

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

graduation, Saund worked as a farmer but was also a local activist. He spent years pushing to end naturalization restrictions for Indians living in the United States.

In 1950, Saund made a bold decision and entered local government. In 1955, Saund decided to run for an open seat in Congress—and won. Representing the Inland Empire from 1956 to 1963, Congressman Saund served on the Foreign Affairs and Interior Committees. Unfortunately, his promising career as a Member of this distinguished body came to an abrupt end when he suffered a severe stroke in May 1962.

Congressman Saund truly lived the American Dream: an immigrant who came to America with dreams and aspirations of making a difference for himself and for future generations. As the current Riverside Representative, I honor his impact and legacy on all Americans.

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OBAMACARE AND IRS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the IRS admitted to targeting conservative groups with extra scrutiny, demanding donor lists, meeting minutes, personal member information, and even Facebook activity. The Justice Department was caught essentially spying on the Associated Press. And the White House continues to twist itself in knots explaining why it misled the American public in the aftermath of Benghazi.

The administration's apologists are in a panic. They claim the President is not responsible for any of this wrongdoing. The President, who made a career touting government as the solution to most every problem, now solicits our understanding. It seems the leviathan is rather unwieldy and difficult to manage.

This is my shocked face.

These scandals are byproducts of government too big for its britches and proof that the IRS should not be given more power to manage our health care.

House Republicans are committed to a smarter, accountable government that works for the people and safeguards liberty against tyranny and bureaucratic incompetence. That starts with repealing ObamaCare.

IN OPPOSITION TO 2013 FARM BILL CUTS TO SNAP

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

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to voice my opposition to the proposed \$20 billion in cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as the SNAP program. This program currently provides food assistance to 47 million Americans who oth-

erwise would not have access to one of the most basic human necessities—food.

Two million low-income Americans—most of whom are working families with children, senior citizens, and people with disabilities—will lose their food assistance as a result of these cuts. Of that number, 200,000 children would also lose access to their free school meals because their eligibility for these meals is tied to their receipt of SNAP.

Let me ask my Republican colleagues: How often do your children have to learn on empty stomachs or come home and study on empty stomachs? I dare say not often, if ever. But that is what the Republicans are proposing that we do to close to a quarter of a million children. They are asking them not only to learn on empty stomachs, but also to come home and study on empty stomachs. This cannot stand.

EFFECTS OF SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, this month, the United States Bureau of Land Management indefinitely canceled all oil and natural gas leases in California. This includes 1,278 acres of prime oil and natural gas land in Kern and Fresno Counties located in my district—California 21. This land is part of the Monterey shale formation located in the Central Valley.

The Monterey shale contains two-thirds of our country's shale oil reserves, the equivalent of 15.4 billion barrels of oil. If tapped, it could generate half a million jobs and generate \$4.5 billion in revenue. This would have a significant impact on my district, which has faced chronic unemployment for years. However, citing sequestration, BLM is suspending all future lease sales in California. This decision was made despite the fact that these leases provide significant revenue for the Federal Government.

This is just another example of the administration using sequestration to further their environmental policy agenda at the expense of American families. BLM's efforts to prevent energy development are depriving my constituents of quality jobs and increasing energy prices for hardworking families across the country. It is unacceptable that BLM is halting lease auctions in regions that have been used for oil and gas development for over a century.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

Ms. MENG. As I watch the farm bills move forward in the House and Senate, I am very saddened at the disregard for my most vulnerable constituents—our

fellow Americans. Cutting another of our Nation's safety nets will only serve to further the suffering of disadvantaged children and senior citizens across the country.

Many of the recipients in my district who rely on SNAP to lift their families out of poverty and combat what would otherwise be certain malnutrition of their children, for many of these families this is the only form of income assistance they receive. Eighty percent of them fall below the poverty line.

Reducing benefits would have a terrible effect on millions of Americans. In addition to the Recovery Act's boost of funds ending, further cuts are not warranted.

Although the recipients of SNAP don't have an association to represent them here in Washington, I have come to the floor today to let them know that they are not being forgotten in this fight and that many Representatives will continue to battle on their behalf.

OBAMACARE: UNAFFORDABLE LACK OF CARE ACT

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

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, it is becoming clearer by the day that ObamaCare is detrimental to all Americans. The Unaffordable Lack of Care Act will cost almost \$2 trillion, raise taxes by \$1.1 trillion, and cut Medicare by \$716 billion.

Despite the President's statement that premiums would decrease by \$2,500 under ObamaCare, the average family premium has grown over \$3,000 and climbing. Over 30 studies have concluded that the law will make health care premiums more unaffordable for Americans. Furthermore, young adults could see their premiums increase on an average between 145 and 189 percent next year.

Even Democrats are beginning to jump off the ObamaCare bandwagon. The architect of the bill recently referred to the law as a "train wreck," and HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius stated she did not anticipate how complicated it would be to implement the bill.

In light of the recent news that the IRS was deliberately targeting Americans, can we really trust them to be in charge of our health care?

The bottom line is the President's health care law is a bad one. Our job creators are citing the unknowns surrounding it as reasons for planned layoffs and why they cannot expand their businesses.

If the Senate really wants to pass a jobs bill, then they should listen to the American people and support repeal and replace.

MILITARY JUSTICE IMPROVEMENT ACT

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