responsibility to not only serve our community, but to be an example.

Three years ago, the pastor and the congregation of Oakland Heights determined their responsibilities to God and the community included being good stewards; although they were burdened with over \$1 million of debt, they had a vision of being debt free.

They were determined to pay off their debt within 3 years without affecting their core ministries to the