

immediate action on finalizing long overdue rules on crew training. This rule would mandate additional training and evaluation of requirements, ensuring that those working aboard an aircraft are best equipped to handle potential emergency situations.

Mr. Speaker, the National Transportation Safety Board found that between 1988 and 2009 inadequate training was found to be a leading factor in 178 accidents. The crash of Flight 3407 was preventable. Each day that these rules go unfinished carries a potential risk to the flying public.

CONGRATULATING CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON, PRESIDENT MILDRED GARCIA

(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 to congratulate recently appointed President Mildred Garcia of the California State University system's Fullerton campus.

President Garcia currently serves on the Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, and she was appointed to that by President Obama.

Previously serving as the 11th female president for California State University, Dominguez Hills, President Garcia became the first Latina president within the California State University system in 2007.

She began her career as an educator. She's still an educator, still teaching at Cal State, Fullerton, while having the presidency, also. She is a scholar. President Garcia focuses much of her research on fairness for higher education policy and practice, and she has authored many books on this subject.

I wish her great success in her new position and, again, congratulations, Millie.

□ 1220

CONTINUING COSTS OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. SCHRADER. I rise today to support our planning for a safe and responsible withdrawal from Afghanistan in the very, very near term. No one has forgotten why we went into Afghanistan: to rout out and bring justice to those who attacked us on September 11, 2001. With extraordinary bravery, our troops have accomplished the mission they were set out to do over 10 years ago. Osama bin Laden has been brought to justice and al Qaeda has been largely crushed. Our troops have done their job. Many of them—over 2,000 of them, in fact—have given their lives not only to defend our freedoms but those of Afghans as well.

After 10 years of war and reconstruction, it's time for Afghans to stand up for Afghanistan, and it's time for us to do our job and bring our troops home. We can continue to defend ourselves from terrorists without tens of thousands of troops fighting a ground war in Afghanistan. The \$88 billion we're talking about putting into Afghanistan in this Defense appropriations bill this week could build our own infrastructure and create jobs and economic opportunity right here at home. It is ludicrous to be spending such large sums rebuilding other countries when our own economic problems are so large and persistent. Our greatest leaders say our greatest threat is not a military one, but an economic one.

SEQUESTRATION TRANSPARENCY ACT

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

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, this afternoon the House is going to take up the Sequestration Transparency Act. It's harmless enough, but it doesn't do anything. What is it? A year ago, Mr. BOEHNER and Mr. MCCONNELL took this country to the brink of debt default. They demanded that we cut spending by \$1.2 trillion to offset the increase in the debt limit. Now, their plan was to have the supercommittee get the job done any way they wanted to balance the cuts and revenues. But if that failed, they had a backup. The backup was automatic cuts that would be half Pentagon and half discretionary.

Now the day arrives. January 1, 2013, those cuts go into effect, but they don't want the cuts to go into effect. So this legislation tells the Congressional Budget Office to look at the law we passed and tell us what did we do, why did we do it, what will happen if what we order to be done is allowed to be done. This is a "Comedy Central" joke. We have to have a balanced approach to a serious problem, but that means making decisions today about a balanced approach that includes revenues, includes the Pentagon, and includes domestic discretionary.

INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

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

Ms. PELOSI. I want to join my colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, in acknowledging that this weekend we will begin the International AIDS Conference, which will come to America with a fitting theme: "Turning the Tide Together."

It has a long history. In 1990, expert scientists and political officials from across the globe gathered in San Francisco, in my district, for the International AIDS Conference to turn our promise of leadership into progress.

Since that time, however, the conference has never returned to an American venue for two decades. The organizers point to our longtime shameful travel ban on those with HIV/AIDS.

Next week, when the conference assembles right here in our Nation's Capitol, the world will see how far we've come. Together, we will commit to turning the tide, as the theme indicates, toward the next stage in our fight: fewer infections and a cure and an end to HIV/AIDS.

Consider what this Congress has done: funding the Ryan White CARE Act, creating housing opportunities for people with HIV, and expanding access to Medicaid for people with HIV, but not full-blown AIDS. That's an early intervention. Also, increased investments in research, care, treatment, and intervention by more than half a billion dollars.

And in response to the global challenge and the leadership of Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, we have supported global solutions by increasing funds for bilateral AIDS efforts during the Clinton administration; making the first American contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria in 2000; and working with Presidents Bush and Obama to establish PEPFAR. I know that it is a great source of pride to President George W. Bush for the leadership he provided, the support he gave, and the pride I think he takes in PEPFAR—and we salute him for that.

President Obama has continued that work, more than doubling the support for global health initiatives and doubling our investment in the Global Fund. These commitments and more have helped families in the United States and the villages of Africa and communities worldwide.

These actions have saved lives, but there's much more to do. With the International AIDS Conference coming to Washington, DC, we have an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the cause of a world without HIV/AIDS. That is the challenge. That is the goal. We can turn the tide together.

After 25 years in Congress, little surprises me anymore; but one thing that does is that after all this time we still do not have a cure. But we're hopeful. And when the AIDS conference opens its doors next week, we must stand united in our pledge to discover a cure and raise an AIDS-free generation. Science is making progress. We have a moral obligation to support that. It has been done in a bipartisan way under President Bush's leadership, under President Clinton, and under President Obama. Hopefully, we can continue to do that.

We can and we must work together to make HIV/AIDS a very, very sad memory and certainly not part of our future. I thank you, Congresswoman LEE, for your tremendous leadership locally and globally and in every way, and certainly in this Congress of the United States.

DISCLOSE ACT

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, it's clear that my Republican colleagues cherish the many tax loopholes that funnel billions to oil companies, outsourcers, and operators bent on repealing Wall Street reform. That's why they've killed the DISCLOSE Act, which would close loopholes used by special interests to secretly spend unlimited sums of corporate cash in our elections.

As terrible as Citizens United was, it did not include a right to buy elections anonymously. No, it is the Republican Congress that protects the identities of those writing these multimillion-dollar checks. They want a battle of bank accounts, Madam Speaker, because they know that they can't win a battle of ideas. They can't run on deregulating Wall Street when America's financial security is still at risk. They can't run on cutting taxes for billionaires when they block every effort to create middle class jobs. And they can't run on cut, cap, and balance when the only thing that they cut is our seniors' health care.

If my Republican colleagues believe they are worthy of competing in the great battle of ideas that is our democracy, they should put their mouths where their money is and pass the DISCLOSE Act.

STOP RAISING TAXES ON SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. SCALISE. This past Friday the 13th, President Obama was out on the campaign trail, as he seems to be all the time, and he actually had the nerve to say:

If you've got a business, you didn't build it. Somebody else made it happen.

That statement shows not only the contempt, but the arrogance, that this President has towards our small business owners and the people that are working hard out there in a tough economy and, in many cases, working hard in spite of the many rules and regulations coming out of this Obama administration that's making it even harder for them to create jobs and is one of the biggest reasons that we've seen so many jobs outsourced by this President, who could be called the Outsourcer in Chief for all of the millions of jobs that have left this country to go to other countries in the last 3½ years.

There was a report that just came out yesterday by the National Federation of Independent Businesses that showed the President's newest tax proposal to raise taxes on small business owners will cost 700,000 jobs. That's

Friday the 13th for every small business owner out there trying to get the economy back on and trying to keep their businesses afloat. That's over 10,000 jobs lost just in Louisiana. This needs to stop. We need to stop raising taxes on business owners.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

□ 1230

THE BUYING OF AMERICA

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, when the Supreme Court decided Citizens United, it opened the floodgates to special interests. This country is faced, for the first time, with a small number influencing our elections, something that we've never experienced before. Let us all remember that it is our elections and our right to vote which makes us the great nation that we are. It is what people have gone to war for and died for.

But now we're seeing the buying of America. We have been told that about 600 super PACs have raised over \$240 million, and they've already spent over \$113 million on our elections. We do know that the Republican donors are famous brothers, and they, with their friends, have spent about \$400 million in the upcoming election. And we also know that there's a Republican donor casino owner who has already spent \$71 million to affect our elections.

We can't prohibit the spending, but we can require transparency so that the public knows who is spending this money. This is the DISCLOSE Act. But, Madam Speaker, Republicans have stopped the vote on the DISCLOSE Act. The Democrats have signed the discharge petition to bring it up to vote. We must bring it up to vote, Madam Speaker. We must show the people that America is not for sale.

THE FARM BILL

(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, despite our economic challenges, agriculture is one of the bright spots in our economy. Last week, the House Agriculture Committee, in an overwhelming bipartisan fashion, sent a simple message: We need a farm bill now.

We have challenges in American agriculture to be sure, such as dairy price

fluctuations, the current drought affecting crops nationwide, and creating a level playing field for farmers to compete in foreign markets. This bill isn't perfect, but there's a great deal of consensus in it. Our farmers need certainty, and only a farm bill can give them that.

There are 11 days left for the House to vote on a farm bill before the August recess. The American people are tired of Congress bickering just to keep the lights on. This legislation has bipartisan support in the committee and in the United States Senate.

Madam Speaker, if the leadership of this House is serious about providing certainty and promoting economic growth, they will bring this legislation to the floor for a vote now.

The farm bill has traditionally been a bipartisan effort. Let's keep it that way.

THE DISCLOSE ACT

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, twice this week, Senate Republicans blocked a vote on the DISCLOSE Act, which would shine a much-needed light on the dark corners of secret, anonymous political spending. The bill stands on a simple idea: Voters have a right to know who is trying to influence their votes.

This year alone, more than 600 super PACs have spent \$133 million on outside ads—most of which have been negative and, many, dishonest. It's much easier to lie about a candidate when you're anonymous—and when you can't be held accountable.

The American people see the damage being done. More than three-quarters of voters believe financial campaign reform is a key national issue, and the vast majority of Americans oppose the Citizens United decision, which opened the floodgates for outside spending and dishonesty in elections. But even in the Citizens United decision, the Supreme Court anticipated that Congress would require disclosure as a critical means of providing transparency in campaigns.

Madam Speaker, the voters have a right to judge the credibility of campaign ads, and they can't do that without disclosure of those who are paying for them.

AMERICA FOR SALE

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

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I regret to say that America is for sale and the White House will go to the highest bidder. Seventeen people have given \$1 million to the biggest conservative PACs in this country, and those contributions represent more than one-half what those PACs have received.

Who are these 17 people? Well, the median age is 66, the median wealth is