

It is great to congratulate a university that understands its brilliance and its necessity in teaching the next generation of scientists, thinkers and humanitarians, and to also be called an excellent university.

Congratulations, Rice University, for your 100th year, for your service to this Nation, and for your reflection of the diversity of this great country.

□ 1230

RICE UNIVERSITY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I have the singular privilege of representing Rice University, and I join my colleagues from Houston in recognizing and congratulating them on their 100th anniversary this year.

Rice has consistently been ranked as one of the Nation's greatest universities and recognized by U.S. News & World Report as among the Nation's top 20 universities. And they've consistently ranked in the top 50 universities in the world.

Rice University researchers are pioneers in a broad spectrum of fields, including space, energy, and my personal passion, nanotechnology. Nanotechnology is an absolute game-changer, revolutionizing everything that we will touch and see in the 21st century. Rice University is the birthplace of nanotechnology research.

Nanotechnology holds incredible potential for everything from curing cancer to improving the storage and transmission of electricity and moving electricity in ways that we cannot even imagine today, allowing us to miniaturize devices. Multistage nanoparticles will allow the delivery of cancer-curing drugs to individual structures within cells, allowing scientists to identify diseases at the cellular level, things that could not have been possible without the groundbreaking work at Rice University.

I congratulate them on their 100th anniversary today.

GET SOMETHING DONE

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

Mr. BARBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the Member who most recently faced an electorate, and I have heard loud and clear that the people of southern Arizona elected me for the very same reason the people of every other district elect their representative, to stand up for them.

I wasn't here to vote on the Affordable Health Care Act when it passed, but I appreciate its benefits and that we must work to improve it. I rise today to speak against this repeal.

We should be here having a robust discussion about how to make this law

better. We should be acting to ensure that Medicare doesn't pay more for prescription drugs than the VA, and to keep rising insurance costs from hurting small businesses. We should be looking for ways to create jobs, to strengthen our middle class, to bolster our economy. We should rise above partisan bickering, move on, and get something done.

This repeal bill sends a message to American families that this body cares more about political grandstanding than improving their lives. Let's put aside this charade and do the work for which we were elected.

DRACONIAN CUTS

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, the House farm bill calls for draconian cuts that hurt our most vulnerable Americans. I'll be blunt and just get straight to the point. The House-proposed cuts are completely unacceptable.

The SNAP program puts healthy food on the table for 46 million Americans every month. In my home State of California, close to 6½ million people struggle to put food on the table. An even worse statistic—and one that really breaks my heart: almost 2½ million children each year in California have had to go to bed hungry, and it's simply because their families couldn't afford food.

These proposed cuts to SNAP would quite literally take food out of the mouths of children. In my district, SNAP helps provide food for seniors, kids, veterans, and working families. About 20 percent of my constituents report that at some point last year, they couldn't buy food for themselves or their family. I don't understand why in good conscience Congress would ask millions of struggling Americans to go hungry in order to subsidize big agribusiness.

As a country, we cannot afford to turn our backs on those who need us most now.

DYSFUNCTIONAL POLITICS

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, yesterday, a Republican Representative from my State actually told the truth about the 31st attempt to repeal the new health care law. He told a St. Louis newspaper that today's vote is just because "we want to get people on the record." We've done that 30 times already.

The Affordable Care Act is the law of the land. It was passed by the Congress, signed by the President, and found constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

This Republican health care repeal bill isn't about people. It's about more divisive, dysfunctional politics. They

know the repeal bill is pointless, and there is no way we're going backwards to the broken health care system of the past. Let's use the time to pass a jobs bill. Let's pass the middle class tax cut extension that we all agree with. Let's pass my bill that will protect veterans returning from war zones from the impacts of psychological damage.

Today, our troops are killing themselves at a rate of nearly one a day. They urgently need our help. Let's do something for them. Let's do something that actually matters to the American people. Let's put ourselves on record for the people, for jobs, rather than wasting time casting the same vote 30 times.

PROTECTING AMERICANS AND THEIR LOCAL BANK ACCOUNTS

(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, on my way home from work, I stopped at the local grocery store, and I stopped at the bank. My bank is located conveniently between my grocery store and the gas station, only minutes from my home.

I thought about the last 4 years and the fights that Democrats in Congress are waging to make sure working families can see more money in their bank accounts. It's been tough, but we've had some successes: reducing out-of-pocket health care expenses with preventive care, closing the prescription drug doughnut hole, protecting consumers from overdraft and ATM fees, even getting the American auto industry back on track as a mainstay of American manufacturing.

But we have some important fights ahead us. We are fighting to keep in place critical middle class tax cuts. We know Americans can't afford those tax hikes. We know American seniors can't afford the drastic cuts in Medicare in the Republican Tea Party budget.

Democrats are focused on growing the economy, creating jobs, and ensuring that Americans see more money in our neighborhood bank accounts—not on some other shore, not in some other country, and not on some island. Republicans say they worry about the same things, but today they're repealing health care and protecting the interests of millionaires because they care more about those folks than they do about hardworking Americans and their local bank accounts.

SAY "NO" TO CUTS IN FOOD ASSISTANCE

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

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the proposed \$16.5 billion in cuts to SNAP in the farm bill.

SNAP is the most important antihunger program in the Nation,

helping more than 46 million Americans put food on the table every day. Far too many hardworking Michiganders are struggling to feed their children. Nearly one in five Michigan households face food insecurity each and every day.

Having met with many of the good folks working in our food banks, they're already stretched too thin. I'm appalled that Republicans think that it's a good idea to kick millions of children, seniors, and families off of food assistance so they can provide massive, taxpayer-funded subsidies for wealthy agribusinesses.

I call on my Republican colleagues to join me and stand up for those who are most vulnerable in our society. We need to send a clear message that we will never vote to take food away from hungry children. No one in our country should go hungry.

I urge my colleagues to say "no" to cuts in food assistance.

THE WORST IS YET TO COME

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, Republican attacks on lifesaving access to contraceptives in the health care act is one in a series on women's reproductive health this term. The worst is yet to come in the planned markup of H.R. 3803, to ban abortions after 20 weeks. Cloaked as a restriction on D.C. women, the bill merely uses them for a frontal attack on *Roe v. Wade* that guarantees abortion rights until viability, as determined by a physician.

The Franks bill picks on D.C. women because anti-choice opponents lack the courage of their own convictions, or they would have made the 20-week abortion ban a nationwide bill. That, of course, would bring on the wrath of the American people who support choice. Judging by their reaction even before markup, women see through the cynicism and are poised to protect their constitutional rights.

□ 1240

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4402, NATIONAL STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS PRODUCTION ACT OF 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 726 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 726

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4402) to require the Secretary of the Interior and the

Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 112-26. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I ask that all Members have 5 legislative days during which they may revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. This resolution provides for a structured rule for consideration of H.R. 4402, which is the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act, and provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources, and makes in

order seven specific amendments out of ten which were filed at the Rules Committee. Five of the seven are Democratic amendments and two are Republican. So this is a fair and generous rule and will provide for a balanced and open debate on the merits of this important piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to stand before the House today in support of this rule, and especially the underlying legislation, which is H.R. 4402, the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2012.

I appreciate the hard work of the bill's chief sponsor, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI), who understands this situation very well and has put a great deal of time and effort into coming up with a rational and legitimate solution to a problem which we face. Mr. AMODEI, as well as the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS), are to be commended in forwarding this bill to the full House for our consideration today.

Our Nation has been blessed with tremendous natural resources, and over the last century these abundant resources are one of the key reasons that has allowed our Nation to emerge as a leading world economic and industrial power. In many aspects, we have only scratched the surface with regard to the development of these abundant natural resources, whether it be in energy, such as coal or oil shale or natural gas deposits, or whether it be in various natural minerals.

One of the cornerstones of manufacturing in the United States includes the access to a stable and steady supply of these types of resources. Unfortunately, in recent decades, much of the development and mining of these domestic mineral resources has been hampered or shut down entirely by a combination of special-interest politics by certain self-appointed environmental groups and by bureaucratic red tape here in Washington. Often these two factors seem to go hand in hand, particularly under the current administration.

We have all felt the pain of seeing what these failed policies have done to energy production in our country. We are more dependent than ever on foreign sources, increasing our trade imbalance, sending our dollars overseas, often to areas of the world that do not have our best interests at heart. It has led to escalating gas prices and escalating price spikes for energy and other commodities, and has made our economy more vulnerable to external international forces largely beyond our immediate control. These failed policies have also led to job losses in the United States in the energy and mining sector, which historically and ironically have been some of the highest paying jobs that middle class work has available.

The bureaucratic delays and regulations regarding the mining of strategic and critical minerals is the exact same