

long-term efforts to combat this challenge.

Energy conservation is a vital component of reducing carbon emissions. Weatherization programs and the Energy Star program have been instrumental in reducing consumption. In 2011, Energy Star helped Americans reduce emissions by the equivalent of 41 million vehicles; and, during these tough times, it cut utility bills by \$23 billion.

As a result of the sequester, further progress on these programs is at risk. Research and development in clean-energy technologies are essential to reducing our dependence on oil and cutting emissions.

Sequestration's funding reductions threaten to slow developments in solar and advanced battery technology. Sadly, my Republican colleagues have been reluctant to even debate further action to address climate change.

That is one more reason why we cannot afford to sit by and do nothing while sequestration reduces the effectiveness of the programs we already have in place that are part of the climate change solution.

□ 1920

HELPING SICK AMERICANS NOW ACT

(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, despite blocked attempts to fully repeal the so-called Affordable Care Act, this law is doomed to collapse under the weight of its own flawed design. Just last week, Democratic Senator MAX BAUCUS of Montana, a key architect of the Affordable Care Act, referred to the administration's signature health care law as a looming "train wreck." Another promise that was used to force passage of the President's health law was broken in February, when the administration's Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced that it would stop enrolling people with preexisting conditions due to funding constraints.

This week, the House will vote on the Helping Sick Americans Now Act, which would extend access to those with preexisting conditions. The coverage would be funded by eliminating the Prevention and Public Health Fund, a program under ObamaCare identified as rife with mismanagement and taxpayer abuse.

While full repeal would have been less costly and painful, the gradual failure of the Affordable Care Act is inflicting significant pain on families, businesses, and our economy. Don't take my word. Just listen to the Senator from Montana. His recent remarks aren't far off the mark.

HOMELAND SECURITY ISSUES

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Reflecting on the events of last week, I want to speak about some very important homeland security issues.

I want to publicly thank the outstanding law enforcement, FBI, and others who worked on the tragedy of 9/11, as we proceed as Members of Congress to further investigate how not to allow an incident like that to happen again.

But the one point I want to make very clearly and that has been said over and over by Members and certainly by leaders of the administration: this does not and should not stop comprehensive immigration reform. We should proceed with regular order because you need to know who's in this country.

Also, I offer my deepest sympathy to those in West, Texas, but make the point that we have to have a nexus between chemical plants and those who hold those kinds of hazardous materials. As well, we need a mechanism of reporting to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security a security plan and a process to avoid events such as the horrific tragedy that occurred. I will soon be introducing such legislation, and I certainly believe that it is our role to intervene and to secure the homeland.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, April is National Autism Awareness Month. Autism affects the lives of 2 million Americans. It's the fastest-growing developmental disability, in terms of new cases.

In my home State of Minnesota, 1 in every 67 children is diagnosed with autism. Minnesota is also home to some great institutions like the Holland Center and the Minnesota Autism Center, which serve Minnesota families with educational and rehabilitation services for children with autism. Minnesota health care professionals are also on the front lines in the search to discover the cause of the high rate of autism among Minnesota's Somali population.

While there's currently no medical detection or cure for autism, this disorder is treatable. Studies show that the early diagnosis and intervention can lead to significantly improved outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, I was a cosponsor of the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act last Congress, and we must continue the fight and the effort to ensure those with autism get the attention and care they need.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of the innocent men, women, and children who perished in 1915 during the Armenian genocide.

Each year, the United States Congress has the opportunity to stand on the side of justice and recognize the Armenian genocide. Such action would fortify America's moral standing in the family of nations and send a strong message to our NATO ally, Turkey, that it must examine the dark chapters of its past and the discriminatory impulses of its present.

Turkey has repeatedly thwarted efforts by Congress and successive administrations to recognize the Armenian genocide by threatening all manner of retaliation should recognition be accorded. I submit that we do no favors to Turkey by acquiescing in its cynical campaign.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide in 2015, it is time for the United States to formally recognize this tragic chapter in world history and to bring some measure of peace and healing to those of Armenian descent.

CITY OF FREMONT RECOGNIZED FOR NATIONAL MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY COMPETITION

(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. This Thursday, the city of Fremont will be one of three cities nationwide to be recognized with the City Award as part of the Make a Difference Day competition.

The Make a Difference Day competition is a national day of volunteering held each year on the third Saturday of October. Fremont has participated in this competition for the past 10 years. Last year alone, 1,300 residents in Fremont participated in 76 projects across the city to clean up and improve our streets and make our community much, much better.

On Thursday, Fremont residents Suzanne Shenfil, Debra Watanuki, and Christine Beitsch will be presented with the award on behalf of the city of Fremont. Fremont will also be awarded \$10,000 to benefit the Fremont Family Resource Center, which offers many services such as child care information, adult information and employment services, and educational programs.

I am proud of Fremont and all of the participants in Make a Difference Day for their inspirational work to improve our neighborhoods. Together, each individual contribution builds a stronger and more sustainable community for everyone's future.

LARGER TRUCKS

□ 1930

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. I rise today in favor of protecting our infrastructure, keeping our roads safe, and reducing emissions. There are serious safety, infrastructure, and environmental concerns involved with allowing even bigger and heavier tractor-trailers on our roadways than are currently allowed. Trucking accidents cause too many deaths, and the 3,373 victims in 2011 alone were disproportionately people who were driving in cars caught in these heavy truck crashes.

These oversized trucks also inflict disproportionate damage on our roads, and especially on our national bridge system. They impose a significant cost on the rest of us to pay for these repairs. Plus, allowing larger and heavier trucks would divert freight away from our rails and onto our highways, increasing congestion and emissions at a time when we are working hard to reduce both.

 RECOGNIZING CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary students, parents, and faculty of Cathedral High School in El Paso, Texas.

Yesterday, I had the privilege of meeting with many of Cathedral's best and brightest, along with their principal, Brother Nick Gonzalez, and Chief Justice Richard Barajas, who leads the Center for Advanced Studies. What Cathedral's students have achieved under their watch is truly incredible.

This year, a record six graduating seniors have been designated as Gates Millennium Scholars and five others were finalists for this prestigious award that provides scholarships to outstanding minority students. Two others will be attending service academies.

Overall, 98 percent of the graduating class of 115 has been accepted to college, and 32 seniors will be graduating with a degree from El Paso Community College in addition to their Cathedral diploma.

Cathedral is representative of our vibrant binational community in El Paso. Over 85 percent of the student body is of Hispanic origin, with students from El Paso, Ciudad Juarez, and southern New Mexico. The school's rigorous curriculum emphasizes social justice and community service, so graduates are not just model students, they are also preparing to become model citizens.

I am proud to represent Cathedral High School and expect great things from all the students I had the privilege of meeting yesterday.

 MAKE IT IN AMERICA:
 MANUFACTURING MATTERS

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it's good to be back here for another week of work. We certainly have work to do. Out across this Nation there are a lot of people that are still unemployed, and it's time for Congress to take this extremely important task and to get it done.

We've been talking here on the floor for a long time about how we can create jobs in America. The Make It in America agenda that my Democratic colleagues and I have put forth over the last 2½ years is an extensive number of bills designed to bring jobs back to the United States. And we need them.

An article that appeared in the newspapers this last day or so talked about this. This is Paul Krugman talking about the long-term unemployment that we now have here in the United States. He cites that for the last 5 years we've been in a crisis. Unemployment remains elevated, with almost 12 million Americans out of work. But the real striking and huge number is in another category, and that's the long-term unemployment: 4.6 million Americans have been unemployed for more than 6 months, and more than 3 million have been jobless for more than a year. The programs that my Democratic colleagues and I have offered over the last 2½ years would have gone directly to that problem.

He argues that when you have this long-term unemployment, you create a problem that these men and women are not likely to ever get back into the workforce, citing several statistics that are found around the Nation. But we can do something about that, and the Make It in America agenda is exactly what we ought to be working on.

Before I go into the specifics of that agenda, I'd like to cover one other issue. This is seen in a report from the International Monetary Fund that they just came out with in the last couple of days warning the United States to be very careful about continued reductions in our budget. They argue that the austerity program that the United States has actually been on for the last 2 years—now, remember, immediately after President Obama became President the United States took on a stimulus program, an enormous stimulus program of a little over \$700 billion. That actually created the start of the rebirth of the American economy, but it only lasted for a year, a year and a half.

Then we undertook, at the behest of my Republican colleagues, an austerity program, one that involved seriously

reducing the Federal budget. Over the decades, beginning in 2011, we will see a nearly \$2 trillion reduction in Federal expenditures in the 10-year period. That is what austerity is all about.

Today, if you were trying to get on an airplane somewhere in the United States, you were beginning to see yet one more effect of austerity, and that is the air traffic controllers going on furlough, so that 1 day out of 10 air traffic controllers will not be working, meaning that there will be a shortage. Some say, well, they should have moved the money around and they could have done it some other way, but that's not the way the austerity program is in the United States, and that's not the way the sequestration law is written.

Sequestration is across-the-board cuts, expenditure item by expenditure item, with no—or very little—authority to shift money from one lower priority to a higher priority. Therefore, today, the air traffic controllers, some were not working. There was a general slowdown of air traffic across the United States resulting in some of my colleagues not getting to work today to vote on the three bills that we had up here on the floor just a few moments ago.

In any case, the IMF warns: U.S. austerity will slow growth. This was a warning that was issued to the United States. It was also issued earlier to the United Kingdom, who have been on a very serious austerity budget for the last 3 years. The result is that the United Kingdom has actually seen a shrinking in their economy, as has most of Europe. Austerity did not work in Europe as an effort to deal with the downturn of the economy and the Great Recession, and it certainly is not working here.

We need to create jobs in the United States. A rational economic strategy would say that when you have a general decline in the economy caused by a lack of consumer spending, then it is time for the government to step in and to provide support for the economy. We can do that in a way that actually is an investment strategy. This is where I would like to take this conversation.

Instead of talking about austerity and cut, cut, cut at the Federal level to deal with the deficit—an issue that, indeed, we must deal with, but that's a long-term issue that we have to get about—but we have a short-term crisis right now with employment and the lack of demand here in the United States.

So, what do we do about it? Well, first of all, we end sequestration; give a rational way for the government agencies to address the \$85 billion of cuts that are taking place in the next 6 months—better yet, to put that off into the future. Let those cuts occur in the years 4, 5, 6, 7, out in the future rather than right now, when what we ought to be doing is increasing the government expenditure on key investments, like keeping the airplanes in the sky, like