

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COFFMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SELECTIVE SERVICE

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, in 1972, I volunteered to serve in the United States Army at a time when young men were still being drafted into our military. The last draftees were inducted into the United States Army in 1973, and 2 years later, given the success of the all-volunteer Army, the requirement for young men to register with Selective Service ended.

In a symbolic show of strength to the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan, President Jimmy Carter asked Congress to reinstate the Selective Service System in 1980. Congress did so, and to this day all males are required by law to register with the Selective Service System within 30 days of their 18th birthday. However, despite the first gulf war, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, conscription has never been considered as a viable option by our military.

Mr. Speaker, my bill, H.R. 978, will end the registration requirement and dismantle the outdated Selective Service bureaucracy—saving the taxpayers over \$24 million a year—and I urge its adoption.

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the Buffalo River is identified by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative as one of 43 areas of concern in the Great Lakes watershed. In 2011, a coalition of corporate and community partners teamed up with State and local governments to begin a multimillion-dollar cleanup of the Buffalo River. Unfortunately, sequestration and uncertainty about a new Federal budget threaten to delay this project.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes are a unique national treasure with global significance. They are the largest source of surface freshwater on Earth, containing 20 percent of the world's supply. They contain 95 percent of America's freshwater, and they support 1.5 million jobs and \$62 billion in wages in the shipping, recreation, and fishing industries.

Preservation of our Great Lakes has both environmental and economic impacts and has always enjoyed bipartisan support. We cannot afford to allow sequestration to halt critical projects like the Buffalo River cleanup. I urge my colleagues to repeal the sequester and protect funding for the Great Lakes restoration.

REFUNDABLE CHILD TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, each year, billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars are wasted due to abuse of the \$1,000 refundable child tax credit. Instead of hitting up taxpayers for even more taxes, Washington needs to go after these billions of dollars that are fraudulently wasted.

It's time to end this sham. That's why I have reintroduced commonsense legislation, H.R. 556, that stops this abuse by requiring tax filers to provide their Social Security number in order to receive this tax credit, just like we do for the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Congress' nonpartisan tax scorekeeper, the Joint Committee on Taxation, has found that my bill would save taxpayers an estimated \$24.4 billion over the next 10 years. With the dire need to get our fiscal house in order, this simple, commonsense fix can go a long way toward protecting precious taxpayer dollars by stamping out waste, fraud, and abuse. It's time to get this done.

RYAN BUDGET

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the House Budget Committee, I understand well the challenges of budgeting for our Nation's future. Unfortunately, the budget introduced by House Republicans this week fails at its most fundamental tasks: protecting the middle class and laying

the groundwork for strong economic growth.

As it has for the last 2 years, the Ryan budget once again makes deep cuts to Medicare, as it also repeals a host of Federal measures making health insurance affordable for middle class families. It replaces the security of Medicare with a voucher that will lose its value over time—driving many middle class seniors into poverty—and makes deep cuts to education, transportation and infrastructure, and public health and safety, gutting society's basic functions without which businesses can't find educated workers, move their products to market, or operate safely.

Voters roundly rejected this approach only a few months ago. I call on my colleagues to reject this budget and join me in supporting a balanced approach to deficit reduction.

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COAL

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I was recently visiting with my constituents in Nicholas County, Kentucky, when I learned about the latest casualty in the Obama administration's war on coal. Joy Global, a manufacturer of underground mining equipment, operates a plant in neighboring Bourbon County. The news had just broken that Joy Global plans to cease all operations and manufacturing at that plant. The story of Joy Global is timely in light of President Obama's nomination of Gina McCarthy to lead the Environmental Protection Agency.

I wish those who are responsible for the war on coal could have been with me that Friday morning. It's easy to sit in Washington and issue regulations when you don't have to confront the human cost.

The Obama administration's war on coal cost more than 3,000 well-paying coal miner jobs in Kentucky last year. Thousands of families potentially went from healthy incomes to food stamps. But this administration doesn't appear to care.

The coal industry supports 19,000 full-time jobs in Kentucky while providing our State with the Nation's fourth lowest utility rates. Mr. Speaker, it's time the administration put people ahead of its radical agenda.

OPPOSING THE CLOSING OF THE IRVINGTON, TEXAS, POST OFFICE

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my frustration and disappointment with the Postal Service's decision to close the Irvington Station Post Office that

serves ZIP Code 77022 in Houston, Texas, on April 30.

This post office is highly valued in our district and has served residents of the Northside area in Houston for 50 years. The Postal Service announced that the Irvington office would be demolished, despite the fact that the agency has failed to ensure that local residents will still have access to essential mail services.

The Irvington office's lease is expiring, and instead of finding a new location nearby or moving retail operations into the Northline Commons area as a compromise, the Postal Service has chosen to close the office. I contacted and met with postal officials without success.

Moving forward with the closure is irresponsible and undermines the integrity of the agency. The people living in and around the 77022 ZIP Code will not have the same access to postal services as everyone else.

I understand the Postal Service's budget constraints and support reforming the agency. However, maintaining a presence in the area makes smart business sense for the Postal Service and fulfills a need in this revitalized community. The post office is losing customers and friends in this effort.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. KILDEE. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the House Republicans and Congressman RYAN released their budget, which, unfortunately, once again seeks to balance the budget on the backs of seniors, the middle class, and the most vulnerable among us. The GOP budget presents the same failed policies that Americans rejected last fall.

This budget is full of false realities, fuzzy math, and the wrong priorities. Instead of closing the corporate jet loophole, the Republican budget ends Medicare as we know it, turning health care for seniors into a voucher program. Instead of ending billions in tax subsidies for Big Oil, the Republican budget slashes Medicaid for the most vulnerable among us, turning it into a block grant program. And instead of asking the wealthiest among us to pay their fair share, it wants to kick millions of people off health care plans by repealing the Affordable Care Act—well, actually, repealing the parts of the Affordable Care Act that provide care for people but somehow preserving the cost savings and the revenues that it delivers.

Instead of targeting the most vulnerable communities and placing the burden entirely on the middle class, Republicans should work with Democrats to put in place a balanced and bipartisan budget that puts Americans back to work.

SEQUESTRATION AND MILITARY PERSONNEL

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring light to one of the many overlooked effects of sequestration. I just came from a Military Personnel hearing where the Services had an opportunity to speak frankly about how these cuts will affect them. Some of the worst impacts will come as a result of civilian furloughs.

Fifty-two percent of military behavioral health specialists are civilians, and those civilians will be furloughed, as will 62 of the specialists who work for the Marine Corps' Wounded Warrior unit. These specialists provide a vital service to our injured servicemembers. So how can Congress continue to treat the work of these and other Federal employees in what is perceived as a very callous manner?

Mr. Speaker, we have asked our men and women in uniform to sacrifice so much. How can we possibly ask them to sacrifice even more? We must come together to solve sequestration before these devastating cuts become irreversible.

125TH ANNIVERSARY FOR THE CITY OF ORANGE

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on April 6, the city of Orange, California, will celebrate its 125th anniversary. As the third oldest city in Orange County, the city of Orange is a big city but with a small town feel.

Orange is home to notable attractions like the Plaza at Orange, the Outlets at Orange, the UCI Medical Center, the Children's Hospital of Orange County, and my alma mater, Chapman University.

This milestone will be celebrated in Old Towne Orange, and it will commemorate the families, the residents, and the businesses that have made the city what it is today.

Congratulations to the city and residents of Orange on this incredible occasion. I am proud to represent the city of Orange and the 46th Congressional District of California. Happy 125th anniversary, city of Orange.

TANF AUTHORIZATION

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, Republicans say the darnedest things. I'd like to read a statement from a 2005 letter from the Republican Governors Association outlining its priorities for TANF reauthorization:

As Governors, we believe the following provisions . . . are integral to State programs and support their inclusion and protection as the bill moves forward through regular order.

The [2005] Senate bill provides States with the flexibility to manage their TANF programs. . . . Increased waiver authority . . . and the ability to coordinate State programs are all important aspects of moving recipients from welfare to work.

The letter was signed by Mitt Romney, Jeb Bush, Mike Huckabee, Mitch Daniels, Rick Perry, and many more.

Mr. Speaker, today, the House debates banning the very waivers that Republican leaders from across the country have already expressed their support for. Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to listen to Republican Governors and allow States to find new and creative models to move people from welfare to work.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

MARCH 13, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, 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 March 13, 2013 at 10:41 a.m.:

Appointments: Senate National Security Working Group.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 890, PRESERVING THE WELFARE WORK REQUIREMENT AND TANF EXTENSION ACT OF 2013

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 107 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 107

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 890) to prohibit waivers relating to compliance with the work requirements for the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-3 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.