

think most Members support Israel. Maybe one or two other countries.

Let's vote "up" or "down" country by country. And some of these countries that we've had unrest in in the last couple of weeks—like Libya, like Egypt—maybe we need to reevaluate the money we send to them. At the very least, what we ought to do in countries like Libya and Egypt, and in some of these other countries that are destroying American property as we speak, who have looted, pillaged, and destroyed our embassies, like in Egypt, the money that we're going to give them in aid, take a portion of it out to help rebuild the embassies that are in that country and pay for the property damage, and probably even take money out we've given to Libya and pay reparations to the four Americans that were killed in Libya.

Let's use some common sense when we're spending money overseas. And maybe we shouldn't be trying to go all over the world and play nice with people. We've had a foreign aid problem since before I was born. We continue to give money to countries in the hope that they will like us. Well, how's that working for you? Not too good, is the way that I see it.

Mr. Speaker, we don't need to continue to support countries like Pakistan. I'm astonished we will still give money to Pakistan. They harbored Osama bin Laden. They put in prison the informant that told us where he was hiding. I believe some of the money we give Pakistan ends up in the hands of the Taliban and corrupt military government. But yet we keep paying them.

This summer the House did vote to cut \$625 million from Pakistan. But yet when the CR came through last week—the continuing resolution—that money is back in, going to Pakistan. Pakistan is just one of many examples, Mr. Speaker. We don't need to pay these countries to hate us. We don't need to pay them to betray us. They will do it for free.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1050

VOTER DISENFRANCHISEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the United States Constitution's 225th anniversary.

Our Constitution is a product of realistic compromise and intelligent consensus—a trait, I might add, sorely missing in this Chamber.

It lays out the central principles for a democratic government and the rights that citizens can expect to enjoy in that government. With the inclusion of six voting rights amendments, we have formed a more solid democracy.

The voting rights amendments fundamentally changed our system of government—outlawing poll taxes in Fed-

eral elections, giving ordinary Americans the right to elect their Senators, allowing the citizens of our Nation's Capital to vote for President, and guaranteeing that all Americans—regardless of race, religion, gender, or age—would enjoy these protections.

With these protections and these amendments, we affirmed the inherent values of our Constitution and our democracy.

The right to vote is still, to this day, the essential piece of our democracy.

Think about it. To deny an eligible voter the opportunity to vote is to undermine the very freedom that defines us as a Nation. The right to vote is essential to our democracy.

However, while the marches of student demonstrators and religious leaders once drove electoral reform in the United States, a new and dark movement is sweeping across the country. State lawmakers have been pushed by corporate interests and driven by a cynical point of view that says: We must deny other people the right to vote in order to continue to keep our power, and we must target those groups and individuals who may not agree with our point of view. With this cynical selective process, we keep power and we only concentrate on the people and extend the privileges to those that agree with our point of view.

New voter laws that are now being proposed and have passed in State legislatures make voter registration more difficult and cumbersome, cut the availability of early voting, and require voters to present current government-issued identifications as a prerequisite to casting a ballot. These efforts threaten the integrity of our democratic system and are very clearly targeted.

The new restrictions on voting would disproportionately burden African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, young voters, and Americans new to the political process.

Plain and simple, these restrictive voter laws threaten to disenfranchise young, poor, minority, and elderly voters who lack formal government-issued IDs despite the fact that it is more likely that an American will be struck and killed by lightning than he would impersonate another voter at the polls. We know exactly what these voter suppression laws mean.

In Texas, a Federal court recently found that the Texas voter ID law violated the Voting Rights Act because it made it harder for African Americans and Latinos to vote. The court stated that evidence conclusively shows that the cost of obtaining a qualified ID will fall more heavily on the poor, and a disproportionate number of African Americans and Latinos in Texas live in poverty.

In Pennsylvania, a July 5 Philadelphia Inquirer article reported that 758,000 registered voters in Pennsylvania do not have an ID, a new State law requirement for voting. That figure

represents 9.2 percent of the State's voters that could be stopped from voting.

A report by the Brennan Center for Justice found that allegations of widespread voter fraud often proved greatly exaggerated. Moreover, these claims of voter fraud are frequently used to justify policies that do not solve the alleged wrongs but could well disenfranchise legitimate voters.

In some States, veterans' ID cards won't be sufficient as a photo ID to vote.

In the last 12 months in my State of Arizona, there has been an accelerated effort to suppress the vote. These new efforts represent a coordinated effort clearly designed to suppress the vote of those people who need to make sure that their government is paying attention to their needs.

People of color, women, young people literally risked, and some lost, their lives to gain the right to vote in this Nation of ours. Throughout its history, our country has tried to remove obstacles to voter participation, making the right to vote accessible to all eligible citizens.

We cannot turn our back on that fundamental right. Our legacy as a Nation demands better of us.

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. AUSTRIA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to publicly recognize September as Suicide Prevention Month.

As a member of the Military Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Caucus, my goal is to increase awareness and aid in the prevention of suicide.

Although suicide affects thousands of Americans each year, I would like to take a moment to focus specifically on our veterans and the men and women who are currently serving in our United States military.

Suicides are increasing at an alarming rate this year for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. Recent data shows that suicides are occurring at a rate of approximately one per day for the military. This makes suicide the second-leading cause of death for our troops, surpassed only by combat.

The Army, in particular, has seen a 22 percent suicide increase when comparing the first 7 months in both 2011 and 2012.

But these are not just numbers and statistics. These are real soldiers and real families impacted by this growing tragedy.

This increase became very personal for me again last weekend when I attended a memorial dedication for Lance Corporal Bobby Wiley. Lance Corporal Wiley was a Lima Company marine and the son of my classmate and friend. As a result of Bobby's death, a loving family and Nation grieve with loss.

On behalf of Bobby and his family, I stand before you today to briefly discuss this growing trend and associated symptoms, as well as highlight prevention efforts within my district and nationwide by both the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

More than 2 million troops have served in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and that's a lot of people who have seen war up close and personal. It can affect some of them adversely when they come back home.

In fiscal year 2009 alone, 1,868 veterans of these wars made suicide attempts.

Faced with the stigma of post-traumatic stress disorder, unemployment rates tipping 12 percent for our veterans, and a loss of the military camaraderie, many veterans report feeling purposeless upon returning home.

We are aware of three conditions that contribute to many of the suicides of our veterans, and they are post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD; traumatic brain injury, TBI; and depression. We know that veterans with these three medical conditions are at a higher risk of succumbing to suicide behavior.

As friends and family members of our veterans and those serving our country, there are some things that we can do: first, recognize the symptoms that could lead to serious problems; understand where and how to get assistance while still part of the military; and know the availability of treatment after service.

As members of the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee, my colleagues and I on both sides of the aisle have had the opportunity to meet and discuss some of these very important issues, and I'm pleased with Secretary of the VA Shinseki's recent outreach efforts such as Stand By Them and Side By Side.

The purpose of the joint DOD and VA Stand By Them campaign and public service announcement, Side By Side, is to increase awareness with focus on support networks for military members.

Detection and treatment are key components required for resolution. Those closest to the military member can often see signals of distress before the member recognizes it himself or herself. The quicker the detection, the quicker the treatment.

Yesterday, I joined back in my home district Director Costie and Dr. Napp at the Dayton VA Medical Center to bring awareness to Suicide Prevention Month. With a large geographic span of responsibility in my district, the Dayton VA Medical Center provides services to veterans from 16 counties.

□ 1100

During the joint press conference at the VA, we announced the ongoing efforts and helped in the promotion of the VA and DOD programs. I know communities across our Nation are doing similar awareness and education programs.

As our young men and women are fighting to protect our freedoms, while

they're often faced with multiple and lengthy employments, exposed to stressful situations in combat—including death—we cannot look the other way and hope that these issues disappear. The reality is we are faced with a growing number of PTSD, TBI, depression, and suicide within our military and veterans. This is a real problem. And if we can alleviate one of the symptoms and causes of suicide, PTSD, we may see a change in the current trendline before the problem becomes completely systemic across our fighting force.

Let me just say, as members of the grateful communities to which our brave men and women return, we need to do whatever is possible to recognize these veterans at risk and help them get the assistance they need.

NEW MEXICO CENTENNIAL RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a proud milestone in the history of the great State of New Mexico. This year marks the centennial anniversary of the "Land of Enchantment."

Filmmakers have spent years documenting the history and beauty of New Mexico, sharing the importance of our acequias, stories of history and tradition in "Canes of Power," stories and tales told by Rudolfo Anaya, and art and landscapes captured by Georgia O'Keefe.

New Mexico has a long and rich heritage that is rooted in the shared history of a diverse population, a history that respects diversity and language, a land whose State constitution was drafted and adopted in both English and Spanish. And while Santa Fe, the City of Faith, holds the distinction as the oldest capital city in the country, celebrating 400 years last year, statehood came later in 1912, when a territory known for its beautiful scenery, natural wonders, and pristine landscapes was admitted into the Union as the 47th State.

New Mexico is blessed with rich cultural landmarks: Chaco Canyon, Bandelier, the Taos Gorge and Blue Lake, and the Plaza in Santa Fe. Thousands of visitors each year travel to learn of the unique traditions and spirit that make New Mexico such a special place with blue skies, sunsets and sunrises and starry nights you won't find anywhere else in the world.

The Land of Enchantment is home to a diverse population that can trace its roots back to Spanish, Mexican, and Native American cultures, amongst others. As home to one of the richest indigenous tribal populations in the United States, New Mexico is proud of the influences and contributions of the 19 Pueblo Nations, two Apache Nations, and the Navajo Nation. These diverse cultures coming together to

share a common bond of calling New Mexico home has served as a source of strength for our State, as the influence of art, agriculture, and architecture can be felt to this very day.

During the past 100 years, New Mexico has had a proud tradition of service to our country. In World War II, Navajo Code Talkers contributed to victory for the Allied Forces, while many native sons of New Mexico sacrificed in the Battle of Bataan. In the Korean Cold War, Hiroshi Miyamura of Gallup was awarded the Medal of Honor for his distinguished service. Most recently, Santa Fe native Sergeant Leroy Petry earned the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions in the face of great danger in Afghanistan. And in every war in between, New Mexicans have proudly defended our Nation and answered the call of duty when they were needed most.

New Mexico has also served our Nation as a center for scientific innovation and research. Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories have been home to a number of scientific endeavors that have been important priorities for our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, as New Mexico celebrates 100 years of statehood, we're reminded of how special this beautiful land we call home is. As a native New Mexican, it is with great pride in our past and hope for our future that I come to this floor to recognize the enduring contributions of New Mexicans during the course of our State's history.

A special love for our land and water helps shape our lives. A land of faith and family, culture and tradition—and, Mr. Speaker, the best chili found anywhere in the world—ours is a special story, an American story, one passed from one generation to the next, with our most precious lessons coming from our elders: our parents and our grandparents. In the words of my parents, Ben and Carmen, when they send me off on any journey when I depart from home: *Y que Dios les bendigan*—may God bless you.

SEQUESTRATION TRANSPARENCY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, during the month of August, I had held several town hall meetings throughout my district in Oregon. In these meetings, I've done a summary of the work that we're doing here in Congress and then opened the floor for questions from and discussions with my constituents.

Without fail, in every town hall meeting at least one person would ask about the partisan rancor and the gridlock that's come to characterize Washington. They would ask me: Can you tell us something that's bipartisan that you've done, something where you've worked together, some achievement that everyone's agreed on.