

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, today, March 18th, I missed three rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: Rollcall vote 76—"yea"—Journal Vote; rollcall vote 77—"yea"—H. Con. Res. 18—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officer Memorial Service; rollcall vote 78—"yea"—H. Con. Res. 19—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, I had the honor of joining hundreds of fellow Americans at an open-carry walk in Brookville, Pennsylvania, which is located in the Fifth District of Pennsylvania. As a responsible gun owner, I was proud to join this peaceful gathering among citizens to reaffirm the fundamental significance of an individual's constitutionally protected right to bear arms.

The right to own firearms has nothing to do with hunting. The Second Amendment was adopted as part of our Constitution to assure the safety and security of our Nation, our States, as well as our families, our homes and our personal selves.

Many of my constituents are alarmed at the gun control proposals being considered in the U.S. Senate for fear they violate this sacred constitutional right. I share this concern.

When it comes to violence prevention, I believe there are areas of policy that can be improved upon, especially in the area of mental health. The people of Brookville and so many others across this Nation want this body to come together on solutions to thwart future acts of mass violence, but they will not tolerate—and I will fight against—any violation of constitutionally protected rights.

CONGRATULATING HAYWARD EDUCATION FOUNDATION ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Hayward Education Foundation, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. This organization was founded by Hayward school teacher Elaine Adams in 1983. This nonprofit grants money to Hayward school teachers with creative ideas to inspire and enrich their educational experience.

In 2012, grants were given to the butterfly garden at Longwood Elementary, a solar cell car at Bret Harte Middle School, and a college motivation program at Hayward High School. In its 30-year history, the foundation has given out over \$1 million.

I want to acknowledge the board of directors: Dianne McDermott, Pastor Chuck Horner, Rick Bartholomew, Peter Bufete, Paul Hodges and Penny Hodges, Guy Sandoval, Bruce Roberts, Maria Servin, Andrea Pa-Shote, Don Evans and Bill Liu.

Hayward's motto is the "Heart of the Bay," but it is the heart and mind and forward thinking of these individuals that really enriches Hayward and makes it such a special place to live.

So I want to congratulate them on their 30th anniversary and wish them well in their next 30 years.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the University of Illinois, and I am proud to represent its flagship university in Champaign-Urbana.

The U of I plans to launch a university-affiliated technology development laboratory in Chicago. This collaboration will attract more industry to Illinois and the entire Midwest region. Like the U of I's current world-class research park in Urbana-Champaign, this lab will operate on the principles of innovation and entrepreneurship.

This will be a center of long-term, large-scale research projects that will unite the best and brightest of the University of Illinois, the city of Chicago, and government and industry, while at the same time give a high-profile image for the University of Illinois in the Chicagoland area.

Illinois' biggest technical challenge is retaining its talent. Thirty-two percent of computer science graduates from the U of I get jobs in California alone. This project's goal is to retain the next generation of Illinois-trained talent with hopes that they'll grow existing companies or start new businesses.

I am proud to recognize the continuous advancements made by the University of Illinois on all of their campuses.

KEYSTONE XL AND TAR SANDS

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my grave concerns about the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, the existence of which is awaiting a decision by the administration.

Last week, 84 of my colleagues—82 Republicans and 2 Democrats—introduced H.R. 3, a bill that would approve the construction and maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline.

The world's foremost climatologist, Dr. James Hansen—and one of the first scientists to warn of the dangers of burning carbon fuel and a partial recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize—has

likened the building and use of the Keystone pipeline to the lighting of a carbon bomb—game over.

When you brush aside the studies by TransCanada and other oil companies and you analyze the pure scientific studies, every analysis clearly demonstrates that the Keystone XL pipeline poses major threats at every turn in its extraction, its transportation, its refining, and its consumption—threats to our Earth.

The truth of the matter is the U.S. isn't even going to be using those fossil fuels transported by that pipeline; they're going straight to China. In fact, the only proposed feasible method of getting those Canadian tar sands to China or any other country is by building the Keystone XL pipeline to feed into the port in Houston, Texas.

I urge my colleagues to stop the Keystone XL pipeline, avoid lighting that carbon bomb in our country, oppose H.R. 3, and return our focus to initiatives that center on true energy independence through renewable resources and greener production.

Save the Earth.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, since President Obama has taken office, over \$6 trillion has been added to our national debt. This is more than under any President in history.

Since President Obama has taken office, we have had 4 consecutive years of over trillion-dollar-plus deficits. These deficits have led to a national debt of almost \$17 trillion.

In 2009, the President promised that he would not sign a health care law that adds one dime to our deficits. Well, a recent report from the GAO finds that ObamaCare will add over \$6 trillion to our long-term deficits.

For the sake of our country and our children's future, we must repeal this massive government overreach into our health care system. The Republican House budget does that, and therefore I will support it.

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EXPANDED MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR TEXANS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, \$5 trillion in surplus was extinguished in the last Republican administration. It had been created by President Clinton.

The Affordable Care Act will help provide the health coverage that is needed by millions of Americans. I rise today to speak particularly about Texas.

Some 24 percent of the population of Texas is uninsured, and yet our State

government has refused to accept expanded Medicaid. So today, Mr. Speaker, I make a public plea on behalf of the millions of Texans who get up and work every day and do not have health insurance, and to have a State government that is ignoring their plea, and that is to have expanded Medicaid to provide health insurance for working Texans and poor Texans, those that work, as well, below the minimum wage.

It seems selfish that the concerns of those who lead State government are all political and not in any way concerned about the mothers, fathers, and children who all of the medical professionals from county governments to private practice have said that the expanded Medicaid coverage, if taken by the State of Texas, like Florida and like Ohio, will save lives.

Do it now.

CBC HOUR: THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAINES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HORSFORD. Good evening, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to join with my colleague, Mr. JEFFRIES, the gentleman from New York, to coanchor this hour along with the Congressional Black Caucus and my colleagues from the CBC to talk about something very important right now to the American people, and that is the budget and who we will balance the budget on as far as how we move forward for the American people.

Less than 1 month after the sequester, Republicans have presented a carbon copy budget of their austerity plans of the past. The American people spoke loud and clear last November. They believe in investing in our recovery, turning our economy around, and getting people back to work. They reject balancing the budget on the backs of our children, seniors, and the middle class. Yet the Ryan budget starts with the premise that the sequester is good policy, that the ultrawealthy deserve another tax break, and that we don't really need to invest in our children or their future.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, the Congressional Black Caucus and I will lay out why the Ryan budget is a failed proposal for the American people and why we need to support an alternative offered by the Congressional Black Caucus and those who have worked hard to craft it.

I would like to recognize our chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentlelady from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE).

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to thank my colleagues, Congressmen JEFFRIES and HORSFORD, for again leading the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour on an issue of great importance—the Federal budget.

Mr. Speaker, every year since 1981, the Congressional Black Caucus has produced an alternative budget to both Republican and Democratic budgets. The CBC budget has consistently provided a fair and balanced approach to managing the Federal Government's finances. The CBC alternative budget for fiscal year 2014 is a pro-growth, pro-people, and pro-America budget. It acknowledges that only by investing in Americans, in the American people, can you build a bridge to a better America.

This message could not be more important as our Nation still struggles to recover from the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. Compounding this problem is growing income inequality. America needs congressional leadership to pull us out of our economic malaise, address our fiscal issues, and ensure that our recovery is felt in every community. Unfortunately, this is where the House Republican budget fails.

Chairman RYAN's budget attempts to lead America towards financial success by placing America's most vulnerable on the path to financial ruin. The Republican budget seeks to cut education funding, including money for Pell Grants. It slashes economic assistance to programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which could mean 8 to 9 million eligible households without benefits. It dismantles the Affordable Care Act. This means reducing access to affordable health care for the 27 million uninsured Americans who are projected to gain coverage under the law. This is neither the vision that the American people want, nor is it what the American people need.

Now, let's contrast the CBC budget and how it creates opportunity instead of snatching it away.

The CBC budget includes \$230 billion in the maintenance and repair for public transit, highways, airports, ports, railroads, bridges, and other infrastructure investments; \$13 billion for workforce developments programs, such as the Workforce Investment Act Adult Program, the Dislocated Worker Program, Job Corps and other employment and training services.

It includes \$50 billion to provide relief to States to preserve teacher and first responder jobs, and \$50 billion for neighborhood stabilization programs that provide affordable housing development, infrastructure improvements and other community development needs.

The CBC budget accomplishes all this while raising \$1 trillion in new revenue to avoid sequestration. The economic recession has damaged our communities. Trillions of dollars in wealth were lost. Poverty rates for African Americans and Latinos soared to 26 and 23 percent, respectively. America doesn't need an austerity budget. It doesn't need a budget that looks at the struggling American people and says "you're on your own." Americans need and deserve more.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the CBC fiscal year 2014 budget.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Will the gentlelady yield for a question?

Ms. FUDGE. Yes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. First of all, I want to thank the chairperson for conducting this discussion pertaining to the CBC's budget because I think it is the most compassionate budget that will be presented to the House.

My question for you, Madam Chair, is that I just returned from Florida. Florida ranks first in the last 8 months with the number of people losing their homes because of foreclosure, Miami being first, Orlando being second, Jacksonville being eighth. People approach me about jobs. They're not talking to me about the deficit. They want to know what we are doing as far as putting the American people to work.

Can you expound upon that for me, please?

Ms. FUDGE. Absolutely. I thank the gentlelady.

What we have done in this budget, not only did we put in \$13 billion for workforce training, for Job Corps, for dislocated workers, retraining, segment training, but, in total, we have almost \$500 billion worth of job creation built into our budget, more than any budget—more than any budget—whether it be the Democratic Caucus, the White House budget, or the Republican budget. We have doubled down on jobs in the CBC budget.

Mr. HORSFORD. Continuing on, as the chairwoman of the CBC just talked about, the Congressional Black Caucus budget is an alternative budget for fiscal year 2014. It puts forth a plan that both reduces the deficit by \$2.8 trillion over the next decade and creates millions of jobs through significant investments towards job creation that will accelerate our economic recovery and ensure that it's felt in every community across America.

The CBC budget also cancels the economically disastrous sequester that is currently costing between 750,000 to 1 million jobs. So the CBC budget creates jobs, while the sequester and the Republican budget, which adopts the sequester and makes it permanent, cut jobs, and the CBC budget pays for it.

To elaborate further is the vice chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Let me thank you, Mr. HORSFORD, for your leadership and thank you for convening this opportunity tonight for us to come to the floor and talk about a subject that is so personal and so important to every American.

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I also thank the chairwoman of the CBC, Ms. FUDGE, for her extraordinary and intelligent leadership. You have done so much for so many for so long, and we thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, just last week, House Budget Committee Chairman PAUL