

The first week saw an estimated \$11 million in sales.

They are working hard to implement the spirit and the letter of the measure, working closely with the Oregon legislature to refine it, learning from the experience of States like Washington and Colorado that have already legalized adult use.

Theirs is a positive story of economic opportunity, product development, tax revenues, more freedom for individuals, and eliminating the racial disparities in the enforcement of a failed policy of prohibition that comes down heavily against young men of color, especially African Americans.

At the same time, there was a scathing report this week from Brookings Institution researchers John Hudak and Grace Wallack that called out the roadblocks that are being put in place by law enforcement and Federal policies that stifle medical marijuana research, that interfere with the science and the doctor-patient relationship in ways that are completely unwarranted, counterproductive, and destructive.

They come at a time when the Federal Government has told the Drug Enforcement Agency to stop harassing medical providers after Congress clearly passed legislation to protect the industry and, more importantly, a patient's right to medicine.

The Rohrabacher-Farr amendment passed with strong bipartisan support, clearly specifying that the Federal Government should not interfere with State-legal medical marijuana operations.

The Department of Justice, unfortunately, took an outrageously flawed position, which infuriated those of us who authored these provisions and have worked to pass them over the last 2 years. The DEA ignored the law, and the Department of Justice defended them in this unfortunate action.

It is the latest example of how far out of touch the Federal Government agencies are with the reality on the ground, with the will of the majority of the American people, who think that marijuana should be legal, and with the policies of the President himself.

President Obama has declared marijuana no more harmful than other perfectly legal substances, like tobacco, which is, in fact, true, and that he had bigger fish to fry than fight against State legalization. Unfortunately, some parts of his Federal Government are still frying those fish.

The good news is that the tide has turned. As I mentioned, the majority of the American people now think marijuana should be legal, as 23 States, the District of Columbia, and Guam now have medical marijuana and 17 more have authorized a limited version of medical marijuana. We have 4 States and the District of Columbia that permit outright adult use, with more States considering this over the course of the next year.

All the Federal Government has to do, as Secretary Clinton recently said

in Colorado, is just stay out of the way. Stop interfering. Let legal marijuana businesses have bank accounts. Don't force them to be all cash. Let them deduct their business expenses from their taxes instead of penalizing them with grotesquely punitive levels of tax. Let the States continue in their efforts at reform. Let them treat it just like we do alcohol.

The day is fast coming when the Federal policy will be to robustly research and, ultimately, deschedule—or remove—marijuana from the Controlled Substances Act, no longer pretending that it is or should be a Schedule I controlled substance, and, instead, tax and regulate it at the Federal level.

In the meantime, the States will continue marching forward; the public will continue to request that we, at the Federal level, stop interfering with medical marijuana; and Congress will continue our efforts with increasingly large, bipartisan majorities to make this policy work to replace the failed attempt at marijuana prohibition.

CONGRESS AND ISRAEL MUST STAND TOGETHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the United States and Israel share the same principles and values: fundamental ideas like freedom, democracy, respect for the rule of law, and human rights.

Our nations also share, sadly, the same security concerns, like fighting terrorism and seeing stability in the Middle East, two issues that seemingly grow worse for the entire region day by day, but especially for Israel. Many of the recent tragic terror attacks and incidents of violence in Israel have been incited by both the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, with Abu Mazen openly inciting the violence himself.

Tomorrow the Foreign Affairs Committee will mark up a resolution that I introduced alongside my south Florida colleague, Congressman TED DEUTCH, which condemns the anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incitement by Abu Mazen and the Palestinian Authority. When Israeli citizens cannot walk out of their homes to go safely to work or to go to the grocery store for fear of another terrorist attack, we must hold the Palestinian leadership accountable.

Abu Mazen is also threatening Israel at the United Nations, where he seeks to delegitimize Israel and seeks unilateral Palestinian statehood. Just last month, Abu Mazen told the U.N. General Assembly that Palestinians would not abide by past agreements, proving, once again, that he is no partner for peace.

This morning a maneuver was foiled at UNESCO when the P.A. attempted to include incendiary text in a resolution that claimed the Western Wall was part of a Muslim holy site; and, next

week, Abu Mazen is scheduled to speak at a special meeting at the U.N. Human Rights Council.

You have got to be kidding: Abu Mazen speaking at a Human Rights Council.

President Obama must hold Abu Mazen accountable instead of continuing to give him a pass for his actions and show that actions have consequences.

But these aren't the only challenges that Israel faces. In addition to the terror inside Israel, it remains surrounded by threats like ISIL, Iran, Syria, challenges that are shared by the United States.

The Iran deal is riddled with loopholes, with ambiguities, and with outright dangerous provisions, including a sunset clause that paves the way for a nuclear-armed Iran in as little as 15 years—just bide the time. It also includes the lifting of the arms embargo against Iran and the lifting of sanctions on Iran's ballistic missile program.

In addition, the Iran deal releases billions of dollars that is allowing the regime to increase its terror financing and helps fulfill its destructive ambitions in the Middle East.

For years, Congress, not the administration, has led the charge to push back against Iran and to sanction it through an effective sanctions program that constricts its energy, transportation, and financial sectors.

It is now up to Congress to be proactive again, to get out in front of the Iranian deal, and to ensure that the administration holds Iran accountable and will not allow incremental cheating, because it is almost impossible to see this administration scuttling the deal for anything less than a major violation on Iran's part. We need to develop stronger sanctions against Iran for its illicit behavior and ensure that the administration fully enforces the sanctions on the books.

While the U.N. resolutions implementing an arms embargo and restricting Iran's ballistic missile program are still in place, Iran is already testing our resolve. It is violating these resolutions. It test-fired a ballistic missile, and it continues to ship arms to Assad and Hezbollah to use against the people of Syria and against Israel.

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Congress must move to enact additional sanctions against Iran, and we must designate and sanction Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Quds Force, because they will be the big winners in this sanctions relief. We must target Hezbollah and Iran's other proxies because you can be sure that, with Hezbollah, it is only a matter of when, not if, it decides to attack Israel.

We must ensure that Israel has what it needs to defend itself from Hezbollah and from other outside threats. With Iran providing Hezbollah with more advanced rockets and missiles, even with precision-guided systems, Israel is facing an enemy with almost 150,000 rockets pointed at every major city in

Israel. Congress needs to get more funding to Israel for its David's Sling system, for its Iron Dome system; and we need to do it sooner, rather than later.

Israel is an oasis of freedom in a desert of tyranny, a desert of terror and instability; and it is absolutely vital, Mr. Speaker, that Congress and Israel stand together to face these challenges united. The President won't do it. The Congress must.

COMMUNITY VOICES: WHY NUTRITION ASSISTANCE MATTERS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the pleasure of speaking with a group of people involved with Community Voices: Why Nutrition Assistance Matters. It was inspiring to hear about the real and positive impacts our Federal nutrition programs have in the daily lives of Americans all across this country.

Community Voices is a summer-long national campaign launched by the Center for American Progress, the Coalition on Human Needs, Witnesses to Hunger, the Food Research and Action Center, Feeding America, and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

It was started to share the personal stories of individuals and service providers who experienced firsthand programs like SNAP or WIC or school meals. These contributors are the real experts when it comes to the importance and effect of our vital nutrition assistance programs.

The Community Voices campaign culminated in this booklet, a compilation of many of these personal stories. I would like to take a moment and share a few of these stories.

Jonetta, from Sacramento, California, says:

"Several years ago, I left an abusive relationship, and now I am raising my daughter by myself. My daughter participates in the school meal program and the after-school snack program. The snack program really helps so that my daughter isn't as hungry when she gets home from school.

"We also receive \$356 a month in SNAP. This money is supposed to supplement my food budget, but it is really all of my food budget because my income barely covers my rent. Right now, I'm homeless, and it is hard to find a place to live for less than \$500 a month.

"Because of SNAP, we are not starving. As a mom, I try to cut out a lot of bad food from my family's diet, but it is a difficult task to buy the healthier food because it is expensive. It's also very difficult because we have been homeless for a couple of months, so I have to use other people's refrigerators.

"I am very thankful for these programs and to all the people who are

trying to make all these programs better. They really helped me and my daughter."

Let me share another story from Linda from the Massachusetts Coalition of the Homeless:

"Several years ago, I volunteered at a summer program at a park in Morgantown, Kentucky, assisting with skill-building activities. Without this nutrition program, the kids who came would not have had lunch, since school was not in session. If the kids didn't come to that park for nutritional food, I'm not sure they would have gotten it anywhere else. None of the food was wasted; and if there was any food left over, the kids would take it back to their families.

"Food is a basic human right, and our government sometimes forgets that and needs to be reminded. This is a moral imperative for our country to make sure that all people, especially children, have the resources needed to develop—even more so for families and children in poverty."

I want to thank Jonetta, Linda, and all of those who took the time to share their stories. They remind us that these programs are helping real families who are trying to do their best in very difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, all too often the discussion around SNAP and our other antihunger programs is punctuated by misinformation, false stereotypes, or downright nasty rhetoric. It is frustrating, and it is wrong.

Community Voices reminds us what a positive difference these programs make for families who are really struggling.

The data backs up just how important these programs are. In 2014 alone, for example, SNAP lifted 4.7 million people out of poverty, including 2.1 million children. Ninety-two percent of benefits go to households with incomes below the poverty line, which includes millions of struggling families working hard every day to put food on the table.

Federal investment in our nutrition programs is one of the smartest investments we can make. For example, for every \$1 spent on preventive services for a pregnant woman in WIC, the program saves \$4.21 in Medicaid costs by reducing the risk of preterm birth and associated costs.

Mr. Speaker, I have long believed that we need to hear firsthand from the people who are directly touched by SNAP, WIC, or school meals. They are the real experts, and they can guide us, as Members of Congress, as we work to strengthen and improve these programs.

Every Member of Congress should have received a Community Voices booklet. It is a call to action to protect our vital nutrition assistance programs. I encourage you to read the stories about how these programs are helping families who need them most. Without them, hunger would be much, much worse in this country.

I urge you to keep their stories in mind the next time proposals come before Congress to cut funding for WIC or restrict access to SNAP or make it more difficult for kids to get healthy meals in school. Harmful changes like these would hurt real families who are already struggling. We should not make their lives more difficult. We should not be making hunger worse in this country. Mr. Speaker, we can and we should do more to end hunger now.

FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize October as National Fire Prevention Month and would like to thank all the firefighters across my district and across the Nation for all that they do to keep our communities safe.

In 2013, departments across the United States responded to nearly 400,000 fires, resulting in \$7 billion in property damage and more than 2,700 deaths. That, unfortunately, amounts to an average of eight people every day.

Of those who lost their lives as a result of fire, one in four was caused by a fire that started in a bedroom. This is one of the reasons why one focus of this year's Fire Prevention Month is to raise awareness that every bedroom needs a working smoke detector.

Mr. Speaker, as a volunteer firefighter with nearly three decades of experience, I know that smoke detectors save lives. The statistics prove this, showing that working smoke detectors cut the risk of dying in a fire by half. Smoke detectors are inexpensive and easy to install. I urge everyone to take action to help prevent future tragedies.

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES' 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 50th anniversary of Goodwill Industries of North Central, located in my district. This organization assists people across a huge portion of north central Pennsylvania, including 13 counties.

Goodwill has been a valuable part of its region since its launch in 1966. Over the years, their service area has grown to cover more than a dozen counties, 20 stores—the most recent addition, our 21st store, which is an online store they operate—and has created jobs for more than 500 people. Last week, I visited Goodwill's distribution center in Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, and learned more about the organization's plans to open an additional three stores as well as a donation training center.

Fifty years after its founding, hard work and determination are still the cornerstone to Goodwill of North Central's foundation.

It certainly helps that this great local organization is backed by a highly regarded national network. Across