

There is a tie-in between food security, hunger, and obesity.

People who are struggling in poverty do not have the resources to be able to buy nutritious food. Sometimes they live in food deserts and they rely basically on food items that just kind of fill them up with empty calories. So now we're dealing with that.

So if we looked at this issue holistically, we could solve a whole bunch of problems in this country. I'd like to think that there is a lot of bipartisan consensus on what we can do in ending hunger and promoting better nutrition and trying to build those ladders of opportunity to help people get out of poverty, perfecting these programs to go after the waste, to go after the abuse, to go after those who are outliers in this program who choose to try to basically rob the American taxpayer. Let's go after them, but let's not throw the baby out with the bathwater here. Let's not just turn our backs on the success stories.

Ms. DELAURO. I would just say this to the gentleman. The program has worked very hard, as you know, over the years to decrease that error rate in this program. I don't see the same concentration and the same effort in other programs.

And I mentioned here the crop insurance program. There's an article in the paper today that talks about the program is rife with fraud. Why aren't people interested in looking at that effort and the billions of dollars that we are losing every year? For the life of me, I don't understand it. People who view themselves as fiscal hawks, that we have to watch every dime and every dollar, they are only focused on nutrition programs and antihunger programs.

I think you may have alluded to this earlier, Congressman MCGOVERN. I think so many times that those who would cut these programs and do it in such a savage way just don't have much respect for the people who find themselves in a position to have to participate in the food stamp program. They think they're dogging it. They think they don't want to work, and they think they're looking for charity. It is such a misconception and a lack of understanding of the difficult economic times that people find themselves in today.

Sometimes we ought to walk in people's shoes and understand the lives that they're leading and what they're trying to do, like those of us here who believe we work hard and care and et cetera. People work hard. They care about their families. They want to make sure their kids are eating. Quite frankly, when it comes to feeding your kids, you'll do whatever you have to do in order to make that happen.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Let me say to the gentlelady that I couldn't agree more.

I've met with countless parents who have tearfully told me the anguish that they experience when they're not quite sure whether they'll be able to put food

on the table for their children's dinner or for their breakfast or for their lunch.

I'm the parent of two children, an 11-year-old daughter and a 15-year-old son. I can't imagine what it would be like to not be able to provide them food. I think as a parent nothing could be worse because your kids are your most precious and important things in your life.

This is for real. This is real life.

Ms. DELAURO. In Branford, Connecticut, a woman with three boys, 18, 14, and 12, said that they eat one meal a day. In Hamden, Connecticut, there's a woman who says that she has just enough food to feed her children, but she has to say "no" if they want to invite someone over. She said sometimes she feeds the boys a little bit more because they're hungrier than the girls. We've heard about this internationally where the girls get short shrift when it comes to both education and food. My God, it's happening here. It is happening here.

We have the obligation—and I know you take it seriously. Our colleagues need to have that sense of moral responsibility to turn this around and do something that's better, do the right thing. Say "no" to \$20 billion in cuts to the food stamp program.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I thank the gentlelady for her comments and for her passion and for her efforts on this issue.

I hope that my colleagues, in a bipartisan way, will indeed say "no" to these terrible cuts.

It's hard for me to believe that we're going down this road, that we're going down a road where 2 million people are going to lose their food benefits, hundreds of thousands of kids are going to lose their access to a free breakfast and lunch, and we're all just kind of saying, "It is what it is." Well, it isn't. This is a big deal.

I don't quite know why it's easier to pick on programs that help poor people versus programs that help rich people. You outlined earlier all these kind of little sweetheart deals and special interest kind of giveaways that kind of go untouched, such as how crop insurance oversight is not what we all think it should be. Yet a lot of times lucrative interests get those monies and get those benefits. Maybe there's a political consequence if you take on a powerful special interest. Maybe they won't show up to your fundraiser. Maybe they'll contribute to a super PAC and say that you're bad.

By contrast, poor people don't have a super lobby, don't have a super PAC. So maybe there's a debate going on of where will I get the most heat and not what is the right thing to do.

Ms. DELAURO. The most disingenuous thing is there are a number of people in this body who talk about this issue and themselves are getting subsidies and they have commodities or whatever it is. That's been information that's been in the paper. They will deny food stamps to families who have

no wherewithal, but they're taking in sometimes, in some cases, several million dollars in subsidies that are coming from the Federal Government. Then it's okay.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Where's the justice in that?

Ms. DELAURO. There is no justice in that.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I received a postcard from a young mother who is on SNAP and who is kind of watching this entire debate unfold. She sent a very simple message to me that said, "Don't let Congress starve families."

We should be about lifting people up. This is not about a handout. It's about a hand up. This is not about a culture of dependency. This is about making sure that there is an adequate safety net in this country to deal with people who have kind of fallen on hard times.

Ms. DELAURO. With farmers and with families.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Absolutely.

We want a farm bill that supports our farmers, that supports small- and medium-sized farmers in particular, that helps promote good nutrition, that helps deal with the challenges that farmers all across this country face, but it cannot sacrifice the well-being of some of the most vulnerable people in this country.

I thank the gentlelady for her participation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2000

FATHERHOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, Father's Day was this past Sunday, and I am very thankful that I had an opportunity to spend some time with my father, with my sister and her family. Everybody was there. I had an opportunity to thank him for the role that he has meant and continues to mean in our lives, and to thank him for that. It was also an opportunity for my daughter and I to do something special for my husband.

But, you know, Father's Day also presents us with the great opportunity to focus on the importance of fathers in this country. The presence of a father has such a tremendous impact on the life of each and every child and adult in America. A father serves to provide a sense of protection, guidance, and above all, love for their child. Fathers also push their children to pursue their dreams and to never give up.

I think of my own father, Ted Zellmer, and the profound influence that he has had on my life. Not only has he taught me the meaning of hard work and dedication, but he has supported me throughout my entire life to where I am today, representing the

good people of Missouri. That's what good fathers do and why they are so important. We learn a lot from fathers—whether it's how to drive a tractor and shoot a free throw, like my dad showed me, or how to fix an engine or play baseball. Dads teach us. They also show us how to live by example.

Children learn the importance of work and dedication to providing for the family when they see their dad leave for his job each day. They learn the importance of faith when he takes his family to church on Sunday. And they learn the value of family when he prioritizes his time to eat dinner with them each night, or to coach their Little League team.

We need good fathers now more than ever. Their importance is paramount to another discussion taking place in our Nation, and that is the value of marriage in America. Along with Father's Day, June will also bring an important announcement: the Supreme Court's much-anticipated rulings on both the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and Proposition 8. These cases have put the national spotlight on this issue in a new way, and provide an opportunity for Americans to discuss the question: What is marriage?

It's not complicated. Marriage exists to bring a man and woman together as husband and wife, to become the father and mother for any children that come from that union. Marriage is based on the biological fact that reproduction depends on a man and a woman and the reality that children need a mother and a father. Redefining marriage would further distance marriage from the needs of children. It would deny as a matter of policy the ideal that a child needs a mom and a dad. We know that children do best when raised by a mother and a father.

President Obama is also a strong advocate for the importance of a strong male figure in a child's life. With firsthand experience of growing up without a father, the President works every day to be a great dad for his two daughters. The Obama administration has created many new programs under his Fatherhood Initiative Program, including under Fatherhood Buzz and Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Initiative.

During his speech, President Obama said:

Too many fathers are missing from too many lives and too many homes, having abandoned their responsibilities, acting like boys instead of men.

And then he goes on. The President says:

We know the statistics—that children who grow up without a father are five times more likely to live in poverty and to commit crime, nine times more likely to drop out of schools, and 20 times more likely to end up in prison. They are more likely to have behavioral problems or to run away from home or become teenage parents themselves, and the foundations of our community are weaker because of it.

Clearly, we all agree on the critical role fathers play in the lives of their

children, which is why we should continue to affirm marriage as the union of a man and a woman in the interest of children. Every child deserves a mom and a dad. You cannot say that fathers are essential while also making them optional. That's why we're here tonight, to make a case for fathers. Too many times in society, they are viewed as optional. Hollywood shows often depict them as buffoons. We know different, and are here to set the record straight. It's time to honor the fathers of America for the vital role they play in not only our families, but also the stability and the well-being of our Nation. It's time to show the respect that is due them, encourage men to be better fathers for their children, and champion the vital role they play in marriage.

I'm joined tonight by several of my colleagues, and I appreciate them taking the time to visit about this very, very important topic. I have my good friend from Kansas, TIM HUELSKAMP here, and he certainly is a person who knows a lot about being a good father because he certainly is one, and I yield to TIM HUELSKAMP.

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Thank you, Congresswoman HARTZLER. I appreciate you leading our efforts and discussion tonight on a very important topic. Obviously, as you do mention, it is oftentimes a forgotten topic. I'm certain we all have our stories about our dads, and I was really blessed and still blessed with a very active and involved father. I will just say as a farm kid, probably the most poignant story I do recall with my dad was after a hailstorm. You know, being a farm gal yourself, the damage a hailstorm does to the family, does to the economy, and does to your crops. We were sitting out in the yard, and there were 3 or 4 inches of hail all around. And we listened to it bounce off the roof of the pickup for 30 minutes, and then it stopped. I said, Oh, gosh what's going to happen next? What's dad going to say?

He put the pickup in gear, and then we drove around in silence for another hour, and then we got out and we went back to work. That's the kind of message that I learned from my dad—you don't give up. You roll with the punches, and you keep doing that.

But tonight, I don't want to talk just about my father or my children, although I would love to do that. My wife and I have not been blessed with any of our own biological children. We have been blessed with four adopted children. So there are four sets of moms and dads out there that have dedicated children that are in our care.

One thing I do want to speak directly to fathers who are listening today, and fathers, I want to challenge you to be a hero for your children. I want to challenge you to be responsible, committed husbands to the mothers of your children. I challenge you to live out fatherhood courageously, but to live this courageous, responsible, heroic role as father, it requires mar-

riage: marriage truly understood as the exclusive and permanent union between one man and one woman coming together to become husband and wife, mother and father to the children.

I would also like to speak to all of America, as I know my colleague has done. It is vital that we encourage fatherhood in the context of marriage and uphold policies that reflect the truth, the truth that fathers are not optional, but they play a vital role to their families, and restoring America must begin on the home front. It begins with encouraging and supporting committed, responsible fatherhood in the context of marriage.

We know who the victims of the vicious fatherless cycle are: they are our children. It is our children, the children of America, who are left to suffer the scars of the abandonment of their absentee fathers. As my colleague noted and quoted the President, he was accurate when he said we know the statistics, and yet I'll repeat them because they're so powerful:

Children who grow up without a father are four times more likely to live in poverty and to commit crime; nine times more likely to drop out of schools and 20 times more likely to have behavioral problems or run away from home. The foundations of our community are weaker because of fatherlessness.

Furthermore, absent fathers don't just hurt our children, they wound society. It is a fact that the welfare state has to expand when marriage and families decline. It has been estimated over \$229 billion in welfare costs from 1970 to 1996 can be attributed to the breakdown of marriage. And specifically, a study in 2008, 1 year alone, estimating that divorce and unwed childbearing cost American taxpayers over \$120 billion a year.

□ 2010

This was a study of more than 5 or 6 years ago. Where there are absentee fathers, it's you, I, your families, our families, our communities, our churches, our neighbors, our cities, and the government, we're all forced to step in and try to pick up the broken pieces of these shattered marriages.

This is not fair to mothers and children. Wives deserve committed husbands. Children deserve protective, responsible fathers.

The facts speak for themselves. But one story I will note, and then I'll close quickly, is it was not far from here a few weeks ago I was crossing a crowded street here in Washington, D.C., and there was a line of kids. I think they were with a babysitter. And there was about a 2-year-old young boy, and he looked at his babysitter as he's crossing the street. She's dragging him across. And he asked again, I could hear him. He says, "Who is my daddy? Who is my daddy?" And that babysitter didn't have an answer. "Shhh. Don't worry about that." He kept asking the question, "Who is my daddy?"

We should have an answer. We should have an answer for that little boy. We

should have an answer because we should know. We should expect, we should demand, we should promote, we should push fathers, encourage them, demand of them to hold up their responsibilities, because there is a disease in America, and it's the disease of fatherlessness.

We must overcome the myths in society that see no difference in whether a mom or a dad is involved in a child's life, because it is, there is no doubt. You can look at tons and tons of social science data over and over. It's very clear.

But for that 2-year-old boy, that 3-year-old boy, we have to have an answer who is his daddy. And the daddy is not the government. He has a daddy. He should be involved. Our policies should reflect that goal, because every child deserves both a mom and a dad.

And I look forward, hopefully, as we continue to press forward and solve these problems, we promote marriage and promote fatherhood.

I appreciate your leadership tonight, VICKY, for your efforts here.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you so much, TIM. I think you spoke so eloquently to the importance of fathers and the cost that we have, as a society, when fathers are not present and why it's important to have a policy that promotes the father being there for their children.

And now I'd like to yield to the gentleman from Georgia and hear what he has to say about the importance of fathers. Thank you, PHIL GINGREY.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate so much the gentlelady from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for leading this time on fatherhood. And what a perfect time to do it this evening. We all just came back from our districts and celebrated Father's Day or Grandfather's Day.

And of course we're also awaiting, some time soon, before the end of June, a decision, a momentous decision from the Supreme Court in regard to two particular decisions: the one ballot initiative from California, Proposition 8, where the people of California fairly convincingly decided what is a definition of traditional marriage; and, of course, the other thing is the Defense of Marriage Act passed right here on this floor and signed into law by President Clinton back in 1996.

So this is timely, and I commend the gentlewoman from Missouri for bringing it forward and giving us an opportunity to join with our colleagues and talk about something as important as this, that is, the definition of fatherhood and how important a father is to a child.

But maybe even more important than that, a mother and a father. We don't always have the ideal situation, but that's certainly no reason to throw up our hands and say let's forget about our faith and family and traditional values and what's best, what is the best circumstance for a child.

My colleagues, I think a lot about my own children. Of course they're

adults now, and among them, they have 13 grandchildren—our grandchildren, their children. And at least one of my son-in-laws had no father present when he was growing up. And that father didn't come to his wedding. That father was not there for the birth of any of his four children. That father just basically denies his existence.

And I watch that particular son-in-law, and my son and my other son-in-laws, but particularly him, because of the experience that he went through as a child, how much he loves his children, how kind and caring and loving he is and how important he is in their lives.

And I realize today that the "Father Knows Best" and that traditional view that we all had back in the old days of television is different. It's changed, and I do understand that.

Of my three daughters and one daughter-in-law, they all work. They all work, some of them full-time, some of them part-time. But they're still there as moms. And when they come home and take over that responsibility, they need a shared partner, and that partner is that partner for life. And I'm talking about, of course, the father.

And so I really appreciate the opportunity to be with my colleagues tonight and just say that, you know, maybe part of the problem is we need to go back into the schools at a very early age, maybe at the grade school level, and have a class for the young girls and have a class for the young boys and say, you know, this is what's important. This is what a father does that is maybe a little different, maybe a little bit better than the talents that a mom has in a certain area; and the same thing for the young girls, that, you know, this is what a mom does and this is what is important from the standpoint of that union which we call marriage, and we have called it that since the beginning of this country and long before the beginning of this country.

So as I close and yield back to the gentlelady and thank her for giving me some time, I stand strongly for the Defense of Marriage Act and traditional marriage as we know it, and don't take that right away from our States.

But this is a wonderful opportunity to say, young men, you've got a great responsibility. You're not a father unless you prove it.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you so much, PHIL. That's well spoken from a proud grandfather as well as a father, and certainly brought up the importance of fatherhood as well as these decisions that are coming up from the Supreme Court.

You know, the people have spoken on that. The people of California spoke two times, and they said, This is what we think is wise public policy for the families and the citizens of California. And the people spoke on the Defense of Marriage Act through their elected representatives here in Congress, a

huge vote, bipartisan. And President Clinton signed the bill. The people have spoken on this.

And what we don't want is to have the Supreme Court impose their view or be activists and impose their view of what marriage should be on the citizens who have spoken, so it's going to be interesting to see how they rule.

But certainly, I agree with you, PHIL, that it's very important that the people have spoken and that we uphold marriage.

Next we have a Representative from Oklahoma, a friend of mine, JAMES LANKFORD, who not only is a great dad and father, but has worked with teenagers for many years and, I'm sure, has seen the importance of fatherhood as it relates to young people.

So go ahead, JAMES LANKFORD.

Mr. LANKFORD. I thank the gentlelady for hosting this time.

There's a lot of things I've talked about in the well of this House. I've talked about budget. I've talked about a growing economy, about jobs. I've talked about transportation. I've talked about the relationship of the individual citizen and their government and how that relationship works—or sometimes it doesn't work lately.

But this is a time just to be able to pause for a moment and not talk about necessarily some new government law or some new regulation, but to celebrate, for just a moment, dads, with Father's Day this past weekend, and to be able to hesitate again and to be able to say thanks to my own dad, but to also talk about the fact that it is the love of our life for men to be able to enjoy their children, just like it is for ladies to be able to enjoy their children, as well, as a mom.

There is something very unique—and I believe firmly that every child needs a mom and needs a dad. They come at parenting from two different directions and they, together, make such a dramatic difference in the life of a child, to have a mom and to have a dad.

It's interesting to me that the last verse in the Old Testament, in that verse from Malachi 4:6 in that minor prophet book, it ends that Old Testament by saying the role of the prophet will be to turn the hearts of the children to their fathers and to turn the hearts of their fathers to the children, to be able to see that restoration.

□ 2020

In that time period, there was a collapse for a moment in the families, and they suffered as a nation and saw that. We see that today in our own families. Fifteen million children live life without a father—15 million. In 1960, there were only 11 percent of the homes that didn't have a father. Today, it's over one-third of the homes that don't have a father. As we watch all the consequences that occur with that in our own economy, in our own family, and in our own culture, it's just the separation that happens.

We see a greater emphasis right now with trying to figure out what to do in

schools as parents seem to be disconnected from their children and teachers struggle in the community, and things have changed in our schools with an absence of fathers.

As we've seen the families collapse, we've seen an increase in poverty. Some colleagues were here earlier speaking about hunger in America, which is rampant and is a huge issue for us as a nation. They mentioned that in the 1970s we had a very low hunger rate in America. It's interesting for us to come here now and talk about fathers and how that has changed, and from that point in 1970 when we had a very low hunger rate in America, we look at the difference now with a very high hunger rate in America and also a very low presence of fathers in the lives of their children. We've seen something different happen in families as fathers disconnect from their children and they no longer see a role to be able to be a provider and they've required government to go be the provider for children when it was never designed to be that way. And that's not where it is best.

Children have a higher risk of poverty. Children have a lower graduation rate from high school and have a lower entry rate into college. There is not a safe environment for children when there's an absence of a dad and a mom. It's different for them as they grow up and as they process through things without the stability that can come to a child with the presence of a mom and of a dad.

So what do we do about it is the challenge. Well, quite frankly, there are issues in our marriage laws right now as a nation that we have where there are penalties to be married in our tax law. There are penalties even in our disability benefits as we try and reach in and help families as they're disabled, but yet if they're married, it's a lower rate. So we look at that, and we ask the question: Why would we punish a family for being married because one of the individuals there is disabled? That doesn't make sense for us.

So we need to look at our policies that we have and be able to encourage rather than discourage marriage. Because we know when that happens—it's the reason that the Federal Government is involved at all in the marriage relationship is because we know what happens in the lives of children when a man and a woman are committed to each other for life. That commitment, the reason the government is connected to that is because of what happens in the lives of children and how it benefits people in the days ahead. So we need to look at the marriage penalty that's occurring in our tax law and our disability rules and such.

But, quite frankly, most of the issues that deal with fatherhood and from the absence of fathers won't happen because of a change in Federal law. It will happen when families turn and mentor young couples and they get personally involved in the lives of

young families. Some individuals have never seen a functioning man and a woman married and committed to each other for life. They've never seen that in their community, and they haven't experienced that in their own family. It's so important for older couples to mentor young couples and to pass on the wisdom that they have gained.

It is, quite frankly, very important at the marriage altar for two individuals to truly commit to each other for life. That brings stability not only to those two individuals, but it also brings stability to the children where they grow up in a home where there's some emotional security and safety and not the constant fear of separation and of loss of either the mom or the dad. So for individuals to be committed to each other for life makes a big difference in that.

So what can happen? I talked about the Federal policies, but it's really individuals, individuals mentoring other individuals, and it's two individuals when they approach the marriage altar knowing that we're going to commit to each other and we're going to work through the problems that we have because that's what's best for our Nation, and that's what's best for the children that are coming up to provide them that stable home where they can grow up.

Do we always get it perfect? No. But we know economically and we know emotionally that the strongest homes and what's best for our children is for a mom and a dad. And I want to honor dads that do commit to walk through the hard, difficult days and to say to them, Keep going. Don't give up, dads. And as you face through hard times, your children need you.

The single most difficult part of my job is getting on an airplane on Monday mornings and flying away from my two daughters and my wife. No other moment of my week is harder than that one, because I know the importance of being a dad to my daughters, and they need me.

I encourage dads today to live out the commitment that you have made to your wife and the commitment that you've made to your children.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Great, great words. Thank you, James. What a word of encouragement, how to commit and to keep on going and to be good dads and the need to strengthen marriage in this country. So thank you for those very, very excellent comments.

Now I would like to call on another colleague from Oklahoma, a freshman this year who has hit the ground running, and we are really glad he is here. JIM BRIDENSTINE, I would like to yield to you and hear what you would like to share about the importance of fathers.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. I appreciate that. It is an honor to be here, and thank you for inviting me to participate in this.

I have been certainly accused of maybe being critical of the President from time to time, as many of us Re-

publicans are sometimes, but I'd like to share a few points where we agree, the President and I. I've got a number of quotes here, and I think these quotes cross party lines and certainly indicate how important fathers are in the lives of their children.

Here is a quote from our President, Barack Obama:

We need fathers to realize that responsibility doesn't end at conception. We need them to realize that what makes you a man is not the ability to have a child; it's the courage to raise one.

Here is another quote from our President:

I wish I had a father who was around and involved.

That's a profound statement, and certainly it shows a great deal of courage by our President to say that.

I remember when I was a young child in the Cub Scouts, the Pinewood Derby came around every year. My father, my brother, and I would spend a great deal of time weighing our little Pinewood Derby car to make sure that it weighed precisely 5 ounces. We would spend all night graphiting the wheels because we wanted our little Pinewood Derby car to be the absolute fastest car that we could possibly make it. Whether we won or lost, it didn't matter. We were going to make this little car as fast as we could possibly make it.

I also remember not too long ago my 7-year-old, who was 6, wanted to participate in the Pinewood Derby in the Cub Scouts himself. And because of my relationship that I had with my father and the time that we spent involved in that project, it was a desire of my heart to be involved in his Pinewood Derby to the same extent. And I'm proud to say that when I was a child, we won the Pinewood Derby; and I'm proud to say that as Walker's dad, together we won the Pinewood Derby when he was 6 years old. These are the things that I think are critically important in the life of a child.

Some other quotes from our President: Obama has said that his hardest but the most rewarding job is being a father. I think that is absolutely true, as well.

I want to quote some statistics here:

Currently there are 24 million children in America living in a home without their biological father.

The World Family Map report by Child Trends found that even when controlling for income, children who live with both parents have better educational outcomes than children living with one or no parents. Fathers play an important role in teaching children life lessons and preparing them to succeed in school and in life.

Some other quotes:

According to the National Fatherhood Initiative, a father's involvement in education of his children is associated with a higher probability of A's for their children.

Interestingly, I remember when I was in fourth grade, there was a competition called Math Olympiads. My dad

was a mathematician, and he came from a family of mathematicians. And my dad would spend hours with me working on these math problems that were really college-level math problems. We would go over and over these problems again and again. I remember in fourth grade, when it came time to do Math Olympiads, there were just five problems, and if you could get one or two of them right, it was really tremendous for a fourth grader. I remember at the end of the first Math Olympiad, I had four out of five correct. And it wasn't because I was smart, and it wasn't because I was brilliant. It had nothing to do with that at all—in fact, quite the contrary. But what it had to do with was the fact that I had a dad who was so engaged, so involved, and so interested in making sure not that I would get an A in the class—quite frankly, that was really not relevant to him. What he cared about was whether I learned the material.

□ 2030

I remember taking tests in sixth grade. I would do the math problems entirely different than how the teacher taught and the teacher would count it wrong. My dad would go to the school and he would say, you know, he may have done it differently than you taught him, but he did it the way we taught at home because he's preparing for higher math in a different year.

Having a dad involved in your education that way is something that was tremendously important to me as I was growing up. And certainly, now that I am a father myself and I have a child in first, now soon to be second grade—and of course other children on the way that are entering kindergarten and a 1-year old at home, these are areas where it's important for me.

There is a generational trend. When a child has that impact from their father, certainly it's an impact on them that they want to have on their own children. So that's why it is so important for fathers to be involved in the lives of their children. That's my personal experience.

Children with involved fathers are more likely to do well in school. They have a better sense of well-being, they have fewer behavioral problems. When fathers are actively involved in the upbringing of their children, their children demonstrate greater self control and a greater ability to take initiative.

Along with Father's Day, this June will also bring an important announcement—the Supreme Court's much-anticipated rulings on both the Defense of Marriage Act and Proposition 8. These cases have put the national spotlight on this issue in a new way and provide an opportunity for Americans to discuss the question: What is marriage?

Marriage exists to bring a man and a woman together as husband and wife, to be a father and a mother to children, and the institution of marriage is intended for life. This is very important when it comes to the rearing of children.

A few more statistics. In 2012, about one-third of all children lived in families without their biological father present. According to some estimates, as many as 50 percent of children who are currently under age 18 will spend or have spent a significant portion of their childhood in a home without their biological father.

Research indicates that children raised in single-parent families are more likely than children raised in two-parent families, with both biological parents, to do poorly in school, have emotional and behavioral problems, become teenage parents, and have poverty-level incomes.

In 2011, the poverty rate for children living in homes without a father was 48 percent, compared with 11 percent for children living with married-couple families. Single-parent families are more likely to be poor than two-parent families, especially if the lone parent is the mother. That's why it's so important for fathers, and that's why I commend the President when he talks about the importance of fathers.

Here's a final quote from our President:

As fathers, we need to be involved in our children's lives not just when it's convenient or easy, and not just when they're doing well, but when it's difficult and thankless, and they're struggling. That is when they need us most.

With that, I thank the gentlelady from Missouri.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you so much, Jim. I really enjoyed hearing the stories about your father and the role that he played. You know, I think every child in that derby was a winner who had a father who helped make their little pine box with them. It really is important and makes a huge difference. So thanks for sharing that.

Now I'd like to yield my time to Congressman TRENT FRANKS from Arizona, who is certainly a champion for so many of these issues that are so important to us today, and to fathers and families.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Well, I just thank the gentlelady, Mr. Speaker, because she has demonstrated such a wonderful presence in this body. She has been a gift to all of us. I know that each person who has preceded me at this platform is grateful for Congresswoman VICKY HARTZLER. I wish there were about another 200 like her and I might just go home. But I really appreciate her so much.

Mr. Speaker, it's been said that a father is a man who expects his children to be as good as he meant to be. I have yet to meet a father who doesn't want to convey his own mistakes to his children. He wants his children to learn from his mistakes, to give his children the best possible start in life, serving as a springboard from which to face the day-to-day challenges that ultimately come. But I really don't think that's such a comprehensive definition.

Those of us who are privileged to be in a Christian family believe that there

is a loftier image of fatherhood, that there is One after whom we model our inevitably flawed attempts to raise our children with love and wisdom, a perfect father who gives us "every good and perfect gift," who is a father to the fatherless and a help in times of need to the widow and the oppressed. And it is only in having children sometimes that we begin to understand just a little glimpse of how our heavenly Father feels about the rest of us.

To most women, their father was their first love. To most men, their father was their first larger-than-life idol. The role a father plays in the life of his children simply cannot be overstated. That fact, Mr. Speaker, that knowledge that little eyes are watching every move we make, often emulating what they see for good or bad, no matter what we do, we will never feel quite fully equipped to do justice to the sacred responsibility to which God has entrusted us.

There is a famous saying that the greatest gift a father can give his children is to love their mother. And the point of that quote of course is that a healthy, intact home gives a child the best possible chance at pursuing and achieving their dreams.

But for all its difficulties, what a sweet and blessed honor it is to be entrusted with the task of raising these little human images of unconditional love. I've said it before, Mr. Speaker, and I believe with every passing day that every baby that is born comes with a message from God that He has not yet despaired of mankind on Earth. Yet I look around at the state of the American family, Mr. Speaker, that bedrock institution that is responsible more than any other factor for inculcating the truth into the hearts and minds of each new generation, and I believe that it is facing a grave and profound challenge in America.

A mentor and a friend of mine, Gary Bauer, recently wrote an article on this very subject. He was highlighting the state of affairs in which so many Americans find themselves without the firm, guiding, loving hand of a father.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, 40 percent of children are now born to unmarried parents, including a majority of children born to women 30 years old or younger. A recent study in Richmond, Virginia, found that 60 percent of families in the city have just one parent—usually the mother—at home. Among black residents, it's 86 percent of homes that are single parents.

A related Pew study estimated that women, when they are the prime breadwinners—and they are in 40 percent of American households—that, unfortunately, the majority of these households are led by a single mother who averages just \$23,000 in annual income, whereas intact families average about \$80,000 a year in income, by comparison.

Eighty-five percent of all young men—or even, for that matter, middle-

aged men—in prison came from a family that never had a functional father figure in their midst—85 percent.

Mr. Speaker, it is an understatement to suggest to you that children are so desperately in need of both a mother and a father. And I know no better way to really illustrate that than just to try to tell the story of three fathers.

The first story I will tell is of one father named Earl Carr. He was my grandfather. Earl Carr was a coal miner. When he was just in his mid-twenties, a terrible cave-in crushed his friends, killed most of them, and broke his back. So as a child, I remember growing up when my grandfather could carry a coal bucket for maybe 40 or 50 feet, but then he would have to sit down. But he never abandoned his family, and he was always there in every way that he could be.

Just to illustrate to you how sometimes a grandfather can have a big impact on a grandson, more than 45 years has passed—and I hope I can remember it—but he used to be very fond of the “Coal Miner’s Ode,” and it goes something like this:

Come and listen, you fellers, so young and so fine,
and seek not your fortune in the dark dreary mine.
It will form as a habit and seep in your soul ‘til the stream of your blood runs as black as the coal.

Because it’s dark as a dungeon, damp as the dew where the danger is double and the pleasures are few.

Where the rain never falls and the sun never shines,
it’s dark as a dungeon way down in the mines.
And I hope when I’m gone and the ages shall roll,
my body will blacken and turn into coal.
And I will look from the door of my heavenly home
and I’ll pity the miner digging my bones.
Because it’s dark as a dungeon, damp as the dew,
where the danger is double and the pleasures are few,

where the rain never falls and the sun never shines,
it’s dark as a dungeon way down in the mines.

□ 2040

I don’t remember the last time I said that, Mr. Speaker, but I do know that it was over 40 years ago that I learned it, and a grandfather does have a lasting impact on our lives.

So now I will tell you another story of another father, and he’s my father—a man named Taylor Franks. I won’t go into—because I don’t remember—how he was there for me when I was a baby and had some congenital defects and probably wouldn’t have had the opportunity to be standing in this well had it not been for a faithful father, but I’ll tell you just one story.

Years ago in the little town when I was growing up, I came away from the playground one day when I was about 5 or 6 years old, maybe 6 years old. And I came through an alley, and you know how it always is. There is sometimes a bunch of guys that want to demonstrate their macho capability. I walked past the fence and one of them yelled something at me and there was a rock fight that ensued. Now, they

were behind the fence and there were several of them. I was out there alone and I was losing this battle very demonstrably. I would pick up one rock and throw it back because I didn’t want to be discomforted by this band of ruffians, you understand. But I was losing, and I thought, Boy, what am I going to do? I am going to have to run, it looks like. And just at the moment when I was probably in the peak of my panic, all of a sudden the rocks stopped, everything was still, and I could see them peaking over the fence at me. I noticed a little carefully. It seemed like they were looking at something behind me. I turned and it was Taylor Franks. He said, How about me evening up the sides here just a little bit? He evened up the sides many, many times.

He’s 87 years old now. But I’ll tell you, if the communists ever come to this country to take us over, they better go around that old gentleman’s house because they’ll get more than they bargained for. This is a man that loves his country, loves his God, and loves his family. I have no words to express my gratitude to him.

So I will tell you about another father, who almost didn’t think he was going to be one. But he calls his little boy “little feller,” because that’s what his daddy called him. And his name is Joshua Lane, and he’s my boy. He’s got a sister, a twin sister. She’s 5 minutes younger. Of course he takes care of her. But I can say to you that there is no greater gift on this Earth than these children.

Somehow, I guess, the point of all this, Mr. Speaker, is just to remind all of us that are fathers what they meant to us and what we mean to our children. Sometimes I have to watch mine grow up at a distance, but they know their daddy loves them and they know their daddy is here so that we can make a better future for them.

I guess my challenge to the fathers of this country is to be reminded that your children grow up so quickly and your impact on them will be profound beyond any words that I could ever articulate. They say that great societies finally come when old men plant trees under whose shade they will never sit. I believe that to be true, that our greatest jobs as fathers is to make sure that our children have the inculcated truths that will help them find their way home and through the great storms of life. We should always remind ourselves that they are, indeed, the living messages that we send to a time we will never see ourselves.

I hope that somehow that fathers of this country will recognize the gift that they’ve been given and they will recognize the impact that they will have, and that the rest of society will recognize that if we displace fathers in our country, we will bankrupt us all trying to replace them.

With that, Mr. Speaker and Congresswoman HARTZLER, I yield back.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you so much, Representative FRANKS. I

couldn’t say it any better I think. Thank you.

The heritage that he has given his children and that his father gave him and his grandfather gave him, that’s what it’s about is being able to pass on that heritage to your children. That’s why we have a policy in our country that encourages fathers to be there for their children, so that every child has a chance to have a mother and a father.

I am glad to be joined today by a gentleman from California, DOUG LAMALFA.

Thank you for coming tonight. I look forward to hearing what you have to share on this very important topic.

Mr. LAMALFA Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mrs. HARTZLER, for holding this time here tonight for us.

Let’s talk about the importance of fatherhood and what all that means. I really appreciate the words of my colleague from Arizona who just spoke and his eloquent way of doing that.

We are in a nation here that really cries out for the type of values that are represented by what is called the nuclear family—kids these days, with so many temptations and so many things out there that will pull them in all different directions. They need a mom and they need a dad.

We know statistically, just talking numbers, that the chances of success for children to grow up and be successful in their own lives, not in poverty, not in abusive situations, the percentages are so much higher when there’s a loving mom and a dad in their lives.

We have very important tasks, very important jobs here in this place. Mr. Speaker, when we make policy here, we always need to make it in such a way that supports the family, that strengthens the family and doesn’t weaken it or in some fashion even use the State, use the government, as usurping the role of the parent or of a dad like we’ve seen so much with maybe the start of the great society—well-intentioned things that have gone on to, in many ways, replace the father in people’s lives. There needs to be that accountability to come back and bring that unit together.

Thinking of my own dad—we lost him almost 5 years ago now—he was always a strong and pretty quiet leader, but he could just give you “the look” pretty much and set you back on track. He had to spend a lot of hours out on the farm. We didn’t always get to see him all the time when it was busy in the springtime with planting or with harvest, but we always knew, my sisters and I, that he was there for us. He didn’t get to every ball game, but we always knew. We never had to question his dedication and commitment to us and to our mother, because moms are in it, too. We know that certainly because, typically, mostly the caregiver for kids a lot of times, she needs that support, too, that comes from that committed family unit.

So we have to make policy, we have to make things that support that in

this place. I'm so disappointed with the direction our country has gone the last 40 to 50 years that has broken that apart.

I have an obligation to my wife and my four kids. One of the most difficult things in contemplating what goes on with this role of service that I've been blessed with by the voters in my district is the time away from home. Being from the west coast, it's a heck of a commitment. With a 5-hour plane ride each way and all that, you don't just get to pop in like when I was in the State legislature in Sacramento and you get home most nights.

That's the kind of thing that keeps me worrying sometimes, worrying a little bit: Am I doing right by my kids? We do this here—I think anyone that runs for office—ostensibly with the idea that we're trying to help the next generation and preserve the country and preserve our freedoms. But there's a sacrifice in this job. It kind of all comes back to perspective.

Father's Day, the other day, I got to spend home with the family. All my kids either got me a little something or made a little card. Very, very touching things said in those cards reminded me that, yeah, we are here trying to do something for them, preserve their rights, their opportunities, their liberties, and that they understand, even though I don't always get to be home, that it is for them.

□ 2050

So that makes me feel good about doing this—about taking on the huge issues here, the long hours, the sometimes fruitless battles, and people looking at us from the outside with our, maybe, 10 percent approval rating, wondering, What the heck are you doing back there in Washington, D.C.? We all know we're here for a good reason.

We have an obligation as dads to be there for our wives and for our kids, which is nothing new, but it's the dedication. They need to know that we're there for them, that we're fighting for something, whether it's our more day-to-day jobs—if you're a butcher or a baker or a candlestick maker—or if you're back here getting to be part of the U.S. Congress.

The importance of a dad to a son can't be overstated. You need a man in the life to guide your son to the right path, to be that strong voice, to keep your son in the position, first of all, of respecting his mother, of respecting his sisters, of respecting women—of what that role is supposed to be. They need that, and a lot of them have lost out on that. It's sad. We see the tragedy. Some of these kids are walking the streets, and they grow up to be in gangs and so much because they didn't have that.

A dad has a very strong role with his daughters—to ensure that they know they have value, that they aren't something to be out there to be traded, as so often happens when they don't have

that fatherly voice saying, You have value, and you have self-respect—that is so key to you. It keeps so many times young girls out of trouble and on that good path.

You can't overstate that role of a father on both sons and daughters and, of course, that very strong support that's needed for your wife, who has to watch the home fires when we're off doing things like this. She needs that.

So what I'm saying to the men who are already fathers or who are would-be fathers is, you've got a very important task, extremely, the most important task—to be that leader of your household. You need to stick with them through thick and thin.

And men, be men. Don't be something else. Grow up. You need to cast off childish things when you've made that commitment to a woman and to fatherhood, because they're watching you. Your neighborhood is watching you. It's the most important thing you'll ever do.

So, Mr. Speaker, I conclude tonight with the thought that, for there to be one Nation under God, men have a very key role in that. That's being that father, and that's holding the family together. No matter what might come and affect it, no matter what legislation or court decision might try to affect or break that family union or make confusing decisions for our children, we have that role, and we can be that guide for their whole lives. It is rewarding for all of us.

With that, I appreciate the time, and I appreciate the gentlelady from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for leading this discussion here tonight.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I thank the gentleman. That was very, very well said, and I appreciate your encouraging the men to be leaders of their households and to make a difference for their children—the next generation.

I appreciate all of my colleagues who have come tonight so that we could talk about the importance of the fathers and how important it is to have marriage strong in our country.

Every child deserves a mom and a dad. You cannot say that fathers are essential while also making them optional. The presence of a father has such a tremendous impact on the lives of each and every child and on every adult in America. Fathers not only represent the success of our children but also the success of our Nation.

As we get closer to the Supreme Court's ruling concerning the Defense of Marriage Act, it is crucial that we weigh the entirety of the impact such a decision will have on families. My colleague from Oklahoma earlier cited the President in this quote when he stressed the importance of fathers. I think it's very, very good, and I want to repeat it.

President Obama said:

As fathers, we need to be involved in our children's lives not just when it's convenient or easy and not just when they're doing well—but when it's difficult and thankless,

and they're struggling. That is when they need us most.

Every single child in this country deserves the opportunity to have a mother and a father. That is why we must uphold marriage. Not only must we represent the future of our children but also the future of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 0045

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NUGENT) at 12 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1947, FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2013

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-117) on the resolution (H. Res. 271) providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for June 17 through June 19 on account of medical reasons.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE 113TH CONGRESS

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on June 18, 2013, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology adopted the attached amendment to its Committee Rules:

Rule VI (b) of the Rules of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is amended to read as follows:

(b) SUBCOMMITTEES AND JURISDICTION. There shall be five standing Subcommittees of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, with jurisdictions as follows:

The Subcommittee on Energy shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: