

in school, and, yes, keep them studying, understanding and preventing gun violence from making them a victim.

This Congress must act now and end sequestration to make sure that America is treated well by this Nation.

OBAMACARE COSTS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the true cost of the Affordable Care Act is being revealed day by day. We knew from the beginning that the law was double counting more than \$716 billion in cuts to Medicare to pay for the new entitlements. Another \$115 billion in implementation costs were left off the books. Then we saw the \$70 billion in projected revenues evaporate as the long-term care insurance plan was proven to be unsustainable and abandoned.

Now the President is telling us he needs more than double the anticipated amount to pay out the law's subsidies. Could this be because the administration will use the honor system to determine eligibility for subsidies, with no verification procedures in passing out subsidies?

Maybe we should use the honor system more often. We could trust that everyone paid their taxes. That would save us all money we spend on IRS agents.

We could trust that industries aren't polluting. That would save a lot of money we spend on the EPA.

Reagan used to say, "Trust, but verify." The byword for this administration is "Trust, and hope you aren't being defrauded."

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, last month, the Senate passed historic comprehensive immigration reform, and now is the time for the House to act.

It is because of our family values that we cannot wait another year, another month, or another day to finally fix our broken immigration system. We must pass a bill that keeps families together, and we must do the right thing, the humane thing, and bring 11 million immigrants out of the shadows and into society. We must ensure that all who want to call this country home have a fair and reasonable road map to do so.

I urge the Republican leadership not to choose the partisan path. Instead, we should come together and pass bipartisan comprehensive legislation that will fix our immigration system and finally revitalize the American Dream.

The time to act is now.

CELEBRATING LUDINGTON PUMPED STORAGE PLANT'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate something. I'd like to take a moment to recognize a major milestone for the Ludington Pumped Storage unit that was built in Michigan's Second District four decades ago and continues to be a great success today.

Construction of the project, as the locals call it, began in 1969 and was completed in 1973 on the shores of Lake Michigan, south of Ludington. Today, employees back there are celebrating the plant's 40th anniversary.

The Ludington Pumped Storage Plant was the largest pumped storage hydroelectric facility in the world when it was constructed. It is 842 acres and is 2½ miles long and holds 27 billion gallons of water. There are six generating units at the plant that can produce enough electricity to power a city of 1.4 million residents.

This plant is an example of successful co-ownership between Consumers Energy and Detroit Edison, DTE Energy. By displacing higher costs, Ludington Pumped Storage Plant saves consumers and DTE customers millions of dollars each year.

What makes the plant's 40 employees most proud are the national awards that they've been earning for safe operation of the plant, however.

The future looks bright for the project. There is an \$800 million investment that's being made on behalf of the customers from both utilities to overhaul and upgrade the plant to improve efficiency, and we just want to congratulate this plant today as it works to fit into our all-of-the-above energy plan.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, after President Obama's historic announcement of his climate action plan 2 weeks ago, we returned home to our congressional districts for a week, and some of us saw record-high temperatures and drought. Others witnessed unseasonably heavy rainfall and tidal flooding. And yet this week we return to a House that's heading in the wrong direction.

The Energy and Commerce Committee is debating a bill that would give the Department of Energy veto authority over EPA's public health rules. The Energy and Minerals Subcommittee spent yesterday in a hearing on the wonders of subsidized coal production.

Fighting climate change is the biggest imperative of our time. The stakes are high, and ignoring it will not make the problem go away.

President Obama's plan is a step in the right direction, and I'm encouraged that EPA is moving quickly on meaningful standards for power plants. Strong power plant standards are an imperative if we're going to avert the worst impacts of climate change.

We've got a lot of work to do, Mr. Speaker, and it's time to get this House headed in the right direction on climate policy.

HONORING DUSTIN DEFORD

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dustin Deford, a 24-year-old Montana native who was among the 19 Hotshot firefighters who recently died while battling a wildfire in Arizona.

The son of Reverend Steve and Celeste Deford, Dustin grew up in the small town of Ekalaka, Montana, where he was well known for his joyful spirit as well as his deep faith in Christ.

Dustin also had a passion for community service at an early age. In fact, he volunteered for the Carter County Rural Fire Department as soon as he turned 18 and continued working as a county firefighter every summer from 2007 until this year, when he earned a position on the Granite Mountain Hotshots in Arizona.

Cindy and I join all the people of Montana in mourning the loss of Dustin and all the brave firefighters who lost their lives on June 30. We are keeping Dustin's family and loved ones in our thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

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PRIDE MONTH

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

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize San Diego's LGBT Pride Parade and Festival that will take place this weekend.

Messages of diversity and inclusiveness are at the heart of the LGBT community. I'm proud to stand with San Diego's LGBT community and LGBT men and women across the country in commemorating their history and working for their future success. From that iconic night at Stonewall to Harvey Milk to the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell to the overturning of DOMA and Prop 8, we've experienced uneven but unmistakable progress toward equality.

As we recognize and celebrate our LGBT family and friends, we must also do the right thing and pass a trans-inclusive Employment Nondiscrimination Act so that all Americans are safe from the worry of being fired because their employers disagree with who they are and who they love.

This weekend, as San Diego celebrates Pride, I'm honored to stand with friends and colleagues to honor the contributions of LGBT Americans in San Diego and across the country.

TOO EXPENSIVE TO AFFORD

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, we're learning an awful lot about ObamaCare these days, and it seems like every week is bringing something new. We have learned that this program is too expensive to afford. We have learned that it is too difficult to implement. We have learned that it is too burdensome for business. That is why the employer mandate is being delayed. Indeed, we're seeing these burdens on business lead to an under- and unemployed number, the U-6 number, 14.3 percent.

Where have the jobs gone? ObamaCare holds some of that answer.

We are also learning that there are too many mandates, too many rules, too many regulations. We're hearing it from our health care providers, we're hearing it from constituents, and we're hearing it from individuals who want to be able to make their health care decisions with their doctors, not a bureaucrat in Washington, D.C.

What my constituents are telling me is this: let's delay, let's defund, let's repeal, let's replace. This law is too cumbersome and too expensive to afford.

WORKING TOGETHER IN WESTERN NEW YORK

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it's safe to say that Congress experiences more than its share of dysfunction. Too often, Members engage in behavior that serves to produce partisan gridlock and very little else. But this week, western New York's delegation has successfully bucked that trend.

Last night, my office worked closely with Congressman TOM REED to protect residents from leaking radioactive waste in West Valley, New York. Later today, Congressman CHRIS COLLINS will join in our efforts to protect Army Corps projects that will clean up western New York's waterways. Earlier this week, Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER and our State's Senators joined in our continued push for airline safety in the wake of the crash of Flight 3407 in western New York.

There is no disputing the fact that on some issues we have vastly divergent views. But when you respect the positions of your colleagues across the aisle and tone down the partisan rhetoric, you create room to work together for the communities you are bound to serve. I am honored to work with these western New York colleagues.

COMMONSENSE SOLUTIONS FOR JOBS

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, last week, America celebrated its 237th birthday. As I spoke with constituents at parades and other events, the number one concern I heard was about the need for better jobs. Twelve million Americans are out of work, Mr. Speaker, and 4.3 million have been out of work for 6 months or more. We're more than 4 years into President Obama's recovery; yet his misguided policies have produced almost 4 million fewer jobs than the average recovery. The American people deserve better. Our 237-year legacy proves that we can do better. Americans deserve a government that lets our economy grow and doesn't kill jobs with overreaching regulations and mindless bureaucratic kingdom-building.

Just last week, President Obama conceded that ObamaCare's employer mandate will hurt job growth. By delaying implementation of the mandate, he recognizes this policy is a failure. Now is the time for President Obama to show true leadership, put aside his failed policies, and work with Republicans on real commonsense solutions.

REPEAL THE EMPLOYER MANDATE IN OBAMACARE

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, just over a week ago, the administration announced a 1-year delay of the employer mandate in the Affordable Care Act. While a temporary delay is a good thing for businesses, a full repeal would be even better. Businesses in my district in Georgia have made very clear that the employer mandate would prevent them from expanding their businesses or hiring workers. One of the main reasons I voted against the law in the first place was because too many job creators in my district simply can't afford the costs of the employer mandate under the Affordable Care Act.

We can fix this, however. I'm proud to be leading the effort to fully repeal the employer mandate, along with two of my colleagues from across the aisle. We know this can be fixed, and we've got the bipartisan legislation to do it. I urge my colleagues to swiftly bring up the full repeal of the employer mandate and make this delay permanent so businesses across the country can get back to creating the jobs we need.

AMERICANS SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRUST GOVERNMENT

(Mr. WENSTRUP asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, every coin and bill we use bears the phrase "In God We Trust." Sadly, today, our trust tends to stop there. I don't recall hearing "In Government We Trust" very often.

President Reagan governed on the phrase "Trust, but verify." This holds true to the Founders' original plan of three branches of government working to safeguard the people from overreach or abuse of power by any one. Current scandals fly in the face of the very principles and ethos we live our lives by and the values we were founded upon.

I can tell you that we in southern and southwest Ohio take pride not only in hard work but honest work. We now face an executive branch so vast that those who are in charge now claim that full accountability is impossible. They claim that government is too vast to be held accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I will not give up on the goodness of the American citizen and the possibility of responsibility and trust that we should be able to have in our government.

IMMIGRATION AND ECONOMICS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, after hosting a special screening of "The Dream is Now" at the Rose Marine Theater on the north side of Fort Worth, I can assure you that the hundreds of constituents who attended the event represent a microcosm of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. who need the U.S. to act now on comprehensive immigration reform.

The dream for 11 million to come out of the shadows and contribute to the only country they have ever known rests in our hands. In my home State of Texas alone, immigrants paid \$1.6 billion in State and local taxes. The economic contributions of immigrants demand an immigration system that responds to the rapidly changing 21st century economy. We all agree that our current immigration system is broken. The Senate bipartisan bill was a start, and it is proof that a long-term, practical solution on immigration can be achieved.

I will continue to work with like-minded colleagues to ensure a practical and fair solution. We can no longer afford piecemeal solutions that are detrimental to our society and to our economy.

HONORING ARMY SERGEANT ZEKE CROZIER

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a truly remarkable