

barrels of oil a day from Alberta, Canada, to refineries in southeast Texas. This would provide more energy for America, but the President has had it for over 2 years and can't make up his mind on whether to approve the project or not.

The State Department, the EPA, and a bunch of out-of-towners have stonewalled the project on alleged environmental grounds. Pipelines are the most cost-effective and the most environmentally sound way to transport oil and natural gas. Oil must reach the refineries some way. We can either import oil through a safe and reliable pipeline from our friends and neighborhoods, the Canadians, or rely on risky tankers coming from unstable Middle Eastern countries and dictators.

Even the EPA should be able to figure this out, after 2 years of delay. Gasoline is nearly \$4 a gallon. The administration needs to be realistic and approve this pipeline immediately. It's about time we start laying pipe.

And that's just the way it is.

TIME FOR A CEASE FIRE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. It's time to cease fire and sit down and negotiate. One would believe that I'm speaking about the conflict in the Mid East and about Libya. What I'm really speaking about is the Governor of the State of Texas and the challenge that we have of ensuring that \$830 million comes back to the State of Texas for our school children.

Earlier today, I had the privilege of speaking to a group of students from Spelman College, an Historically Black College, and I told them their greatest contribution can be to go into the elementary schools and the secondary schools and talk to them about the value of education. We can't see America lose its excellence in education, see children in 60-person classes, teachers thrown out in the street. We need the \$830 million in the State of Texas.

Let's resolve our differences. Let's give a commitment to the Secretary of Education that you will use these dollars for education only. Parents and teachers and students and those who are committed to educating our children, the best and the brightest, deserve that kind of commitment.

What is America great for? It's great because we've given the opportunity of education to all people. Texas, it's time to cease fire. Sit down, negotiate, and receive \$830 million Federal dollars on behalf of the children of Texas.

TAXPAYERS AGAIN FOOTING THE BILL

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I just finished a hearing as chairman of the

Oversight and Investigations Committee, and we had the administration up to talk about some of the programs that they're handing out money on; and one of them is giving out money to large corporations and to unions for early retirement of the employees of for-profit corporations.

So think about this. The United States Government is giving millions of dollars. In fact, they gave United Auto Workers \$260 million towards their plan for early retirement for their workers.

Now, when you think about it, these are corporations and unions and entities around this country who've actually settled in with a contract with their employees. Yet the government is stepping in and giving them money to help them so they can get to 2014. And they're running out of money. Obviously, they will run out of money if they give free money to these corporations. They're going to accept it. And in the end, taxpayers are going to foot the bill.

In light of the fact we're losing \$4 billion a day, why should taxpayers be giving out almost \$5 billion to corporations that are very profitable to help their employees retire?

HONORING DR. BETH DUPREE

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I rise today to honor Dr. Beth DuPree, an oncologist and breast cancer surgeon from Bucks County. Dr. DuPree's care and compassion for her patients extend far beyond the operating room. I'm honored to this evening attend a ceremony in honor of Dr. DuPree and her many accomplishments as doctor, civic leader, and humanitarian.

Beth founded and leads a group called The Healing Consciousness Foundation that provides valuable support services to anyone battling breast cancer and in need of support. Psychiatric services, exercise programs, diet coaching, or simply a shoulder to lean on are all provided through The Healing Consciousness Foundation. These are services which insurance and government programs do not provide, but which can be just as critical to a recovery.

Through her dedication and her hard work, as well as the sense of social responsibility that she instills in others to hear the calling to serve, Beth has made the mission of The Healing Consciousness Foundation, "Turning survivors into thrivers," truly a reality.

WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POMPEO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. BUERKLE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about two of the most sig-

nificant issues facing our society today—the twin scourges of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Our society has a moral obligation to stand up against those who exploit their power to commit violence against women, men, and children. I join other Members here today in taking the opportunity to discuss these issues and participate in the White Ribbon Campaign.

On Tuesday of this past week, March 22, in Syracuse, New York, the president of SUNY Upstate Medical University, Dr. David Smith, chaired a breakfast. It was the kickoff to the White Ribbon Campaign, a campaign that is to draw attention to and focus on, raise awareness of, domestic violence and sexual abuse. The White Ribbon Campaign is an international campaign, participating probably across 55 countries.

Later in the week, on Friday, again Dr. Smith led a group of men in a march raising awareness for domestic violence. They marched in women's shoes down the main street in Syracuse, New York. Again, "walk a mile in their shoes," raising awareness, raising the consciousness of domestic violence and sexual abuse, these issues that face our society today. The international campaign has probably 55 countries and involves a general public education focused on preventing domestic violence.

Many of my fellow Members this past week have been wearing white ribbons for our commitment to putting the spotlight on domestic violence. Wearing the white ribbon speaks to our personal pledge to never commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women and children. The white ribbons were sponsored by Vera House. Vera House was formed in 1977 in Syracuse, New York, by Sister Mary Vera because Sister Mary Vera recognized the need for emergency shelters for women.

□ 1510

She developed and expanded her services. Now, today, Vera House has merged with the Rape Crisis Center, and they serve the needs of so many women, men and children who have been abused. Again, the whole White Ribbon Campaign is to raise public awareness of domestic violence.

At this time, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina, Representative RENEE ELLMERS.

Mrs. ELLMERS. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleague and friend from New York and to point out the fact that, over the years, she has just been a tireless, dedicated supporter of women's issues, family issues, and of giving her voluntary support of legal services to facilities that provide domestic violence havens in New York. She is a strong advocate for the White Ribbon Campaign, and I am proud to stand with her today in support of ending violence against women.

We show our support today by wearing these white ribbons that represent

a pledge to never commit, condone, or to remain silent about violence against women and girls. So let's start this discussion by defining the different forms of violence against women.

Domestic violence occurs when one person in an intimate relationship uses a pattern of controlling assaultive behavior to abuse, threaten, harass, and intimidate the other partner. This violence comes in many forms. In its simplest terms, it is emotional abuse; name-calling; playing mind games; put-downs; threats—they can be physical or emotional—intimidation; using looks; smashing things; loud voices or actions to put you in fear of what might happen; isolation; controlling where you go, what you do, what you see; driving away friends and family; and of course sexual abuse and the use of children; making you feel guilty about the children, using custody or visitation to harass you.

None of these forms of abuse are acceptable, and part of the White Ribbon Campaign's objective is to bring these issues to light. The bottom line here is that there are men in this country who want to protect the women they love. Through the White Ribbon Campaign, they are speaking out against these atrocities that take place. They are educating and calling on their fellow man to stop the violence.

While we are taking a moment today to bring this important issue to light, I want to take a moment to commend the many facilities in my congressional district that are helping to provide a safe place for women but that are also working toward bringing families back together by working through the violence issues.

S.A.F.E. of Harnett County is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide safety and to serve as an advocate for sexual assault and domestic violence victims, survivors, and their families.

In Chatham County, North Carolina, the Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services has helped numerous people through effective programming. One victim said, "The pieces of the puzzle are coming together. The Family Violence and Rape Crisis Service has given me the strength to be who I was supposed to be on my own."

In Johnston County, Safe Harbor is another private, nonprofit agency that was created in 1984 with \$500 and a donated phone line. This agency served around 3,000 victims in 2009.

There are numerous other facilities in my congressional district that are also doing good work toward stemming the tide of domestic violence. I want to commend them for their hard work and dedication to the downtrodden.

As I close today, I also want to commend the men who support the White Ribbon Campaign. I applaud them for rising up and for reaching out to educate. It takes a strong man to take this kind of action.

Ms. BUERKLE. I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for her

kind comments and for putting attention on the Rape Crisis Centers and all of these centers which have dealt with this, because today, while we rise and we stand to call and bring to consciousness domestic violence, this is also a wonderful opportunity to thank the hundreds of thousands of people who volunteer in these shelters, who work for these agencies, who provide a safe haven for the women, the men and the children who are abused—for the victims of domestic violence.

My colleague talked about what these centers do. Vera House, the agency that I stand today to represent and to talk about, has expanded their services these days to outreach, advocacy, education, and children's counseling. Children, as you heard from my colleague, are often the victims of domestic violence between spouses. They are the ones who suffer. Vera House offers counseling to these children. Most importantly, Vera House provides violence education for the perpetrators. If we are going to change behaviors, we have got to educate and to retrain the way the perpetrators think.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of domestic violence and sexual assault.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, for over 14 years, I have worked at Vera House as a pro bono legal volunteer. The Women's Bar Association in Syracuse, New York, put together a program where all attorneys, male and female, go through training to begin to address the needs of the victims of domestic violence. Through those 14 years, I began to get an up-close, clear understanding of the issue of domestic violence. The fact is that domestic violence transcends socioeconomics; it transcends race. Domestic violence is an issue that everyone faces. It crosses racial lines; it crosses economic lines; it crosses social lines.

I recall one of my meetings with a woman whose husband was well-known in the media in our town. You would never suspect. You would never think that she would be a victim of domestic violence—educated, with financial means. Yet she was a victim. This is the pervasiveness of sexual assault and domestic violence.

At this time, I yield to my esteemed colleague, Judge POE.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentlelady for yielding time, and I appreciate the work she has done on this issue and for bringing it to the House's attention today during this Special Order.

Domestic violence, as you said, affects the entire country—all races, all economic groups. No one is exempt from this dastardly deed. It's my honor

to serve as chairman of the Victims' Rights Caucus. It's a bipartisan caucus. Congressman JIM COSTA is the co-chair. We hope to help promote the concept that victims are people, too, that they have rights, and that the same Constitution that protects defendants protects the rights of victims as well. I appreciate the gentlelady for being a member of that caucus.

In my other life, before I came to Congress, I'd spent most of my time at the courthouse in Houston for 30 years. I was a prosecutor and a criminal court judge, hearing criminal cases, and I saw a lot of people come down there. A lot of people were down there because they had committed crimes against their families. We need to understand that when you hurt someone in your family, it is not a family problem only—it is a criminal problem—and society must get to the point where we believe that it is socially unacceptable to commit crimes in the family.

Probably the most important person in my life when I was growing up was my grandmother. She never forgave me for being a Republican; she always considered herself a Democrat, God bless her. But one thing she said that was true was that you never hurt somebody you claim you love, and that's an absolute truth.

□ 1520

People who claim they love somebody and then physically or emotionally or verbally abuse them are wrong and should be treated accordingly and held accountable for that conduct. It is very important that we recognize that domestic violence is a true issue, and we also need to understand as a culture and as a community that when a person is the victim of domestic violence that it's not their fault. They are the victim.

The offender, in most cases the husband, they are not the victim. The spouse is the victim, the wife, and defendants and husbands who commit those crimes can't use excuses and try to portray themselves as the one being the victim. The offenders should be held accountable, and victims need to understand society and the law are on their side.

Many victims of spousal abuse and domestic violence, they don't report it. They don't want the neighbors to know. They don't want the community to know. They feel like they're beaten down physically and emotionally, and sometimes they think it is their fault. It's not their fault. It's always the offender's fault.

And so we as a culture, as a community, in this country, whether we're from New York or from Texas, we need to let people know that if they are a victim of crime, if there is a lady that is abused by her husband, that society comes to her rescue and helps in any way we can and to make sure we have a safe haven for them to go to if necessary and that we make sure that it's financed so that the wife does not feel

like "I have no place to go because I can't afford anyplace," and so she stays in that abusive relationship, and sometimes it ends in worse tragedy.

Lastly, I'd like to talk about a very favorite person of mine who lives not far from here. Yvette Cade is just a regular person who lives in Maryland, and a few years ago she was trying to separate and divorce from her husband. A judge refused to grant her a restraining order, refused to grant a restraining order that she requested to keep her spouse away from her until all of the divorce had been worked out, and because the restraining order wasn't extended, her spouse went into a video store where she was working, carrying a jar of gasoline, and poured it over Yvette Cade's head and set that woman, that wonderful lady, on fire.

Now, because of a person in the store who helped put out that fire that this spouse had committed against Yvette Cade, she survived. And it's things like that that we as a culture need to hold these culprits accountable for these crimes against people in their family, and we need to take wonderful ladies like Yvette Cade and make sure we treat them with tender care and make sure we have compassion on them to prevent any further damage to them physically, emotionally, and also prevent the consequences that other people may choose to commit against spouses in their own family.

It is important that we continue to preach this word throughout the country that spousal abuse is something we're going to deal with as a Nation.

I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Ms. BUERKLE. I thank my esteemed colleague from Texas for his kind comments, and I thank all of the gentlemen who have the courage to stand up and call awareness to the issue of domestic violence, who stand against the violence against women, men, and children.

Domestic violence is known by many names: domestic abuse, spousal abuse, family violence, intimate partner violence. It also takes many forms, from physical violence involving small things such as hitting or kicking, biting, shoving, or restraining. It can be emotional or it can be verbal, which manifests in many types of behavior: controlling, domineering, threatening, or humiliating. And we as a society have an obligation to raise the awareness of domestic violence so that women know, just as my esteemed colleague was talking about, it's not their fault. It is the fault of the perpetrator, whether that perpetrator is male or female, and that is the person who should be held accountable, not the victim.

It can also be economic abuse in which the abuser controls the victim's money, and this abuse we often see with the elderly. Another issue that we need to raise society's consciousness about, the issues of elder abuse.

Tragically, domestic violence is not a rare phenomenon, Mr. Speaker. The

Centers for Disease Control estimate that domestic violence is a public health problem affecting over 32 million Americans, or 10 percent of the population. This is a tragedy of national proportion that society, again, we must raise up the consciousness of this horrific issue.

The effects of domestic violence are staggering. Physical abuse can be bruises, broken bones, head injuries, lacerations, but those are just the external physical wounds. Internal bleeding, chronic health conditions such as arthritis, irritable bowel syndrome, ulcers, migraines, miscarriages can also be linked to physical abuses that victims sustain.

But there are other effects as well. Many victims experience anxiety, stress, fear, guilt, depression, guilt that what is happening to them is their fault. Again, we have to raise the awareness and raise the consciousness of society that it is the perpetrator's fault, not the victim's.

Abused victims also frequently manifest a condition we think of relative to our veterans: posttraumatic stress disorder. Victims with conditions have flashbacks, nightmares, or exaggerated responses.

The effects of abuse can also be financial. Many victims courageously leave their abusers but often lack the education, the skills, and the resources to find gainful employment to care for themselves and any children they might have.

Mr. Speaker, I can recall sitting with women who are helpless. They sit across the table from you, and they are helpless because they don't know what to do. They don't know how to get out of the situation. They don't understand that there is help and that society is willing to step up and provide safe haven for them and for their children.

I spoke to a prosecutor who had a program that would go after deadbeat dads and go after the support so that women would be able to leave, be safe, and get support in order to support their children. I think that our society is coming around. We have wonderful organizations like Vera House, but we in this House must work hard. We must continue to raise awareness about these issues.

The other societal scourge I referenced in my opening remark is sexual assault. Sexual assault is, simply put, any unwanted contact of a sexual nature. It does not matter if the victim is on a date or drinking when it occurs. It's never okay to force sexual contact on you against your will.

Again, it's raising the awareness. It's letting society know, the vulnerable know, that it's not your fault and that you don't have to withstand these abuses.

Like domestic abuse, sexual assault knows no privileged class immune to its ravages. Men, women, children, all ages, all races, all religions, and ethnicities are victims. The effects are often similar to the victims of domes-

tic abuse, and the effects can be especially troubling for children and men.

I serve on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and I am passionate about veterans' issues. It is a committee that is bipartisan. It's a committee that works together because we all understand, we all understand the service and the sacrifice of our men and women in the military. I am the daughter and sister of veterans and believe that we owe a debt of gratitude to our men and women in uniform, but part of that debt extends to making sure that we don't turn a blind eye to sexual assault of women and men in our armed services.

We have much to do, but I applaud the U.S. Air Force's recognition that sexual assault against both male and female airmen is a serious problem that needs a systemic solution. And while the Air Force has emphasized sexual assault prevention in responses for several years, they acknowledge that sexual assault is still a problem in the Air Force, as it is for our military services. In the Air Force's own words, Sexual assault continues to burden our airmen and degrade our mission effectiveness. Sexual assault is a crime and there is no place for this or this behavior in our Air Force. We must demand better of ourselves and of society.

□ 1530

Consequently, they contracted with Gallup to conduct an anonymous poll about sexual assault in the Air Force. The findings were, to put it mildly, disturbing. The results of the survey in the 12 months prior were that 2,143 women and 1,355 men reported that they had been sexually assaulted, with the majority of female victims reporting that their assailant was a fellow airman. Even one victim is one too many.

Sadly, it is unrealistic to think that our Armed Forces would be immune to the kinds of problems endemic in our society. We must engage as men, women, moms, dads, community leaders, airmen, soldiers, marines, sailors, and guardsmen; churches, synagogues, mosques, youth centers, sports teams, schools, colleges. The list goes on. It will take all aspects of society to change a culture that increasingly devalues human life.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we are created in the image of God and that for each of us, He has a purpose in our lives. No woman should ever, ever have to fear for the safety of her unborn child because of an abusive husband. No child should ever dread going to bed because of a parent who is molesting her. And no man should be raped because justice turned a blind eye to prison rape.

I have six children and 11 grandchildren, Mr. Speaker, and as a parent and a grandparent, I think about the lessons I have tried to teach to each of them. Some of those lessons were very successful, some less so, but I taught my kids to help others. Helping others

includes living up to the pledge I mentioned earlier, that I am making by wearing that white ribbon: I will not commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women, men, or children. And I commend the other Members of this body for the white ribbons that they courageously wore to, again, raise the awareness of domestic violence and sexual assaults.

We have a serious problem in front of us, Mr. Speaker, in every community in America, but I have hope. America is an amazing country, and I am so privileged to be an American, to be free. I believe that the greatness of this country is a reflection of both the greatness of our founding and the greatness of our people. We are up to and equal to the task of fighting domestic violence and sexual assault if we put our American minds and our American spirits to it.

So, today, as I stand before you, Mr. Speaker, again, to call attention to the scourge of domestic violence and sexual abuse, it's, at the same time, celebrating the wonderful agencies and shelters and volunteers and people who have stepped forth who are willing to take this issue on, who are willing to address it, who are willing to help the victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. We are blessed by their service, by their commitment to society, by their appreciation of the value of human life and their desire to help those who need that help.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the House for the ability to be able to call attention to these issues.

At this time, I want to say to Vera House in Syracuse, as well as all of the shelters and all of the agencies throughout this country, thank you for your service. Thank you for what you do for the victims of domestic violence and sexual assaults.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is prepared to recognize a minority Member at this time.

KEEPING THE GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives and to once again bring a case before you that I believe will be overheard in an effective way by the American people and responded to you by, of course, your good judicial and prudential judgment.

I came here to the floor to talk about a number of things. I should always bring up the number one thing that is on my mind first. And I know that it's impossible for me to exhaust the subject, but I have given it a significant

endeavor over the last year and a half. And now, as things move towards a head, with the continuing resolution negotiations and debate that is taking place and the major decisions that will be formed over the weekend by the leadership in the House and in the Senate in consultation, presumably, with the White House, we expect to see some kind of a proposal come before one or both Chambers next week before the clock ticks down on the continuing resolution that is temporarily funding this government in a piece of shell appropriations that should have never have happened. But that's a subject matter perhaps outside of what I should bring up today, and we should focus on the issues at hand, and they are this:

There was a strong pledge that was made that if Republicans win the majority, Mr. Speaker, that we would cut \$100 billion out of this fiscal year's budget. I will submit that, recognizing that we were 5 months into this fiscal year before we had an opportunity to begin that process, that calculates out to be about \$61.5 billion if you annualized \$100 billion. Even though the initially proposed continuing resolution did not include those kinds of cuts, there was an intense debate here in this Congress driven by the 87 freshmen Republicans to get that number up to a number that was either \$100 billion or \$100 billion if you calculated it on an annualized basis.

We did come together on that number, and this House did pass H.R. 1, which included in it \$61.5 billion worth of cuts out of fiscal year 2011, even though, let me say, the function of the House was not functional during the last 2 or 3 years at least of Speaker PELOSI's time, and there was no appropriations process that one could bring forward, and there was no budget that was brought forward and, therefore, government was being run on stopgap measures of continuing resolutions.

During the lame duck session—the lame duck session being the period of time when Congress comes together to meet after an election. I have said that lame duck sessions should only be to take care of the urgent issues that need to be handled before the new Members of Congress can be sworn in. The old Congress, at least in theory, is delegitimized by the elections that take place. Last year, it was on November 2. They no longer represent the will of the American people. That has been reflected in the election results all across the land. And this House was designed to be a quick reaction strike force to be responsive to the American people.

So our Founding Fathers put it within the Constitution, never amended out, that House Members are up for election every 2 years. And every 10 years there will be a census, and that census is designed then to be used to redistrict the districts. And we have now agreed that 435 is the maximum number of House Members. And as the

population moves and as the population grows, every 10 years, we reset the congressional districts to as accurately as possible reflect the new population distribution in America. That goes on, along with every 2 years, there is an election.

So the elections have two purposes. Every 10 years, it is to reflect the population change; and every 2 years, including that 10-year census year election, which comes up in 2012, it's the quick reaction response to the will of the American people. Because our Founding Fathers understood that, if you put people in this office and let them have tenure for life like we are hearing about in States like Wisconsin or Ohio what tenure does to a person's due diligence, then there would be people that would sit here forever and never be responsible to the American people.

□ 1540

They recognize if they would set the Senate up in 6-year election cycles that the Senate wouldn't be accountable within a short period of time, not within 2 years or 4 years, but in 6 years. That was intentionally so the Senators would be more inclined to make long-term visionary decisions, and House Members could come in as the shock troops, so to speak, to bring the quick reaction if the Congress got out of sync with the people.

Well, it's pretty clear, Mr. Speaker, that the Congress got out of sync with the people last year. Actually, they began to get out of sync with the people well before that, more than 4 years ago.

But when President Obama came in he had huge majorities to work with in the House under NANCY PELOSI as Speaker and in the Senate with HARRY REID as leader, even to the extent that they had a massive majority in the House of Representatives, and they had a filibuster-proof majority in the United States Senate. And so they felt their oats, so to speak.

And their ideology, drove them, I think, to—maybe they didn't know it. I think some of them knew it, and I believe the Blue Dogs that were in this House of Representatives that lost their elections last November knew it. They knew they were walking the plank. They knew they were going down into political Davy Jones' locker if they voted for ObamaCare. But they did, because of leverage, because of legislative shenanigans, because—and I'll say it, Mr. Speaker, that to understand this, that ObamaCare, for a long time here in the House of Representatives, was H.R. 3200, a bill that came through the Energy and Commerce Committee in a fashion that was, at least envisioned, to be a functional fashion through our Constitution and by our Founding Fathers. But it came through, and there were long, long debates in committee, but H.R. 3200, which was the product of the House, didn't make it to the floor for a vote.