

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.

□ 1320

#### 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

milestone reached by Marquis Alexander. He is the first African American to become commander of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets.

Currently, Marquis is a corporal in the U.S. Marine Reserves and a rising senior majoring in international studies. Congratulations.

The history of African Americans at A&M University dates back to the founding of the institution. African Americans in the Texas Legislature advocated for and supported the passage of the Moral Land Grant Act in 1866, which established A&M College of Texas between 1876 and 1963. African Americans worked at Texas A&M as laborers, maids, custodians, and various other support staff; however, they were prohibited from attending as students and faculty until 1963.

It's been a long time, but here we are today to congratulate this young man, a graduate of Barbara Jordan High School in the 18th Congressional District, my district, in Houston, Texas. He is the oldest of 10 children, and the first in his family to go to college. He is said to be an admirable and mature young man. Alexander is currently a corporal in the Marine Reserves. He has become the first person with military experience to head the corps.

Texas A&M University has the proud distinction of having the most graduates to enlist in our Nation's Armed Forces when compared to other non-military academies.

Mr. Alexander grew up in my home city of Houston. Our city is proud of his achievements. He has always wanted to attend Texas A&M. He was so gung ho for the military that he participated in the Texas A&M Junior Cadet Accessions Program while still in high school. A week after enlisting in the Marine Corps, he received a letter of acceptance from Texas A&M. Yet true to his word and commitment, Alexander attended boot camp at the Marine Corps Depot in San Diego.

He is the kind of young American that we can be proud of. I am so proud of him. Congratulations to you and your family. This is a glory hallelujah day, and congratulations to Texas A&M for opening it up to being a student body president and yell leader.

#### EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, over the years, it's become harder to find the "Made in America" label even though we know that a robust manufacturing industry is essential for our economy and it creates jobs.

Thankfully, we've got a great opportunity to help manufacturing, the Export-Import Bank, the entity that helps American companies export American goods. The U.S. Chamber has urged the bank's reauthorization be-

cause it supports American job creation.

Since 2007, companies in my home State of Virginia have supported almost a billion dollars in export sales because of the bank, with those in my district alone supporting \$130 million in exports.

Last week, House Republicans brought up a bill to help small businesses, allegedly, that will cost taxpayers \$46 billion. Eighty-five percent of the Export-Import Bank's transactions aid those very same small businesses, and the bank provides a net benefit to taxpayers—more than \$4 billion over the last 6 years.

The Export-Import Bank is good business, Madam Speaker. It creates jobs. It supports American companies, and it returns a profit to the American taxpayer. I urge my colleagues to support its reauthorization.

□ 1330

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

#### DIGITAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2012

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2146) to amend title 31, United States Code, to require accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2146

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2012" or the "DATA Act".

##### SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

#### TITLE I—ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN FEDERAL SPENDING

- Sec. 101. General requirements for accountability and transparency in Federal spending.
- Sec. 102. Data standardization for accountability and transparency in Federal spending.
- Sec. 103. Amendments to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006.
- Sec. 104. Effective date and deadlines for accountability and transparency in Federal spending.

#### TITLE II—FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SPENDING TRANSPARENCY COMMISSION

- Sec. 201. Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Commission.
- Sec. 202. Conforming amendment relating to compensation of Chairman.
- Sec. 203. Conforming amendments related to Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board.

#### TITLE III—ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

- Sec. 301. Classified information.
- Sec. 302. Paperwork Reduction Act exemption.
- Sec. 303. Matching program exception for inspectors general.
- Sec. 304. Transfer of Consolidated Federal Funds Report.
- Sec. 305. Transfer of authority over Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance to Commission.
- Sec. 306. Government Accountability Office Improvement.
- Sec. 307. Amendments to the Inspector General Act of 1978 and the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008.
- Sec. 308. Limits and transparency for travel and conference spending.
- Sec. 309. Effective date.

#### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) The term "Commission" means the Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Commission established under subchapter III of chapter 36 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act.

(2) The term "Executive agency" has the meaning provided by section 105 of title 5, United States Code, except the term does not include the Government Accountability Office.

#### TITLE I—ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN FEDERAL SPENDING

##### SEC. 101. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN FEDERAL SPENDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle III of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 35 the following new chapter:

##### "CHAPTER 36—ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN FEDERAL SPENDING

###### "SUBCHAPTER I—REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- "3601. Definitions.
- "3602. Recipient reporting requirement.
- "3603. Agency reporting requirement.
- "3604. Treasury reporting requirement.
- "3605. Exemptions from recipient reporting requirement.

###### "SUBCHAPTER II—DATA STANDARDIZATION

- "3611. Data standardization for reporting information.
- "3612. Full disclosure of information.
- "3613. Federal accountability portal.
- "3614. Agency responsibilities.
- "3615. Consolidated financial reporting.
- "3616. Office of Management and Budget responsibilities.
- "3617. Treasury responsibilities.
- "3618. General Services Administration responsibilities.

###### "SUBCHAPTER III—FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SPENDING TRANSPARENCY COMMISSION

- "3621. Establishment.
- "3622. Composition of the Commission.
- "3623. Functions.
- "3624. Powers.
- "3625. Employment, personnel, and related authorities.
- "3626. Transfer of certain personnel.
- "3627. Advisory committee to Commission.
- "3628. Authorization and availability of appropriations.
- "3629. Sunset.

###### "SUBCHAPTER IV—GENERAL PROVISIONS

- "3641. Independence of inspectors general.
- "3642. Effective date.