

Two more things if I can, unless the gentleman wants to say something further. Let me say something on immigration reform. PAUL RYAN, leader on your side, a Vice Presidential candidate, said of the bipartisan effort in the Senate on immigration, he said, "I do support what they're doing. I think they've put out a good product. It's good policy." That was reported on June 6 of this year in *The Hill* newspaper.

Immigration, obviously, nor did I expect it to be on the list for next week. But I want to ask the gentleman—in light of the fact that comprehensive immigration reform, by many on both sides of the aisle, including Mr. RYAN, but obviously in a bipartisan way in the United States Senate, has been something that's been viewed as a priority item—can the gentleman tell me whether or not there is a near-term, and by "near-term," I mean prior to the August break, expectation that we will have any movement in this House on immigration reform?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and would say that the Judiciary Committee, under the leadership of Chairman GOODLATTE, is very, very involved in the discussion around these issues and is intending to address and begin to address the issue of immigration this month. And certainly my hope is that we, in this House, can see a full debate on the floor throughout the committee process and to make sure that we can address what is a very broken immigration system.

And I know that the gentleman shares with me the commitment to try and do all we can to reflect the notion of trying to address a broken system.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for those comments, and I look forward to us doing that and, hopefully, doing so in a bipartisan fashion because he and I both agree that the system is broken, needs to be fixed.

And my view, and I think the view of many, and certainly the Senators who came together and offered the bill that's now being considered on the Senate floor, believe that a comprehensive plan was the best answer. And I agree with that.

Lastly, if I can ask the majority leader, the student loan program, which has capped interest on student loans at 3.4 percent, expires the end of this month, and therefore we're weeks away from having a substantial increase, a doubling of student loan costs.

□ 1330

The President has a proposal. We passed a proposal through this House, as you know, Mr. Leader. Both of those proposals were defeated on the Senate floor for lack of 60 votes. The Senate alternative, which Mr. BISHOP has now introduced, got 51 votes, but neither of them got 60 votes.

Can the gentleman tell me whether or not—it's not on the calendar for

next week—there's any plan to address the issue, beyond what we've already done and which has been rejected in the Senate, to ensure that students do not see a doubling of interest rates in the near future?

And I yield to my friend.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and would say that, yes, there is a commitment to try to make sure that there is not a doubling of the interest rate to students who would look to incurring debt to go to school.

As the gentleman correctly knows, Mr. Speaker, this House is the only body that has passed a bill to provide for protecting these students against such a rate increase. In fact, the bill that passed the House, as the gentleman knows, was a bill that allows for rates to go into a variable mode, to assure that any increase that would occur is not that increase in the statute, but long term could protect students as well from that kind of a hit.

Now, I've talked to several members of the administration. Our chairman, JOHN KLINE, has been in contact, I know, with the Secretary, as well as others, in trying to resolve this issue. Discussions are ongoing. It is my hope, I would tell the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, that we can resolve this issue so that perspective students can be assured that their rates would not double. But it is the House who has provided the pathway and the roadmap to ensure that happens. And we're trying to work with the administration, since the Senate has been unable to act, to avoid this from happening.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure you know—and I'm sure the American public knows as well, Mr. Speaker—the reason the Senate hasn't acted is because, although they have a majority for an alternative, frankly, they can't get cloture. They can't get 60 votes. Frankly, Mr. REID doesn't have 60 votes in order to move legislation.

So, while it's well and good to say that we have acted, we have acted on a vehicle that the Senate has rejected. And they've rejected our alternative as well. They didn't reject it by a majority vote. A majority voted for our alternative. Frankly, the House would not be able to act if 60 percent of the House were necessary to pass something, and the majority leader and I both know that. We would be in gridlock. Frankly, I think it's unfortunate the Senate has a rule which allows a minority to control. I think that's not good for the country, I think it's not good for democracy, and I think it is not good for policy. I think that's demonstrable and, unfortunately, being experienced by the American people.

But I would hope that within the next 2 weeks, or 8 legislative days that we have left, that the gentleman's efforts will bear fruit and that we can do something—not that we'll beat ourselves on the chest and say the House acted.

That's the problem with the sequester. The House acted in the last Congress, and we're not acting now because a bill that's dead and gone and cannot be resurrected was passed in the last Congress as a pretense of—not a pretense. It was real at the time, but now claiming that that is the reason we're not acting on the sequester. Hopefully, that will not be the reason we do not act on the student loan.

I thank the gentleman for his efforts at wanting to get us to a compromise which will assure that students do not see, on July 1, an increase in their interest rates.

Unless the gentleman wants to make additional comments, I will yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2013

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that the correct tally on rollcall vote No. 231 was 134 "ayes" and 290 "noes."

KENTUCKY BOURBON INDUSTRY

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Bourbon Day, I rise to celebrate Kentucky's signature spirit.

Kentucky's signature bourbon industry has enjoyed significant growth domestically and abroad, creating billions of dollars in economic activity and over 9,000 jobs, including thousands in the legendary distilleries along the Kentucky Bourbon Trail.

Unlike vodka or gin, bourbon is required by law to be stored for at least 2 years in charred white oak barrels. However, bourbon distillers are unable to deduct their expenses during that unique aging process, placing them at a competitive disadvantage in the global marketplace.

This week, I introduced a bipartisan Aged Distilled Spirits Competitiveness Act, which would amend the Tax Code to fix this inequality and help level the playing field for Kentucky's signature bourbon industry.

American products can successfully compete with any in the world. This House is working overtime to enact policies that will promote American competitiveness, remove barriers to

job creation, and spur this Nation's economy. I am confident that, with the right tax policy, we will produce even more growth and job creation for the people of Kentucky.

STOP THE MEDDLING IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Representative PHIL GINGREY of Georgia filed a National Defense Authorization bill amendment that was included in en bloc amendments expressing the sense of the Congress that Active Duty military personnel in their private capacity should be exempt from the gun laws of the District of Columbia, but not those of any other State or locality. This antidemocratic amendment continues a pattern of Republican assault on D.C.'s local rights and gun safety laws. But we have shown we know how to fight back. We defeated the Gingrey amendment last Congress, and we will work with our Senate allies to defeat it again.

Today, after Newtown, when there have been serious attempts to toughen gun laws across the country and even here in the Congress, the Gingrey amendment goes in the opposite direction and attempts to use Active Duty personnel to further his own gun agenda.

Rather than addressing the needs of his own Georgia constituents, PHIL GINGREY is spending his time meddling in a district more than 600 miles away from his. If there were a problem involving guns and our Active Duty military, he would not target only the District of Columbia.

The District will not be used to further the agenda of Members of Congress unaccountable to our residents. We particularly resent being used as fodder by a Member in his campaign for the Senate.

A TRIBUTE TO BEN GETTLER

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I had the good fortune of getting to know Ben Gettler during years of pickup basketball games with him.

Ben's philosophy about basketball wasn't too different from his philosophy about life: age is no reason to slow down. Ben was still running a business and two charitable foundations up to his final days with us. He passed away on June 4 at age 87.

Ben grew up during a tumultuous time in our world's history. The experiences of his era imprinted upon him the importance of his heritage and shaped his philanthropic pursuits.

As the president of the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati, Ben organized a program that helped more young men

and women per capita to travel to Israel than any other city in North America.

Ben also gave back to his alma mater, the University of Cincinnati, by serving as the chairman of the board of trustees. Today, Gettler Stadium at the university stands as a tribute to Ben and his wife Dee's service to the University, as well as a reminder of his time in college as an outstanding track-and-field athlete.

A grateful city thanks Ben's wife, Dee, and his children for sharing this energetic and passionate man with our community. The city of Cincinnati is truly a better place because of Ben Gettler. He will be missed, but he will never be forgotten.

□ 1340

AMENDMENTS 125 AND 131 TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, this week we took up the National Defense Authorization Act, and I was glad to join with my colleagues in working to improve the bill to meet emerging needs. Specifically, I want to thank the committee for the inclusion of two amendments which I authored in regards to Iran and Syria.

The first amendment will clarify what effect international sanctions are having on Iran's military capacity. We know that Iran is currently capable of exporting military technology and resources to its threat network abroad. Our sanctions must continue to press and place pressure on the Iranian regime to limit its global reach. This amendment will provide clarity as to what extent Iran's military capacity is being degraded by U.S. and international sanctions.

The second amendment will put a renewed emphasis on how we approach policy options towards the conflict in Syria. The administration revealed yesterday that chemical weapons have been used by the Assad regime on its own people.

This amendment would urge the President to limit all arms trafficking into Syria from Iran, Lebanon, and Russia. With the escalation of tensions in Syria, this important amendment will provide a necessary condition for addressing future actions in the region.

I again want to thank the committee for adopting these important policy provisions.

HOPE LIVES AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, which has earned

the number one ranking among the Nation's pediatric hospitals in the latest U.S. News and World Report Honor Roll of Best Children's Hospitals. CHOP programs also were ranked within the top four in each of 10 specialty areas in the U.S. News survey.

This recognition is a milestone for the largest and oldest children's hospital in the world and a credit to the dedication and expertise of the staff, whose mission is defined by the hospital motto: Hope Lives Here.

And hope is what was involved in the recent double lung transplant performed by CHOP physicians on 10-year-old Sarah Murnaghan, whose plight received national attention.

I also acknowledge the patient care provided at the satellite Children's Hospital in Chalfont, Bucks County, an outpatient facility serving the families of Bucks County and eastern Montgomery County. And so I congratulate the entire staff of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for this achievement and look forward to your many years of continued service and success.

REPEAL OBAMACARE

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, schools across this country should be focused on educating our children; but, unfortunately, they're struggling because ObamaCare is forcing them to cut hours for part-time workers.

In Indiana, hundreds of part-time workers, including substitute teachers, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, and coaches, will face fewer hours and smaller paychecks. It's not just schools. Back home, many working families tell me more and more employers are making the tough decision to cut back hours, hold back projects, and take a pass on hiring.

This administration sold ObamaCare as a benefit to hardworking, middle class Americans; but it's hurting the very families it was designed to help.

Hoosiers don't need more regulations or mandates. We need real solutions that empower patients instead of crippling schools. Our students deserve the tools they need to succeed, and that isn't possible when Washington puts regulations ahead of achievement.

Teachers, mechanics, grocers, farmers and steel makers, all of them need an exemption from Washington's madness. Let's repeal ObamaCare, and let educators focus on what's really important—our kids.

PLAN B UNRESTRICTED BY FDA

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to the decision on Monday by