

dealing with triple-negative breast cancer, which is the most deadly breast cancer and impacts women and minority women to the extent that their lifespan is shortened.

I rise today to indicate and to ask for renewed commitment by this Congress to focus on more research to bring an end to the forms of breast cancer that have been so deadly, in particular, to women.

I want to thank the U.S. Department of Defense for working with me on providing and supporting legislation that I offered and introduced to provide the research, but also the care for military women who have had breast cancer during their service in the United States military.

It is also Domestic Violence Month, and I acknowledge again the privilege I had to serve on the Committee on the Judiciary and to work with Chairman Hyde in the early stages of introducing and reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act. So many strides have been made.

In particular, I want to acknowledge the many agencies in Houston that have helped women—and, in some instances, men—who have been victims of domestic violence and abuse, in particular, the Houston Area Women's Center that has provided service. I served on the board previously, and I appreciate their service. We want to say to those women—and maybe men—do not suffer alone. Seek help and seek help now.

□ 1045

Mr. Speaker, today we will be looking at the culmination of discussions that have presented themselves as a budget that would end some form of sequester and would raise the debt limit until March 15, 2017.

As a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, I am committed to certain principles that I believe help all of America, and those are: the end to sequestration; the saving of Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare; not eliminating any executive orders or toxic riders undermining, for example, the issues of dealing with our broken immigration system; and the evenness of defense and non-defense sequester relief. We have begun that journey.

I also made a commitment to my seniors that we would fight against the horrific increases that were about to take place under Medicare part D. Those numbers were going to be onerous and burdensome on our seniors, and I will offer them in just a moment.

In addition, let me say that the compromise generates \$80 billion of sequester increases over 2 years, with the increase split evenly between defense and non-defense programs, and an additional \$16 billion in discretionary funding over a 2-year period. I am hoping that this will help many.

As I indicated, I am supporting breast cancer research. It will help the National Institutes of Health. It will help fill the seats for so many parents

who need Head Start resources for their children.

Having traveled with my congressional colleagues, I know that diplomatic security is a vital component to protecting our Foreign Service officers. And then it will improve, if you will, the day-to-day functions of this government.

I am glad, as I indicated, with respect to the Medicare part B premiums, that we will not see the 54 percent increase that I think was the number, and that the increase will be somewhere around 18 to 20 percent. We want it to be zero.

I want my seniors to know that we are continuing to fight as your increases in prescription drugs and service under Medicare part D continue to go down. And, might I just add, that I believe it is important, in addition, that we negotiate the decreasing price of prescription drugs. If you talk to any individual, what they will say is their highest cost, part of their highest cost, whether it is seniors or families, is the cost of prescription drugs. So I think it is very important.

I think I want to look more into, Mr. Speaker, the Social Security disability fix that is in this budget to ensure that no one sees any loss and cuts in their benefits. We just can't stand for that. Social Security recipients, as much as people want to clarify them as some having perpetrated fraud, they do not, Mr. Speaker.

As I close, let me say I want to protect those who are disabled. We are going to continue to look at this, even down to the moment of voting, to make sure that the budget brings about success and help and not harm.

I ask my colleagues to be deliberative in this debate.

LET'S KEEP OUR ATHLETES HEALTHY

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak to all the student athletes, the parents of student athletes, athletic trainers, and coaches out there: Sports build character. I want to make sure we are using technology, science, data analytics, and best practices to keep our student athletes practicing, performing, and competing in a safe and responsible manner.

I recall, as a former high school and college athlete, the pregame and prepractice routines that my coaches used to require before we could start to play. And while sports provide great enjoyment for athletes, fans, and coaches, they also pose health risks; some of them are unavoidable, but some are preventable.

By utilizing data and technology, we can establish best practices so our athletes can remain healthy and compete, and our sports teams can succeed. We can do that and still make certain injuries more preventable in the process.

In 2015, we have watches that provide real-time data on our heart rate, caloric intake, and blood pressure to smartphones that can then be shared with coaches, parents, and physicians; and that is just an Apple iWatch or a Fitbit.

Data analytics and sports go hand in hand these days, from mathematical algorithms as to what quarterback will be most successful on a Sunday afternoon, to the data of building a winning baseball team.

Today's athletic success is fueled by skills, knowledge, and teamwork, both on and off the field. Just as we find ways to incorporate technology and data to ensure our next generation of athletes can remain healthy and playing well into old age, we must also encourage investments in the research, innovation, and technology to continue to build upon these already great achievements.

One aspect of this can be found in using data analytics to better understand athletic injuries in our children and student athletes: for example, preemptively identifying vulnerabilities and assessing the lasting impact of other injuries so we can design equipment and enforce rules to most effectively avoid the likelihood of such injuries, but do so without compromising the integrity of the competitive sports we all enjoy watching or participating in.

Health professionals, coaches, trainers, and parents can utilize this data to bring about greater awareness of sound practices that can keep our student athletes healthy and in the game, not on the sidelines.

Every preseason we read in our local newspaper about a student athlete who suffered a concussion during football or soccer practice. In 2013 alone, over 1.2 million children visited emergency rooms for sports-related injuries, and nearly 8 percent of these emergency room visits were concussion-related.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to introduce H. Res. 112, a resolution, the Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights, which encourages greater communication, coordination, and teamwork among coaches, parents, teachers, and medical professionals to ensure that our children receive adequate training, safe equipment and facilities, and immediate, on-site injury assessment.

The very data and tools we use to generate information like RBIs or yards per carry can be used to study incidence of injury, the impact of certain dietary habits on developing athletes, better training practices, and a host of ways to improve the safe and responsible athletic experience for our youngest athletes.

With the support of over 100 diverse organizations dedicated to improving the health of our student athletes, including the National Athletic Trainers Association, the American Football Coaches Association, the American Heart Association, the National Association of State Boards of Education,

and the American Academy of Pediatrics, H. Res. 112 is just one step towards encouraging and emphasizing the use, sharing, and incorporation of data and innovation in improving the safety of athletes and avoiding injury.

While that effort deals with on-the-field success of our student athletes, just as important is making sure we are giving our next generation the tools they need in innovation and analytics. In Congress, we should enable continued research by making a commitment to providing the next generation of innovators with the tools to learn, develop, and ultimately succeed.

Indeed, STEM skills, the foundation of innovation, lies in a dynamic, motivated, and a well-educated workforce equipped with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. As a member of the Congressional STEM Caucus, I will continue to be an advocate for continued funding of STEM curriculum in schools so that we can equip the next generation of scientists and mathematicians with the tools to succeed. STEM classroom lessons can be applied to sports and the data-collection process. Our STEM students will play a major role in leading the way for greater success on the field.

The bottom line, we must all work together to continue to keep our favorite athletes and our children and our teams on the field and in the game, prevent injuries, and encourage lifelong habits that will allow our children to lead healthier lives. By encouraging the use of technology, we can ensure our student athletes, our athletic trainers, our parents, and our coaches have the tools needed to keep our athletes healthy and on the field instead of on the sidelines.

RESULTS OF THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

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

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, here in Congress we deal with a great number of different matters, and we vote. Sometimes we win, and sometimes we lose. But I thought it was worth spending a moment this morning to take a look at how the Iran nuclear deal is going. We are 10 days since the deal has been formally adopted, and here is the update:

The Supreme Leader has already begun redefining and testing the agreement. Earlier this month, Iran tested its new ballistic missile. The missile has a 1,000-mile range, can carry a 1,600-pound payload. The only practical use for this ballistic missile is to carry a nuclear warhead.

The day after the test, Iran convicted The Washington Post journalist they have been holding. The day after that, Iran arrested, apparently, an American businessman.

In recent weeks, Iran has begun partnering with Russia to undermine our policy and goals in Syria. And, of

course, Iran continues to hold the four Americans.

This deal was predicated on Iran changing its rogue behavior. We are 10 days into this deal, and so far, I have to say, we are not off to a very good start.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that constituents know why their Members vote for and against different things.

Yesterday, we saw the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, and I voted "no" on that. Of course, I, like probably every single Member of Congress, have businesses in the district that I represent that use the Export-Import Bank to further their business, hire their employees, and help their community.

So why would somebody vote against the Export-Import Bank? I am here to tell you why.

We have a tradition in America of a free-market value and its wanted standing in the world. It is not by a corrupt system of cronyism and political favor, and that is what the Export-Import Bank is to me.

Unfortunately, while many small businesses in every community use the Export-Import Bank, fully 98 percent of businesses don't use the Export-Import Bank to do their exporting—98 percent. But that is not really the issue. The issue is other things.

For instance, between 2007 and 2014, more than 51 percent of all Ex-Im subsidies benefited just 10—10—corporations. One in particular benefited from \$66.7 billion in subsidies during the past 7 years.

We can't fix Social Security, and we can't afford our military. But we can sure afford for 10 corporations to get 51 percent, because it is not really about the small business in your community, generally speaking. As a matter of fact, foreign firms that receive most of Ex-Im financing are large corporations that primarily purchase exports from U.S. conglomerates, not from Main Street businesses.

Five of the top 10 buyers are state-controlled and rake in millions of dollars from their own governments, in addition to Ex-Im Bank subsidies that the taxpayers are on the hook for.

Five of 10 are involved in exploration, development, and production of oil or natural gas, these foreign firms collecting subsidies from American taxpayers at the same time that this administration is restricting domestic oil and gas operations right here at home. Consequently, the Federal Government has doubly disadvantaged U.S. energy firms through excessive regulation and Ex-Im Bank subsidies granted to foreign competitors.

Now, sometimes in Washington it is not what you know, but it is who you

know. Of the 16 members of the Ex-Im Bank's 2014 advisory committee, half, fully half, were executives at companies or unions that directly benefited from Ex-Im financing during their term—fully half.

Does that sound remotely suspicious to anybody?

Another five members represent companies or unions that received Ex-Im assistance shortly before they joined, and I will give you an example.

Since 2011, former Energy Secretary and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson has held a seat on Spanish energy company Abengoa's international advisory board. Shortly after joining the firm, Mr. Richardson was appointed to the Ex-Im advisory board, right around the same time the two Ex-Im Bank loans benefiting Abengoa were issued. Fascinating coincidence. Those taxpayer-backed loans totaled around \$150 million.

Supporters of Ex-Im argue that the advisory committee members being associated with their beneficiaries is a positive feature. To the contrary, I think it shows that a corporate cronyism atmosphere exists at Ex-Im and will continue to exist at Ex-Im.

The office of the IG and the GAO, the Government Accountability Office, repeatedly document mismanagement, dysfunction within Ex-Im, including inefficient policies and procedures to guard against waste, fraud, and abuse.

□ 1100

Fully 124 investigations have been initiated between October 2007 and March 2014, as well as 792 separate claims involving more than \$500 million, and 74 administrative actions since April of 2009 in which bank officials were forced to act internally on the basis of investigations by the inspector general.

The Congressional Budget Office reported that Ex-Im programs actually operate at a deficit, because we also are told that it makes the American taxpayer money; but we don't really know, because they use their own accounting system not used anywhere else. Actually, the CBO says that will cost taxpayers \$2 billion in the next decade.

And you wonder why certain Members of Congress don't vote for this thing. It is not about the small businesses in our communities that are trying to do a good job and play by the rules, because they are doing a good job and playing by the rules. But there is a bigger issue here. There is more to the story.

The new bill that we just passed guarantees an audit every 4 years—every 4 years. But keep in mind that Ex-Im currently has around 30 open investigations, 75 years of combined prison time, 90 criminal indictments and complaints, 49 criminal judgments, more than \$223 million in court-ordered fines and restitution, and I could go on.

Mr. Speaker, the Ex-Im Bank doesn't do everything it could for small business, but it does a lot for people that