

emissions come from the transportation sector, so it's urgent that we make our cars and trucks cleaner, but also that we invest in clean modes of transportation, such as rail.

Saturday was National Train Day, which celebrates the rail networks that efficiently move freight and passengers across our country and reduce the number of cars on our roads.

In California, we're building high-speed rail with renewable energy. When complete, it will move millions of people far more quickly, cleanly, and efficiently than we do today. And in the North Bay, we're connecting Sonoma and Marin Counties with 70 miles of rail, meaning 1.4 million fewer car trips along Highway 101.

Investments in rail at the national scale can increase efficiency, reduce traffic, and fight climate change. It's time for Congress to get "all aboard" with this climate solution.

ADMINISTRATION FAILURES

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, this administration's repeated disregard for transparency and the rule of law should trouble every American.

Mr. Speaker, the administration has accused congressional Republicans of playing politics as we conduct oversight into the administration's failures before, during, and after the terrorist attack in Benghazi. But this is hypocritical, coming from an administration that already altered talking points to cover their own political agenda.

And more recently, Mr. Speaker, we learned that the IRS deliberately targeted conservative groups. The IRS has the serious responsibility of collecting taxes and holding accountable those who cheat the system; and now it seems that they, themselves, are choosing when to follow the law.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve more from their elected officials. I hope as details of these events emerge the American people will find out the truth, not just the administration's spin.

THE FOSTER CHILDREN OPPORTUNITY ACT

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be introducing the Foster Children Opportunity Act today. This legislation will ensure that abused and neglected immigrant children have an opportunity to succeed in our country. It is supported by over 175 child welfare organizations.

As we debate immigration reform, it is critical that we consider the needs of immigrant children involved in the child welfare system. This is a popu-

lation that is especially vulnerable and frequently overlooked.

Despite being eligible for special forms of immigration relief, foster children are slipping through the cracks and leaving care without a resolution of their immigration issues. As a result, they cannot work legally in the U.S. and face the threat of deportation back to a country they don't know, one where their abuser may still live.

We owe these children better. My bill will make sure immigrant foster youth are assisted with resolving their immigration issues prior to leaving care and guarantees that they have access to programs, such as Medicaid that foster youth depend on to make a healthy transition into adulthood.

May is National Foster Care Month. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Foster Children Opportunity Act.

OBAMACARE IS FAILING

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

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, no single piece of legislation rests so squarely on a foundation of broken promises as the 2010 health care law known as ObamaCare. We were told that it would lower insurance rates to the tune of \$2,500 per family, but we know not only is it not lowering rates; it's causing rates to spike 10 percent, 20 percent, even 30, 40 percent in some States.

We were told it was going to be cost effective, but now we know that the costs were purposely understated to mask the true cost of this nearly \$2 trillion bill.

We were told if you like your plan, you can keep your plan. We now know the question is not whether millions of Americans will lose their current plans, but how many millions of Americans will lose their current plans. This is what you get when you pass a 2,000-page bill before reading it.

Oh, and do you want the IRS to be involved with your health care?

ObamaCare is failing, and the American people are paying the price for this failure. Let's turn the page on ObamaCare and enact true patient-centered reform that benefits people, not bureaucrats.

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN OUR NATION'S MILITARY

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, according to the Pentagon, about 26,000 servicemen and -women were subjected to sexual assault while serving in this Nation's military this past year. In fact, last year, Congress saw the Lackland Air Force scandal unravel as instructors were accused of engaging in sexual relationships with 32 recruits.

Earlier this month, an Air Force lieutenant colonel overseeing the sexual assault prevention programs was arrested for sexually assaulting a woman while he was under the influence of alcohol.

Two days ago, the Pentagon revealed yet another sexual assault allegation against an Army sergeant at Fort Hood who is currently under investigation for multiple charges, including prostitution solicitation charges.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about instructors, about lieutenant colonels, about sergeants, about people who have moved up in the ranks. I believe this highlights the underlying issue of leadership, or the lack of, in military leaders; and we must hold them accountable.

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"TRUST" THE GOVERNMENT

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

Ms. JENKINS. The President tells Americans to "trust" the government, but this week is loaded with reasons not to.

Take the new health care law. We were told it would lower costs and increase access. Now we find premiums could increase by 400 percent and 7 million who had insurance through their employers will lose it.

This law will turn the IRS, caught in a scandal of its own, into chief health care enforcers. And it's proven so unpopular, HHS Secretary Sebelius has resorted to soliciting contributions to promote ObamaCare from the same people this law authorizes her to regulate. If I got a call, I'd feel pressure to ante up; and in America, this shouldn't happen.

Today, I'm proud to support repealing this costly law to keep the IRS out of your health care and to work on replacing it with a patient-focused alternative that will actually help families.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the deep cuts once again being proposed by Republicans to the SNAP program in the House farm bill. In July 2012, the House Agriculture Committee reported a bipartisan farm bill that included \$16 billion in food stamp cuts. Guess what? The Speaker and the Republican majority refused to schedule that bill for a vote. And so the Agriculture Committee has now marked up another farm bill, this time with \$20 billion in cuts to the SNAP program.

Why are you so determined to attempt deficit reduction on the backs of the poor and less fortunate in our society? The SNAP program helps families

that have fallen on hard times and helps them feed their families until they can get back on their feet.

I am very upset by these proposed cuts. I ask my Republican colleagues to take a fresh look at what they're proposing and reconsider these cuts, cuts that will affect 2 million poor people, many of whom are children and the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, we are a Nation that helps the less fortunate. This is not who we are as a country. We are compassionate people, and we should feed the hungry in times of need.

THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, the House will again vote to address the imprecisely named Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Critics say that we're tilting at windmills. Well, Mr. Speaker, let's review:

Within the last month or so, we've heard from the Senator who authored the law refer to it as a coming "train wreck"—that's right, he called it a "train wreck";

We've heard the administration official responsible for helping set up the insurance exchanges worry that the public might be in for a "Third World experience" as they try and find health care;

Oh, and let us not forget some of the very same Members of Congress who voted to foist this massive overreach on Americans are now feverishly trying to find ways to exempt themselves and their staffs from its effects.

Let's look at the checklist, shall we?

Premiums shooting up, check;

Small businesses hiring fewer workers and jobs being lost, check;

Employees seeing their hours cut, check;

Faulty cost projections, check.

Everything that opponents of this law listed as a reason to vote against this example of government overreach is actually occurring and happening.

Tilting at windmills, Mr. Speaker, hardly. Working to protect the American people from a horribly disruptive and ineffective law, certainly.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1550

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1550.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of struggling families and low-income women and children across this Nation and oppose the dangerously high cuts in the farm bill to SNAP programs. The current House version of the 2013 farm bill will have devastating effects on so many working families, especially in Alabama. It threatens over 900,000 participants in my home State of Alabama alone.

These proposed cuts are unacceptable. While I understand that our Nation faces a serious debt and deficit problem, we also face fragile economic recovery, and families and children depend upon these government assistance programs, especially the children in the State of Alabama. I think that we are encroaching upon a dangerous trend of cuts on the backs of the people who can least afford to have those cuts.

Now is not the time to turn our backs on these struggling American families. We must work together and take action to protect all Americans who depend upon these vital programs.

IMPROPER DISCRIMINATION BY THE IRS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, it is unacceptable that our Nation's tax collectors have targeted organizations based solely on their political beliefs. Our Nation's strength depends on its citizens' freedom to organize and participate in the political process, and no branch of government should be used to harass and unfairly judge the American people.

The IRS' actions are not only troubling, but also further erode the American people's trust that public institutions will act impartially. It's unacceptable. This matter needs to be actively investigated, and those guilty of improper actions should be appropriately punished.

We cannot allow differences of political opinion to erode our Nation's best traditions and the rule of law. Americans cannot, and will not, accept judgment based upon their political beliefs. We must prevent this discrimination from ever happening again.

THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2012

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

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, if there's one thing this entire Congress, this entire country, can agree on, it's the need to stand with our veterans. As a Nation, we're truly humbled by our servicemen and -women. They make incredible and, in some instances, unimaginable sacrifices to protect our country. And that feeling comes with

an understanding that we have an obligation to provide our veterans with the benefits they've earned.

Among the most critical of these benefits are access to educational opportunities and workforce training. To make sure that the current programs are working, our veterans need a voice at the VA. For that reason, I am honored to introduce the Veterans Advisory Committee on Education Improvement Act. This bipartisan legislation extends the Veterans Advisory Committee on Education through 2015 and includes veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The committee advises the VA on how to improve educational and job training programs.

I thank my colleague and friend, Mr. RENACCI, for cosponsoring this bill, and I look forward to working towards its passage.

BENGHAZI

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, the sad tale of Benghazi is a story of complacency, incompetence, and coverup: complacency in the face of repeated warnings by the CIA and diplomats on the ground that the post was in danger; incompetence in preparing for a potential attack in a region in turmoil in a place where we had multiple military assets and on a day where we had every reason to believe trouble would occur; and an attempted coverup of a successful terrorist attack with talk about videos and spontaneous riots when the State Department, the CIA, and top officials in the administration knew the truth.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for the administration to take responsibility, come clean, and dismiss those associated with this debacle that cost the lives of four brave Americans.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF DALIP SINGH SAUND

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Asian Pacific Heritage Month to celebrate the life and achievements of Congressman Dalip Singh Saund.

Congressman Saund was the first Asian American Member of Congress, the very first Member of a non-Abrahamic faith, and the first Member born in Asia. He was also our first Sikh American to enter Congress. He also represented my hometown of Riverside, California, a community that I proudly represent today.

Having come to California from India to pursue his education, Saund graduated with a master's and Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley. Following his