

the Federal Government alone to fix this problem. Instead, we must work with State governments, schools, students, and parents to find a solution.

Within the past decade, costs have risen 66 percent beyond the rate of inflation. Instead of trying to work with schools, the Federal Government has been busy implementing policies that increase their costs. My colleagues and I on the Higher Education and Workforce Training Subcommittee are looking at how to simplify and strengthen Federal aid programs.

It's obvious more needs to be done to help students and families make the best decision possible about their education at a price they can afford. My goal is to continue to identify and remove unnecessary and costly burdens from this process and put the dream of higher education in reach of more students.

#### ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, climate change, in my view, is real, it's urgent, and we must make progress or ignore it at our peril. But whether we agree or disagree, whether you're a climate change believer or denier, there are things that we can do together for the benefit of the environment and the economy.

We can focus the debate on energy efficiency; we can save money through making our homes and buildings more energy efficient; we can put people back to work and buy American products; and, in the process, we can cut down on harmful carbon emissions and make progress on climate change and strengthen our economy.

That is why I've joined with my friend from West Virginia, DAVID MCKINLEY, in introducing the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, which proposes practical solutions to bolster energy efficiency. This bill will speed our transition to a more energy efficient economy—increasing America's economic competitiveness in energy security—and build jobs.

By finding areas where we actually do agree and working together, we can make progress on the environment and on the economy.

#### MAKE LIFE EASIER FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Ms. JENKINS. Whether it's jobs or our Nation's debt, the economy is still the number one issue for hardworking Americans. But, instead of supporting initiatives like the Keystone pipeline, something that would create 20,000 jobs

and help secure our energy supply, this administration continues to pursue the same failed economic policies. Their budget adds over \$8 trillion to the debt, raises taxes by another trillion dollars, and they continue to support a burdensome health care law that does nothing to address the issue of rising costs.

The House is working on solutions to create a stronger, healthier economy with more jobs and opportunities for all Americans. We have passed legislation to replace the sequester, to balance the budget, to repeal the President's health care law, and we're working on reforming our broken Tax Code to make it more fair and efficient.

It's time for the administration to get on board: stop creating problems like politically motivated flight delays and start helping to make life easier for American families.

□ 1210

#### HONORING ALAMEDA COUNTY LEADERS

(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. Tomorrow, the Alameda County Labor Council will be hosting their annual Unionist of the Year awards dinner where local labor leaders will be recognized for their tireless advocacy on behalf of hardworking Americans.

One of these great leaders is Obray Van Buren, who will be honored with the Unionist of the Year award. Obray has been a member of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 342 for 30 years. Obray is also on the board of directors for Tri-CED Community Recycling, a company which gives many former offenders and at-risk youth a chance at life. This organization proudly serves both Hayward and Union City in my district.

Also honored will be California's Attorney General Kamala Harris, an Alameda County native who also, like me, served in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office and will be honored as the Warrior Woman of the Year. Attorney General Harris is committed to defending the interests of working families who are the backbone of our economy.

Other honorees include Rachel Bryan, Jason Gumataotao, Tanya Pitts, Tamara Perine, Bud Beal, and Christine Garrett.

Once again, congratulations to all honorees. Alameda County appreciates your efforts to ensure that worker rights and benefits are always protected.

#### REMEMBERING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BARRETT L. AUSTIN

(Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with heavy heart

to honor a military hero and one of my constituents, and a casualty of war. Private First Class Barrett L. Austin died on April 21 after being a casualty, I believe, of an IED while serving his country in Afghanistan. Barrett Austin was just 20 years old. He was assigned to A Company, 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Stewart, Georgia. Private First Class Austin was a beloved son, husband, friend, and soldier from the Dacusville-Easley, Pickens County area of South Carolina.

My heart goes out to his wife, his parents, and all of those who called Barrett a friend. This true American hero has made the true sacrifice in defense of our great Nation, and we owe him our eternal gratitude. This Nation remains the greatest on Earth because of people like Barrett Austin, and we must never forget the true cost of the freedoms that we enjoy.

So on behalf of the Third District of South Carolina and the entire Nation, we thank you, Barrett, for your sacrifice. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the entire Austin family. May God bless them, and may God continue to bless America.

#### SUPPORTING SPECIALTY CROPS

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

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bipartisan resolution in support of specialty crops, with support from Members of Congress across the country. Specialty crops, such as fruits and vegetables, are a significant part of agriculture, with annual production valued at over \$50 billion. This is about half of the value of all U.S. crops, but specialty crops aren't given the same attention or financial support as our traditional commodities.

Specialty crops are a major source of economic activity, jobs, and our Nation's food supply. Every State has at least some specialty crop production, and my district is no different. In Whatcom and Skagit counties, hundreds of specialty crops are grown, totaling millions in sales each year. Specialty crops grown on farms in Snohomish and King counties provide fresh, quality foods to our schools, restaurants, and farmers markets.

As Congress begins to consider another farm bill, it is important to acknowledge how vital specialty crops are to our country. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, and I look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that programs in support of specialty crops are highlighted and fully funded.

#### NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. MESSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Autism Awareness Month. We once lived in a world where polio was an epidemic that killed kids and left others with debilitating paralysis. Thankfully, medical and scientific advances largely have eliminated the threat from this and many other dreaded diseases and conditions. Yet our understanding of autism remains an unsolved puzzle.

Mr. Speaker, autism affects too many children, including my nephew Trey, and strains families, as I know firsthand. It is time to commit ourselves as a Nation to solving this modern epidemic so autism can be prevented, treated, and cured tomorrow like polio is today.

#### HONORING SEAN SMITH

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sean Smith, an information technology specialist killed in the September 11, 2012, terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya. Sean was called "one of our best" at the State Department by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Originally from San Diego, California, Sean enlisted in the Air Force in 1995. In 2002, he was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal and joined the United States Foreign Service.

President Barack Obama stated:

Sean Smith lived to serve, first in the Air Force, then at the State Department. He knew the perils of his calling. And there in Benghazi, far from home, he laid down his life in the service to all of us.

Sean was also a loving husband and a proud father. He was devoted to his wife, Heather, and to his two children, Samantha and Nathan.

Mrs. Smith said of her late husband:

Sean supported the mission of diplomacy and served his country with pride and optimism.

I wish to offer my deepest condolences and the deepest condolences of this House to the Smith family. Please know that your family will continue to be in our prayers and our thoughts. And thank you and your late husband for your selfless service to our country. May God bless you.

#### TRUTH TELLING WITH FLIGHT DELAYS

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

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give the American people some truth telling about what is going on with the FAA and flight delays. We have been told this is all the result of the sequester. And yet in 2001, there were about 30,000 takeoffs per day in the United States, and they did that with about \$6 billion worth of funding.

Today, takeoffs are only 20,000 a day, and they have \$10 billion of funding. In 2001, there were 14,000 air traffic operators, and today there are 14,000 air traffic operators.

So if it's not a demand problem because demand went down, if it's not a people problem because they have the same people, and it's not a resource problem because they have about 100 percent more money, what is the problem?

I contend to you, Mr. Speaker, it's a political problem. It's time to tell the administration to stop playing politics with the American people.

#### GUN SAFETY

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, last week was a profoundly disturbing week for those of us from Connecticut and for Americans as a whole. When this body, when the institution of Congress failed to do anything to promote gun safety in the face of the tragedy at Newtown, this institution let the American people down.

When a Senator on the Republican side with an "A" rating from the NRA and a Senator from the Democratic side with an "A" rating from the NRA put forward a background check measure that fails, we fail.

Look, we can and we should debate what kind of weapons Americans should have a right to. We can and we should debate how many bullets can go into a magazine. There is no principled argument for why we should not check out someone who wants to buy a weapon. And yet, we couldn't make that argument in the Congress of the United States.

So as a result, some time soon, a terrorist will buy a gun at a gun show. Some time soon, a violent felon will buy a gun online. And as a result, Americans will die. And this institution will bear the blame. This was not a proud moment, Mr. Speaker, for the Congress of the United States.

#### KILAH DAVENPORT CHILD PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Kilah Davenport Child Protection Act. Just a year ago, a 3-year-old girl was rammed against a wall head first, suffering irreparable brain damage and being paralyzed for the rest of her life. When the DA went to prosecute, he found in North Carolina that the sentencing was limited to 4 to 7 years, a very minimum sentence for such an egregious act. Upon further review, we found that other States also have such minimum sentencing, some with no minimum whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, our act would provide that there would be a minimum sen-

tence of 10 years to receive Federal grants for child abuse. We commend this legislation to this respected body and ask for their support.

□ 1220

#### GET RID OF SEQUESTRATION

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. The simple question is asked, why are we in such a dilemma of complexity and absolutely abandoning the American people? That's what sequestration is all about.

And I know it's hard to tell a story again, but sequestration came about because a whole sizeable population of Members, Republican Members, did not want to pay America's bills.

But we can, as a bipartisan, collective body that responds to America, avoid the loss of 2 million jobs and a .6 percent drag on the economy and \$67.8 million lost for primary and secondary education in Texas, \$51 million lost for education of children with disabilities, and 4,800 Head Start seats lost. We can come together.

We can pass H.R. 900, which gets rid of the sequestration, or we can call for the budget conferees to, once and for all, address the question of America.

The reason why we have a slowdown of FAA, it's because the people are furloughed. You can have 50,000 FAA air traffic controllers; but if they're furloughed, they can't work.

Let's work on behalf of the American people—have the budget conferees now pass H.R. 900, get rid of the sequestration.

#### THE SENATE IMMIGRATION BILL PROVIDES COVER FOR TERRORISTS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Senate immigration bill provides cover for suspected terrorists and others who would do us harm. After 6 months, it legalizes millions of people in the country illegally. They can then get work permits, Social Security cards, and driver's licenses. This gives them a legitimate cover to travel and plot attacks.

And mass legalization will encourage others to enter the country illegally so they too can obtain cover documents.

Any immigration bill should put the safety of Americans first. We should go slowly before giving amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants long before we have secure borders.

#### SIBLING VISAS

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

Ms. CHU. Twenty-four years, a quarter century. Imagine not being able to