

COMMUNITY PARKS REVITALIZATION ACT

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

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Community Parks Revitalization Act.

This bipartisan legislation would provide matching funds and a new loan program to assist our communities in developing and redeveloping parks and recreational facilities.

As a former mayor, I have seen firsthand the value that investing in parks brings to our communities. When we make investments in our parks, it leads to healthy, vibrant neighborhoods in which businesses want to invest and families want to live. Our parks and recreational centers are also instrumental in helping to achieve the important national goal of increasing exercise and in providing recreational opportunities for our youth and disabled or injured veterans.

The Community Parks Revitalization Act has the support of many national organizations, including the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Society of Landscape Architects, and it has strong bipartisan support in the 113th Congress.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in strengthening our community parks.

NEED FOR EDUCATIONAL REFORM

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

Mr. DAINES. Madam Speaker, one of the best parts of my job is meeting with Montana students. These young people are the future leaders of our State, and it's exciting to hear about their ideas and aspirations for making their communities and our State a better place to live and to work.

As a father of four and personally, myself, as a product of Montana's public schools—in fact, from kindergarten in Bozeman all the way through college at Montana State University—I know that Montana's students have so much potential. Our oldest daughter, Annie, will be graduating from Montana State University this fall with a degree in elementary education. That's why it's critical that they have access to quality education and training that prepares them to pursue careers and goals they are passionate about.

We must work towards commonsense reforms that empower our schools and teachers to innovate and address our students' unique needs. No two students or schools are the same. More local and State input and less Federal bureaucracy will help provide our educators with the flexibility they need to help our kids learn. I am looking forward to our upcoming debate on how we can work to improve our education system.

EFFECTS OF SEQUESTER

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, this week, over 650,000 civilian employees of the Department of Defense are required to begin taking involuntary furlough days. Over 25,000 of these employees reside in San Diego. This represents about a 20 percent pay cut for the next 3 months for these public servants. This pay cut is in addition to the fact that Federal employees have not received their standard salary adjustments for the past 3 years.

These salary cuts have a very damaging effect on the employees and on their families, an effect which should be clear to all of us; but they also have disastrous secondary effects. I am worried particularly about the impact these cuts will have on the recruitment and retention of the civilian workforce. As one of my San Diego constituents in the Federal workforce said:

Furloughs send a very demoralizing and humiliating message to all Federal employees, one that suggests that we are not valued and that the work we do is not valued.

We must do better. We can start by appointing budget conferees immediately.

IN SUPPORT OF AUTHORITY FOR MANDATE DELAY ACT AND FAIRNESS FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES ACT

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, the House will vote today to delay the implementation of both the employer and the individual health insurance mandates dictated by ObamaCare. The administration announced by way of a blog post that it could not implement the employer mandate by its legal deadline despite repeated assurances that everything was okay.

It is completely unfair for the administration to grant an extension to businesses but not to individual tax-paying Americans. House Republicans are fighting for all Americans. There is still much work to be done. ObamaCare continues to be a drag on our economic recovery, leading to fewer choices and more expensive insurance premiums. I urge the support of these bills and the complete repeal of the President's health care law.

CANCER CARE

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the benefits of cancer research and the importance of funding for the National Institutes of Health. In my home State of Iowa alone, 17,480 people will be diagnosed

with cancer this year and 6,420 will lose their battles with this disease. Like every State, Iowa receives essential funding from the NIH.

NIH funds lifesaving medical research that is leading to the development of new and better ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat cancer and other diseases. The research takes place at thousands of universities, hospitals, cancer centers, and laboratories across the country, including at the University of Iowa's Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center. In addition to the obvious benefits of combating cancer and so many other diseases, NIH funding supports economic activity and jobs, something we often don't think about. In 2012, NIH funding supported 3,934 jobs in Iowa alone.

Funding for cancer research and the NIH, I believe, must be a top priority. I urge Congress to support this lifesaving research.

OBAMACARE PERMANENT DELAY

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. The administration proved what local employers have been telling me for months—ObamaCare is bad policy.

Even after 3 years of preparation, this law is far from ready for implementation and has proven to be unaffordable. Just today, we learned that we have already paid an additional \$1 billion in new taxes on the medical device tax alone. If there is a delay enacted for businesses, then there needs to be a Hoosier delay for hardworking taxpayers as well. After all, the American people are the building blocks for our companies. These individuals include parents, young people, single moms, veterans, and seasoned employees. Together, they form our Nation's workforce.

In our district in northern Indiana, I have heard from schools, restaurants, manufacturers, and small business owners who strongly oppose this mandate. At the very least, news of this delay is a relief, but the future is still clouded with uncertainty as long as this law exists. Hoosiers know that a 1-year delay of the employer mandate, and even of the individual mandate, is no more than a Band-Aid.

ObamaCare is a roadblock for American companies. According to small businesses in the Second District, this law is the number one job killer. That's why I ask for the President to permanently delay the health care law.

SEQUESTER

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, as the House prepares this week to vote for the 38th time to take patient protections away from working families

and to undermine the economic security of the middle class, millions of working Americans are struggling to make ends meet due to this Chamber's inaction.

It has been months since across-the-board sequester cuts were enacted, devastating so many important Federal programs on which Americans rely; and now, as the House leadership refuses to allow votes on alternatives to replace the sequester, 18,132 Defense employees are currently being involuntarily furloughed across Pennsylvania, resulting in a \$71 million economic loss for my State. In one place alone, 3,528 middle class Americans are being furloughed at the Tobyhanna Army Depot, which is a facility that provides essential support for our warfighters.

We have to work together to fix this problem and to reduce our deficit by growing the economy.

DELAYING INDIVIDUAL AND EMPLOYER MANDATES

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

Mr. MESSER. ObamaCare is not working. The American people know that. Now, it seems President Obama knows that, too.

The President's unilateral decision to violate the law and delay the employer mandate postpones some of the law's worst damage for businesses. Fundamental fairness dictates that individuals get the same reprieve. Some say delay gives the administration time to get it right. I say no amount of time will fix what's wrong with this job-killing law.

Each day this law is delayed gives us more time to seek its total repeal. We must protect as many people as possible from the pain this Big Government behemoth is inflicting on our Nation.

LEARN ACT

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, literacy is the foundation for success in every aspect of our economy and society.

Research clearly demonstrates that a literacy-rich environment starting in early childhood is a critical prerequisite for high school graduation, college success, and career readiness; but according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, two-thirds of all fourth and eighth graders do not read at a proficient level. Underachievement in literacy at all educational levels contributes significantly to our Nation's high dropout rate, which costs the country hundreds of billions of dollars and squanders the potential and contribution of each student who drops out.

That is why today, along with my colleague, the gentleman from Colo-

rado (Mr. POLIS), I am introducing the Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation Act. The LEARN Act provides a strong Federal investment for States and localities to develop and implement comprehensive literacy plans for children from birth through the 12th grade.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the LEARN Act in order to help ensure today's students are prepared to lead the workforce of the future and to keep our Nation at the forefront of the global economy.

□ 1230

IN RECOGNITION OF JEB HARMON

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

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, joining me off the House floor today is Jeb Harmon, a dedicated staffer of mine for almost 2 years.

Jeb embodies the spirit, work ethic, and patriotism we need from young adults who will one day lead our Nation. He has worked tirelessly first as an intern and then as a valued member of my communications team, helping to keep my constituents updated on my actions in D.C. and at home.

Jeb isn't a future leader. Jeb is a leader today. In just a few weeks, Jeb will leave my office to go to law school. Though he will be missed, I am incredibly proud of him.

For Jeb and for all students reaching their own American Dream, we must keep the burden of student loan debt from being cost prohibitive.

MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the Senate, we heard some great news. Senators RAND PAUL and TED CRUZ joined Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND and many others in support of the Military Justice Improvement Act.

This is a group of courageous leaders, bipartisan, taking serious action to stop the epidemic of violent sexual assaults amongst our men and women who courageously serve in our military.

Recently, the Defense Department reported that 26,000 sexual assaults had occurred in 2012 alone. Contrary to popular belief, this is not just an issue affecting female servicemembers. Over 53 percent of these assaults, over half of the 26,000, had been male victims. Unfortunately, 87 percent of these assaults went unreported.

This is a matter of basic fairness, transparency, and justice. Placing the decision to bring charges against these perpetrators of serious violent crimes into the hands of experienced professional military investigators and prosecutors outside of the chain of com-

mand will not erode a commander's ability to lead his or her troops.

We must change the status quo. These crimes have been ignored for far too long.

OBAMACARE IS A BAD LAW

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the President announced that his administration plans to ignore ObamaCare's employer mandate for 1 year, exempting businesses from its harmful side effects.

The White House scrambling is to be expected. ObamaCare is a bad law. But it's a bad law the President asked for; and it's a bad law he, as mastermind and chief enforcer, must obey, unless Congress authorizes a change.

It's no secret to anyone that House Republicans see ObamaCare for the broken law it is. We don't want any American to suffer under its weight. We voted nearly 40 times to delay, dismantle, or repeal the law, and we'll vote again to delay the implementation of ObamaCare's onerous employer mandate today.

But we aren't stopping there. If businesses are getting a break from the President's law, individual Americans should, too.

Attempting to justify selective enforcement is beyond rationality. Delaying the individual mandate tax is a matter of basic fairness.

PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, 38 times? How many times will we vote to repeal or take away patient protection from families and to undermine the middle class? It makes no sense.

Look at what we know:

The United States Supreme Court said the PPACA is constitutional;

Millions have already benefited;

One hundred million cannot have lifetime limits placed upon their health care;

By January 2014, 129 million cannot be denied coverage due to a preexisting condition;

By 2020, there will be no doughnut hole, and already 6.3 million seniors save \$6.1 billion on prescription drugs;

Women cannot be discriminated against by 2014; last year alone, 90 percent of the best-selling plans still charged women more; and

Seventeen million children are now protected from being denied coverage due to a preexisting condition.

Mr. Speaker, really, 38 times? Why? It makes no common sense.