

District and for their willingness to put the students and innovation above any of themselves as they serve our community.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Let me just say it's good to see the freshman class president from the other side at the Speaker's podium this evening.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the Supreme Court struck down critical parts of the Voting Rights Act, and I, like my colleagues, am deeply disappointed in this decision.

Justice Scalia said the Voting Rights Act is a "racial entitlement."

Voting is not a racial entitlement. It is a right for every eligible voting age citizen. It is an American entitlement.

Voter suppression tactics have become more sophisticated, but they have not disappeared. The Voting Rights Act blocked more than 1,000 voting law changes between 1982 and 2006, and last year alone, the Voting Rights Act stopped a voter ID law in Texas and a Florida law that eliminated early voting days.

Now it has fallen to Congress to safeguard our most sacred right, and I will work with anyone from either party who understands the need to protect this fundamental right. I urge this body to work together to fix the Voting Rights Act.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to join with my colleagues in expressing my deep disappointment in the Supreme Court's decision on the Voting Rights Act. I stand not just as a Member of Congress but as a Member of Congress who represents Selma, Alabama. I stand not only as a Member who represents Selma, Alabama, but also as a native of Selma.

I can tell you that, as I think about the Edmund Pettus Bridge each and every time I go home, I think about JOHN LEWIS and of so many foot soldiers who dedicated their lives for the right to vote. I know that I would not be able to stand in this well had it not been for their fight.

So I implore my colleagues: we as elected officials cannot afford to not protect the right to vote. It is sacred, our right to vote. I think that the only way that we, with dignity, can continue as elected officials is if we protect each and every person's right to vote in America. So I implore us to work together to figure out a coverage formula that will work. I also urge all of us to remember what it's like to see JOHN LEWIS in this well. JOHN LEWIS is the face of voting rights in America. I

ask us to work together to figure out a formula to protect the right to vote.

□ 1900

INVESTIGATING POSSIBLE UNETHICAL ACTIVITIES

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, we've had reports that HHS Secretary Sebelius has been soliciting funds from private companies to go and promote the President's health care law. In fact, there's a committee in Congress that's investigating these reports and how it would either potentially break the law or clearly violate ethics laws. In addition to that, now we're seeing reports that the Obama administration is pressuring the NFL and the NBA to go and promote their health care law.

It is unethical for the Obama administration to pressure organizations that they regulate to try to promote their policies. So if Secretary Sebelius or any other Federal administrator is using their power in the regulatory structure to go and pressure organizations to promote their policies, they need to stop it right now, Mr. Speaker; and we need to continue in the House our oversight investigations into any kind of unethical activities like those that are being reported.

STUDENT LOAN RATES

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Education is the key to prosperity in this country. Families know that. That's why they save up for college for their students, but the cost of college has become so expensive that they've had to borrow money. The interest rates now are absolutely ridiculous, but they're about to get even worse on July 1 because Congress has not acted.

Families across our country and in my State of New Hampshire are depending on Congress to fix this problem. We cannot allow these rates to double. These families cannot afford that. I am calling on Congress to stay here until we settle this, to think about those families across this country, put off that vacation, stay right here and work it out.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, my friends across the aisle obviously are concerned about section 4 of the Voting Rights Act being struck down.

We debated the extension of the Voting Rights Act in the Judiciary Committee, and I have great respect for then-Chairman JOHN CONYERS. And as I mentioned to him privately, as well,

there's no way it's going to avoid being violative of equal protection when you have, as was determined in 2009, five of the six original States that now have less racial disparity than the rest of the country and the worst racial disparity is in Massachusetts. You can't just cram a punishment down on States just because you have a majority when great work has been done by the Voting Rights Act. It has done a good thing, and it was time for a new formula so we could capture the States that showed such racial disparity.

I look forward to working with my friends across the aisle to subjecting Massachusetts and any other violators—I know there aren't any others that bad—to section 5, and I'm sure we can get that done.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, my first babysitter was the Reverend Noah Albert Cleaver, my great-grandfather. He took care of me and my oldest sister every day after preschool. He lived to be 103 years old. I was in college when he died.

My grandpa, born in Cherokee County, Texas, who died in Ellis County, Texas, never voted, not one time in 103 years because they had to pay \$3.50 in a poll tax.

When the Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday saying that because of progress we don't need the voting rights any more, it's like having a cruise ship require everyone wear some kind of life vest. The ship goes down, everybody is saved, and they say, Well, because everybody was saved, we don't need life vests any more. It was the life vests that saved them. It was the Voting Rights Act that caused the voter participation to rise.

I will not insult the death and life of my great-grandpa by not being as active as I can to reinstitute section 4 of the Voting Rights Act.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for coming to the floor to discuss what I think is one of the most activist Court decisions probably in my lifetime.

When I was elected to Congress in 1992, it was the first time an African American won an election in Florida in 129 years in this body. And I can't stand in this body and not think about what happened in the 2000 election when we had a coup d'etat in this country, when 27,000 voters from my districts, Districts 7, 8, 9 and 10, their ballots were not counted and were thrown out because of poor equipment.

Let's don't talk about what happened 4 years later when Jeb Bush paid \$4

million to a company that took all of the people off the ballot that were not even felons.

In this recent election with this latest Governor, what did he do? They did away with Sunday voting because African Americans and others vote on Sunday.

So our work is cut out for us. The legislature for the first time put together a program that clearly lays out what we need to do to move forward. So I urge my colleagues to move forward in making sure that we reinstate section 4 of the Voting Rights Act.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I stand here today to remark on the Supreme Court's terrible decision to roll back one of the most effective safeguards to Americans' fundamental right to vote. The Court's decision ignores the current reality that voter suppression is alive and well in the United States. We saw indisputable evidence of its presence just last year. We saw attempts to implement discriminatory and unnecessary voter ID laws. We saw attempts to shorten early vote periods that have had a significant impact on minority voters.

The ball is now in Congress' court. The Senate Judiciary Committee is already taking action to restore essential protections for minority voters, and I call on Speaker BOEHNER to exercise true leadership in the House.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is our watch, and we must guard our rights for ourselves and for generations yet unborn. We must act swiftly and decisively in a bipartisan manner as we did in 2006 to create a new formula to ensure that the Voting Rights Act can continue to be a powerful tool to protect voters from discrimination.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 19. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

HONORING JOHN DINGELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 3, 2013, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

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Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased and honored to rise tonight to lead a Special Order which honors a great American, a great colleague, and a great legislator whose service to this country and to this institution have been unmatched. It is appropriate that we rise tonight—appropriate particularly in light of the action that was taken and has been discussed today on the Voting Rights Act.

Mr. Speaker, let me observe tangentially that the gentleman from Texas said something about cramming something down somebody's throat—the Voting Rights Act. I will remind my colleagues that it was passed 388-23 in this House and 98-0 in the Senate in 2006.

Let me say we honor a man tonight who not only voted for the Voting Rights Act in 1965, but has voted for every reauthorization of that act since that time. JOHN DINGELL came to Congress as a Member in 1955, winning a special election to fill the seat held by his father, John Dingell, Sr., who himself served from 1933-1955. JOHN DINGELL and his father have represented the people of southeastern Michigan in this House for eight decades. What an extraordinary testimony to the faith of their voters and the constancy and loyalty of their representation.

But very frankly, ladies and gentlemen, JOHN'S story in Congress actually began earlier than 1955. It really began in 1938, which is to say JOHN DINGELL, a year before I was born, and I'm one of the older Members. He came here as a young House page. We don't have the pages anymore, but nearly all of us remember seeing the pages, wide-eyed, sitting along the desk up front, sitting in the back, listening to speeches and watching floor proceedings as they waited to carry messages. That was JOHN DINGELL three-quarters of a century ago. The House of Representatives has been part of his life, and he has been part of it, for 75 years.

On December 8, 1941, a day that will live in infamy, 15-year-old JOHN DINGELL was in this Chamber as President Franklin Delano Roosevelt stood at the rostrum and asked Congress to declare war against Japan, whose forces had just attacked Pearl Harbor on that day to which he referred as a "day that will live in infamy." President Roosevelt spoke these words:

With the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph.

Throughout his time in this House, as a page, as the son of a Congressman, as a Member himself, as a committee chairman, and as a leader on issues of national importance, JOHN DINGELL has taught us, who have served with him, that America's triumph is only inevitable if we bring to bear the unbounded determination of which President Roosevelt spoke.

In JOHN DINGELL's record 57 years and 188 days as a Member of Congress, he has approached our greatest challenges with his own unrivaled determination. In every Congress, for half a century, he continued his father's work of introducing legislation to expand health care coverage to all Americans, even in the many years when no one thought it possible to do so. But JOHN DINGELL stuck with it.

He stuck with it and eventually had the opportunity to help shape and vote for the Affordable Care Act, which will extend to millions and millions of Americans access to affordable, quality health care. Millions of Americans owe JOHN DINGELL a debt of gratitude for his faithfulness and the advocacy of their best interest.

JOHN, in fact, was presiding over this House when it enacted Medicare in 1965. I told you he voted for the Voting Rights Act in 1965, but he presided over the adoption of Medicare. And he helped write the Endangered Species Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the 1990 Clean Air Act, among many historic pieces of legislation that he has authored, fought for, and seen adopted.

But JOHN has done more in this Chamber than shepherd key legislation to passage. He has been an unwavering voice for the working families and small business owners not just of southeastern Michigan, but of all America. He has been a giant in promoting and preserving the great American automobile industry and the millions of jobs that rely on it. He has been a mentor and a friend to me and so many current and former Members of the House.

My colleagues, JOHN DINGELL is a living link to an era when bipartisan compromise was a practiced reality, not just a slogan, not just something we say we're going to do, but something that was actually done. Members looked to JOHN DINGELL for his quick wit, his tenacious spirit, his extraordinary knowledge of legislation, and of the history of this House, and, yes, his warm heart.

JOHN loves this House and has always worked to preserve its collegiality and its good order. His unrivaled skill as a legislator is matched by his sense of decency, his integrity, and his devotion to country. And he has never lost that determination that was sparked as FDR called our Nation to arms and to service. JOHN DINGELL took up arms. He served in the United States Army from 1944-1946 as a second lieutenant