

does it make sense for the agency responsible for everything outside to be called the Department of the Interior. I would add that only in Washington is it good news when the government spends \$1 million on nothing.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, sequestration—we must repeal the sequester now.

Americans have lived under these budget cuts for over 2 months, and one thing is clear: sequestration is hurting Americans; it is hurting constituents in your district and in mine, damaging the American economy and killing American jobs. We must totally repeal sequestration now. Democrats are prepared to vote for full repeal.

Madam Speaker, a piecemeal approach to reversing these cuts is simply the wrong way forward. We should not be in the business of picking winners and losers when it comes to restoring funding, like when we reversed the cuts to TSA because the delays created made front-page news. Our actions should not be driven by who makes the most noise, but rather what is best for the country and the American people.

Lifesaving medical research funded by NIH has taken a \$1.6 billion hit. Are we to think that research for cures to cancer, HIV/AIDS, and diabetes are less important than how quickly we move through airport lines?

Madam Speaker, we need to send a clear message to the American people that we will not stand for arbitrary cuts. We must fully repeal sequestration now.

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 1406, the piece of legislation that we will be debating today, the Working Families Flexibility Act of 2013. I am proud of the work that my friend Congresswoman MARTHA ROBY has done on this important bill. This legislation makes life easier for American families by giving them an additional tool to balance the demands of their family and workplace life.

As the father of boys, I know it takes a lot of time to help not only raise them, but to prepare them for their future. But I also had a job in the private sector; and I know that there are times when people in the private sector need the flexibility to do like I did, to take their boys to a Boy Scout campout or a wrestling tournament.

Currently, public sector workers have the flexibility to convert their overtime into comp time off. Labor unions include similar provisions in

collective bargaining agreements with their employees. America's private sector workers deserve the same option that union workers have.

I look forward to supporting this legislation on the floor and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

□ 1220

ARBITRATION FAIRNESS ACT

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I introduce H.R. 1844, the Arbitration Fairness Act. Forced arbitration agreements stack the deck against working people and have been of concern to me ever since I've come to Congress. These agreements are pervasive and they adversely affect countless Americans every year.

Too many Americans are forced to give up their rights to have a trial by jury when it comes to these consumer agreements that they sign with these megabusineses. My bill would remedy this by prohibiting any predispute agreement that requires arbitration for claims involving employees, consumers, civil rights, and antitrust.

We must protect our constitutional right to a fair trial by a jury of one's peers. I will continue to champion this bill until it is signed into law, and I urge my colleagues to support the Arbitration Fairness Act.

OBAMACARE

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, as we approach the summer months, we get closer to the dreaded date of 2014 when ObamaCare is launched. We still face major uncertainty to how this massive takeover of health care is actually going to work. In fact, the administration is not even certain of that.

Families and small businesses in my district have great concern over what's going to happen. In fact, when I talk to small business owners, many of them say they're going to have to stop providing health care and put these folks into these exchanges because they need the money to stay competitive. It's going to be something that they can find savings; and, again, in these uncertain times, they're not sure exactly what they're going to do.

When you look at what the President said that "if you like your health care, you can keep your health care," well, in fact, in my district, there's going to be 44,000 seniors that are going to lose Medicare Advantage because of ObamaCare.

Taxes will go up. Taxes will go up on businesses and families. Individuals are already seeing their premiums increased.

And the President has done nothing to provide certainty, as I said. The ad-

ministration isn't even sure how this is going to play out. And I believe, ladies and gentlemen, that this is going to end up in a train wreck. This is going to end up in something that is going to hurt the economy and hurt health care.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN FURLONGHS

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

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, last weekend, I had the honor to visit the men and women of the 174th Attack Wing at Hancock Air National Guard Base in Syracuse, New York.

The 174th is tasked with training airmen and supporting missions around the globe, including supporting combat missions in Afghanistan. It also supports homeland defense and aids during domestic emergencies, such as Hurricane Sandy. It does this 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

I was thoroughly impressed with the professionalism of Colonel Greg Semmel and the officers and airmen under his command. But I also saw firsthand how sequestration is affecting our military and its ability to execute its mission, a mission that the Congress of the United States authorized.

Approximately 280 that work for the 174th are subject to furlough, forcing the unit to operate missions in a theater of war short-handed. Many of these men and women are in the National Guard and work full time in uniform. They are members of our Armed Forces on military missions and yet subject to sequestration.

This Congress should be ashamed that soldiers are sequestered in a time of war. I urge this body to find a way to prevent these furloughs so that the 174th and the rest of our military can complete the mission and protect our national security. We cannot wait another week. We must do it this week. We must give our soldiers and sailors and airmen the support that they need.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it has been more than 20 weeks since the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook school; yet Congress has still been unable to pass a comprehensive legislative piece to curb gun violence in this country. While an overwhelming majority of Americans support expanding background checks, Senate Republicans last month blocked an important measure that would have expanded background checks to many types of private firearm sales.

I came here from the mental health field. Every day that the Republicans in Congress choose to block critical measures to reduce gun violence, we will prevent having a safe community,

because with the background check, many innocent sick people will be stopped. We cannot afford to continue to lose lives and have families severely impacted by senseless violence at the hands of criminals with deadly firearms.

Madam Speaker, we owe it to the American people to respond immediately to this violence.

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT II

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, leave it to Washington to leave a severely outdated government regulation on the books where it can continue to be a thorn in the side of hardworking Americans all across the country.

Under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938—yes, 1938, 3 years before our country entered World War II—American workers in the private sector are not allowed to choose to be paid for overtime with extra time off instead of extra wages.

There's no denying that our workforce has changed since 1938. Nowadays, 59 percent of American families have two parents that work, and 8.5 million workers are single parents. When you're balancing work and family, time can be just as valuable as money.

The Working Families Flexibility Act, which House Republicans have introduced, will amend the 1938 law to give more American workers the choice to be paid in extra time off. It's your time and you deserve it.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, this institution is commonly referred to as the people's House. We have an obligation to address issues that impact all Americans.

The sequestration cuts began as a slow burn but have increasingly caused pain for people all across this country. Now, this House somehow found the courage to rescue air travelers from the sequestration battlefield, but we left other Americans behind:

We left Head Start children behind; we left expectant mothers behind; we left seniors who rely on the Meals on Wheels program behind; we left public housing residents behind; we left the long-term unemployed behind.

We have an obligation to address issues that confront all Americans. That's why I support H.R. 900, a one-sentence bill that would repeal the sequester.

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

(Mr. SCHWEIKERT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I wanted to take this 60-second moment to stand here in front of the House and talk a little bit about the Working Families Flexibility Act. I am someone that as a Member of Congress, in a previous life, has run both a State agency where they could do this, where actually employees at my State level had the options of how they managed their compensation, whether they wanted to take it in time or actually in dollars.

But yet the arrogance, the continuing arrogance of Washington, it's good enough for our public employees, but it's not good enough for the businesses around the country. I've got to give MARTHA ROBY credit. Thank you for bringing this bill before us. Hopefully, we're going to step up and say, if we really want economic choice for the American people, we'll pass this bill.

□ 1230

HONORING THE STUDENTS OF ELM PLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL'S PROBLEM SOLVERS

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, my district is home to Highland Park's Elm Place Middle School. The sixth, seventh, and eighth graders who make up the Problem Solvers team recently won their division at the Illinois Future Problem Solvers Bowl, and they will compete in the international competition in June.

The Future Problem Solving Program encourages young students to think critically and creatively in order to develop a vision for the future and to become leaders. In my view, these Elm Place students have achieved all three.

Their project, Tefkiir, connected them with a girls school in Jordan, and they began to exchange books and educational materials. Quickly, the students realized how much they all have in common—how much more binds us than separates us. The Elm Place students are moving on to the International Problem Solving Bowl, but they don't want to go without their partners, without their friends in Jordan. So the team raised money in our community to pay for the airfare. These students, a half a world apart, started this project together, and that's how they will finish it.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to use my time today to honor the students of Elm Place Middle School's Problem Solvers.

TIME FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FACE SEQUESTER

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, the Federal budget is approximately \$3.6 trillion; \$2.4 trillion is what we call "mandatory spending." That's Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and interest payments on the debt. Approximately \$1.2 trillion is the discretionary budget, and we sit here and moan about \$85 billion in sequester. Businesses have had the sequester over the past 3 to 4 years. Not-for-profits have had the sequester for the past 3 or 4 years. It's about time that the Federal Government sequestered also.

I want to thank the President for addressing the mandatory-spending program. With his chained CPI address on Social Security, he recognizes the fact that, if we want to stop sequestration from occurring, mandatory programs have to be reformed.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. VARGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in favor of comprehensive immigration reform, especially one that respects the heroic work and heroic lives of our military.

We've now heard from many military personnel who have said that what they fear most is that their spouses are going to be unfortunately and dastardly taken from them and deported. We heard from a young marine over at the Russell Building who is going off to Afghanistan for his third tour of duty. He said that he is not afraid of dying. He says, "That's what marines do—we fight and we die." His only fear is that, when he is gone, they may deport his wife back to Mexico, and then he doesn't know what he can do to help her or their two children.

So we have to change the law. The law is not fair. How can the law possibly be fair when our military men and women are under this kind of threat? I stand here today to say that we have to have comprehensive immigration reform, especially one that respects our military.

30TH ANNUAL NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

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

Ms. TITUS. I rise today in recognition of National Travel and Tourism Week, and I will be introducing a resolution to that effect later today.

Travel and tourism make up the lifeblood of our economy in southern Nevada: 383,000 southern Nevada jobs are supported by the tourism industry, accounting for 47 percent of southern Nevada's labor force and generating \$45 billion in economic activity.

Men and women are employed in the convention, entertainment, gaming, and related service industries. Their