

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, as if voting to repeal the Affordable Care Act for the 37th time is not enough, Republicans are adding insult to injury by marking up a farm bill this week that doubles down on their indiscriminate sequester.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp program, is one of our Nation's first lines of defense against hunger and among the most effective forms of economic stimulus. Every \$1 in SNAP benefits generates \$1.70 in economic activity. Yet the Republican farm bill cuts nearly \$21 billion from our Nation's antihunger program while millions of Americans continue to struggle from the impacts of the Great Recession. These cuts would end food assistance for nearly 2 million low-income people, mostly working families, children, and seniors, already hit by the sequester.

Mr. Speaker, when I was a student and a single mother, the American people provided a lifeline in the form of food stamps while I struggled to make a better life for my children. That's true today for millions of families across the country, including 4.3 million Californians who need this critical lifeline.

Cutting SNAP is morally wrong and an economic disaster. We should reject these cuts, stop sequestration, and create jobs.

□ 1210

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, justice was served in Philadelphia when a monster by the name of Dr. Kermit Gosnell was convicted of the murder of three small babies in his abortion clinic. Each and every life is precious, Mr. Speaker, and murdering an innocent baby for the sake of convenience or greed is terribly, terribly wrong.

In the last 40 years, Mr. Speaker, the lives of over 50 million young babies have been taken. How do we know that God did not place in the lives of these individuals a cure for cancer, a cure for Alzheimer's, a cure for Parkinson's? We won't know that until eternity. We grieve over those losses.

May I quote Thomas Jefferson, Mr. Speaker, for the sake of our Nation:

God, who gave us life, gives us liberty. Can liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are a gift of God? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever.

IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED SNAP CUTS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak against the proposed cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. As the Nation's most important antihunger program, SNAP offers nutrition assistance to 46 million low-income Americans and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP also allows families to more easily set aside a portion of their resources for food and not have to outsource all of their meals and to prioritize a healthier, more consistent diet without compromising as much on obligations such as rent, utilities, transportation and other basic needs.

Over 80 percent of SNAP households have incomes below the poverty line and 40 percent have incomes below half of the poverty line. For many of these Americans, SNAP is the only form of income assistance they receive. We cannot allow the budget to be balanced on the backs of the poor and most vulnerable in our country.

The proposed farm bill up for a vote in the House Agriculture Committee today would cut \$20 billion from the program. I join my colleagues in opposing these draconian cuts to ensure that 46 million people who rely on this program will have food.

CONGRATULATING THE GRADUATING CLASS OF FLINTHILLS HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, I had the good fortune of being in Rosalia, Kansas, at the high school graduation for Flinthills High. Flinthills High has 11 strong graduating in 2013, but it was remarkable. With all the challenges the country faces, we had young people going to be nurses, young people entering our Nation's Army National Guard. We had a young man who was off to attend school but who knew that he was going to be coming back to help his father and mother on the farm.

With all of the challenges we face today, it was incredibly heartening to see this next generation of leaders being raised in the heartland. Congratulations to those 11, six young women and five young men.

Go, Mustangs.

IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED SNAP CUTS

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today the Agriculture Committee marks up a farm bill, cutting \$20 billion from food

support for the poorest, most vulnerable Americans. The Republican SNAP cuts will cut 210,000 children off the school lunch program and deny 2 million Americans food.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, is a lifeline for nearly 50 million Americans to have access to healthy, affordable food and avoid hunger. More than half of SNAP recipients live in deep poverty. That's an income of less than \$10,000 a year for a family of three. Right now, the daily SNAP benefit is \$3.78.

Two out of three SNAP recipients in Minnesota are poor children, seniors and adults with disabilities. To reduce the budget deficit by inflicting hunger on children, seniors and people with disabilities is simply immoral.

I urge my colleagues to reject this cruel and harmful proposal to increase hunger in America.

IRS SCANDAL

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

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the IRS for targeting Americans because of their political beliefs. What is clear is that the IRS has violated the public trust in a serious and disturbing way. It's sickening to learn that the IRS not only targeted Tea Party conservative groups but also groups that criticized the government or even taught the United States Constitution.

The United States is a beacon of hope and freedom for the oppressed all across the world, but the coordinated suppression of President Obama's political opponents undermines who we are and what we stand for.

Mr. Speaker, who gave the orders to target Americans who disagree with this administration? Who gave the orders? The American people deserve to know, and our Republic depends on us finding out that answer.

I represent a lot of Georgians who are sick and tired of the IRS targeting them. It is time for this House, the people's House, to instead now target the IRS. We must find the full truth and we cannot stop until we have full accountability.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

(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, it is the fashion amongst many of us to blame the press for our troubles, and that's, of course, because the press reports our troubles. At their best, the media keeps us honest, it keeps us in our constitutional lanes, and it reports our failures. It is essential for democracy. There is a reason why freedom of the press is not the Second or Fourth or 10th Amendment. It's the First Amendment.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am profoundly concerned over the Department of Justice's overbroad and chilling behavior with respect to the Associated Press. Seeking records for 20 phone lines, giving the AP no notice, refusing at this point to discuss their behavior feels to me like overreach.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for the Department of Justice to stand back. You can imagine that there is somebody out there today who has a failure to report who is chilled and says, I will not do that because of the approach that the Department of Justice has taken.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to serve in the very core of democracy, but this Chamber rests on foundations, and a key part of that foundation is a free and competent press.

THE 29ERS

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, across the country, employers are holding office meetings and the announcements are going something like this: We love you guys, but here's what we make, and here's what ObamaCare will cost us. We can't stay in business with ObamaCare, but if we cut everybody back to 29 hours a week, we can avoid the mandate and stay in business.

There's even a name for them now: the 29ers. ObamaCare was sold on three claims, all of which were false:

That it would save people money. In fact, it's producing crippling increases in health plans costs.

That it would be good for the economy. In fact, the CBO estimates it will cost the economy a net loss of 800,000 jobs.

That if you like your plan, you can keep it. Well, many are finding not only is that a lie but they can't keep their jobs either.

Madam Speaker, let's pull the plug on this before it wrecks our health care and our jobs.

SUPPORTING GARMENT WORKERS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Just this past Sunday, our Nation celebrated Mother's Day, a day that honors the mothers of our Republic. In March, we observed Women's History Month, honoring the progress toward full equality of over half our population.

Thus, one would have thought that when over 1,100 garment workers in Bangladesh—seamstresses, sewers, cutters, helpers—died working in dangerous factory conditions for an average wage of \$38 a month, America's retailers would have been the first to sign the landmark international safety agreement to improve the working conditions of these workers, who are predominantly women.

Surely, when 20 percent of Bangladesh's exports, mostly garments, are destined for U.S. buyers, our Nation's clothing firms should be on the front lines fighting for decent working conditions and a fair day's pay, not exploiting women workers.

But only Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein have stood up for women garment workers, millions of invisible hands working in death traps, making so much of the clothing we wear that is marketed in our country.

So, where are Walmart and Sears? Where is the Gap? Where is Target? They appear to be missing in action. We need to reward those companies that care about workers and women workers in particular. When you think about buying clothing, think Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein and ask, Where are the others? Without conscience and, obviously, on the wrong side of honor.

□ 1220

REPEAL OBAMACARE: ECONOMIC REASONS

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. America struggles under President Obama's economic policies:

Nearly 12 million Americans are out of work. Last month, almost 280,000 Americans were forced into part-time jobs because their hours were reduced or they couldn't find a full-time job;

The average workweek and weekly take-home pay for Americans dropped;

The best measure for employment, the Labor Participation Rate, is at 63.3 percent, the worst since the economic malaise of President Jimmy Carter.

With the Obama economy doing so poorly, why implement a law we know will kill, according to the Congressional Budget Office, some 800,000 American jobs?

ObamaCare undermines the ability of American companies to hire workers. It stymies economic growth, and it's only going to get worse. Even top Democrats admit as much. One of the law's authors, Senator MAX BAUCUS, called it a "train wreck."

Madam Speaker, we must stop the train before the wreck. It's time to repeal ObamaCare before it does even more damage to the American economy.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE "REPLACE" IN REPUBLICANS' "REPEAL AND REPLACE"?

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Okay, 38th time repealing all or part of the Affordable Care Act. Now, the Republican mantra was "Repeal and Replace," but somewhere along the way they forgot about the "replace" part. So tomorrow, total repeal.

Well, what does that mean? I've got a few concerns.

It means insurance companies can go back to rescinding, that is, taking away your policy when you get sick even if you've been paying premiums. They could do that until this law passed.

And 3.1 million young adults, 18 to 26, oops, you're off your parents' policy. Sorry. No insurance.

5.3 million seniors who got their doughnut hole reduced last year, sorry, you're back in the bill doughnut hole.

3.54 million people in private plans who got free preventative procedures last year, sorry, those aren't free anywhere.

Up to 17 million children with pre-existing health conditions would again be denied coverage.

105 million people in health care plans that previously had lifetime limits, well, your lifetime limit is back.

So total repeal, no replace, doing incredible damage to seniors, children, and many other insured Americans.

IRS TARGETS CONSERVATIVE GROUPS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, you know, during a commencement address in 2009 President Obama "joked" about the IRS auditing university officials for failing to award him an honorary degree. Now fast-forward to last Friday, when we learned that the IRS has been targeting conservative groups.

Madam Speaker, the misuse of the IRS power is no laughing matter. As Chief Justice John Marshall once said, "The power to tax is the power to destroy."

Folks and groups back home seeking to express their support for our hard-fought freedoms and liberties, for limited government, and for a better America should never be subjected to intimidation because of their political beliefs—never.

The use of the IRS as a political weapon is unacceptable. What's worse, this is the same agency that will be enforcing ObamaCare.

We must hold those responsible accountable. That's why the Ways and Means Committee will hold a hearing this Friday.

The American people deserve the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. And if you're as outraged as I am, call the White House at this number that's right there in front of you. We must make sure it never happens again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

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