

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, thanks to the American taxpayers, what might be the world's most expensive gas station was built in Afghanistan. A mysterious Department of Defense special task force spent \$43 million on a gas station in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, that must be a humdinger of a truck stop. What should have only cost \$500,000 cost 140 times that amount, charged to the taxpayers' credit card. Yet, there are no answers or explanations.

Mr. Speaker, it has now since been reported that Afghans don't even use the gas station because of the cost of the gas.

No one has been held accountable for such wasteful government spending, not surprisingly. This is getting to be normal for government "spendocrats."

Time for no more Washington spending-sprees on the taxpayers' dime. People need to be held personally responsible for such wasteful spending.

The American people deserve an explanation. After all, it is their money that is funding \$43 million gas stations in other countries.

Mr. Speaker, why are we building a five-star gas station in Afghanistan anyway?

And that is just the way it is.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 22, HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 6, 2015, THROUGH NOVEMBER 13, 2015; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. WOODALL from the Committee on Rules submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-325) on the resolution (H. Res. 507) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; providing for proceedings during the period from November 6, 2015, through November 13, 2015; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in

which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to lead tonight's Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour, where we will have the opportunity to speak directly to the American people.

But before we get to business, I do want to take a second, even though it feels like an eternity, to congratulate my dear friend and colleague, our CBC chairman for the 112th Congress, the Honorable EMANUEL CLEAVER of Kansas City, for his hometown Kansas City Royals victory in last night's World Series game.

I am an Illinoisan by way of New York. So I had a little stake in this one. But, again, my congratulations to the city of Kansas City and to Congressman CLEAVER.

Mr. Speaker, I truly do believe that it is an honor and a privilege to host the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour. So I speak to you this evening very much concerned and severely disappointed that we are even having tonight's topic under such circumstances.

Tonight we are here to address saving our communities, where our focus for this hour will be on key legislative priorities that this Congress, this year's Congressional Black Caucus, and our Nation must confront in order to help make this union more perfect for our next generation.

Mr. Speaker, this year there have been a lot of tragic episodes that may make one shake their head and ask what is going on.

We have covered a number of these topics in the course of this year, whether it be the issue of criminal justice reform, gun violence, economic investment as an antidote to violence, community policing, or the value of Black lives in America.

Mr. Speaker, the issues that I will cover this evening aren't Black Caucus issues. I know that most in this Congress and most across this great country would acknowledge that they are American issues.

Falling short as a Nation on these fronts only divides us and only serves as a barrier to our boundless possibilities as an American people.

Over the past few weeks, we heard a lot about the need to clean out the barn before the baton was passed from Speaker to Speaker. I think we made some progress in clearing out the barn last week as we passed a bipartisan budget agreement, which President Obama signed into law earlier today.

But, Mr. Speaker, as the baton has been passed from Speaker BOEHNER to Speaker RYAN, we must keep in mind that there is still much that needs to be cleaned out of the barn when it

comes to criminal justice reform, creating opportunity in vulnerable communities, addressing inequities in the justice system, valuing all lives, regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation, making sure that good cops can do their job in keeping communities safe, and making sure that bad cops don't get to be the Nation's norm.

We must have a culture where bad cops don't have a safe haven, where they can't get away with violations of the public trust in communities they were sworn to protect, and where they aren't in a position to spoil the whole bunch of good cops we have protecting American communities.

Mr. Speaker, tonight we will have a long and overdue conversation about saving our communities.

At this time, I yield to the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, my colleague from North Carolina, Representative G.K. BUTTERFIELD.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Let me first thank you, Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY, for yielding time to me tonight. Thank you for your willingness to stay on the floor tonight, even though this suspension bill was placed in front of us tonight. We certainly understand that has that happen from time to time. But thank you so very much for staying on the floor to manage the time this evening.

I also want to thank you, Ms. KELLY, for your extraordinary leadership. Thank you for what you do for the Congressional Black Caucus. Thank you for what you do for your constituents in Illinois. Most importantly, thank you for what you do for our country. It is certainly appreciated.

I will certainly join you, Ms. KELLY, in congratulating the Kansas City Royals on their well-deserved victory. I did not watch the entire World Series, but I watched enough of it to know that this team was much deserving of this victory. And so congratulations not only to Mr. CLEAVER, who is so proud of Kansas City and talks about his hometown all of the time, but congratulations to all of those fans of that great team.

Tonight we are talking about the urgent need to save our communities. What an appropriate topic, Ms. KELLY, because communities all across the country are in crisis.

I travel quite a bit across the country and visit many different communities not only in my State, but in many other States. I can tell you firsthand that communities all across our country are facing crises. They are facing crises in so many different respects.

They are facing the whole issue of pervasive poverty. Poverty in America is real. We have more than 400 counties in the United States of America that have poverty rates that exceed 20 percent, and all of these have had poverty rates for more than 30 years greater than 20 percent. So poverty is a critical issue in our country, and communities are feeling the effect of it in a significant way.

Joblessness. Joblessness. I continue to say that the unemployment rate is