

Why do we continue to refuse and cut services that our communities need? The American people need good-paying jobs, safe and modern infrastructure, and efficient transportation in order to provide a better life for themselves and for their families. We need to end these stopgap extensions.

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How do we fix a broken bridge or a broken highway? Two months of highway funding will not do that. In my home State of California, 60 percent of our roads are in poor or mediocre condition; and, moreover, almost 30 percent of California's bridges have been recognized by the Department of Transportation as structurally deficient.

Just a little bit over a week ago, California residents experienced the real-life consequences of this statistic when the Interstate 10, which connects California and Arizona, collapsed, injuring a resident and shutting down the highway for several days. This highway is critical to our Southwest economy, which is already suffering from deficiencies because of our water infrastructure and the drought that we have going on.

With more than 60,000 bridges throughout the United States in need of drastic repairs, failing to provide Americans with a long-term highway bill, we are putting jobs at risk, and we are putting our lives at risk, which is why my fellow House Democrats have come together to provide a 6-year funding bill known as the GROW AMERICA Act. The bill will provide for \$178 billion over 6 years, so that States and local municipalities can address critical infrastructure needs.

This commonsense legislation would help pay for the investments by ending an unfair tax loophole and limiting corporate inversions, meaning that big corporations, when they are renouncing their United States citizenship, they do that in order to avoid paying taxes.

Let's use that money for transportation investments here in America. Investing in local public transportation projects not only helps to improve our traffic flow, but it also helps create good jobs.

As we look for ways to put our economy back on track, we must be mindful of the services that we provide to the American people. We need to stop slashing, and we need to start providing. We need to get away from sequestration and patchwork funding mentality to actually fulfill our duty as public servants to the American people.

Our families, our roads, and our economy deserve a highway funding bill that will invest in America's future, invest in better infrastructure, and invest in bigger paychecks for our hard-working families who are trying to make it in America.

RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

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

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on matters of research and scientific integrity.

To begin with, I am absolutely, resolutely provaccine. Advancements in medical immunization have saved countless lives and greatly benefited public health.

That being said, it is troubling to me that, in a recent Senate hearing on childhood vaccinations, it was never mentioned that our government has paid out over \$3 billion through the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program for children who have been injured by vaccinations.

Regardless of the subject matter, parents making decisions about their children's health deserve to have the best information available to them. They should be able to count on Federal agencies to tell them the truth.

For these reasons, I bring the following matter to the House floor. In August 2014, Dr. William Thompson, a senior scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, worked with a whistleblower attorney to provide my office with documents related to a 2004 CDC study that examined the possibility of a relationship between the mumps, measles, and rubella vaccine and autism.

In a statement released in August 2014, Dr. Thompson stated: "I regret that my coauthors and I omitted statistically significant information in our 2004 article published in the *Journal of Pediatrics*."

Mr. Speaker, also quoting Dr. Thompson:

My primary job duties while working in the immunization safety branch from 2000 to 2006 were to lead or colead three major vaccine safety studies. The MADDSP MMR-Autism Cases Control Study was being carried out in response to the Wakefield Lancet study that suggested an association between the MMR vaccine and an autism-like health outcome.

There were several major concerns among scientists and consumer advocates outside the CDC in the fall of 2000 regarding the execution of the Verstraeten study.

One of the important goals that was determined upfront in the spring of 2001 before any of these studies started was to have all three protocols vetted outside the CDC prior to the start of the analyses so that consumer advocates could not claim that we were presenting analyses that suited our own goals and biases.

We hypothesized that if we found statistically significant effects at either 18- or 36-month thresholds, we would conclude that vaccinating children early with MMR vaccine could lead to autism-like characteristics or features.

We all met and finalized the study protocol and analysis plan. The goal was to not deviate from the analysis plan to avoid the debacle that occurred with the Verstraeten Thimerosal study published in *Pediatrics* in 2003.

At the September 5 meeting, we discussed in detail how to code race for both the sam-

ple and the birth certificate sample. At the bottom of table 7, it also shows that for the nonbirth certificate sample, the adjusted race effect statistical significance was huge.

All the authors and I met and decided sometime between August and September 2002 not to report any race effects for the paper. Sometime soon after the meeting, where we decided to exclude reporting any race effects, the coauthors scheduled a meeting to destroy documents related to the study.

The remaining four coauthors all met and brought a big garbage can into the meeting room and reviewed and went through all the hard copy documents that we had thought we should discard and put them in a huge garbage can.

However, because I assumed it was illegal and would violate both FOIA and DOJ requests, I kept hard copies of all documents in my office, and I retained all associated computer files.

I believe we intentionally withheld controversial findings from the final draft of the *Pediatrics* paper.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is our duty to ensure that the documents Dr. Thompson provided are not ignored; therefore, I will provide them to Members of Congress and the House committees upon request.

Considering the nature of the whistleblower's documents, as well as the involvement of the CDC, a hearing and a thorough investigation is warranted.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, I beg, I implore my colleagues on the Committee on Appropriations to please, please take such action.

THE REINS ACT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House passed a measure I cosponsored, H.R. 427, known as the REINS Act, to end this administration's disregard for the separation of powers.

The bill rightly reasserts Congress' proper role in writing our Nation's laws by requiring that any regulation written with a cumulative impact of over \$100 million be reviewed and approved by Congress before going into effect, instead of the stifling of innovation that we have seen the effects of.

Too often, we have seen this administration attempt to use creative interpretation of the law or aggressive rule-making that have had a massive negative impact on our State's economy, resulting in higher prices, thousands of dollars per cost additionally per family per year, lower wages, fewer working hours, or complete loss of job opportunities altogether.

For example, the proposed waters of the United States regulation would insert the Environmental Protection Agency in local land use planning areas across the Nation.

Do we really need the Federal Government telling us how to landscape our own backyards? Is that even proper? I think not.