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MARINES WILL NOT LEAVE THEIR BROTHERS BEHIND

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Corporal Armando Torres, a 25-year-old marine and Iraq war vet, who finds himself in a desperate situation. More than 2 months ago, Corporal Torres was kidnapped, along with his father and uncle, from a Mexican ranch.

While the media's lack of attention has their kidnappers thinking we've just given up, my colleagues and my fellow marines in the House of Representatives have a different message: marines will not leave their brothers behind, and the U.S. should not either. We will not rest until we bring Corporal Torres home.

Now is the time to send a message to Torres' kidnappers that their actions against a U.S. citizen and a marine veteran will not be tolerated. I urge my fellow marines to join me on the House floor and to demand action for Corporal Torres and his family.

IMMIGRATION

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

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam Speaker, last month, in Addison, Illinois, I held an immigration roundtable with 38 organizations that spanned the political spectrum. Attending were the chambers of commerce, the ACLU, local colleges, and municipalities. They all told me that now is the time to act on comprehensive immigration reform.

My neighbors know that, done right, immigration reform can make our communities stronger and that it can provide opportunities for our businesses by expanding our workforce. Reform will make us safer by securing our borders. We can help balance our budget by letting millions of immigrants who are willing to make the necessary sacrifices become tax-paying American citizens. We must work together to provide a pathway to citizenship as part of any comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

The Senate has passed such a bipartisan proposal, and Members of the House should reach across the aisle and do the same. We cannot allow partisanship and extremism to stop us from making commonsense reforms that are vital to the future of this great Nation. Now is the time for Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation that is practical, fair, and humane.

LET'S PUT OFF THE SUFFERING

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, this evening, we had a difficult vote—not difficult for some, but for some of us, it was.

On the one hand, we had the President, who had announced he was going to do the unconstitutional even though he had pushed through ObamaCare without a single Republican vote for it, and people are beginning to realize just how devastating this is. They've lost their doctors; they've lost their insurance, and they're going to lose their insurance; people have been forced from full time to part time, and now they're seeking more part-time work to make up the difference; they're being told they're losing their benefits.

This extra whammy for American workers was going to be even more devastating if the individual mandate went through. Somebody making \$14,000 was either going to buy insurance he couldn't afford or pay extra income tax.

Some of us knew if we would just let the whole thing go through, then people would be hurt, and they would demand repeal; but I had to vote not to make people suffer. Let's put off the suffering as long as possible and then, hopefully, repeal it.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about comprehensive immigration reform, but from a slightly different standpoint from many of my colleagues who frequently occupy this Chamber with their perspectives.

Madam Speaker, we all know why we need comprehensive immigration reform, why we need to fix this system rather than depending on small, one-off solutions. Our system is broken, and we have to fix the entire immigration system now.

Our farms do not have stable workforces; our borders are not adequately protected; far too many high-tech companies are short the workers they need to continue to innovate; our schools attract the best and the brightest from around the world, but we can't keep sending them back after we educate them.

We know what needs to be fixed and why. What will happen once we fix the problems? Very simply, our economy will skyrocket.

Report after report, study after study says the same thing—the successful implementation of comprehensive immigration reform will cut the deficit, create manufacturing jobs and job opportunities nationwide, and create more than 100,000 American jobs every year for the next 10 years. We will see \$832 billion being pumped into our economy over the next 10 years. As

producers and consumers in this great Nation, undocumented immigrants grow the economic pie by at least \$30 billion as we speak. Legalization would triple that number with various studies pointing to a \$1 trillion impact on our gross domestic product right here in the United States over the next 10 years.

Madam Speaker, I am joined by many of my freshman class. This past election, voters sent us to Washington to solve problems like our broken immigration system, and that's what we want to do. It's time to make immigration reform a reality, and it's absolutely time to let people know what that reality really means for their own pocketbooks—those of both American citizens and immigrants. That's what we're going to talk about tonight.

Madam Speaker, for those watching at home, they can get in on one of the conversations by tweeting us at #CIRmeansjobs. If our constituents have questions, we will answer them.

With that, I look forward to an interesting and enlightening discussion tonight.

I would like to start off by talking with my colleague from California, Congressman SWALWELL. One thing I would like to ask this gentleman is whether he thinks comprehensive immigration reform will help not only create more job opportunities but also expand our Nation's workforce.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California, Congressman CÁRDENAS, for leading on this issue and for bringing together the freshman class on an issue that is important not just in California but across the country—the question about comprehensive immigration reform and whether it means jobs.

We know that it's the right thing to do to welcome the 11 million undocumented immigrants into our country and to put them on a pathway to citizenship. We also know that it's good for our economy, and I am happy to be here today to talk about this. Everyone agrees right now that our immigration system is broken. It must be reformed, not in a piecemeal manner, but comprehensively to meet the needs of the 21st century.

I represent a very diverse area, which includes the cities of Hayward, Union City, Fremont, Castro Valley, and San Lorenzo, California, among other cities. In those cities are some of the 11 million undocumented individuals. These are hardworking folks who come here for the same reason that our ancestors came—to make life better for themselves, their families, and their children. We should welcome that. We should embrace that they are choosing to come here to America rather than to go to other countries. It's a very good thing.

Tragically, right now, these undocumented workers are in the shadows, putting them at risk for exploitation

and allowing for the unscrupulous employer to drive down wages for everyone. It's time to bring them into the open, to provide them legalized status, and to allow them to earn citizenship.

We also need to reform our legal immigration process. For example, we need to stop forcing people who come here and study in America—in our classrooms and in our colleges—and become skilled workers in the U.S. to leave the country just when they want to stay and contribute. Not only is making these changes the morally right thing to do; but as my colleagues have been saying and will say tonight, it adds up for our economy.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office analyzed the bipartisan Senate bill and found it would increase our GDP by 5.4 percent in 2033, or \$1.4 trillion. It's not just the CBO. A paper published in 2012 by the Cato Institute found that comprehensive immigration reform would raise wages, increase consumption, create jobs, and generate additional revenue. It calculated a smaller benefit than did the CBO, but it's at least \$1.5 trillion in extra GDP over 10 years.

Comprehensive immigration reform is not only the morally right thing to do; it's the economically correct thing to do to get America's economy moving again, and I am honored to stand with my colleagues today to push for this needed reform.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Thank you very much, Congressman SWALWELL.

Next, we will hear from Congressman RUIZ from California.

Mr. RUIZ. Thank you, Congressman CÁRDENAS, for your remarks and for hosting this Special Order today to discuss the economic benefits of immigration reform. This is an issue that is very important to my district and to our great Nation.

Madam Speaker, Democrats and Republicans recognize that our current immigration system is broken and that the passage of the bipartisan Senate immigration bill a few weeks ago sends a strong message that the time for comprehensive reform is now.

Passing a commonsense, comprehensive immigration reform bill will lead to an economic boon in our country. Nonpartisan, independent studies have shown that comprehensive immigration reform will reduce the deficit by nearly \$850 billion over the next 20 years and will reduce our Federal debt. Passing comprehensive immigration reform is being fiscally responsible. It will also increase economic growth and will strengthen our economy by expanding our labor force, increasing investment, and increasing overall productivity. It will also provide a significant boost to our tourism and agriculture sectors—two of the top industries in my district in southern California, which is the 36th Congressional District in the Coachella Valley and the Palm Springs area.

Comprehensive immigration reform means more jobs and more opportunity

for people in my district and across the country—but only if we act. There is too much at stake if we do not take action to fix our broken immigration system. It is time for Congress to put partisanship aside and work together to pass a meaningful comprehensive immigration bill now.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Thank you very much, Congressman RUIZ from California.

One of the things I'd like to make sure that we understand is that some people believe that the low-skilled jobs that some immigrants take in this country are jobs that are taken away from Americans. Ask any farmer around the country, especially the members of the biggest farms in the country. Some crops have gone unpicked, which means that that affects the pocketbooks of every American when those crops don't make it to our kitchen tables. It's really important for us to understand that many of the jobs that are taken by some immigrants to this country are jobs that U.S. workers just will not take. I think it's very important for us to understand that, and there is a diversity of jobs that we will cover over the next hour.

With that, I yield to Congressman GALLEGU from Texas.

Mr. GALLEGU. Thank you. I, too, want to thank my colleague, Congressman CÁRDENAS of California, as well as the other members of our freshman class, for this important time to talk about an issue that is critical to the border.

Madam Speaker, the 23rd Congressional District in Texas, which I have the privilege of representing, runs some 800 miles along the Texas-Mexico border. It encompasses 29 counties, which are bigger than 29 States, and 10 of the counties that I represent are along the Texas-Mexico border.

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It includes five ports of entry: Eagle Pass, Del Rio, Presidio, Fabens, and Zaragoza-Ysleta in El Paso. No other congressional district in the country shares a larger border with Mexico.

The impact of the immigration debate, it's a tremendous impact not only on the 23rd District, but truly in all of Texas.

There are many reasons to pass comprehensive immigration reform, but one of the best reasons is simple, straightforward economics. Let's take a look at the numbers.

According to a 2006 report by the comptroller of public accounts in Texas, "the absence of the estimated 1.4 million undocumented immigrants in Texas in fiscal year 2005 would have been a loss to the gross State product of \$17.7 billion."

Recently, I asked our current comptroller to update that study so that all of the Members of Congress from Texas would have updated information during a very important policy debate. Sadly, she denied my request. But a more re-

cent study from the Immigration Policy Center noted that, if all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Texas, the State would lose \$69.3 billion in economic activity, \$30.8 billion in gross State product, and approximately 403,000 jobs, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time.

Economically, here's what comprehensive immigration reform means for Texas:

It means that deficits decrease, while GDP, productivity, investment, and employment all increase;

If the unauthorized immigrants in Texas were allowed to earn a path towards legalization, total wages in Texas would go up by about \$9.7 billion, tax revenue in Texas would increase by \$4.1 billion, and nearly 200,000 jobs would be created;

For every unauthorized person required to be legalized in Texas, more than \$1,000 would be added to the gross State product in 2014, and that number would increase to more than \$4,400 by the year 2020.

Let's talk about the CBO score, because according to the nonpartisan CBO report to which the comptroller of Texas referred my office, that study notes that our country will save almost a trillion dollars over the next two decades with comprehensive immigration reform, more than 10 million people will now pay billions of dollars in income and payroll taxes during the first decade alone, and we reduce the Federal deficit by \$197 billion at the same time that we add \$200 billion to the Social Security trust fund.

In Texas, all of the key players are standing behind immigration reform. The chambers of commerce, the Texas Farm Bureau, the labor communities, the faith communities, and, frankly, public opinion. They're all singing from the very same hymnbook.

Usually you hear the phrase that we should "run government more like a business." A business doesn't make decisions on the basis of emotion. A business makes decisions on the basis of economics.

Economically, comprehensive immigration reform makes perfect sense. Our Nation becomes stronger as more people pledge allegiance to our flag and commit fully to this Nation and our economy.

The time is now. The right thing to do, if you care about the Texas economy and you want it to grow and grow, you want to support comprehensive immigration reform.

With that, I thank my colleagues.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Thank you very much, Congressman GALLEGU.

It's very important for us to understand that this is an issue of diversity. And it's not just diversity of people from all over the country, but diversity of economics for the United States of America.

It's no secret that we are the innovative capital of the world, but more and more every single day, every single year, we are depending more and more

and more on technical people coming to our country to fill those technical jobs that are fueling hundreds, if not millions, of jobs in this country and creating tremendous economic benefit for our country. It's really important for us to understand that.

I now yield to Congresswoman TITUS from Nevada to speak to those issues and others.

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me time, and I also thank him for organizing this Special Order.

We've heard a lot on this floor and in the press and from our constituents about the moral, the social, the political reasons for us to enact comprehensive immigration reform, but we haven't done enough talking about the economic aspects, so this is a good opportunity to do that.

I'm very pleased to say that, in the Senate version of the comprehensive immigration reform bill, there is a provision that has to do with increasing H-1B visas. Those visas will bring with them increased jobs, which, of course, support the economy.

A second part of that provision is also something that I've been urging my colleagues on the House side who are working on the comprehensive immigration reform bill to include, and that provision would use the revenue from these high-skilled H-1B visas to promote STEM education at minority-serving colleges and universities. You can just look at this chart and see how many new jobs will be created both in 2013 and 2014 by the increase in the number of these visas that would be allowed.

If we increase the number of visas, we're also going to increase the amount of funds that come from companies that are willing to pay to bring people from outside the country here for these STEM jobs. I say let's use those funds both to create scholarships for low-income minority students who are pursuing STEM degrees and also to provide funding for American colleges and universities that serve those minority students. We want our new citizens to also be well-prepared citizens.

There are colleges and universities all across the country, including several in the First District of Nevada, that are working hard to attract students to the STEM fields. Earlier this year, the College of Southern Nevada hosted approximately 3,000 K through 12 Nevada students at their annual science and technology expo to get local students from all backgrounds, including our minority communities, excited about careers in STEM fields before they enter college. Then in January, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas hosted a STEM summit to feature STEM research and to get students involved in presenting that research and their work in the STEM fields.

These are significant and important efforts to promote STEM, but our colleges and universities need our help to

expand and improve their STEM outreach and training. By increasing access to STEM education, we can help American and immigrant students gain the knowledge and skills they need in the sciences, technology, math, and engineering so they can compete for the jobs of tomorrow.

This is particularly critical for minority students, who are significantly underrepresented in these fields. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in the 2009 American Community Survey, only 12 percent of STEM workers in this country are African American or Hispanic. We can and should be doing better, because a strong STEM workforce is important to American innovation and competitiveness.

So science and technology companies that are paying our government through the H-1B visa program to bring foreign workers to the United States to fill these STEM jobs should be making a contribution. Why not use these funds that they're paying to train Americans to have the skills to fill these jobs in the future? Providing scholarships to STEM students and granting funding to colleges and universities that serve minority communities to improve STEM programs would strengthen our educational system. It would help our economy and also our position as a global leader in science and technology.

So I would urge the Republican leadership to immediately take up the mantle of reform, make it law, and include these provisions for these high-tech visas, using the funding for the visas then to train our own students, many in minority communities, including the children of those immigrants that we are working to help, for the jobs of the future.

Fixing our broken immigration system is not just a moral imperative, but, as we are all discussing tonight, it's an economic necessity.

Mr. CARDENAS. Thank you very much, Congresswoman TITUS.

It's really important for us to understand and recognize the diversity of people who are speaking on this issue today, but the one common theme is the fact that economically this is the right thing to do. There are many other reasons why we need to fix our broken immigration system, but the number one benefit to every American citizen in this country is going to be economic growth for every corner of our country.

With that, I invite to the podium Congresswoman SINEMA from Arizona.

Ms. SINEMA. Thank you, Congressman CÁRDENAS, for being a leader on this issue and for inviting me to speak today.

Madam Speaker, Arizona is Ground Zero for the Federal Government's failure to address our immigration crisis with a comprehensive solution. Arizona has been waiting too long already. We deserve a solution now.

Comprehensive immigration reform is the number one issue about which I

receive constituent feedback. Over 70 percent of the feedback encourages us to get comprehensive reform done. In short, my district wants us to get to "yes."

In our State, there is broad agreement among businesses and towns that conduct international trade, among schools that recruit international talent, among local chambers of commerce; there's agreement that comprehensive reform is an economic imperative. For this reason, Senator MCCAIN and Senator FLAKE led a bipartisan effort in the Senate to pass a comprehensive bill. Our Senators worked across the aisle to get this done.

Senator MCCAIN and Senator FLAKE understand that securing the border is a critical component of comprehensive reform. Controlling our borders prevents dangerous criminal cartels who traffic guns, drugs, and people from entering our country. It also creates an opportunity for those who want to do good to join us and contribute to our economy.

Business leaders at home agree that comprehensive immigration reform will help us meet our labor demands. It will create opportunities for us to recruit and invest in the world's top talent. This much-needed reform will fortify our international trade relationship with Mexico. That's Arizona's and one of America's largest trading partners.

Mayors in my community are unified. They believe a hyperpoliticized border is bad for business and it's bad for our economy.

We can no longer continue to educate young dreamers, cultivate their talent, and then send them to a different country where they're competing with us. Their pathway to citizenship is vital for our economy.

When hardworking families are able to come out of the shadows and take part in the American Dream, our community grows stronger.

Arizona's families and our economy depend on the U.S. House's commitment to a bipartisan solution. I call on my colleagues in both parties to put aside ideology and work to find a workable, practical, and pragmatic solution.

Arizona has been waiting too long already. We owe it to our State to pass immigration reform this year.

Thank you, Congressman, for yielding time to me to speak on this important issue.

Mr. CARDENAS. Thank you, Congresswoman SINEMA.

It's really important for us to also recognize that there are many industries that you might not think of that have to do with benefitting the economy as a whole for your community. If you have any activity of tourism in your community, you need to understand that comprehensive immigration reform is going to benefit you, as well.

With that, I invite Congresswoman GABBARD to take the floor.

Ms. GABBARD. Thank you very much, and I appreciate my colleague

from California for leading and encouraging this conversation to talk about the comprehensive immigration reform bill in a context that's much broader than has been talked about in many of the headlines.

Madam Speaker, for all of us to understand and recognize the great economic benefits and impacts of this bill on our country, we have to recognize that our borders do not just consist of those on the southwest border, our borders do not just consist of those along the northern part of our country with Canada, but these borders exist in every single one of our international airports all across the country.

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Anyone who talks to me, it doesn't take very long for them to figure out how much I love my State of Hawaii, and also that I enjoy hearing from other people how much they love Hawaii as well. Travelers to Hawaii spent \$16.9 billion in 2011 alone, and generated \$2.5 billion which went to Federal, State and local governments, dollars that helped fund and create local jobs and public programs, such as funding our police, our firefighters, our teachers, our infrastructure projects, and our convention centers, where we host many, many gatherings of a diverse group of industries from all over the world.

In 2011, 160,800 jobs were created by the travel industry in my State of Hawaii alone. For every million dollars spent in Hawaii by travelers, 10 jobs are created. Everyone knows Hawaii is a tourist destination, but we have to realize the great potential that exists for our country to be marketed as a tourist destination as well, and what that impact will be.

Unbeknownst to many people, there are tourism provisions in the Senate bill, this comprehensive immigration reform bill, that will allow us to create an additional 1.3 million U.S. jobs by 2020 and produce about \$160 billion in economic output by the year of 2020.

It's time for us to regain our share of the global travel market. From 2000 to 2010, the United States went from hosting 17 percent of all global travelers to just 12 percent. This is moving us in the wrong direction. By taking these steps that have been included in the comprehensive immigration reform bill, we can increase American exports cumulatively by \$390 billion over the next 10 years.

I would like to talk about a couple of the travel provisions that have been included in the Senate bill that will encourage tourism not only in my home State of Hawaii but in States all across the country where we have such great diversity of cultures and geography and communities that must be celebrated.

The Senate bill includes reforms to the highly successful visa waiver program that allows additional countries like Brazil and Poland to apply for admission, enhancing U.S. security while

also welcoming more visitors to the United States.

This bill also expands the tested and proven global entry program that allows preapproved, low-risk international travelers the ability to utilize an expedited clearance process upon entry into the United States. This expedited entry for trusted travelers enables our Customs and Border Patrol personnel to focus their time and limited resources on inspecting unknown or higher-risk travelers.

This bill also allows for expedited visa reviews for travelers who wish to visit the U.S. on short notice. And also, an important provision which will help service the limited resources of our embassies by including a pilot program that tests the use of secure video conferencing to conduct visa interviews, which would provide increased access to the United States visas for potential travelers. In this day and age of technology, this is a commonsense approach to this updating of the immigration reform bill.

There are many more provisions that are included in this bill. It is time for us to market the United States as a destination for our global traveler community and create the jobs for our hotel owners, for our airlines, for the restaurants, and all the small businesses that will benefit from this, and create more jobs for our economy as a result.

Thank you for the opportunity to talk about this growing industry.

Mr. CARDENAS. Thank you very much, Congresswoman GABBARD.

Some people say that comprehensive immigration reform needs to happen because it is the socially responsible thing to do. But one thing that our numbers show, and whether it is a conservative group or the Congressional Budget Office staff, they basically are saying when we pass comprehensive immigration reform, we are going to see places like Social Security go up in value and actually extend the life of Social Security with those additional payers. It is important for us to understand that yes, it is a social responsibility for us to improve our immigration system, yet at the same time, once again, every American will benefit.

I yield to Congressman CARTWRIGHT from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Thank you, Congressman CÁRDENAS. I want to say tonight that I'm so proud of my fellow men and women, new Members who have spoken in this Special Order hour so far on comprehensive immigration reform.

Madam Speaker, it is obvious from the comments we've heard so far that the economic benefits of immigration reform are irrefutable. Sometimes you do have to follow the money, and the money speaks very loudly and clearly in this case—comprehensive immigration reform cannot be ignored as the correct solution. But I also want to mention that each and every one of the

speakers who has been up so far has also said generically it is the right thing to do. I want to touch on that, if I may, this evening.

In my own faith tradition when we think about what the right thing to do is, we look to the Bible. We look to the Good Book. In my mind, one of the most important passages in the Bible describes what happens on the Last Judgment Day. It goes something like this:

When the Son of Man returns in all his glory, escorted by the angels, then he will take his seat on the throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate the people one from another as the shepherd separates the sheep from goats. At his right hand, he will place the sheep, at his left the goats. And to those on his right, he will say, Come, accept as your inheritance the kingdom that has been prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For when I was hungry, you fed me. When I was thirsty, you gave me drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me.

This passage could not be more clear on the moral imperative of the day when we talk about comprehensive immigration reform. It isn't just that comprehensive immigration reform will reduce our deficit. It isn't just that comprehensive immigration reform will strengthen our Social Security and our Medicare systems. It isn't just that comprehensive immigration reform will increase our gross domestic product and strengthen our American economy. No, more than that, at the heart of our moral fiber, we know comprehensive immigration reform is the right thing to do.

Mr. CARDENAS. Thank you very much, Congressman CARTWRIGHT.

I think it is very important for us to understand once again that tonight we are covering many aspects of why comprehensive immigration reform is good for this country. It's really important for us to understand, and what I urge every viewer to do is to ask your local Chamber of Commerce how they feel about whether comprehensive immigration reform is overdue and whether or not we should pass such a bill. Also ask your local law enforcement agencies. For example, 37 out of the 50 State attorneys general in this country have all signed a letter saying Congress, please pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill. And please ask anybody from whatever religion you may be a part of, ask that pastor, ask that individual that you look to for that spiritual guidance to answer the question as to whether or not comprehensive immigration reform is something they believe should happen in this country.

I think the answers will overwhelmingly be yes, yes, yes.

Now I yield to Congresswoman MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM from New Mexico to speak.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. I thank the gentleman from California.

Madam Speaker, I could stand here all night talking about the many reasons why our country needs comprehensive immigration reform that keeps families together, provides a tough but fair pathway to citizenship, enhances border security, and that's in line with our core American values. But tonight, I'm going to focus on why immigration reform is good for the American economy and good for the economy of New Mexico.

Nationally, it's estimated that immigration reform will create 121,000 jobs a year and boost American GDP by \$832 billion over the next decade. Nearly every day, we hear Members from both parties talking about the need to reduce our debt and deficit. Well, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has determined that comprehensive immigration reform will reduce our national deficit by nearly \$850 billion over the next two decades.

In New Mexico, comprehensive immigration reform will create 6,000 jobs over the next decade and increase our GSP—gross State product—by \$3.8 billion. These economic benefits and new jobs will have a ripple effect, leading to even more economic activity, higher productivity, more critical investments, better wages, and even more jobs for New Mexicans and Americans. Simply put, we cannot afford not to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

Our economic future demands it, and that's why I'm glad that so many of my colleagues are taking to the floor this evening to make the case for comprehensive immigration reform because the American people need to know that it's good for the economy, good for business, and good for job creation.

The Senate has done its job and acted in a bipartisan manner. Now it's time for the House to do its job so we can send a comprehensive immigration reform to the President's desk and finally fix our broken immigration system.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. I thank the congresswoman.

Next, I'd like to yield to Congressman MURPHY from Florida. We've heard from a congresswoman from Hawaii, and next Congressman MURPHY from Florida will speak. Tourism is an important economic issue tip to tip in this country, and Florida is no exception.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. First, I want to thank Mr. CÁRDENAS for putting this Special Order together. I'm here tonight to call on the House of Representatives to pass bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform that would reduce our deficit and grow our economy.

Madam Speaker, now that the Senate has passed comprehensive immigration reform with broad bipartisan support, it is time for the House to step up and do the same. Passing immigration reform will cut our Federal deficit and grow the economy. The Congressional

Budget Office reported that the Senate immigration bill would reduce the Federal budget deficit by \$850 billion over the next 20 years. Comprehensive immigration reform will also grow our economy. By expanding the U.S. labor force and America's productivity, increasing the number of available high-tech visas and increasing foreign investment, comprehensive immigration reform will increase our gross domestic product. It is projected that this will increase GDP by \$1.4 trillion by 2033.

While not perfect, the Senate immigration bill is an important bipartisan compromise to address what is currently a broken system. I came to Washington to work across the aisle and find commonsense solutions just like this. Furthermore, the fact that this bill would reduce the Federal deficit and grow the economy should be something we can all agree on.

I urge my colleagues to support passing the Senate's bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. I thank Congressman MURPHY. I think it is important for us to understand that every State has its unique differences, yet again, we are one Nation and we will all benefit from comprehensive immigration reform.

I would now like to yield to Congressman VEASEY from Texas.

Mr. VEASEY. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Los Angeles, California, for hosting this Special Order hour on a very important topic, and that is immigration reform.

Madam Speaker, recently I previewed a screening of "The Dream is Now" in Fort Worth, and Representative CASTRO also came to Fort Worth to join me on that. And 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 us to act now on comprehensive immigration reform. The dream for 11 million people to come out of the shadows and contribute economically to the only country they've ever known rests in the hands in the United States House of Representatives.

Immigrants contribute to our economy as workers, as future entrepreneurs, as consumers, and as taxpayers. Latinos account for increasing shares of the economy and electorate in Texas. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Texas's almost 450,000 Latino-owned businesses had sales receipts of nearly \$62 billion and employed over 395,000 people in 2007, the last year for which data is available.

Additionally, over 61,000 foreign students in Texas contributed \$1.4 billion to the economy in tuition fees and living expenses in the 2011–2012 academic year. These monumental numbers cannot be ignored.

In Dallas alone, immigrants accounted for 16 percent of economic output as of 2007, according to the Fiscal Policy Institute.

If all undocumented immigrants were removed from the State of Texas, our

State, the Lone Star State, would lose \$69.3 billion in economic activity, \$30.8 billion in gross State product, and approximately 403,174 jobs, according to a report by the Perryman Group.

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The Perryman Group is run by Ray Perryman, out of Waco, Texas, who has worked very closely with Rick Perry, who is really the face of the Republican Party in Texas.

It's time to highlight the economic benefits of immigration reform and to further encourage those on the right to support comprehensive immigration reform moving through the House.

In a time of economic hardship, it's hard to imagine that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle would be against expanding our economy, investing in American manufacturers, and strengthening American workers.

I want to thank the gentleman for allowing me to speak on this very important issue. Let's not make these families and our economy wait any longer. The time for comprehensive immigration reform is now.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Thank you very much, Congressman VEASEY.

It's really important for us to understand, I keep saying, every corner of this country's going to benefit from comprehensive immigration reform. And you just heard from one of our Representatives from Texas explaining that there's actually Republicans in his State who actually realize the economic benefit and are urging comprehensive immigration reform now as well.

Before I go to the next speaker, I must ask, Madam Speaker, how much time do we still have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 18 minutes remaining.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. I yield time to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GARCIA).

Mr. GARCIA. I'd like to thank the gentleman from California.

Madam Speaker, it's been 20 days since the Senate passed overwhelmingly a bipartisan immigration reform bill.

In the House Judiciary Committee, we've considered four controversial bills, none of which address the 11 million people that are already here.

In south Florida, for example, there are thousands of Venezuelan families stuck in an immigration system with some combination of legal or undocumented status. They came to this country fleeing Chavismo and have since purchased homes, started businesses, and invested millions in our community.

Earlier this year, I introduced a bill, the Venezuelan Liberty Act, which would allow any Venezuelan who had been in the United States since Chavez was elected to adjust to permanent-resident status. This is similar to what Congress passed in 1997 with the Nicaraguan Adjustment Act and the Central American Relief Act.

However, because we have yet to consider any sort of legalization path, the House Judiciary Committee has not yet had the opportunity to consider this bill as an amendment or to debate on how best to bring people out of the shadows.

And Venezuelans aren't alone. The Haitians, the Africans, the Central Americans on TPS, the young people who are covered under DACA continue to live their lives in immigration limbo while the House has yet to act.

Immigration reform isn't about politics. It's about our Nation's values. It's about our economy. It's about our future.

The recent White House report and last month's CBO report confirmed what my constituents in south Florida already know: our Nation's livelihood depends on fixing our broken immigration system.

The Center for American Progress projected that immigration reform would generate over 8,000 additional jobs per year in Florida and that current Florida citizens would see an increase in wages of \$6.3 billion over the next 10 years.

We may not agree on everything, but we cannot afford to wait any longer. Passing immigration reform will spur innovation, lower our deficit, and raise wages for all workers.

As if the voices of many DREAMers who have recently descended on Washington aren't enough, business leaders, law enforcement officials, farmers, clergy throughout the U.S. have urged Congress to take action.

It's time to move this Nation forward. I urge the House leadership to bring immigration reform to the floor.

The time has come. Ha llegado la hora.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Thank you very much, Congressman GARCIA.

Next I'll yield time to the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS).

Mr. VARGAS. I want to thank the gentleman from California for yielding to allow me to speak on this very important issue to California.

But I especially want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for putting it in the context of our faith and our faith communities and our faith tradition. He, of course, quoted famously from Matthew 25. He could have quoted from Leviticus. In fact, I would like to do that now, from Leviticus 19:33-34:

When an alien resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native born. Love them as yourself for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

And I have to ask, are we keeping that commandment?

Are we keeping that rule?

Are we keeping that pronouncement?

Of course we're not. I wish that we were.

Immigration reform is vital to the economy of our country and, in particular, to California and my district.

California is unique in that it is home to the technology industry, which relies heavily and highly on skilled talent and has an incredibly successful agriculture industry, which needs a temporary worker program that provides a predictable workforce.

The more California business leaders I speak with, the more apparent it is that immigration reform is the key to stimulating our economy and encouraging job growth.

Ruben Barrales, the immediate past president and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and current head of the Republican Political Action Committee, GROW Elect said:

It is the responsibility of national leaders to modernize our immigration laws to help the United States remain competitive in the global economy.

Comprehensive immigration reform should help to attract and retain highly skilled immigrants, and should provide some pathway to legalization for qualified undocumented immigrants.

We must welcome immigrants, who continue to strengthen our economy and revitalize our society.

The California Chamber of Commerce is also acutely aware of the immense value that surrounds successful immigration reform. The California Chamber of Commerce, along with 29 other chambers, including the El Centro Chamber in my district, signed a letter stating that they stand united in adopting comprehensive reform.

The letter states:

Immigration reform is especially important to California as there are approximately 2.6 million undocumented immigrants in California, 23 percent of the Nation's total.

The uncertainty over their legal status is a drag on our economy and, if resolved, would stimulate consumer spending and investment.

Many of those who are in California have called our State home for more than 10 years, becoming Americans in all but legal status. Californians would benefit from more than 18,000 jobs created each year as a result of comprehensive immigration reform, according to a 2013 study by the Center for American Progress.

Moreover, California would see a 10-year cumulative increase in gross state product of \$125.5 billion, an increase of earnings of all California residents of \$68.2 billion, and, finally, an increase in taxes paid by undocumented immigrants by \$5.22 billion.

There is no denying that immigration reform is an economically sound decision, and I urge my Republican colleagues to work with us to achieve real, valuable, economically beneficial immigration reform.

And I respectfully ask that, again, they look at their own faith because that's really the basis of this. We know it's the right thing to do.

Look to Genesis. Look to Leviticus. Look especially to Matthew 25, and you'll see in your hearts, this is the right thing to do.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Thank you very much, Congressman VARGAS.

I'll yield time to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO). And I'd like to ask Congressman CASTRO if he can help me answer the question a young lady tweeted on this, as we're commenting tonight from the floor.

Brenda asked, What are you doing for children who came here through no fault of their own?

Congressman CASTRO.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Well, Congressman, thank you for that question, and thank you for your work on this issue.

Madam Speaker, in the Senate bill that was passed recently, there is relief for students known as DREAMers, those who were brought here as young kids through no fault of their own and through no choice, and now find themselves undocumented, with no way, oftentimes, to go to college or to pursue their career dreams. These are folks who are literally in a kind of limbo.

And so what we should do is offer them a path to citizenship to allow them to become American citizens. This country is, after all, for the overwhelming majority of them, the only country they've ever called home. It's the only place they know as home; and this is an issue, I think, that tugs at the conscience of Americans.

And most polls show that an overwhelming majority of Americans support a path to citizenship for DREAM Act students.

So I hope, Congressman CÁRDENAS, that what we can do in the House of Representatives is follow the example of the Senate, work in a bipartisan manner, and offer relief for these DREAM Act students who are caught in limbo, who, through no fault of their own, are here in the United States of America, who call our country home, who are proud to be Americans, and who deserve a chance to become full-fledged citizens.

I would also point out, you know, as I said before, that there are very compelling moral and economic reasons to support comprehensive reform.

I represent San Antonio, Texas, here in Congress. And of all the States in the Nation, I believe that Texas has the most to gain or lose by what happens on this issue. The reason I say that is that we have the longest border with Mexico, for example, 1,200 miles.

We do the most trade with Latin America, and there are four or five major American industries and Texas industries, everything from the high-tech industry in Austin, just as you have one in California in Silicon Valley, to the agricultural industry, the construction industry, the hospitality industry. These major American industries literally would not exist the way they do but for immigrant labor.

And I want to give you the best example of that. The agricultural industry self-reports that 50 percent of its workers are undocumented. And so when States like Alabama and Georgia pass laws that essentially led immigrants to flee those States, their agricultural industries paid a very steep

price. So those are the stakes that we're dealing with on this issue.

I am hoping that House Republicans will join Democrats who have been pushing for comprehensive reform for quite some time now, join us in coming to a solution that does more than just incite fear or scare people, and actually tries to resolve this issue in a pragmatic way for the Nation.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Thank you very much, Congressman CASTRO.

I'd like to thank all of my colleagues who spoke here tonight.

And thank you, Madam Speaker, for affording us the opportunity to speak to the American public and to actually explain this very, very critical, important economic benefit to our great country.

I'd like to thank my colleagues, my fellow Americans, for speaking out tonight and explaining to every American of our great country that comprehensive immigration reform benefits you. Every single person born in this country will benefit tremendously from passage of comprehensive immigration reform.

I think it's important for us to understand that, to many of us American-born citizens, this is a very important issue. It's about economics, but it's also an emotional issue as well.

I'm very, very proud to say that I was born in this country, and I thank my parents for coming to California and for raising me in California as an American citizen, even though they were raised in Mexico.

I think it's important for us to understand that I'm proud of growing up in a family where my father owned a business, and he taught me and explained to me, with his first-grade education in Mexico, he told me time and time again, as well as telling my 10 brothers and sisters, you have an opportunity for an education. You need to take advantage of that opportunity, and we did.

I'm very proud to say that my mother had a second-grade education, my father had a first-grade education, but their children now have doctorate degrees, master's degrees, bachelor's degrees, engineers, teachers, psychologists, all raised in one humble home in Pacoima.

□ 2015

That is the American experience, ladies and gentlemen. And one thing that I'm very proud to say as well about our 10 families, now that we're raising our own American families, every single one of our households pays more annually in taxes than my mother and father's home ever made in one given year. I'll say that again. From a humble home where a man and a woman together raised their children, their entire annual income did not equal the amount of taxes that each one of their sons and daughters now pay today.

To me, that's the exclamation point on everything we've talked about tonight. We've talked about how impor-

tant it is to the Social Security system. It will boost that. We talked about how it is to the deficit that we hear about on this floor so many times. It will actually erase \$850 billion from our U.S. deficit.

There are so many benefits that will benefit not only our coffers here in Washington, which benefits America, but will actually benefit hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of American-born citizens that will work in those industries that are created and spearheaded by immigrants to this country.

And I must say this. I would like to read a few of the names of immigrants born outside of this country who created businesses in this country that many of us use everyday and recognize:

Sergey Brin from Russia, cofounder of Google;

Pierre Omidyar, an Iranian immigrant from France, one of the cofounders of eBay, Inc.;

Jerry Yang from Taiwan, cofounder of Yahoo;

James L. Kraft, a Canadian, cofounder of Kraft Foods, Inc.;

Levi Strauss, a man from Germany, founder of Levi-Strauss in California;

Liz Claiborne from Belgium, founder of Liz Claiborne, Inc. If you think clothes don't mean much, that's a United States company worth \$5 billion;

Andrew Grove from Hungary, cofounder of Intel, a company worth \$112 billion;

Kevork S. Hovnanian from Iraq, founder of Hovnanian Enterprises, a homebuilder that in 2011 had revenues of \$1.1 billion.

And the list goes on and on and on. Every single one of those individuals made their second life here in our great country. And it's because there was a time that in this country we embraced everyone from around the world. And all we asked of them is that they just obey the laws once they are here and that they do well with the opportunities that our great country affords every human being when they are here.

We have one of the highest standards of living in the world. And there's a reason for that. Because there was a time for many, many years that we welcomed people to our shores. At this time where we just reopened the Statue of Liberty, it's time for us to embrace people from around the world and for us to recognize it's not just about doing the right thing for them. It is the right thing for every American citizen born in this country. The benefits economically are tremendous.

There are no losers, ladies and gentlemen, when it comes to the United States Congress doing the right thing. Let's put a comprehensive immigration bill through our process and on the desk of this President and let's watch this country thrive. Our great country deserves it.

Once again, I would like to thank everybody who participated, and I yield back the balance of my time.

TOTO, WE'RE NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, my friends on the other side of the aisle speak to a great issue coming aboard, and we're going to, I know, have many great discussions about that as we go forward.

I'm grateful for the floor time tonight, which I'm pleased to share tonight with my good friend and one of the newest Members here in our House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH).

It's an incredible honor and privilege to serve in this House. And for me, the privilege of serving as the voice of northeast Georgia in the U.S. House of Representatives now for what's going on 6 months. I'm deeply humbled and honored by the trust each of my constituents has placed in me. I wanted to take some time to share some of the lessons that I've learned and the progress we're making in achieving goals that I spent over a year talking about on the campaign trail to friends and family and the supporters and the constituents of our northeast Georgia community.

Twenty counties make up northeast Georgia and the Ninth Congressional District. It's a very diverse area. It's an area in which we have what we call from the highlands to the islands. We have lakes, we have lowlands, we have the start of the Appalachian Trail. We have a place where movies are created. We have a place where I really believe dreams are fostered.

For me, it started back a long time ago. My father was a Georgia State trooper. We moved to Gainesville. That's where I was raised and spent my life. I went to high school there while I was with my mom and dad, along with my brother. That's what grounded me in family.

As I stand here on this floor and as I look around, as I listen, as I had just the great honor just a little bit ago to sit in that chair and preside over an earnest debate on what I really feel is a very important topic right now, one in which we had disagreement, one in which we look forward in one side presenting one issue and one presenting another. From my perspective, we voted to delay a bill that, in my personal opinion, is damaging to America. But we had that debate here.

And by standing in that chair and working there, it reminded me when I used to watch this floor from my home when I was in high school, and as I came up through college and as I was starting a young family with my wonderful bride, Lisa. We have three children. I would watch this floor on C-SPAN and I would see many of the same folks who actually even spoke today. And now to be a part of this