

solar, wind, and other renewable resources will spur new jobs, new technological advancements, and grow our economy.

In order to ensure that we can compete and win in the global market to develop clean energy technologies, it is vital that we have a trained workforce ready to work. That's why this week I reintroduced the Community College Energy Training Act, legislation to support clean energy job-training programs in our community colleges. Community colleges play an integral role in training and retraining Americans who want to get ahead and learn the skills that will open up new opportunities.

By investing in training programs in the clean energy sector, we can lay the foundation for success in a field that holds such great potential and prepare our students for the good jobs of tomorrow.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ESCAPE ARTISTS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there's a troubling pattern here in Washington. When wrongdoing occurs involving Federal Government employees, blame falls away from the White House and the wrong-doers get a pass. No one is held accountable.

Exhibit A: Fast and Furious. Government walks guns into Mexico. Two Americans and hundreds of Mexican nationals are killed. White House blames Bush and a low-level employee. Employee resigns; government gets a pass.

Exhibit B: Benghazi. Government denies request for support before and during the attack. Four Americans are killed. Investigation is bungled. Blame is placed on a YouTube video. One Federal employee placed on leave, but still getting a paycheck. Government gets a pass.

Exhibit C: IRS target list. IRS unlawfully targets conservative organizations. Blame is placed on low-level employee, and we're waiting for accountability.

Exhibit D: DOJ subpoenas reporters' phone records to silence a leak. Attorney General Holder recuses himself. We're waiting for who's responsible.

Mr. Speaker, this is a disturbing pattern. The so-called most transparent administration in history appears to be obstinately blocking the truth from the American public. America is tired of unaccountable escape artists in the Federal Government.

This ought not to be, but that's just the way it is.

MILITARY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

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

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Military Mental Health Awareness Day. Mental health issues continue to carry a significant stigma in our country, but it is time that we recognize the challenges that many current servicemembers and veterans are facing, and we work to address their needs.

Post-traumatic stress is all too prevalent in our servicemembers and veterans. As a country, beyond partisanship, we must come together to tackle this issue. Our men and women in uniform deserve our dedication, just as we ask them to dedicate their lives to our Nation's service.

In San Diego, nearly 5,000 veterans were treated for post-traumatic stress in 2011 according to the VA. We are fortunate in San Diego to have medical institutions that provide innovative models of care to our servicemembers and veterans; and it is my hope that with further attention to this issue, we can bring some of those standards of care to the rest of the country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to help me bring attention to this issue by working with service providers, counselors, and military groups in their communities as we continue to honor the sacrifices these servicemembers make for us.

FARRM ACT OF 2013

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today the House Agriculture Committee is marking up a 5-year farm bill reauthorization, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013, or FARRM Act.

The FARRM Act is a commonsense package of agriculture reforms that will save taxpayers nearly \$40 billion while strengthening the economic health of our family farms and small businesses. The bill is the product of a multiyear policy assessment designed to modernize Federal agriculture policy and achieve substantial deficit reduction.

The FARRM Act delivers on both fronts, while offering American agriculture the tools to grow and prosper. The bill reduces regulatory burden on small businesses and makes needed reforms to nutrition assistance programs. It will help protect our forests and better manage our lands.

Mr. Speaker, we can no longer allow partisan gridlock to prevent this reauthorization from becoming law. The bill is good for the economy. It promotes jobs and growth. It achieves deficit reduction. And it secures the ability of American agriculture to continue providing the safest and most abundant food supply in the world.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women who serve in our police forces. Every day, police officers put their own lives in danger in order to keep our families safe. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

This week, we celebrate our local heroes during National Police Week. In order to support the National Law Enforcement Memorial, my sister Davan, a deputy U.S. marshal, joined more than 1,800 officers last weekend in a 300-mile memorial bike ride from New Jersey to Washington, D.C. She honored the memory of three Hawaii officers killed in the line of duty last year: Eric Fontes, Chad Morimoto, and Garret Davis. They've been honored on the national memorial's wall; and in Hawaii, we're working to establish a local memorial, which will be the last State in the country to do so.

Today, I honor these everyday heroes and their families for their unwavering dedication to the safety and service of others.

DEFENSE AND VETERANS APPROPRIATIONS

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, America wants Congress to get things done, and lately that's been pretty tough. A deep philosophical divide often separates us, but there are certain things that have to get done. The military has to protect our country, and America has to care for her veterans.

While Congress is stuck in many areas, both parties this morning took a unified step forward in defense of our country and in service to our veterans. Mr. Speaker, in a small hearing room right below here, the Military Construction and Veterans Appropriations Committee said "yes" in a bipartisan manner to meet our Defense Department infrastructure needs and to properly care for our veterans.

The bill spends a little less than the President asked for and a little more than last year. Projects not justified are removed, others are properly funded. The bill also compels both the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs to use a single integrated electronic health record, ensuring a seamless transition of care for our warfighters leaving service.

Mr. Speaker, this morning we got to a "yes" on that which is essential and right.

CONGRESSIONAL BLAME GAMES

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this almost seems like the "Curious Case of Benjamin Button," a movie that went backwards, particularly when tomorrow, for the umpteenth time, we'll be debating the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, when over 10 States in the United States, including Texas, have uninsureds up to 28 percent.

What are we thinking?

It's a curious state when, in the Judiciary Committee, someone can come in and offer an audio as testimony that the person who is on there happens to be someone who worked in the Department of Justice with no affirmation of who it is, and then expect the Attorney General to answer questions. And in the instance of who it was supposed to be, Mr. Perez, who has been cited by the OIG as restoring integrity to the voting rights section, or in fact blaming the administration for the Associated Press incident when we're talking about trying to protect the Nation from a terrible attack as it relates to terrorism. And everyone knows that we're unified in protecting the First Amendment rights and shielding reporters. We're not looking for reporters; we're looking for those who leaked something dangerous enough to undermine the security of the United States of America.

This is a curious place. It's nothing but a blame game without revealing any truth whatsoever.

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RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND THE PENTAGON

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I want to be certain that the administration and Pentagon leadership do not deny our men and women in uniform one of the very freedoms they are fighting to protect.

On Monday, I led on a letter sent to Defense Secretary Hagel demanding details about a meeting between Pentagon officials and anti-Christian extremist, Mikey Weinstein. Weinstein has spent 9 years at war, those are his words, at war with evangelical Christians, who, he says, are committing "spiritual rape" against the U.S. military, Christians who are merely exercising their First Amendment right, or primary duties, in the case of chaplains.

Mr. Weinstein exploits freedom of speech to name-call and to label Christians as the "Christian Taliban" and "al Qaeda." But he seeks to shut down the religious freedom of expression of servicemembers in the process.

I am troubled with several anti-Christian steps the Pentagon has taken in recent years. That is why my colleagues and I seek answers from Secretary Hagel on this important question now.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEK

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. This week is National Law Enforcement Week and, as chair of the Homeland Security Committee's Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications Subcommittee, and as someone who's worked closely with law enforcement as a former deputy mayor of Indianapolis and U.S. Attorney, I want to mark this moment.

Men and women of law enforcement run into the most difficult situations while the rest of us are trying to get out. They spend their lives in harm's way to keep the rest of us out of it.

When I toured the flood damage just last month in Grant, Howard and Tippecanoe counties, I learned the police had gone door to door to make sure that everyone had evacuated.

When I was U.S. Attorney, I spoke at the funeral of Officer Jake Laird, who was shot and killed by a mentally ill gunman. Officers ran in to save a neighborhood under siege.

Historically, Indiana law enforcement has lost 406 individuals in the line of duty. These men and women gave their lives for their fellow Hoosiers. We are forever grateful to them and to their survivors, and honor their memories by supporting and honoring their service and those who proudly wear the badge.

SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OBAMACARE

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it seems like each day a new study or report is released that finds serious consequences coming from ObamaCare's implementation.

The law is already hurting job creation. This was evidenced in the latest jobs report, which showed an increase in the number of part-time workers and a decrease in the average number of hours worked each week.

This law is also raising insurance premiums, increasing deficits, and will reduce the quality of health care for Americans across the country.

Opposition to this law is bipartisan. In fact, a recent Fox News poll found that 56 percent of people that identified themselves as Democrats were against the thousands of pages of ObamaCare regulations and called them "way over the top."

We must now repeal this law and get to work on reforms that lower costs, improve the quality of care, and protect jobs.

WHY THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MUST BE REPEALED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MASSIE). Under the Speaker's an-

nounced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we're here tonight to talk about health care, something that is important to all of us, something that we have been discussing in this Chamber for the last few years, trying to make health care affordable and accessible to many American families.

A couple of years ago, out of this Chamber, a bill was passed, one that many didn't even get a chance to read. But we were told, in preparation for that, the American people were told there would be tremendous benefits to passing the President's health care law. The President of the United States himself said it would cut health care costs by \$2,500 per family per year.

We were also told there are a number of benefits, such as no lifetime caps, a number of prevention benefits, certainly ones that many of us agree with. But to get the benefits of the health care bill, we were also told by then-Speaker PELOSI that we had to pass the bill to find out what is in it. We have, since then, found out many of the things that are in it, and many of those we are still discovering as time goes on.

Tonight we'll discuss what is the Affordable Care Act and many aspects of it that concern us deeply, and why it must be repealed, because just the good intentions of the bill are not enough. Good intentions do not guarantee good results.

What we will discuss tonight is a study that has told us some shocking information: how premiums will go up, on average, 96 percent, even more so for young men and for women before retirement.

We will discuss new findings that show massive premiums increases for families, for individuals, for small businesses across the country. To many of these Americans, they will wake up, when they get their health care bills, and find the Affordable Care Act is not affordable.

But first, let us review again some of the promises and the reality of that Affordable Care Act. To seniors, the President's promised that these reforms will not cut your guaranteed benefits. What we've discovered is that there were more than \$500 billion in cuts to Medicare that the administration's own actuarial predicts will lead to providers no longer accepting Medicare, meaning that doctors that seniors have been seeing for a while will simply say, we can no longer afford to provide this.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office predicted that, for Medicare Advantage, these cuts "could lead many plans to limit the benefits they offer, raise their premiums, or withdraw from the program."

It's important to understand that Medicare Advantage is the program that provides a wide range of preventative services and disease management