

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.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and against the proposed \$20 billion cut in SNAP funding under the House Republican farm bill.

Coming on the heels of a sequester-induced reduction, SNAP beneficiaries continue to feel the pain and the cruel pinch of this Congress' misguided priorities.

SNAP, better known as food stamps, helps millions of Americans living in poverty put food on the table. That may very well be the difference between a child or a family going hungry or not. In the wealthiest nation in human history, it is unconscionable that every American cannot afford life's basic necessities.

Eighty percent, Madam Speaker, of the households receiving SNAP earn below the Federal poverty line. That translates into millions of working families. With these cuts, make no mistake about it, millions will go hungry and be forced to make decisions between food and other vital needs that nobody should ever have to confront.

Madam Speaker, we can do better. I call on my colleagues to reject these cuts.

REPEAL OF OBAMACARE

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, the President's health care law is full of broken promises, and these are only becoming more evident as the law begins to take effect.

His law promised affordable health insurance for all Americans, a fine goal. But since 2008, health care premiums have actually increased by over \$3,000.

His law promised universal health care coverage, but according to the Congressional Budget Office, the law will leave 30 million Americans without insurance.

His law promised to help Americans with preexisting conditions, but the program it set up to care for them is already turning qualified applicants away.

And the once promising future of medical innovation in America has been stifled by his new taxes and regulations, including its poorly conceived tax on medical devices, the repeal of which I have cosponsored here in the House.

Madam Speaker, we've also already seen that it's caused small businesses to cut back worker hours. And the uncertainty over pending regulation makes businesses, small and large, hesitate to hire new people or make new investments, slowing down our economic recovery.

It's time for repeal and real reform.

STOP CHILD ABUSE IN RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS FOR TEENS ACT

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, today I'm reintroducing the Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act. This legislation will protect teenagers attending residential treatment programs from abuse by staff personnel.

These programs range from boot camps to behavior modification facilities. They are often a last resort for parents trying to help a child deal with behavioral or other issues. But investigations by our committee found that these programs are not always run in a safe manner.

Just last year, the Tampa Bay Times confirmed that problems continue, with stories of children being bruised, bloodied, and choked to unconsciousness at these programs, all in the name of discipline.

My bill would make it illegal for a residential facility to deny a child essential water, food, clothing, shelter, or medical care, whether under the guise of discipline or therapy.

It would also ensure that parents have the information needed to make safe choices for their children about these programs. When a parent turns to these programs for help, they should trust that their child will not suffer neglect, injury, or even death while undergoing therapy.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONSEQUENCES FOR THE IRS

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

Mr. YODER. Madam Speaker, I stand today with Americans rightfully outraged and stunned that their government has admitted to harassing Americans with audits and paperwork simply based upon their political beliefs.

The American people expect the institutions of their government at their most basic, most simple levels to be fair. They expect not to be discriminated against or targeted based on their beliefs—religious, political, or otherwise.

But, Madam Speaker, we've learned over the past days about gross violations of our constitutional rights, an appalling overreach by the Internal Revenue Service which has admitted to targeting certain Americans for heightened tax scrutiny and additional burdensome and costly audits based solely on political affiliations. These anti-American violations strike at the heart of our free and democratic society and they confirm the worst fears that many Americans have about their

government. What makes matters worse is Congress was misled into believing that this wasn't happening.

Madam Speaker, we must get to the bottom of these very serious admissions by the IRS. There must be accountability and consequences for those involved, and we must ensure that this never happens again.

□ 1230

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today opposed to looming cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. I urge the House Agriculture Committee and this Congress to refrain from slashing funding for this vital program.

SNAP is our Nation's most important antihunger program. It provides food assistance to approximately 46 million Americans and it kept 4.7 million people out of poverty in 2011, including 2.1 million children.

SNAP has cut the number of children living in extreme poverty in half. We should not be cutting the safety net for our most vulnerable while maintaining costly government subsidies for the well-off and the junk food, oil, and gas industries.

A Nevada child in my district who receives \$1.48 per meal is not the problem with the Federal budget. The problem is corporate welfare and the special interest giveaways that litter our Tax Code.

I urge my colleagues not to cut SNAP and to invest in our children and their nutrition safety.

DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF OBAMACARE

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, last week, I held a telephone townhall meeting with my constituents. Towards the end of that call, I heard from a constituent who had already seen her hours cut at the local grocery store from 36 hours down to 28.

As a result of ObamaCare, industries, corporations, and people are posed with this very tough challenge: either they pay for very expensive health care, cut people's hours, or lay people off. Unfortunately, her grocery store decided to limit hours and make more part-time workers.

Sadly, as a result of this, she lost \$140 a month. That prevented her from being able to pay for the very affordable health insurance plan she currently is on. Other coworkers could no longer afford car payments, for instance.

These devastating effects are a terrible result of bad public policy, and