

risk. These new layers of redtape would especially be harmful in their impact on the price of electricity, raising costs for small businesses and forcing them to lay off employees.

In Illinois we could see electricity prices rise as much as 18 percent, a huge burden on small businesses already struggling to keep their doors open. Time and again, I've heard from small businesses in my district who are concerned about this regulatory onslaught.

But House Republicans are not standing idly by. With bipartisan support, we've passed a half-dozen pieces of legislation that would rein in the EPA and help protect American jobs.

Unfortunately, as with so many of the bills that we've passed to create jobs and spur economic growth, the Senate has refused to act. Perhaps another reminder of what is at stake will finally spur them to action.

#### STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, let me get this straight. My good friends on the Republican side are really interested in cutting taxes for the wealthy, but when it comes to maybe cutting the taxes that students would be paying on the student loans that they have by \$1,000 more a year, they're not nearly so interested.

Well, let me read to you a posting to my Facebook from a young woman that really hits home. She wrote:

Going to college was the worst decision of my life. I hate to say it, but it's true. I did everything right. I graduated high school early, at the top of my class. I got all my core courses out of the way at community college, then transferred to a 4-year college, but I couldn't afford it and had to stop just before my last year. It's the biggest regret of my life that I couldn't afford college. I'm not lazy, I'm not stupid, but I had the misfortune of being born poor.

Madam Speaker, it's time for us to make sure that the poor students in our country have the right to go to college and to see it as a good decision, not a wrong decision.

#### CONGRATULATING TWO PLANO HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the recent victories of two Plano high school teams: the 2012 Plano West girls soccer State champions and the 2012 Plano Senior High School WorldQuest National Champions.

Last weekend, the Plano West girls soccer team defeated Katy Seven Lakes, earning the school its fifth State title. Under first-year Coach Carley Phillips, who won the school a

state title in 2002, the soccer program has excelled and continued in its success.

And last month, the Plano Senior High School's WorldQuest team successfully defended its national championship title. For the second year in a row, this team placed first in the national academic competition that tests high school students' knowledge of international affairs, geography, history, and culture.

Congratulations to these two stellar teams. That's the way to represent the great State of Texas. God bless you, and I salute you.

#### EDUCATION IS AN INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, in these tough economic times, it's critical that Congress work to make quality higher education available to all Americans. We know that investing in education is an investment in our future, an investment in the strength of America.

By the year 2018, 63 percent of all American jobs will require some level of higher education. Sadly, if Congress does not act soon, the interest rate for student loans will double from 3.4 to 6.8, higher than home loans. This will cause thousands of dollars in new debt for more than 7.4 million American students.

Unfortunately, the Republicans in Congress have refused to go forward with legislation that would prevent this crisis. And some Republican leaders have openly criticized students who graduate with college debt.

It's time that Congress worked together to help middle class families, not just the wealthiest few. We must pass legislation that strengthens the Pell program and prevents an increase in student loan rates.

Thank you, President Obama, for taking the lead in helping our future generations and leaders of tomorrow.

#### ANNUAL AUDITS FOR THE GSA

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

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to talk about the corruption, the fraud, the waste within GSA, an agency that has nearly a \$10 billion slush fund that they hide from the American taxpayers every single year.

Today I'm going to be introducing a bill that will request transparency on an annual basis, show an annual audit so the American taxpayers can see exactly where this waste is going and hold this agency accountable.

We're going to hold another hearing on the issue to make sure that the waste stops, and that we actually start selling off some of the buildings that are sitting vacant right now today, an opportunity for Republicans and Demo-

crats to actually come together, just getting rid of waste, and at the same time that we sell the properties and redevelop the things that we aren't using, put people back to work.

#### HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, which was observed last week on April 19. The theme of this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day was "Choosing to Act," offering an important reminder of the sacredness of human life and the need for all of us to stand against evil.

The Holocaust represents one of the darkest periods in human history and illustrates the worst of human behavior, yet some still deny the events of the Holocaust ever occurred. It is no wonder that Israel is extremely concerned with the development of nuclear weapons in Iran, putting these arms in the hands of radicals who have shown no respect for human life or basic human rights.

We must support and stand by Israel during these dangerous times. We must always keep in the back of our minds the history of the Jewish people. Understanding their history helps us understand their concerns and feelings about what is currently going on in the world.

On Holocaust Remembrance Day we are reminded that the Jewish people have had firsthand experience with true evil, and we must work to ensure that such atrocities do not happen again.

#### KEEP THEM ON THE FARM

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the regulators are going after America's farms. Now they are considering prohibiting kids from working on farms. Growing up on a farm teaches kids valuable lessons and a strong work ethic.

Now the Federal Government is contemplating prohibiting kids from doing chores on their uncle's farm, including "the storing, marketing, and transporting of farm product raw materials."

According to the Department of Labor, "prohibited places of employment would include county grain elevators, grain bins, feedlots, stockyards, and livestock exchanges."

Anyone under 16 would not be allowed to drive any type of power equipment, including tractors. So if the farmer wants to hire a young boy to help him move some hay, it'd be a crime?

People who know nothing about farms are trying to stop educating our future farmers, because a lot of these

farm kids grow up to be farmers. Now we're faced with the problem that the average farmer in the United States is over 50.

If the regulators have their way, and young people are shut out, there will be a lost generation of American farmers. This ought not to be, but that's just the way it is.

#### KEEPING OUR FLYING PUBLIC SAFE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, just over 3 years ago, Continental Connection Flight 3407 crashed in my western New York community and that of Congresswoman CATHY HOCHUL. Sadly, all aboard were killed.

In the wake of this tragic crash, the families of the passengers on board Flight 3407 joined together and successfully fought for the inclusion of strong airline safety provisions in the Federal Aviation Administration's reauthorization, which was signed into law in August of 2010.

Crewmember screening and qualifications, in addition to pilot certification requirements, were factors that, if properly monitored, could have prevented the crash. We must see to it that the FAA follows through on the implementation of the reforms passed by this Congress.

Madam Speaker, keeping our flying public safe should be a top priority. I am committed to continuing the fight on behalf of the memory of those we lost on that day, and I urge my colleagues to join our efforts to achieve safer skies for all Americans.

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#### BRIAN TERRY

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

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take note of something that occurred in this body, the other body, and on June 16 will occur in Arizona.

Brian Terry died more than a year ago as a border patrol agent serving his country on the Arizona border. He was shot and killed by smugglers with weapons that ultimately came from the United States and went across the border under the Operation Fast and Furious program. That's controversial.

But there is no controversy that Brian Terry lived and exemplified the American spirit in serving his country in the military and then as a border patrol agent.

On June 16, that border patrol station will open. On June 16, thanks to action here in the House weeks ago and in the Senate today, we will in fact name it after Brian Terry.

#### ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, 97 years ago, the Ottoman Empire orchestrated a murderous campaign that resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children and forced hundreds of thousands into exile.

Growing up in Fresno, California, the place William Saroyan, a great American author of Armenian descent, called home, I heard the stories of this tragic time between 1915 and 1923. The sons and daughters of survivors, time and time again, told the stories of their families.

The facts are clear. What happened 97 years ago can only be called by one name: genocide—the first genocide of the 20th century. Yet after nearly a century, the House of Representatives and current and past American Presidents have refused to recognize the Armenian genocide as such.

We cannot wait for a convenient moment, for it's not a convenient truth. Man's inhumanity to mankind never is. Now is the time to pass House Resolution 304 that I am a cosponsor of and formally recognize the Armenian genocide.

#### STAFFORD LOANS

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. This past Friday, I spoke to the graduates of Pepperdine University School of Public Policy. I gave the commencement address.

Like many other students who will be graduating this year, they are determined and eager to take on the difficult challenges of this world. Unfortunately, many of them are leaving college with a mountain of student debt—debt that can keep them from pursuing opportunities which may not yield short-term financial rewards but could make our world a better place to live. You don't have to look far to find these amazing young people. Our offices are filled with them.

Others have said it today, but I'm going to say it again. We must pass legislation to prevent the interest rate on Stafford loans from doubling this July 1.

It's also why I've introduced H.R. 4286, which would allow students to begin paying back their Federal loans 12 months after they graduate instead of 6, and I hope I have support on that. This is commonsense legislation that will allow new grads the chance to start their careers without the burden of monthly student loan payments.

#### THE BLACKLISTING OF STATES

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, despite the fact that President Obama took swift action to punish those responsible for the outrageous abuse at the GSA, some in Washington, like the junior Senator from Kentucky, are looking to score cheap political points by attacking Las Vegas and Nevada's tourism industry.

These Republicans are trying to bring back the last administration's so-called blacklist of resort cities like Las Vegas and Reno, prohibiting Federal agencies from traveling to Nevada to hold conferences and seminars. This policy has damaged the reputation of my State, hurt our economy, and killed jobs. Thanks to President Obama, this blacklist was lifted and discrimination against Las Vegas and Reno was ended.

It's time that we make this policy permanent. That's why I'm going to introduce legislation to prohibit the blacklisting of any city in America. This means discrimination against cities like Las Vegas and Reno will be illegal.

Las Vegas wasn't the problem; the irresponsible behavior of the GSA was.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for jobs and join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

#### STAFFORD LOANS

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, I represent Hawaii, the youngest State in this Union. Many of our people immigrated to our wonderful State within the last hundred-plus years. When they immigrated, they came to work on plantations for the most part, and they knew one thing: for their children to be better, to get ahead, they needed an education. And there has always been a very strong belief that education was the answer.

This July, we will see the most popular student loan increase in its interest rate from 3.4 to 6.8 percent. It will affect 7.4 million students and will mean \$1,000 a month more for each and every one of them.

Think about it, Madam Speaker. We say the students are our future. We need them to be in college so that we will be the great Nation that we once were. Then I ask you: Why is it that we haven't taken up the legislation to again freeze the loan rates?

Keep it at 3.4 percent so we can have our future, and we can show these students that we really believe in them and invest in them.

#### MARQUIS ALEXANDER

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a