

IT'S TIME TO BUILD THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for over 1,700 days, the administration has delayed the Keystone XL pipeline application. According to a recent Pew Research poll, two-thirds of the American people from both political parties support the project. Last night, there was a bipartisan vote to promote the pipeline from Canada, America's best energy partner. The completion of the Keystone XL pipeline will create 120,000 jobs and produce 830,000 barrels of oil each day, helping to grow our economy.

Two years ago, I had the opportunity to visit Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada, and I witnessed firsthand the Canadian oil sands and positive impact that exploration has for American families. In South Carolina's Second Congressional District, companies like Michelin Tire Corporation of Lexington and MTU Detroit Diesel of Aiken County will create jobs due to Keystone's production.

As the American people and a bipartisan Congress support it, let's create jobs and build the Keystone pipeline.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Our sympathy goes to our British allies in this war who were cowardly attacked at the Royal Artillery Barracks in London yesterday.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF RECENT TORNADO IN OKLAHOMA

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathies for the victims of this week's tornado in Moore, Oklahoma, and the surrounding area. I want to especially pay my respects to my colleagues, Congressmen TOM COLE and JAMES LANKFORD, and their constituents as they begin the difficult work of rebuilding their community following this natural disaster. All of us in this Chamber mourn today for the 24 individuals who were killed, including 9 children, 7 of whom died in their local elementary school. Our thoughts and prayers remain with them and their families.

In the face of such loss, we ask how so many American lives could be taken so quickly. But as we have in the past, through scores of other natural disasters, our country will get through this difficult time, confident in our capacity to persevere through any trial and committed to doing all that we can to help each other. If the spirit of America, in one Nation, indivisible, means anything at all, it means all of us will

come together to help Oklahomans through this difficult and painful time.

On behalf of all of the residents of Rhode Island's First Congressional District, I offer my thoughts and prayers to the people of Oklahoma.

PASS THE FARM BILL

(Mrs. NOEM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. NOEM. Today, I rise in support of passing a 5-year farm bill for rural and urban America. The House Agriculture Committee acted last week to pass a bipartisan farm bill by a vote of 36-10. It saves nearly \$40 billion and makes substantial reforms to the food stamp program and farm programs. The bill eliminates direct payments and consolidates many of the conservation programs. Through this, it also saves money but promotes a strong safety net in a way that is accountable to taxpayers.

We recognize that the agriculture community will take some cuts, given our Nation's fiscal situation, but we need to continue to support good policies that support our ability to grow our own food in this country. The farm bill we passed out of the committee represents the first reforms to the food stamp program since 1996. We've put a lot of work into this reform and making sure the money goes exactly where it's needed. It closes loopholes in order to crack down on waste, fraud, and abuse. The reforms we make ensure that we can keep integrity in the program. It ensures assistance goes to those who need it most.

I believe we need to hold the Federal Government accountable to the taxpayers, and this bill is a step in the right direction. Our number one industry in South Dakota is agriculture. I'm proud of the families in my State that have dedicated their lives to growing our food.

□ 0910

JOBS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this week, the class of 2013 graduates from college. This Congress is offering them a terrible graduation present. The bill we're voting on today would increase the long-term cost of student loans in order to pay for a budget deficit that college students did not create. But worse, this Congress is doing absolutely nothing to address the core challenge in their lives: jobs, jobs, jobs.

The class of 2013 is entering the most difficult job market of any graduating class in memory. Many who have the good fortune to receive jobs will not be using their university-level skills or earning a living wage.

It has been 872 days since I arrived in Congress, and not one vote on jobs. Mr.

Speaker, for the sake of the class of 2013, I urge you to bring the American Jobs Act to the floor for a vote. It deserves a vote. Our mantra should be: jobs, jobs, jobs.

ENERGY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as House Republicans continue to get to the bottom of what happened last September in Benghazi, it's important to bear in mind how events around the world affect such things as your family's gas bill here at home.

We import a lot of our energy in this country—that's a fact. It's just a natural part of our global economy. But considering how volatile things can get elsewhere in the world, wouldn't it be a good idea to develop as much energy as we can right here at home? You'd think that would be a commonsense idea, but apparently it hasn't occurred to the Democrats who run Washington.

The Keystone XL pipeline, for instance, would be able to transport 830,000 barrels of oil per day. That's about half the oil the U.S. imports from the Middle East.

The more energy we can produce right here in America, the more jobs and more secure future we create. It's time for the President to approve this pipeline.

STUDENT LOAN BILL

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

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of affordable student loans for America's students.

I attended California's public schools from kindergarten through undergrad, through medical school. I could afford to go because of Federally funded student loans. My country made an investment in me, and we need to make that same investment in the next generation of students.

Yesterday, I offered an amendment to the Rules Committee, and they rejected it. This amendment would have made student loans more affordable for today's students. That's what we have to do, invest in the next generation.

Unfortunately, the bill that is coming to the floor today is going to make college less affordable for the next generation. We must make education more accessible. Vote "no" on the Making College More Expensive Act.

FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1910, the bipartisan Foreign Manufacturers Legal Accountability Act, which I've introduced

this term with Representative MIKE TURNER of Ohio. This is a bill that will help level the playing field for American manufacturers and retailers and protect American consumers.

Current law allows foreign companies selling defective products in the United States to dodge service of process, and they do. When a foreign company does that, it puts all of the burden on American retailers to account for any harm that is caused because of the defective product. That is not fair to American companies, and it's not fair to American citizens.

This bill streamlines service rules so foreign companies selling products here in America can be served with process here in America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members to support H.R. 1910. Let's make sure that everyone benefiting from the American marketplace plays by American rules.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

(Mrs. NAPOLITANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, May is Mental Health Month—has been and will continue to be. It is an opportunity to raise awareness and encourage others to get help and to recognize the symptoms and warning signs of mental health issues.

There is a lot of stigma. We must accept it as an illness. We've got to reduce that stigma. We must expand mental health services and give it the parity needed because it does not know boundaries. It affects everybody in every segment of our communities.

It is all right. It's okay to ask for help and learn to recognize the symptoms and to learn about the service providers in your area. We must expand more mental health services to our community. We need it for the military, because one in five suffer from major depression or PTSD.

Youth—suicide, the third leading cause of death; second for college students. School-based mental health services are greatly needed for early intervention. Minority communities—Native Americans highest ethnicity for suicide.

Mental health services must be provided in languages also.

Thank you to the mental health professionals, the 500,000 licensed certified professional counselors that work for us and throughout the United States. Thank you, President Obama, first U.S. President to declare May Mental Health Month.

SMARTER SOLUTIONS FOR STUDENTS ACT

(Mrs. ELLMERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1911, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act.

Ever since 2006, student loan interest rates have been set by Congress

through legislation. As I'm sure all of us remember, about 1 year ago we were affected by the artificially low interest rates that were ready to expire. But instead of finding a viable solution, Congress temporarily extended the rates and put off a permanent decision for another year.

Now, here we are again. And if we do nothing, we will be here in the same exact place again with the fight again at the expense of our college students. Congress should not be in the business of setting interest rates, and H.R. 1911 fixes this problem and prevents Congress from playing political games with our young Americans' future.

The college experience has always been a large part of the American Dream. We want the best for our children. We want them to have the opportunity to pursue a college education and create a better life for themselves. We owe it to our younger generation. We owe it to those high school seniors. And I believe that this bill will take care of that issue.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1911, SMARTER SOLUTIONS FOR STUDENTS ACT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 232 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 232

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1911) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish interest rates for new loans made on or after July 1, 2013. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-12 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. In the engrossment of H.R. 1911, the Clerk shall—

- (a) await the disposition of H.R. 1949;
- (b) add the text of H.R. 1949, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 1911;
- (c) conform the title of H.R. 1911 to reflect the addition of the text of H.R. 1949, as passed by the House, to the engrossment;
- (d) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; and (e) conform cross-references and provisions for short titles within the engrossment.

SEC. 3. On any legislative day during the period from May 24, 2013, through May 31, 2013—

- (a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 4. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 5. The Committee on Appropriations may, at any time before 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29, 2013, file privileged reports to accompany measures making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014.

SEC. 6. The Committee on Agriculture may, at any time before 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29, 2013, file a report to accompany H.R. 1947.

□ 0920

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 232 provides for a closed rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1911, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act.

As many of us know, on July 1, today's 3.4 percent subsidized Stafford loan interest rate is set to double to 6.8 percent for millions of current students, all because elected officials made a promise they couldn't afford to keep for the long haul. Student borrowers shouldn't have to ride the roller coaster of political largess, wondering every year whether Congress will intervene in time to keep their student loan rates low. And taxpayers shouldn't be expected to foot the bill whenever Members of Congress promise more than they can deliver.

For the sake of students, families, and taxpayers, before July 1 we need to move our Federal student loan programs away from politics. Student loan rates should not be subject to the whims of Washington or seized as bargaining chips.

The Smarter Solutions for Students Act will remove politics, uncertainty, and confusion from the rate-setting equation and instead anchor student loan interest rates on the 10-year Treasury note, not just for 4 years, but for good. By tying rates to the market, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act establishes a predictable rate for loan calculation insulated from the politics and posturing of Washington.

House Republicans aren't alone in finding the answer for predictability in