

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, investing in education is an investment in our Nation's future. In these tough times, we should make every effort to increase access to higher education for all Americans.

Unfortunately, if Congress does not act soon, interest rates on student loans will double for over 7 million students. If these rate hikes go into effect, it will be cheaper to buy a home than to buy a college education.

Sadly, the GOP seems to want higher education reserved only for the wealthiest Americans. Instead of working to help more Americans achieve a college education, Republicans are playing games with the health of women and children. Once again, Republicans are showing their priorities are out of touch with hardworking Americans.

We need to act now to keep student loan interest rates low so all Americans have an opportunity to obtain an education.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ARNETT

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

Mr. GARDNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Lieutenant Colonel David Arnett from Greeley, Colorado, for his 29 years of service in the United States Air Force.

Colonel Arnett retired from service as the flight commander of the 137th Space Warning Squadron in Greeley this past month. His extensive accomplishments in the United States Air Force are rivaled only by his service and involvement in the Greeley community.

Colonel Arnett was recognized for his outstanding performance as a combat field commander, and the 137th Space Warning Squadron was recognized as the Nation's top nonflying Air National Guard combat squadron six times, which is unprecedented.

After 16 years of service in Greeley and a dozen major and minor combat inspections by the United States Air Force, Colonel Arnett was additionally recognized as one of the Nation's top space and missile operators and flight commanders. In the Greeley community, Colonel Arnett was the Boy Scouts of America Scout Master of the Year and is a loving husband to his wife, Cindy, and father of their four children.

Today, I would like to formally honor and congratulate Colonel Arnett on his retirement and thank him for his service and commitment to our Nation.

NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH MONTH

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of May as National Cancer Research Month.

We have made many promising advances in cancer research, including at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in my Buffalo community. Beyond traditional chemotherapy, cancer research has produced new discoveries, including smart drugs and vaccines for both prevention and therapy.

Madam Speaker, the only failure in cancer research is when you quit or you're forced to quit because of lack of funding. Our budget should reflect our Nation's priorities. We all say cancer research is a priority, but Congress then cuts funding to the National Cancer Institute.

I urge my colleagues—in the strongest possible terms—to make a strong investment in cancer-research funding. Let's give our scientists and researchers the support that they need.

GLEN CAMPBELL AND ALZHEIMER'S

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, Glen Campbell is one of the great singers and guitarists in our United States history. He suffers from Alzheimer's disease. Despite that fact, he continues to tour; and he is giving his farewell tour now.

Last night, some of us were privileged to hear him at the Library of Congress. He is still performing well. He is performing to bring more attention to Alzheimer's, a disease that strikes 5 million Americans and will strike another 10 million as baby boomers get older. It is a serious disease which has no cure, and there is no real knowledge of the origins of it. We must find a cure.

President Obama announced the launch of the National Alzheimer's Plan, which is hopefully going to find a cure and prevent and treat Alzheimer's by 2025. We need to support the appropriations for such in this body, support Francis Collins at the National Institutes of Health, and we need to support the caregivers who treat Alzheimer's victims. It is an urgent problem that we must deal with today.

I thank Glen Campbell for his courage in performing and bringing more attention of the American people and the world to this terrible illness.

REDUCE STUDENT LOAN RATES

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. On July 1, student loan interest rates are set to double on their loans from 3.4 to 6.8 percent.

After initially resisting making any adjustment in proposing actual further cuts in student financial aid, the Republicans said, No, wait a minute. We'll bring up a bill. We'll take care of that for 1 year. You just have to eliminate funding for public health and preventive health care.

Student loans or preventive health care and public health. They say that is the choice we have to make. We don't have to make that choice. There's a much better choice. If we raised taxes 1 percent on income over \$380,000 a year, your taxes would still be lower than in the Clinton era, and we could fund a permanent reduction in financial aid for students.

I know at the country club they're not hearing much about people who can't afford to go to college. But I tell you what, for the people in my district and the people I represent, their kids are loading up with debt. It is going to hobble them after they graduate from college.

We've got to reduce these rates. We've got to reduce them permanently. Why not ask those who have made it fabulously and earn over \$380,000 a year to contribute 1 percent to that cause?

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Older Americans Month. And I want to address an issue that is incredibly important to seniors, that is, caring for seniors with chronic illness and preventing unnecessary hospitalizations.

Madam Speaker, skilled home care providers in my district deliver high-quality and clinically effective care. Such care enables seniors to stay in their homes, rather than costing us by putting them out of their homes and into nursing homes. Unfortunately, a narrow sliver of operators within the Medicare home health program are tarnishing the good work of these dedicated, compassionate, and skilled professionals.

MedPAC has found that a small number of criminals in just 25 counties are ripping off Medicare beneficiaries and taxpayers. Since we know the source of this abuse, it makes the most sense to isolate it and go after it, rather than indiscriminately cutting payments to thousands of home care providers that do the right thing by seniors and taxpayers.

So let's reform the way we do this. Let's not cut off the people who do good work.

CROSSLAND VOCATIONAL CENTER

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the 45th anniversary of the dedication of the Crossland Vocational Center located in Prince George's County, Maryland.

On April 27, 1967, President Lyndon Johnson dedicated the Crossland Vocational Center at Crossland High School

in Maryland. President Johnson, as he landed his helicopter on what is now known as Presidential Field, used the dedication to mark the 50th anniversary of the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917, which provided Federal support for vocational schools and helped form separate State boards for vocational education.

President Johnson stated during his dedication, "Once we considered education a public expense. We know now that it is a public investment." I couldn't agree more.

The world we live in has never been more competitive. Other countries are making investments in their infrastructure, space agencies, and tax codes. We must do the same. We must have an education system that prepares our children for success in the 21st century, and we must do this with our community colleges and in conjunction with building and trade unions, beginning at vocational schools like Crossland Vocational Center.

From President Johnson's vision in 1967 to President Obama's commitment today, we have the future in our hands.

THE "REAL" VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, the original Violence Against Women Act was championed by then-Senator JOE BIDEN, who understood that all women must be protected from domestic abuse and violence. He understood that many women are afraid to come forward to report abuse. The Violence Against Women Act gave women a better chance to live their lives without that fear.

Again, the Senate has taken the lead. They already reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act and did it in a way that protects all women. It does not discriminate. It promises that America will stand by women; we will protect women, and we will prosecute their abusers.

The Republican bill that barely passed this House yesterday breaks our solemn promise. I call on leadership to allow a fair up-or-down vote on the "real" Violence Against Women Act and not some watered-down, weakened version. We owe it to our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, our friends, and to the memory of those we have lost to abuse.

THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, we have begun the debate on the NDAA, and we all know that this is the legislation that's going to set forth our policy when it comes to the military for this upcoming fiscal year.

You've heard some of my colleagues and how they feel about portions of the NDAA. All points well taken, but I ask that we look at it from a different perspective.

Let us look at the NDAA in light of what the President said in November of 2011. When he addressed APEC, he said, The 21st century is for the Pacific; and we are pivoting to the Asia Pacific. And what does that mean? He went on to say, How the 21st century does and how it's defined—whether it's one in conflict or one in controversy—is going to be determined by the Asia Pacific region.

So what is it that we need in the Asia Pacific region? We need our allies and trade partners to feel safe and confident. And guess what. They look to our military for that. That is also something that the NDAA critically addresses. How the military is in the 21st century and our peace in the Pacific will be determined by them.

DEFENSE BUDGET

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great concern over our defense budget. Our crushing national debt looms, yet we continue to ignore the issue.

The National Defense Authorization Act came in at \$8 billion over the Budget Control Act because the committee put back high-cost items that the Pentagon had not listed as their highest priority. How is that responsible spending? When the issue arises as to what to cut, what must make up that difference to make the numbers work, what will come first? Will our military personnel accounts be under the knife?

I do not believe that this is smart legislating, when we choose to ignore the current fiscal environment. And when we raised concerns on the plans to build a missile defense site on the east coast with money we do not have, the Rules Committee would not even allow it up for debate.

Shouldn't we be discussing these issues so that we can move forward, so that we can come to an agreement on how the Department of Defense and our servicemembers are best served?

DEBT CEILING "GROUNDHOG DAY"

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, it seems like Groundhog Day all over again.

Earlier this week, GOP leaders laid down a new gambit on the old debate over whether to acknowledge our Nation's financial obligations. Those leaders have already abandoned the deal we made on the last debt ceiling package and are shifting all the cuts to education, infrastructure, and other

vital domestic programs. Now they want another round of unsustainable cuts to these programs which will again bring us back to the brink of default.

We know the possible consequences: Market collapse, jobs lost, more than \$1 trillion added to the deficit every year, interest rates will rise. Just getting close to this cliff threatens the U.S. credit rating. We know that from recent experience.

The Speaker has said, no, he doesn't want to abandon the debt ceiling, he doesn't want to violate the debt ceiling, he doesn't want to let the country go into default. But isn't this the same kind of uncertainty that our Republican friends say they are most concerned about? One day it's, Well, we're not going to raise the debt ceiling. The next day, No, I didn't mean that.

We need certainty; we need stability, and we need to recognize this Nation's obligations.

□ 1230

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-110)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and 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 Burma that was declared on May 20, 1997, is to continue in effect beyond May 20, 2012.

The Burmese government has made progress in a number of areas including releasing hundreds of political prisoners, pursuing cease-fire talks with several armed ethnic groups, and pursuing a substantive dialogue with Burma's leading pro-democracy opposition party. The United States is committed to supporting Burma's reform effort, but the situation in Burma continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Burma has made important strides, but the political opening is nascent, and we continue to have concerns, including remaining political prisoners, ongoing conflict, and serious human rights abuses in ethnic areas. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary