

you will hear both Democrats and Republicans sharing these stories.

For example, Renee, a young woman from Los Angeles, was in foster care for over 8 years. She was placed in six different homes until she aged out of the system in June 2008. She currently attends UCLA and hopes to pursue a career in social work or community health.

Renee says:

Being in foster care has played an integral role in shaping and developing my character and the person I am today. My experience with the foster care system has exposed me to speaking up, communicating with adults, and being open with my peers about my situation, not ashamed of who I am.

In honor of Renee's courage and tenacity, I invite my colleagues to join the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth and cosponsor the bipartisan resolution in recognition of National Foster Care Month and to wear the blue ribbon.

CONGRATULATING BOB OSTERHAUS

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I take a moment to honor and congratulate a constituent and personal friend, Bob Osterhaus. Bob is being recognized by the University of Iowa with an Honorary Doctor of Science degree for his service to our State and his work with the University of Iowa pharmacy program.

Bob has spent his entire life serving other people. After he finished his education at the University of Iowa, he served in the United States Army and later served in the Iowa House of Representatives, contributing his perspective as a health care professional in shaping legislative initiatives like the HAWK-I insurance plan for children from low-income families.

He has served his community of Maquoketa, Iowa, in many ways. Osterhaus Pharmacy is a staple in the community, and he is active with the Maquoketa Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Sacred Heart Church, and the Knights of Columbus. He was co-founder of the Maquoketa Area Community Foundation and served as its chairman for 7 years.

Tomorrow, Bob will receive his Honorary Doctor of Science degree. The university could not have made a better selection, and I congratulate Bob for his outstanding service to Iowa, the pharmacy profession, and his country.

PROGRESS MADE BY WORKING TOGETHER

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I have had the great privilege of serving in Congress with Senator RICHARD LUGAR. He

was in the Aspen Institute, and I visited with him on those occasions, and received an award from the American Bar Association the same day he did, as did JOHN LEWIS, which made it more important than any other reward I have received.

RICHARD LUGAR's loss is a great loss to this country. He worked in a bipartisan fashion, and worked with President Obama on nuclear proliferation treaties and on the approval of Supreme Court Justices.

He said, last night, we are experiencing days of political division in our society. These divisions have stalemated progress in critical areas. They have, indeed. And unless the Republican side works with the Democratic side in a bipartisan fashion, we won't be successful, as RICHARD LUGAR tried to do, and was defeated for doing it.

There's something wrong in the constituencies that don't realize that progress is made by parties working together, not by one party conquering the other.

□ 1220

ISSUES FACING AMERICA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in recognizing the crisis that is being faced by the postal offices across America, both urban and rural. We look forward to bringing a contingent of workers and postal persons from around the country to this Congress to urge it to move forward quickly and utilize the Senate proposal.

At the same time, I am deeply saddened by a reconciliation budget proposal by my friends on the other side of the aisle that's going to cut the Social Services Block Grant, it's going to cut Medicaid, it's going to cut Meals on Wheels. As a former chairperson of the Interfaith Ministries in Houston, Texas, what a sad day to cut Meals on Wheels.

Today and this week is Teacher Appreciation Week, and I salute them. They are great and grand as they teach our children that they can reach for the sky. That is why today, the Congressional Children's Caucus will host Lee Hirsch, the producer and director of the movie "Bully." Eighteen million children have been bullied, like Asher Brown, who lost his life, like a 13-year-old Girl Scout who said that she's been bullied since age 5.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me at 1:30 in 2237 for a press conference saying there should be a national call to ending bullying—intervention, and at the same time to come at 2 o'clock to see the movie. Third floor, Library of Congress, Madison Building. There must be, and I call for, a national solution to bullying in our children's lives.

PREGNANT WORKERS FAIRNESS ACT

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to become cosponsors of my bill, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

While current law prohibits discrimination based on pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, and directs employers to treat pregnancies the same as any other condition that might temporarily limit an employee's ability to perform some job functions, these protections have proven inadequate. Case law shows that courts are uncertain, even confused, about the scope of the law, requiring Congress to set the record straight.

While several States have clarified pregnant workers' rights, this is a national problem that warrants a national solution. My bill would require an employer to make reasonable accommodations for these workers unless this creates an undue hardship on the employer. An employer would be prevented from forcing a pregnant worker to take an accommodation that she does not want or need, and an employer would be prevented from forcing a pregnant worker to take leave when another reasonable accommodation could keep her on the job.

This is a simple solution to a problem our women and families should not be facing. I urge my colleagues to become a cosponsor of this bill to ensure that a pregnant woman need never decide between maintaining a healthy pregnancy and maintaining her paycheck.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK REAUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and I urge passage of H.R. 2072, of which I am a cosponsor.

In 2011, the Ex-Im Bank supported 290,000 jobs in the United States. Additionally, over the past 10 years, the Ex-Im Bank actually returned \$900 million to the United States Treasury.

When a program supports so many manufacturing jobs and it doesn't cost the taxpayer a dime, you would expect this bill to be an easy win, and yet some Members on the far right are prepared to put extreme ideology above jobs for Americans. This bill is a real jobs bill, and I urge its support.

POSTAL SERVICE PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. The clock is ticking. Six days from today, an incompetent, ideological Board of Governors in the United States Postal Service intends to close thousands of post offices and processing centers, degrading service and denying access for millions of individual Americans, especially seniors, veterans, small business owners, and others. And what's the reaction of the Republican leadership in the House? Nothing. Silence.

We were in session until 1 o'clock in the morning voting on imaginary amendments to a bill that's not going anywhere, but they can't bestir themselves to bring forward a bill to save this critical institution. The Senate has acted. Their bill is not perfect, but it's better than inaction in face of the wrecking crew that is governing our postal services.

I urge my colleagues to support my bill, cosponsor my bill, H.R. 3591, put the postal service on a sustainable path toward a 21st century postal service, modernized and self-sufficient. But inaction and indifference will destroy this critical institution.

TIME TO PASS A TRANSPORTATION BILL

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan was the last President to raise the Federal gasoline tax to support transportation programs when he signed the Surface Transportation Act of 1982. He justified the gas tax increase as necessary to pay for needed investments in building and maintaining our Nation's surface transportation infrastructure and to help jump-start an economy that was then also stuck in a recession. He referred to the highway bill as a "jobs" bill to promote economic growth.

Since that bill was signed into law back in January of 1983, Republican-controlled Congresses have allowed the highway fund to go bankrupt, necessitating multiple infusions from general funds to allow it to limp along with short-term extensions of current law. Today, some within this Chamber won't even support a Federal transportation bill at current funding levels, as if the crumbling interstates and growing list of structurally deficient bridges are no longer a Federal responsibility. Instead, they insist on including unrelated measures like the Keystone XL pipeline that is designed to stall completion of even a modest, multiyear transportation authorization.

Mr. Speaker, the Keystone XL pipeline should have nothing to do with the transportation bill and will have no impact on gasoline prices despite what its advocates claim. Today, there is already an estimated 20-year excess capacity of oil pipelines from Canada to the United States. This is about being

able to export oil from the gulf coast to other countries.

Mr. Speaker, it's time to pass a responsible transportation bill for the 21st century.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 9, 2012 at 9:22 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2668.

That the Senate passed S. 743.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERN- MENT OF SYRIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112 107)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency, unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004, as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, Executive Order 13460 of February 13, 2008, Executive Order 13572 of April 29, 2011, Executive Order 13573 of May 18, 2011, Executive Order 13582 of August 17, 2011, Executive Order 13606 of April 22, 2012, and Executive Order 13608 of May 1, 2012, is to continue in effect beyond May 11, 2012.

While the Syrian regime has reduced the number of foreign fighters bound for Iraq, the regime's own brutality and repression of its citizens who have been calling for freedom and a rep-

resentative government endangers not only the Syrian people themselves, but could yield greater instability throughout the region. The Syrian regime's actions and policies, including obstructing the Lebanese government's ability to function effectively, pursuing chemical and biological weapons, and supporting terrorist organizations, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency declared with respect to this threat and to maintain in force the sanctions to address this national emergency.

In addition, the United States condemns the Asad regime's use of brutal violence and human rights abuses and calls on the Asad regime to step aside and immediately begin a transition in Syria to a political process that will forge a credible path to a future of greater freedom, democracy, opportunity, and justice. The United States will consider changes in the composition, policies, and actions of the Government of Syria in determining whether to continue or terminate this national emergency in the future.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 9, 2012.

□ 1230

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 today.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2072) to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2072

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2012".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Extension of authority.
- Sec. 3. Limitations on outstanding loans, guarantees, and insurance.
- Sec. 4. Export-Import Bank exposure limit business plan.