

other programs that have been crippled.

Funding for the National Institutes of Health has shrunk by \$1.5 billion, cutting into lifesaving medical research for areas that include breast cancer, heart disease, and Alzheimer's. The cuts from NIH alone will result in a loss of more than 20,000 jobs and \$3 billion in economic activity.

We can address these cuts, but the GOP's obstructionism has stalled all reasonable efforts.

We need to work on an approach that will fix sequestration while reducing our deficit sensibly.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to come to the table to compromise, and help find a solution that will keep our economy on track and growing.

IS THIS AMERICA?

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, under the threat of perjury, a Tea Party in Texas' 22nd Congressional District was asked these questions by the IRS:

Have you attempted or will you attempt to influence the outcome of specific legislation?

That activity is protected by the Constitution. Is this America?

Do you directly or indirectly communicate with members of legislative bodies?

That activity is protected by the Constitution. Is this America?

This is not America. House Republicans are going to restore America by giving the people the truth they deserve.

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative represents our Nation's commitment to protecting the health of our Great Lakes, the largest source of fresh water in the world, representing \$7 billion in economic activity annually.

In western New York, the revitalization of Buffalo's Inner and Outer Harbor areas depends on efforts to restore the health of Lake Erie and the Buffalo River.

The Environmental Protection Agency will soon host a series of public meetings to gain community input to guide the next phase of Great Lakes restoration, and one of the meetings will be held in Buffalo.

Madam Speaker, the Great Lakes are a unique natural treasure with global significance. The Brookings Institution report shows that for every \$1 invested in Great Lakes restoration, a \$2 return in the form of increased fishing, tourism, and home values is achieved. It is our responsibility to ensure that the restoration initiative is fully funded in

this year's appropriations, and also to be an active partner in protecting and restoring our Great Lakes.

□ 1210

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, it's a rare occasion when Democrats, Republicans, the President, his supporters, and the public all agree on something. What doesn't make sense is that, while we all agree it's time to build the Keystone pipeline, President Obama has blocked its construction for over 4 years.

The Keystone pipeline would create over 42,000 jobs. It will invest \$7 billion into the U.S. economy, and it will increase U.S. energy security and independence by safely transporting 830,000 barrels of oil per day, which is nearly half of what the U.S. currently imports from unstable, hostile nations.

At a time when gas prices are on the rise and unemployment remains around 8 percent, we cannot afford to delay this project any longer. The President's own Web site says we need an all-out, all-of-the-above energy strategy that develops every available source of American energy.

I would say, Mr. President, you have a lot to worry about currently, so forget about this one, and let the oil flow.

The Keystone project is ready. Congress is ready. The public is ready. Madam Speaker, is the President ready?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are advised to address their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING OUR WORLD WAR II MERCHANT MARINERS ACT OF 2013

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

Ms. HAHN. Madam Speaker, for over 200 years, the U.S. Merchant Marine has been a pillar in the foundation of our country's national security and economic growth, and so it is fitting that every year on May 22 we celebrate National Maritime Day in recognition of their service and sacrifice across the centuries.

On this day, we reflect on the service of the men and women of the Merchant Marine who served during World War II, many thousands of whom died in delivering the arsenal of democracy over the seas to the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific. Merchant mariners died at a higher rate in World War II than any uniformed service. Unfortunately, the veterans of the Merchant Marine who risked their lives in the service of this Nation and of all freedom-loving nations were never eligible for the provisions of the GI Bill, which helped millions of veterans go to college, secure a home, and transition seamlessly into civilian life.

That's why I have introduced the Honoring Our World War II Merchant Mariners Act of 2013. This bill would provide a \$1,000 monthly benefit to the nearly 10,000 surviving World War II mariners. By providing this modest benefit, we will finally be giving our brave merchant mariners the recognition and benefits they deserve.

MEMORIAL DAY

(Mr. COLLINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor today to honor all of those who died in fighting for our country. This coming Monday, this Nation will observe Memorial Day, a day set aside to pay tribute to the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in defense of our freedom.

As Members of Congress, so much of what we do on behalf of our constituents touches the military in some way. Recently, my office secured a new Silver Star Medal for the late John Chase, a World War II veteran from Batavia, New York.

Drafted into the Army, Mr. Chase fought bravely in the Battle of the Rhineland in 1945, a critical victory for the Allied Forces. Last month, as he grew increasingly ill, Mr. Chase's family reached out to my office for help in securing a new medal. In the process, we discovered Mr. Chase also qualified for the Bronze Star, which he had never received. We were able to present the medals to Mr. Chase's family on the day he passed, allowing them to be properly displayed at his funeral.

I want to thank Mr. Chase posthumously for his distinguished service and pay my respects to all Americans killed in wars both present and past.

SEQUESTRATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to the devastating effects sequestration is having on HUD and those who benefit from the agency's work.

Because of Congress' failure to pass legislation to reduce the deficit, the Federal Government is making across-the-board spending cuts to domestic and defense programs, including HUD and all its related agencies. These cuts are having a profound impact on people, especially in the rental and homeless assistance programs, and families in my district are feeling this firsthand. The housing authorities in my district will soon be forced to consider terminating approximately 1,800 families from housing assistance. Cuts to housing authorities will affect their capacity and their efficiency to serve

low-income individuals and families, the elderly, the disabled—all of whom need these programs to survive.

Our focus in our communities should be to do everything possible to prevent homelessness.

KEEP THE IRS OFF YOUR HEALTH CARE ACT

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

Mr. DAINES. Madam Speaker, like most Montanans, I was appalled to learn that the IRS had deliberately targeted groups for investigation based on their beliefs. Given these events, it would be senseless to empower the IRS to oversee major aspects of the American health care system. Yet that's what ObamaCare calls for.

That's why I've signed on to the Keep the IRS Off Your Health Care Act, which states that the IRS may not be involved in any aspect of President Obama's health care law. In fact, just last night, I held a tele-town hall meeting with thousands of my fellow Montanans, and more than 90 percent of those who participated agreed that the IRS should be stripped of its power to implement ObamaCare.

The American people have every right to demand that their government be accountable and that their government's actions be driven by a desire to serve the American people, not by political motivation. With the IRS' recent abuse of power, it's sadly clear that stopping the IRS from using its power to oversee Americans' health care is a necessary step.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT IRVINE VOLLEYBALL

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

Mr. BERA of California. Madam Speaker, I'd like to congratulate the 2013 NCAA men's volleyball championship team from my alma mater, the University of California, Irvine. The UC system is one of the best public college systems in the world, and UC Irvine, through its academics, its research and athletics, continues to make me proud.

The volleyball team recently won its fourth championship in 7 years. It's amazing. Congratulations especially goes to Connor Hughes, the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. He joined Chris Austin, Michael Brinkley, Collin Mehring, and Kevin Tillie on the all-tournament team. Hats off to Coach David Kniffin, who is just the second coach in the 44 years of men's volleyball history to coach a team to the championship in his first season.

You've made us all proud. Go Ant-eaters.

ENERGY II

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. My constituents are asking me this question: What does this administration have against expanding energy production?

More American energy means more American jobs. We all know that that is true. It also would mean lower energy costs, stronger national security, and a boost to our economy, a boost that we badly need with 12 million Americans out of work. Yet the President has seemed to stymie the energy sector at every single turn. We're going to give him the opportunity to change that record as we bring another bill forward that would approve moving forward with the northern route of the Keystone pipeline.

Now, we all know that burdensome overregulation by this administration has caused energy output domestically on our Federal lands to decrease significantly—about 30 percent. It hampers our ability to be productive.

□ 1220

DISASTER RELIEF

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

Ms. CHU. This week, we saw heart-breaking images of devastation following a tornado in Moore, Oklahoma, that is estimated to have been more than a mile wide.

The scope of the disaster reminds us that we're all at the mercy of nature's whims, but it also reinforces a sense of community that we share as Americans. When the final cloud dissipated, Oklahomans were met by friends, neighbors, and Red Cross aid workers ready to help, the same as the victims of Sandy along the Jersey shore and the same as those who weathered the waters of Katrina in the Ninth Ward.

One thing every American can rely on in the face of disaster is that every other American wants to help. Whether we face tornadoes on the Great Plains or earthquakes in Los Angeles, we face them together. Let's make sure these victims get the Federal disaster aid they need on a timely basis. Whether we endure in a red State or a blue State, we are all equally deserving of each other's assistance.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, parents know all too well the sinking feeling that settles in around the kitchen table when it's time to pay bills.

Utilities costs takes up more and more each month and the once-simple task of putting gas in the car has become an act of financial acrobatics.

Heading into a long, hot summer, House Republicans are committed to an all-of-the-above American energy

strategy. If there's more American energy, prices will be more affordable, and there will be more American jobs. Period.

Who would stand in the way of that? Apparently, President Obama.

The President continues to play favorites in the energy sector and block domestic energy with onerous regulations. Red tape only makes it harder to capitalize on economic-growth opportunities and harder to achieve energy independence.

If the President were just to sign off on the Keystone XL pipeline today, he'd open up thousands of American jobs, but for 5 years he has refused.

House Republicans are serious about expanding energy production. It's time the President got serious, too.

JOHN LAIRD, THE HARVEY MILK CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE AWARD RECIPIENT

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate John Laird, a constituent of mine in Santa Cruz, California.

Today, John is being hosted at the White House as one of the 10 persons to be presented the Harvey Milk Champions of Change award.

John Laird is a committed public servant, counting 23 years in elective office and 40 years in public life overall.

He also happens to be gay. John's years of leadership prove that people are people and they have myriad skills to share. Sexual orientation doesn't somehow change that desire to serve others.

Currently, John serves as the California Secretary of Natural Resources where he does an outstanding job of overseeing the State's vast outdoor resources.

Again, I say congratulations to Secretary John Laird for being true to himself and true to his public calling and all of us in the State of California being the ones who benefit from it.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. MARINO. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of the Keystone XL pipeline and urge passage of H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act.

In the 1,700 days that TransCanada has been waiting for approval for Keystone XL, the State Department has issued over 15,000 pages of documents analyzing the project's environmental impact. This administration continues to delay and impede efforts to foster oil and natural gas production under an all-of-the-above energy solution.

Recent advances in technology have put America in the center of a booming