

the latest estimate from the United States Treasury, Americans spent 6.1 billion hours complying with the Tax Code. We also need a more competitive Tax Code. The United States has the highest corporate tax rate in the world.

Simplifying our Tax Code and closing loopholes for everyone will help create an environment that encourages job growth and increases wages. The Ryan budget is based on such reforms. These reforms can help get Americans back to work.

RECOGNIZING THE MERCED COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION TASK FORCE

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, in Boston, we were reminded how vulnerable we all are as Americans and how important it is that we stay together.

Today, I rise to recognize the Merced Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Task Force. This hardworking organization in the San Joaquin Valley that I represent is the 2013 recipient of the Lois Haight Award of Excellence and Innovation from the Victims' Rights Caucus, of which I am a cochair.

The task force is an innovative collaboration of local leaders that was formed in 2006 in response to gang-related violence throughout the Merced community. The task force makes Merced a safer place by educating the community about violence, promoting character development, and providing information to families and, most importantly, our youth.

From gang awareness workshops to Merced County's first anonymous "text a tip" line, the task force has contributed greatly to our Merced community and throughout the area.

On behalf of the Victims' Rights Caucus, congratulations and thank you to the Merced Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Task Force.

□ 1230

TAX REFORM

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

Mr. STEWART. Like all Americans, my heart and prayers go out to the people of Boston.

Mr. Speaker, I'm grateful for the opportunity to stand and speak on a very important issue today. It may not be as interesting, it may not grab as much attention as any other issue, but I'm not aware of any other thing that we could talk about that has the potential to invigorate our economy, to expand personal freedoms, and restore faith in our government and, frankly, in our future like this issue could. Of course I'm

talking about meaningful, strategic tax reform.

I was a business owner and CEO for 12 years. Because of that, I understand in a very personal way that the current tax system is rife with waste. It invites abuse. Worst of all, it creates so much uncertainty as to make it difficult, if not impossible, to make good decisions about our future.

Again and again, we read stories and we see examples where the current Tax Code punishes success while ignoring the economic impacts of poor government policy. We can do better than this. We have an opportunity to do better than this. We must do better. Everyone will benefit.

Let's do this now.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS IN BOSTON

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, last Monday, men and women from around the world traveled to the beautiful city of Boston to take part in the 117th running of the Boston Marathon.

But this longstanding American tradition, this celebration of athletic achievement was shattered at 2:50 eastern time when two bombs went off along the finish line, killing three spectators, including an 8-year-old child, and injuring nearly 200 more.

At times like this, words fail to capture the sense of our disbelief, the pain in our hearts, and the anger we feel towards anyone who would do such great harm to so many innocent lives.

Although we do not yet know the identity of the perpetrators, what we do know is that our country will not rest until they are brought to justice. The American people will emerge from this horrific incident stronger and more united than ever before.

Like all Rhode Islanders since last Monday, my thoughts have remained with the people of Boston and all of the victims of this vicious act of violence and their loved ones, and I pray that the passage of time might bring them some level of comfort.

TAX REFORM

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, this week, many of my constituents filed tax returns. Unfortunately, their taxes weren't the only thing that they had to pay. Hardworking Americans will spend \$168 billion completing their taxes under our country's 4-million-word Tax Code.

America's tax system is broken and simply doesn't meet the needs of the 21st century economy. It is time for a simpler, fairer, flatter code, one that eliminates special interest loopholes to ensure that everyone pays what they

owe. But what we don't need is higher taxes.

The government is already poised to take in record revenues this year, yet the President insists on calling for another \$1.1 trillion in new taxes. Levying more taxes on families and businesses won't create jobs and won't lead to economic prosperity. Rather, we need to cut spending, balance the budget, and rein in excessive government.

Comprehensive tax reform is something that the American people overwhelmingly support and something that House Republicans remain committed to addressing.

GUN REFORM

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, background checks may not have changed what happened at Sandy Hook, but I hope Sandy Hook changes what happens here.

Ninety percent of the American people agree that expanding background checks for gun sales is the right thing to do. These checks will help keep guns out of the hands of the mentally unstable, convicted felons, and domestic abusers who threaten the safety of our families and our communities.

It's time for Congress to listen to common sense and the voices of the American people.

I say to my Senate colleagues: You came here to work for the American people, not just to work for your reelection. We're here to do a job, not just keep our jobs.

I support Senators MANCHIN and TOOMEY for coming together in a bipartisan way to push forward this legislation for expanded background checks. All we need is 60 Senators who have the courage to stand up and do the right thing.

Commonsense measures to fight tragedy shouldn't be a heavy lift. This should be an easy vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor here to announce that the Senate released their Gang of Eight immigration bill sometime around 2:45 a.m. this morning. It didn't take very long for the secret group in the House to release their support for the bill. They had time, apparently, to analyze the 844 pages that are in this bill.

I've had time to analyze a little bit of it. Mr. Speaker, what it says is this: they want to instantaneously legalize everybody that's here in America illegally, with a few exceptions, in case they decide to enforce the law against them.

That doesn't satisfy them, Mr. Speaker. They even want to legalize the people that have been deported and sent to their home countries and bring them back to the United States. If that occurs, 11 million to 20 million becomes at least 30 million people.

Because we have what they call a "de facto" amnesty now, it is, in fact, literally amnesty now, and making that promise is going to start another rush over our borders.

We must restore the rule of law.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, creating an immigration process for new American immigrants is not just an issue that will shape the future for one group.

So much is at stake for 3 million African and Caribbean immigrants that live and work here. They're a vital part of our future as hardworking, upstanding individuals in search of freedom and a better life. They also deserve a fair system that works, and they are more than just a number on a page.

Last week, a young lady came to my office who was born in America to Haitian parents. Her name is Natalie. Natalie is a graduate student who has job offers lined up. She is ready to work and commits herself to this country. But Natalie can't do those things because of our broken immigration system. She is neither recognized as a citizen here nor in Haiti. While in tears, she said she has no home. She can't see her family. She's scared and feels alone. Natalie is one of those 11 million people that are looking for a pathway to citizenship.

It is time to pass commonsense legislation that fixes our immigration system once and for all, one that serves our interests and reflects our values for Natalie and the 11 million other Natives who call America home.

AMERICA'S ECONOMY CAN THRIVE AGAIN

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, the solution to our economic challenges is one simple word: growth. Unfortunately, the only place really growing in our country today is Washington, D.C.

As I travel my district, workers, job seekers, and small business owners tell me they're concerned about jobs and economic security.

Washington must unleash their economic potential by spending less, taxing less, and regulating less. Washington has to stop growing so the rest of the country can start to grow.

Small business owners this year spent upwards of 2 billion hours trying to comply with our Tax Code. Simpli-

fyng the Tax Code will help them save time and money that they can then put towards growing their businesses, hiring new employees and raising wages.

Washington must also streamline regulations that are strangling growth. The REINS Act would require that any regulation with an annual impact of \$100 million or more be subject to a vote of this House.

With the right tax and regulatory policies, America's economy can thrive again.

□ 1240

CLOSE GUANTANAMO BAY

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, about 12 years ago, 779 people were gathered initially and sent to the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. About 85 percent of them had never actually engaged in direct combat against the United States. A report was issued by an independent, authoritative commission yesterday that I want to bring attention to. It was headed by Asa Hutchinson, a former Republican colleague of ours, and 4 star General Jim Jones, who was head of the National Security Council in the Obama administration.

It concluded that the United States engaged in the practice of torture at Guantanamo Bay. It concluded that the methods we used, like waterboarding, slamming prisoners into walls, chaining them in stress positions for hours, violated international legal obligations with "no firm or persuasive evidence that they produced valuable information that could not have been obtained by other means." It also concluded that what we did had "no justification" and "damaged the standing of our Nation, reduced our capacity to convey moral censure when necessary, and potentially increased the danger to U.S. military personnel taken captive."

It concluded that President Bush and Vice President Cheney were directly involved in condoning such tactics and that their legal advisors engaged in "acrobatic" legal analysis to attempt to establish legal justification.

There was no legal precedent. Guantanamo Bay should be closed—now.

TAX REFORM

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

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Speaker, it's tax week. As you know, that means that Americans' heads are chock-full of all kinds of numbers. We've done all kinds of itemizations, deductions, and calculations in our personal finances just to make sure that we know how much we are going to hand over to Uncle Sam. Let me share with you some more numbers.

How about \$168 billion? That's how much our fellow Americans spend each year just to make sure they comply with our overcomplicated Tax Code. Just how complicated are the tax rules in this country? Well, here is another number—4 million. That's how many words there are in the U.S. Tax Code. There are 4,500 words in the U.S. Constitution. There are 775,000 words in the Bible. Yet there are 4 million in our Tax Code.

What does this all add up to?

It means that our current tax system is broken. We need fundamental, comprehensive tax reform to make our Tax Code fairer and simpler for all Americans. That is the House Republican plan.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 624, CYBER INTELLIGENCE SHARING AND PROTECTION ACT

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 164 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 164

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. 624) to provide for the sharing of certain cyber threat intelligence and cyber threat information between the intelligence community and cybersecurity entities, and for other purposes. 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 Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. 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 Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence 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 113-7. 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