

campaign pockets of those responsible for awarding the contracts.

Amazingly, a loophole created in a previous administration in the Federal Highway Administration's contracting requirements is making it difficult, if not impossible, for States to implement these anticorruption laws. The Federal Government has threatened to cut off highway funds to any State that passes an anti-pay-to-play law. The Highway Administration's competitive bidding requirements have been interpreted to mean that States can't weed out corrupt contractors.

Clearly, this was not the intent of Congress when it passed these requirements. That is why I'm reintroducing the State Ethics Law Protection Act. This important measure simply amends the Federal Highway Administration's contracting requirements to allow States to pass these important laws. It ensures States that do pass anticorruption laws do not face financial penalties for doing so.

It is time for us to make it clear that Congress supports the right of States to fight corruption as they see fit. States have the right to ensure their contracting conforms to the highest ethical standards and offers the best value to taxpayers. It is not the Federal Highway Administration's place to second-guess a State on how to best ethically award contracts. States like Connecticut, New Jersey, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky have all passed laws like Illinois to root out this kind of blatant corruption.

These States should be applauded, not punished, for doing the right thing. By amending the Federal Highway Administration's contracting requirements, we can ensure that States have every tool at their disposal to encourage transparency and accountability. Our States have shown they are ready to reform. It is now our duty to ensure they have the ability to implement these reforms.

I am often asked what the true cost of corruption is. I will tell you, in my view, coming from Illinois, it is the loss of the public's trust. We cannot lead without this trust. And at this critical juncture, we must do all we can to restore trust and inspire the confidence of people across this country.

TRUST, ANTITERRORISM, AND BREACH OF TRUST BY OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. The Justice Department targets Associated Press, FOX News, and other journalists. For political reasons, the State Department and White House contrive a false story about Americans murdered in Benghazi. Cover-ups ensue. The President promotes rather than fires the principal deceiver. The President promises to punish the Benghazi

murderers, yet the only person jailed is a scapegoated filmmaker the White House falsely blamed for inspiring the Benghazi attacks.

Armed Federal SWAT agents raid Gibson Guitar and threaten to put Gibson Guitar out of business. Why? Gibson Guitar imported the same guitar materials they have imported for years; yet Martin & Company, a Gibson Guitar competitor, imports the same guitar materials with impunity. The difference? Gibson Guitar contributes to Republicans like Congresswoman MARSHA BLACKBURN and Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER of Tennessee, while Martin contributes \$35,000 to Democrats.

The IRS targets law-abiding citizens who use names like "Tea Party" and "Patriots" and dare exercise their freedom of association and speech rights. In one particularly outrageous example, Texan Catherine Engelbrecht is investigated and harassed by the IRS, the FBI, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. Why? Engelbrecht founded the King Street Patriots, which hosts weekly discussions on economic freedom, and True the Vote, which trains volunteers to fight voter fraud.

□ 1020

The White House manages the Fast and Furious gunrunning scandal that left hundreds of Mexicans and an American Border Patrol agent dead. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius unethically—and perhaps unlawfully—shakes down companies she regulates for donations to support ObamaCare.

President Obama thumbs his nose at America's immigration laws by not only giving millions of illegal aliens a free pass; Obama rewards illegal conduct by giving illegal aliens work permits in direct violation of American law, thereby undermining the ability of Americans to obtain good-paying jobs.

America is in uncharted waters when our own Federal Government aggressively undermines our rights to freedom of speech and association—rights won with American blood on the battlefields of Lexington and Concord, Trenton and Princeton, Saratoga, Cowpens and Kings Mountain, and Yorktown.

Mr. Speaker, America faces a policy debate between privacy and national security. Fifty years ago, our foes were well-known nation-states like Communist China and the Soviet Union. Now, our enemies may be foreign neighbors, foreign tourists, or even foreign students.

Foreign terrorists seek chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons of mass destruction that can destroy an American city or murder hundreds of thousands of Americans in a single attack.

As America seeks the proper balance between our privacy rights and national security, one thing stands out: Americans must be able to trust our

Federal Government to do the right thing with the privacy information Americans give up. If we cannot trust the Federal Government to use our private privacy information solely for antiterrorism purposes, then the balance shifts. We will not give up our privacy information, thereby increasing the risk of a successful weapon of mass destruction terrorist attack on an American city.

More and more, our own Federal Government disregards the rule of law that is essential to avoid the strife and bloodshed of anarchy. More and more, the Federal Government targets American citizens who differ politically with the White House.

While the IRS, Gibson Guitar, Benghazi, Fast and Furious, and numerous other scandals are troublesome, the bigger picture is that this White House, this administration, has breached the public's trust. The bigger scandal is that this White House, this administration, by their breach of trust, has undermined America's national security and thereby risked American lives.

Mr. Speaker, the White House can still do the right thing, but the right thing is not coverups. The right thing is not rewarding and promoting political cronies and lawbreakers. The right thing is, with full and open candor, telling the American people the truth about these scandals. The right thing is very publicly and aggressively firing offending Federal employees. The right thing is very publicly prosecuting lawbreakers. Then and only then will the trust of the American people in the Federal Government be restored. Then and only then can America fight the war on terror with certainty that we will win.

RICHMOND OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY PEACEKEEPER FELLOWS

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend two young men from Richmond, California, who will begin classes this fall at Tallahassee Community College in Tallahassee, Florida. Sounds pretty straightforward, I know, but these are no ordinary students.

What makes these young men from my congressional district stand out is their background. It's not just that most people thought they would never go to college—in fact, most people thought they would never make it out of the neighborhood. People thought they would end up in jail, or even worse.

D'vondre Woodard and Eric Welch are two senior fellows at the city of Richmond's Office of Neighborhood Safety Peacekeeper Fellowship, an office that does a remarkable job of changing violent lives. D'vondre and Eric are shining examples of what remarkable

transformation individuals are capable of when they desire to make positive change in their lives and when they're supported in that effort.

From a life dominated by gun violence in the streets of Richmond to noses buried in books at college, internships in Washington, D.C., and meetings on Capitol Hill, these young men have come a long way. I wish them the best. I hope their success will serve as an inspiration for many more to follow in their steps and leave the violent streets.

THE SPYING DRONE OVER A VIRGINIA NEIGHBORHOOD

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week, just after suppertime in a neighborhood in McLean, Virginia, a 14-year-old girl—we'll call her Sarah—was jumping on a neighbor's backyard trampoline. Suddenly, Sarah heard a noise and looked up, only to see a low-flying object hovering overhead. It was a small, remote-controlled flying object. It was a drone. It had a blinking red light coming from it.

The object hovered over her for about 10 minutes. She began to get real nervous and uneasy. So she jumped off the trampoline and ran home to tell her parents, but the flying object continued to follow her. She told her mother. So her mother walked outside into the street and observed the flying object. Suddenly, the object moved away into another neighbor's backyard, where three other teenage girls were sitting in the pool. The small drone hovered over them momentarily, then it moved away.

The police were called. They arrived at the scene and told the citizens: "Sorry, there's nothing we can do." Mr. Speaker, this sounds like something out of a sci-fi movie—someone up to no good spying on teenage girls with a drone.

Mr. Speaker, drones are easy to find and easy to obtain. With a simple Google search, you will find out that one can buy a drone on eBay or go down the street and buy one at Radio Shack.

According to the FAA, the group that monitors and issues permits for drones, by 2030, there will be 30,000 drones cruising American skies—looking, observing, filming, spying, and hovering over America. We will not know who they are, what they're up to, what they're looking at, or what their purpose is, whether it's permitted or really not permitted, whether it's lawful or unlawful. And we won't know who's flying those drones.

There are legitimate uses for government and private citizens for the use of drones, but a nosey neighbor or snooping government should not be able to spy on citizens without legal guidelines.

As technology changes, Congress has the responsibility to be proactive and

protect the Fourth Amendment right of all citizens—"The right of people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated." Thus sayeth the Constitution.

Nowadays especially, Americans are concerned about their Fourth Amendment rights being taken away. Well, no kidding. The right of a reasonable expectation of privacy is a constitutional right. The general rule is snooping, spying, surveillance, or eavesdropping goes against the basic rights outlined in the Constitution. That is why I have introduced the Preserving American Privacy Act, along with Representative ZOE LOFGREN from California.

Congress must be proactive in protecting the rights of civilians from private use and government use of drones. This legislation balances individual constitutional rights with legitimate government activity and the private use of drones. The bill sets forth clear guidelines, protects individual privacy, and informs peace officers so they will know what they can and cannot do under the law.

There will be limits on government use of drones so that the surveillance of individuals or their property is only permitted or conducted when there is a warrant based on probable cause, as the Constitution requires.

Of course there will be exceptions. They are called exigent circumstances, which is already in our law, and these will apply, as it does now, regarding search and seizure. Those exceptions include fire and rescue, monitoring droughts and floods, assisting in other emergency cases, or to chase a fleeing criminal.

The bill also allows for the use of drones for border security. The bill also sets forth guidelines for the private use of drones. Basically, private citizens cannot use drones to spy on others without consent of the landowner or that person.

Congress has the obligation to set forth guidelines, to secure the right of privacy, and protect citizens from unlawful drone surveillance while maintaining lawful private and government use.

Drone laws are needed because a Peeping Tom should not be able to spy on young girls who are in the privacy of their backyards just because the Peeping Tom has the ability to do so.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1030

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, Brandie Reiner, Jack Welty, Andy Albright, Diego Soto, Anthony Carly, Ellen Hamilton, Ariel Carlos, Joe Slaven, Brandy Pantilione, Gary Brewer, Christopher Valles—these are the students and college graduates from Arizona State Uni-

versity, my alma mater, who shared their stories with me. Some of these young adults are my students at Arizona State University where I teach. Some are recent graduates. Some are thinking of starting a family, while others are working hard to care for the families they already have.

What do these graduates want? They just want a fair shot. They want to know that their hard work in college mattered, that it led to the promise that their parents made to them when they were little, the promise we all believe in: if you work hard and play by the rules, you will succeed. Essentially, they want what each of us wanted for ourselves, what we want for our own kids, what we're working for in our districts. They want a shot at the American Dream.

Instead, as Brandie Reiner begins her life and career as a social worker—having just graduated from ASU last month—she will face the biggest financial hurdle of her life. She doesn't face massive medical bills or an expensive car loan. It's not rent or a mortgage payment. It's a bill for over \$100,000 in student loans. Eighteen days—18 days—that's all the time we have to stop student loan interest rates from doubling. Eighteen days makes a lot of difference to the young people who will have to pay thousands of additional dollars to the Federal Government at a time in their lives when those dollars matter the most.

Christopher Valles has \$20,000 in debt, and he's just a freshman; Gary Brewer, \$57,000 in debt; Kent Fogg, \$70,000; Sara Cureton, \$74,000.

The Federal Reserve has noted that the U.S.' \$1 trillion in student debt is further constricting our economy. Young people are foregoing long-term job opportunities and homeownership in order to meet the urgent demands of their large student loan payments. And today, as they work hard to find jobs in this recession that they didn't cause, Congress debates whether to force students to pay more in order to pay down Congress' debt.

Brandie, Christopher, Gary, Kent, Sara—these graduates should not have to foot the bill for Congress' failure. In 18 days, I want to go back to Arizona and tell these students that I took their stories to Congress and that their stories mattered, that their experiences made a difference.

When these young adults tell me that they just want a shot at the American Dream, that they're working hard, playing by the rules, and doing everything they can to live that dream, then they've done their part. Now it's time for us to do ours.

I challenge us, all of us: Republicans, Democrats, Senators, Representatives. I challenge us to stand together and do the right thing. Stop the finger-pointing and the cynical posturing. Instead, we must act together to keep student loan interest rates affordable. The clock is ticking. There's no time to waste.