

Joseph Kony is a mass murderer, whose campaign of violence against innocent civilians spans decades. The predatory forces doing his bidding are known as the Lord's Resistance Army, or LRA, and they have perpetrated some of the worst human rights abuses of our time.

Under the direction of Kony, the LRA has murdered, raped, mutilated, and abducted tens of thousands of innocent people, many of whom are children. They target remote villages, butchering civilians, abducting women and children to serve as sex slaves and fighters. Kony's bloody reach now extends to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, and the newly formed Republic of South Sudan.

One measure that we could accomplish would be for the U.N. peacekeeping missions in the region to more effectively coordinate their actions and share information related to Kony and the LRA, because this is a threat that crosses many international borders.

I'd like to thank my colleague, Congressman ED ROYCE, for introducing a new bill, H.R. 4077, which I proudly support. H.R. 4077 would authorize the Secretary of State to use the State Department's Rewards Program to gain intelligence and strengthen the capacity of those who are actively engaged in fighting transnational organized crime and also apply it to the search for Kony and the LRA.

This program has served as a valuable incentive for those with crucial information to come forward and help round up foreign nationals wanted for a range of brutal crimes and activities that threaten regional and global security and stability and U.S. national security interests. It will be an important tool in helping bring Kony and his circle of thugs, the Lord's Resistance Army, to justice.

I'd also like to thank Congressman JIM MCGOVERN for introducing House Resolution 583, of which I am also a proud cosponsor. Mr. MCGOVERN's resolution echoes current law and puts the House on record in strong support of U.S. efforts to counter the Lord's Resistance Army. It urges the President to work closely with Congress to address critical gaps in U.S. strategy and to enhance U.S. support for the regional measures already there to fight the Lord's Resistance Army.

As we have seen over the past 25 years, Kony's assault on innocent lives has no limits. Now is the time to help bring Joseph Kony and his fellow criminals to justice. As a Nation, let us assure that we have done all that we can to end this ongoing tragedy and hold this evil man accountable for all of his crimes.

I thank all of the young people throughout my district who have communicated through Twitter and Facebook and different modes of social media to express their outrage over Kony's evil deeds; but now, let's take action. Let's pass these bills.

□ 1010

BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Last Thursday, a different kind of March madness took place in the NCAA basketball tournament. In a game between Kansas State and Mississippi State, Angel Rodriguez, a Puerto Rican point guard for Kansas State, was met with taunts from Mississippi State students while he was getting ready to shoot a free throw. The taunt: "Where's your green card?"

That wasn't the only March madness. Earlier this month in San Antonio, Texas, a white high school in San Antonio chanted during the regional basketball championship trophy presentation. Their chant: "USA, USA, USA." Why did they chant USA? Because their team had defeated San Antonio's Thomas Edison High School, a team of mostly Latino players.

One U.S. citizen asked to produce his green card, one entire team of Americans taunted as if they were foreigners.

These young people, subjected to hatred and bigotry, handled it well.

Angel Rodriguez ignored the taunts and played a great game. If he hadn't been busy helping Kansas State win the game, he might have mentioned to everybody that he was from Miami or that all Puerto Ricans are citizens of the United States.

I'm impressed that the kids from Thomas Edison High School kept their cool. They deserve our praise not only for being good basketball players, but just for being great kids.

Mississippi State and Alamo Heights have apologized for the taunts. That's an important step in the right direction. That's not the issue. The issue is why people think it's okay to treat Latinos as if they are second-rate Americans, why so many people think being Latino means being a suspect in our own country, why they look at a young man named Rodriguez and think he doesn't belong in this country. It's because misguided kids taunting Latinos is not really the disease. It's the symptom.

The heart of the sickness is more troubling. The truth is, when it comes to Latinos and immigrants, far too many so-called leaders in our Nation are starting the taunts.

On the campaign trail and on talk radio and on TV, and even here in this Chamber, there are leaders that act like the biggest bullies in the schoolyard. If elected officials have no boundaries when it comes to scapegoating and demonizing immigrants and Latinos, then why should young people at a basketball game know any better? Why does an American, a Puerto Rican citizen basketball player, get taunted about a green card?

It's easier to understand when you hear the frontrunner for the Republican nomination of President pro-

moting a national immigration policy that makes all Latinos look like suspects and all immigrants look like criminals.

Mitt Romney has said that Arizona's anti-immigrant law—a law that essentially demands racial profiling of anyone who looks like they might be undocumented—is a model for our Nation. But that's not all Mitt Romney has said to American Latinos. He has said all 11 million immigrants, most of them Latinos, should self-deport, even if they've lived here since they were children and have American citizen families.

Mitt Romney has even gone as far to attack the first Latino Supreme Court justice. He believes that Justice Sotomayor is unqualified to serve on the Supreme Court. He's proud of the support of anti-immigrant extremists, including the author of Arizona's anti-immigrant law. He has attacked the DREAM Act, a perfectly reasonable bill. And Mitt Romney is hardly a lone voice. It is sad.

One Member of this House said he would be for any measure to stop illegal immigrants "short of shooting them." Even hanging them? Gassing them? One other colleague of ours here called undocumented immigration a slow-rolling, slow-motion terrorist attack on the United States.

Pat Buchanan wrote a book entitled "State of Emergency: The Third World Invasion and Conquest of America." Folks like Buchanan and Limbaugh regularly use words like "hordes" and "swarms" to describe immigrants.

Maybe Mitt Romney thinks he's just saying what he needs to say to get the Republican nomination, and maybe some elected officials think their extreme rhetoric doesn't really carry outside the Halls of Congress. But America knows better. So does a group of Kansas State basketball players and a group of good kids from San Antonio, Texas. They know that words matter very much.

Here's my advice to the Romneys and the Buchanans of the world and a few of my colleagues here in the House: Instead of bullies, why don't you be leaders? And why don't you try some words that bring people together instead of insults that tear our Nation apart.

A THREAT TO OUR HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, this Friday, March 23, marks the second anniversary of President Obama's health care law after 2 years. It's clear the law has already left more victims in its path than people it was meant to help. And unfortunately, along with the 20 million employees who will probably lose employer-sponsored health care, it may be our seniors who take the hardest hit.

Millions of seniors and disabled Americans rely on Medicare, yet the

program is in danger. According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, with the baby boomer generation about to retire, if nothing is done to the program, the program will be bankrupt in 10 years.

Instead of making Medicare stronger through transparent and responsible reform, the President has decided to cut more than \$500 billion from the program, money which will then be used to fund his new health care law.

If taking nearly half a trillion dollars from the already crippled program weren't bad enough, the President has handpicked a special panel to slash away at the program even more. He knows our country is facing a budget shortfall. Instead of implementing responsible and transparent reforms, the President wants to take away benefits from Medicare recipients to fund his agenda for new entitlements.

The panel, known as the Independent Payment Advisory Board, or IPAB, is a group of unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats who will essentially be given power to ration care and even deny seniors lifesaving treatments. Its members are not required to hold public hearings or disclose their meetings. Their salaries will be paid directly out of trust funds used to pay Medicare beneficiaries' health care claims.

Worse yet, doctors and patients can not challenge the IPAB's decision in court. Without a three-fifths majority in both Chambers, Congress has no power to change decisions. While this select group rakes in the perks, it will be the seniors left holding the short end of the stick.

The health care law—and IPAB in particular—will threaten their access to quality care. Medicare is already known for its low reimbursement rates. Physicians receive about 20 percent less from Medicare than private health plans, forcing many to stop accepting patients just to stay in business. Seniors will be left with fewer options, and they may even be told they can no longer see their own doctors.

That's why, when I talk to seniors in my district, they are scared of this law. They're worried about being left with fewer options; they are worried about not being able to see their own doctors; and they are worried about the government cutting even more from the program. It's not just in my district where this concern is prevalent. According to a recent nationwide poll, 60 percent of our Nation's seniors have an unfavorable view of the law.

Access to quality care for seniors should be a top priority and will remain so with me. I believe health care decisions should be made by patients, families, and their doctors, and not by bureaucrats in Washington, who are burdening seniors and future generations with less choice, fewer services, and more debt.

House Republicans remain committed to strengthening and reforming Medicare to protect today's seniors and to make sure the program is still there for the next generation.

MONICA PEARSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the Congress, Monica Pearson, with WSB Television in Atlanta, Georgia, is indeed a true pioneer and a trailblazer in television news. She broke barriers as an African American and as a woman news anchor for WSB Television starting in 1975.

The year 1975 was an important turning point, especially in the South. So it is very important for us to understand the significance of Monica often appearing as a nightly anchor, as the first African American and first woman in the South at WSB Television in 1975. Now, 38 years later, Monica is retiring.

Monica Pearson brought a special talent, a sparkling personality, hard work, and a high nobility of purpose that appealed to everybody, to people of all races, and she became endeared to everybody from every walk of life. What a great American story is Monica Pearson.

She paved the way for other African Americans and women to become news anchors and to become television journalists throughout the South. So it is most fitting as she announces her retirement that we gather here today on the part of the United States Congress to give her this special commendation. We also give a special commendation to WSB Television and Cox Enterprises management for making that critical decision at that important time in the history of the United States. Because of her talent, because of her hard work, we in the Congress of the United States recognize with high distinction an outstanding American: Monica Pearson, an outstanding American.

Madam Speaker, Monica Pearson is a familiar face to metro Atlanta's residents, though most know her by her former name—Monica Kaufman. For the past 37 years, Monica has anchored WSB-TV's Channel 2 Action News. The character and amount of trust she has built as Channel 2's nightly newscaster is laudable, but perhaps more important are the barriers she broke as she developed that reputation. Born and brought up in the Civil Rights era, Monica became not only the first African-American, but also the first woman to anchor a daily evening newscast on WSB in 1975.

Throughout her long career, Monica has accumulated an even longer list of awards and achievements. All in all, she has won thirty Local and Southern Regional Emmy awards. When she saw injustice or a story that needed to be heard, she was there reporting on it—first at the 6 pm and 11 pm segments, and later at 4 pm. Her hard-hitting investigative journalism cuts at all different issues. In 1992 she spoke out on behalf of women and girls in Georgia when she found out that the Georgia High School Association's all-male executive committee did not have a state-wide competition for girls' soccer or cheerleading. She was awarded the Women's Sports Journalism Award for Local Television Reporting from the

Women's Sports Foundation and Miller Lite for her report.

Monica has been honored for bringing attention to a wide range of issues—from the "HOT FLASH! The Truth about Menopause" documentary that won local and national awards in 1994 to the "Prejudice and Hate: Georgians and the Holocaust" documentary that lead to win the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust's Humanitarian Award in 1977. Her sense of civic duty, compassion and curiosity has distinguished her from her peers, winning an Emmy Award for Best Feature Program—"Monica Kaufman Closeups", the National Foundation for Women Legislators' "Media Excellence Award" and the Georgia Commission of Women's "2004 Georgia Woman of the Year".

While devoting her life to journalism, she has also deeply involved herself in the community. She remains a passionate supporter of the Metropolitan United Way, the organization that helped her move beyond her poor background to become an award-winning newscaster. Since then, she has served as Chair of Atlanta's United Way board, the first African-American and only the second woman. Her dedication to the organization might be due in no small part to the fact that her daughter was adopted through a United Way agency. In her own words, "United Way literally unites people."

United Way is not the only organization that has touched Monica's heart. For many years, Monica ran in the Susan G. Komen's Race for the Cure. She continued to run in the race and volunteer for the organization until the year she herself was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her reaction to this cancer is a story that truly touched my heart. A very religious woman, Monica did not let fear cripple her—instead she left everything to God. She prayed, "Thy will be done, O Lord, not mine." "If you are really strong in your faith, then you don't worry about the outcome", she said. The outcome is obvious—Monica remains to this day a strong, dedicated woman. She is both an inspiration and a role model. Monica will be retiring in July, but I know her character, personality and spirit will not let her keep still. I wish her the very best in her future endeavors, and may we continue to hear of her excellent work for her community. God Bless.

□ 1020

IN RECOGNITION OF MONICA KAUFMAN PEARSON

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, you will notice that Members from Georgia on both sides of the aisle have taken the opportunity this morning during Special Orders time to recognize Monica Kaufman.

We just heard from our colleague, Representative DAVID SCOTT. I want to commend my friend DAVID SCOTT for organizing this tribute on behalf of one great lady.

I rise today, as well, to recognize Monica Kaufman for her historic and outstanding achievements in broadcast journalism. Atlanta is sad to see her resigning from WSB; but we are very, very proud of her.