

taking food away from millions of poor families.

SNAP works, but don't take my word for it. Listen to the words of Trish Thomas Henley, someone who had to rely on SNAP to make ends meet. She says:

In 1993, I was a single parent with a 3-year-old and an 18-month-old. Even though I was working full time making \$8.50 an hour as an administrative assistant, I could not afford to pay for food, housing, and day care. I went on food stamps. I remember the shame I felt every time I stood at the register while other shoppers waited for me to count out my food stamps.

The only way out of the cycle of poverty and off aid was to go to college. I applied and, at the age of 25, began my undergraduate career. I had to give up my full-time job to go to school. Instead, I worked three part-time jobs.

I would never, ever have been able to get through school without food stamps, Pell Grants, and student loans. It took a village and government aid. I was not a victim. I did not feel entitled. I, then as now, felt immensely grateful that I lived at a moment when my government chose to invest in me. It has been a smart investment. I am grateful that because of this investment I am now able to contribute and live up to my full potential.

Today, Trish is a professor at the University of Cincinnati. You see, Mr. Speaker, a little investment goes a long way.

SNAP works. It worked in the 1970s as the food stamp program, it worked for Trish in the 1990s, and it's working now. This is not the time to cut SNAP. We should be strengthening the ladders of opportunity that help people succeed. We should, with the help of the White House, develop a plan to end hunger now. We should not be supporting a farm bill that will make hunger worse. Now is the time to renew our efforts and pledge to end hunger now.

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FOOD STAMPS DO WORK

My name is Trish Thomas Henley, and I'm an assistant professor of early modern literature and culture at the University of Cincinnati. I received my B.A. and M.A. from the University of Idaho and hold a PhD. from Florida State University. My first book was published in 2012. I'm also a volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Cincinnati and a mother of four boys.

My current life—as a teacher, volunteer, published author, homeowner and middle-class taxpayer—would not have been possible without government aid. In 1993, I was a single parent with a 3-year-old and an 18-month-old. Even though I was working full-time, making \$8.50 an hour as an administrative assistant, I could not afford to pay for food, housing and day care. I went on food stamps. I remember the shame I felt every time I stood at the register while other shoppers waited for me to count out my food stamps.

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Lately we're hearing a lot about food stamps, now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, as Congress debates the farm bill. We could see anywhere from \$4 billion to \$20 billion in cuts to SNAP, based on the Senate and House bills, respectively. I am not able to stand by and watch silently while Congress votes to allow people to go hungry while simultaneously subsidizing agribusiness.

SNAP helps lift 50 million Americans out of poverty and puts food on families' tables—on our neighbors' tables.

I am telling my personal story because someone needs to talk back to food stamp stereotypes and myths. Somehow, the myths persist and are used to defend the drastic cuts that have been proposed in the farm bill. If we want to save SNAP and other anti-hunger programs, it's time for a reality check.

Myth: SNAP recipients are inner-city minorities.

Fact: Food insecurity is neither an urban issue nor an ethnic issue. Nearly one in six people faces food insecurity, and they live in every county in the nation. In addition, 76 percent of SNAP households include a child, an elderly person or a disabled person.

Myth: People on SNAP are lazy and sign up for the program so they don't have to work.

Fact: Eighty-five percent of households with a food-insecure child have at least one working adult. The SNAP benefit formula provides a strong work incentive—for every additional dollar a SNAP participant earns, their benefits decline by about 24 cents to 36 cents, not a full dollar. Participants have a strong incentive to find work, work longer hours or seek better-paying employment.

Myth: SNAP is rife with fraud and abuse.

Fact: Despite steady growth of the program over the past decade, fraud and abuse have been reduced significantly. A 2010 report from the USDA found the national rate of food stamp trafficking (the practice of trading food stamps for cash) declined from about 3.8 cents per dollar of benefits redeemed in 1993 to about 1 cent per dollar.

Myth: SNAP recipients use their benefits to buy alcohol, cigarettes or lottery tickets.

Fact: It is illegal to buy any of these things with SNAP benefits.

Myth: SNAP is an inefficient government giveaway.

Fact: SNAP benefits drive economic growth in every community. Every \$1 in new SNAP benefits generates up to \$1.80 of economic activity.

These benefits are investments to help struggling families realize brighter futures. My fellow SNAP alumni brothers and sisters are evidence that these investments can pay off over the long run.

I am living proof SNAP can provide the boost a struggling child or family needs to realize the American dream. This program works, and we should all speak up together to protect it.

Please write and call your representatives in Congress and urge them to vote against any cuts to SNAP. These are not just numbers. These are people—people who will go hungry. If we allow Congress to do this, we are responsible for that. You and me.

STOPPING UNAUTHORIZED APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the House leadership for its continuing commitment to restore the open appropriations process of the House.

That process is absolutely essential if the House is to meet its constitutional responsibility to superintend the Nation's finances. It assures that the people's elected Representatives can provide the maximum scrutiny of every public expenditure.

In the recent past, this process has given way to continuing resolutions that simply rubber-stamp past Federal spending, thus abrogating Congress' most fundamental fiscal responsibility. For this reason, I, for one, will not support any continuing resolutions of this nature.

The regular order over the Nation's finances must be reasserted, and the open appropriations process that has begun in the House this week does so. That process, though, is the final step in the procedures established to ensure that our Nation's spending gets careful examination. The first step in that process—and the most important step—is when programs are authorized or reauthorized. Legislation must first be adopted that establishes the programs for which money is subsequently appropriated.

That is an absolutely critical function that ensures Federal programs are constantly being scrutinized and that Congress is asking: Are these programs effective? Are they meeting their goals? Are they worthwhile? Are they worth the money we're paying? Most programs have time limits on them to ensure that these questions are periodically asked.

The legal authorization, then, is the green light to the Appropriations Committee to provide funding for that program. And for that reason, since 1835, the rules of the House have limited appropriations to only those purposes actually authorized by law. Unless and until the program is authorized, the House may not appropriate funds for it under this longstanding rule. Yet this rule is routinely ignored by the Appropriations Committee and by the House.

Last year, the appropriations bills reported out of the committee contained over \$350 billion for programs that had either never been authorized or whose authorizations had lapsed years, and sometimes decades, ago. Many of these are vital programs whose reauthorization should be routine, but many are not. For example, the Community Development Block Grant program that paid for a doggy day care center in Ohio and a day at the circus for Nyack, New York, lapsed 18 years ago; and yet every year we keep funding it lavishly.

Most of the outrageous wastes of taxpayer money that end up in various pork reports stem from these lapsed programs. They're established, then they're forgotten, and the spending keeps on year after year.

The excuse for this conduct is that the authorizing committees have simply failed to attend to their duties of keeping authorizations current, including for a number of critical functions, and so the Appropriations Committee takes it upon itself to fund them.

What's to prevent this? The House rules allow any Member the right to raise a point of order against any unauthorized expenditure, but this right is stripped from Members every time an appropriations bill is sent to the House floor, making this rule meaningless and unenforceable.

It has now reached the point that more than one-third of the discretionary spending approved by the House is for purposes not authorized by law. This fact makes a mockery of the leadership's effort to restore regular order to the appropriations process.

I urge the Speaker of the House to direct the authorizing committees to bring the authorizations current for every program within their respective jurisdictions and to give them a year to do so. If, after a full year, the authorizing committees don't believe the programs are worth the time to review, then maybe that's just nature's way of warning us that they're also not worth the money that we continue to shovel at them.

Once the committees have had that year to review these unauthorized programs and to either renew them, reform them, or let them die, I urge the House to restore the right of every Member to challenge unauthorized appropriations on the floor as our rules clearly envision and provide.

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Americans elected a House Republican majority with one clear mandate: stop wasting our money. To be worthy of that trust, we can't allow hundreds of billions of dollars to bypass the minimal congressional review that the authorizing process provides.

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN CALIFORNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a recent University of California at Davis study on some effects that climate change will have in California. This report looks at habitat and temperature sensitivity for fish species within the State.

California has a diverse and robust ecosystem, as well as the largest estuary in the Western Hemisphere, namely the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The delta and its tributaries are home to an amazing variety of native species that must be protected. The study found that, of 121 native fish species in California, more than 80 percent will be critically endangered as a result of climate change. At the same time, non-

native or invasive species will survive at a much higher rate.

We must take action now to address climate change, which is starting to affect every aspect of our daily lives, including our water quality, flood risk, more severe weather—including hurricanes, tornadoes, and droughts—and the extinction of native species. The destruction posed by climate change to the natural resources we depend on for our daily sustenance is too great.

Global warming is here. It's dangerous, and we need to take action now. The longer we wait, the more difficult and costly the fixes will be, and the more our fellow human beings across the world will suffer.

STOP GOVERNMENT ABUSE OF TAXPAYER INFORMATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of this recent IRS scandal, President Obama made this promise to the American people: I'll do everything in my power to make sure nothing like this happens again.

Everything? But what about ObamaCare? In spite of the culture of corruption and coverup at the IRS, the Obama administration is moving full steam ahead with ObamaCare, a law that gives unprecedented new access and powers to unelected government bureaucrats at the IRS and several other major government agencies.

Consider the potential for abuse with ObamaCare's mystery Federal data services hub, the largest personal information database the government has ever attempted, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. This data hub will function like a Web portal where your personal health insurance, tax and financial information, criminal background, and immigration status will be shared and transmitted between agencies, including the IRS, HHS, DOJ, DHS, and SSA.

While far too many questions still remain about who will have access to what information in the hub, we do know that a woman in charge of the IRS' eight newly created Obama enforcement offices is none other than Sarah Hall Ingram, the former commissioner of the office responsible for tax-exempt organizations during the targeted IRS scandal.

Will the Americans who do not purchase government-approved insurance soon find themselves targeted and harassed through IRS audits? Right now, only time will tell.

With so much personal information going in and out of the hub likely privy to both government employees and contractors, many of whom will have discretion over health care coverage and tax penalties, the potential for abuses is staggering. That's why I have introduced H.R. 2022, the Stopping Government Abuse of Taxpayer Information Act. My bill would require not

only the IRS but all government agencies with access to ObamaCare's Federal data services hub to present to Congress—under the penalty of perjury—certification that the American people's personal information has not and will not be used for targeting any individual or group based on their beliefs.

With full implementation of ObamaCare only months away, the IRS scandal underscores why we must not only continue fighting to repeal the health care law, but we also have the responsibility to demand safeguards, accountability, and oversight measures to be put in place to shield Americans from further targeting and misuse of their personal information.

The question is: Will the President honor his promise to the American people to do everything in his power to ensure that nothing like the IRS scandal happens again?

Mr. President, join me in supporting my bill, H.R. 2022, to safeguard the American people's most personal information.

MAKING COLLEGE AFFORDABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, ensuring students can afford college is vital to ensuring our Nation's competitiveness in a global economy. A majority of new jobs in the next decade will require a college degree, which makes higher education an economic necessity for most Americans. Ensuring all students have the opportunity to go to college will strengthen our economy, grow our middle class, and invest in our future.

Yet, education costs continue to rise year after year, pricing some people out of an education. College costs have dramatically increased. Over the last decade, the cost of attending a 4-year institution has increased 66 percent over the rate of inflation. For 2-year institutions, tuition and fees for students have increased 47 percent beyond the rate of inflation. According to the College Board, the annual cost of attending an in-State public college is now well over \$22,000 a year. These rapidly rising costs are pricing hardworking families and students out of an education.

Congress can—and must—act to ensure college remains affordable for hardworking families, and there are things that we can do to do just that.

First, Congress must act immediately to prevent student loan interest rates from doubling on July 1. I've supported the Student Loan Relief Act, which would extend the current student loan interest rate, 3.4 percent, until 2015. Unfortunately, the Republican plan passed last week, the Making College More Expensive Act, would put college out of reach for many of my constituents and students across this country. I opposed the Republican plan, which would create a variable