

Medal in honor of the four little girls who lost their lives in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. I just want to acknowledge my sincere appreciation to the leadership of both parties in getting this Congressional Gold Medal on the floor.

We have in our presence two sisters of two of the deceased four little girls. I think I speak on behalf of the whole State of Alabama and our Alabama delegation when I say a profound thank you for this body. I know that everyone here is mighty appreciative of the sacrifices that their families have made in order for our great Nation to live up to its true ideals of justice and equality for all, and I think that it's befitting if we all stand and clap.

A unanimous vote is truly a victory for all of us.

TAX CODE LIBERATION DAY

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, the case for tax reform was never made more clear when Americans recently struggled to fill out their increasingly complicated income tax forms. What we really need now is Tax Code Liberation Day.

Our convoluted Tax Code has become a major obstacle to individual freedom, which must be removed as soon as possible. It prevents small businesses from hiring more workers in what is now a nearly dead economic recovery.

The burden of preparing your taxes is now nearly as onerous as actually paying for the taxes. It takes 13 hours for the average American to prepare his or her taxes. The Tax Code remains almost 4 million words, many of which are incomprehensible.

We must all work together to free small businesses and individuals of the most complex regulation of them all—the Federal Income Tax Code.

KERMIT GOSNELL MURDER TRIAL

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with several of my pro-life colleagues, to bring attention to the ongoing trial of Kermit Gosnell, an abortionist from Philadelphia. Gosnell is accused of murdering, in the third degree, a woman who died during an abortion at his clinic, and first degree murder of four infants who survived abortions and were born alive, only to have their spinal cords severed by a pair of scissors.

In the words of the grand jury report:

Gosnell had a simple solution for unwanted babies: he killed them. He didn't call it that. He called it "ensuring fetal demise."

I'm horrified by the lack of respect this doctor has for human life, and I'm

appalled by the minimal media coverage of the Gosnell trial. I'm hopeful that the disturbing images revealed by this trial will raise awareness of the gruesome practices of the abortion industry and help to prevent the tragic ending of human life that occurs every day at abortion clinics across this country.

HELPING SICK AMERICANS NOW ACT

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Helping Sick Americans Now Act.

I cosponsored this legislation because it addresses something that is particularly important to Republicans and Democrats alike: providing care for those who need it most.

I strongly opposed ObamaCare and have supported the efforts to repeal it; however, it's the law of the land. In it, the President and Congress made a promise to help Americans with pre-existing conditions. The President has broken this promise when he consciously cut off access to the program dealing with preexisting conditions and left tens of thousands of Americans with nowhere to turn for their health care. To many Americans, this is typical of Washington: empty gestures and broken promises. This has to stop.

We have a chance to help people get the care they were promised by taking money from a wasteful slush fund. I intend to uphold the promise the President once made and now has broken. I urge my colleagues to do the same and vote for this commonsense legislation.

□ 1520

HELPING SICK AMERICANS NOW ACT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the House will begin discussing in the next day the legislation called Helping Sick Americans Now Act, and I would only offer a counter to that that it seems a sick way to try and help those who are in need.

This bill will deplete the healthy preventive care funding that impacts the Centers for Disease Control, that impacts the federally qualified health clinics that are all throughout our community, and it only provides funding for the sickest of Americans up until December 2013. Why don't we encourage the Governors, like Governor Perry of Texas, to accept expanded Medicaid to help heal 6 million and provide health care for 6 million uninsured in Texas, the highest number of uninsured in any State.

This is a temporary fix that is not necessary. We have the Affordable Care Act that is being implemented; and, as

we speak, millions of Americans are being covered. This is the wrong way, misdirected, and I might say it is a sick way of trying to help the sickest of Americans.

I oppose the bill.

NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-20)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARR) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, Veterans' Affairs, Armed Services, the Judiciary, Natural Resources, Financial Services, Homeland Security, Oversight and Government Reform, Ways and Means, Foreign Affairs, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Intelligence (Permanent Select) and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am please to transmit the 2013 *National Drug Control Strategy*, my Administration's blueprint for reducing drug use and its consequences in the United States. As detailed in the pages that follow, my Administration remains committed to a balanced public health and public safety approach to drug policy. This approach is based on science, not ideology—and scientific research suggests that we have made real progress.

The rate of current cocaine use in the United States has dropped by 50 percent since 2006, and methamphetamine use has declined by one-third. New data released this year suggest that we are turning a corner in our efforts to address the epidemic of prescription drug abuse, with the number of people abusing prescription drugs decreasing by nearly 13 percent—from 7 million in 2010 to 6.1 million in 2011. And the number of Americans reporting that they drove after using illicit drugs also dropped by 12 percent between 2010 and 2011.

While this progress is encouraging, we must sustain our commitment to preventing drug use before it starts—the most cost-effective way to address the drug problem. The importance of prevention is becoming ever more apparent. Despite positive trends in other areas, we continue to see elevated rates of marijuana use among young people, likely driven by declines in perceptions of risk. We must continue to get the facts out about the health risks of drug use and support the positive influences in young people's lives that help them avoid risky behaviors.

The *Strategy* that follows presents a sophisticated approach to a complicated problem, encompassing prevention, early intervention, treatment, recovery support, criminal justice reform, effective law enforcement, and international cooperation.

I look forward to working with the Congress and stakeholders at all levels

in advancing this 21st century approach to drug policy.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 24, 2013.

HELPING SICK AMERICANS NOW ACT

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to begin our discussion with H.R. 1549, which will be up tomorrow, Helping Sick Americans Now Act.

I am not supporting this bill because the bill's proposals are counterintuitive to the anticipated outcome of the Prevention and Public Health Fund. This legislation strips 4 years of funding from the prevention fund to pay for a very short extension of a new enrollment in the preexisting condition insurance plan.

Further, the bill insists on a partisan offset that effectively eliminates the Prevention and Public Health Fund through 2016 to, instead, reopen the Federal High-Risk Pool Program provided by the Affordable Care Act through the end of the year.

While I support reopening the high-risk pool, I cannot support how this bill goes about creating the funding.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it's good to be in the people's House this afternoon to talk about a topic that is of utmost concern to the American people—energy. What does it mean for America? We all put gas in our cars, we all heat and cool our homes, businesses across this country power their manufacturing processes. So what does energy mean for today and for the future of our country?

I'm proud to be a member of the House Energy Action Team because we understand the critical role that domestic-energy production plays not only today, but in the future of our country. Let me give an example of why this is so important.

I remember one of the very first memorable events that occurred in March of 2011 in my first term. We were addressed here in this Chamber by the

Prime Minister of Australia. And in her remarks she commented, she said: "I remember being a young girl, sitting on the floor of my living room, watching Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin land on the Moon." She went on to talk about how America and Australia had stood side by side, how America had actually stood in front of and protected Australia during some of the darkest days of World War II in the Pacific.

□ 1530

At the end of her speech, she said, "Back when I was a little girl and when I saw that Moon landing, I thought to myself, wow, those Americans can do anything." She wrapped up her comments by saying, "Today, as Prime Minister of Australia, with a lot of experience under my belt, I still believe that Americans can do anything."

When you stop and think about the Moon landing—and I know you're going to say, Well, what does that have to do with energy? I'm getting to that. President Kennedy gave us a vision of putting a man on the Moon in 10 years. We didn't make it in 10 years. We made it in less than 10 years. The reason that we did was that every fabric of our society bought into the idea—academic institutions, the scientific community. Industries cropped up overnight. Millions of jobs were created. Young people lined up to get into academic programs in which they could major in degrees that would prepare them for careers in space exploration.

At the end of the day—actually, we're not at the end of the day—we're still benefiting from the innovation and the technological advance that came out of that era. It was a time when America's imagination was captivated by what many thought was impossible and by what the rest of the world didn't really think we could do. You look at what has happened since we started that journey—at all of the technological innovations that have occurred: cell phones, flat-screen TVs, GPS, even arthroscopic surgery. We had to learn to perform medical procedures on space travelers in a way that was noninvasive, and medical experts began to think about "how do we do that in outer space?" So we learned how to dream, and that goal to put a man on the Moon captivated America's imagination.

I want you to think for a second about what would happen if America once again embarked on a journey of that magnitude. I believe a journey to become energy independent and secure in America is just such a journey that we could embark on. A vision of energy independence and security would not only captivate the imagination of the American people but it would put America back to work at a time when our economy is in such desperate need of private-sector economic growth. Imagine what would happen if we had a national energy vision that sounded something like this:

We're going to go after the vast volumes of oil and natural gas that we have. In many experts' opinions, we've got more of it than anyone else has in the world. We're going to expand our nuclear footprint because nuclear energy is one of the safest, most reliable forms of energy on the planet. We brought that to the world, and we know how to do it. We're going to continue to mine coal, and we're going to learn how to use it environmentally soundly because we've got enough coal to fuel our energy needs for generations yet to come.

We're even going to embrace alternative forms of energy—biofuels, wind and solar. Now, they're not going to meet our heavy lifting energy needs for the foreseeable future, but there is a role that they play in our overall energy profile. We're going to back that up with action with the regulatory community and tell the regulators at the EPA and the Department of the Interior and at the Army Corps of Engineers: effective today, you start being partners in progress with America's energy industries. Rather than being the department of "no," learn how to find a way forward. If a particular project or if a particular technology presents concerns, then let's address those concerns, but "no" should not be the final answer.

We've learned through the lessons of putting a man on the Moon that, when Americans are allowed to dream, when they're allowed to innovate, when they're allowed to compete, there is nothing that we can't solve.

Why is energy independence and security so important? First of all, it's important because of national security. Right now, today, we are beholden to some countries that don't like us very much for our energy resources. Why do we want to continue to do that when we have the resources right here at home to be able to solve that problem?

In order to captivate the imagination of the American people, we've got to help the American people understand why this is so important to them. We talk about energy in terms of very important projects like the Keystone XL pipeline of which the President, himself, said that the environmental concerns were overexaggerated, so let's get the project approved.

Yet we talk about it in technical terms—pipelines, hydraulic fracturing, oil rigs, nuclear reactors, uranium enrichment. What does all of that mean to American taxpayers—to working Americans who are just struggling day in and day out to make ends meet?

Here is what it means:

Take a manufacturing process, the manufacturing of cereal, Pop-Tarts—you name it, whatever our children consume today. When domestic energy costs are reduced, those manufacturing costs to produce those goods are also reduced. When the price of diesel fuel goes down and when the cost of the transportation to transport those goods from the manufacturers to the