

ObamaCare with its unworkable mandates and negative effects on the economy, so now President Obama does not have the authority to pick and choose which parts of the law to enforce or to ignore. His constitutional duty is to execute law as it is since the original ObamaCare legislation was passed by both Houses of a Democrat-controlled Congress. If the Senate fails to approve these delays, they will be allowing President Obama to sidestep the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow President Obama to continue ignoring the Constitution. Congress is required to act. Law cannot be changed by a monarch via a blog post. We need to help the American people by delaying these unworkable mandates. In June, a report showed that we had lost 240,000 full-time jobs in this country. In North Carolina, they reported that health care premiums will go up 284 percent. The American people deserve better.

□ 1215

BENEFITS OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, western New York has long distinguished itself as a leader in innovation and cutting-edge medical research. Buffalo gave the world cancer research when the New York Cancer Laboratory was first established by Dr. Roswell Park in 1897. Today, the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus continues to grow and thrive with the expansion of Roswell Park, plans for the University of Buffalo Medical School, and construction of a new women and children's hospital.

I'm pleased to say that today western New Yorkers continue to receive good news about the availability and accessibility of health care. Yesterday, The New York Times reported that New York State health insurance purchased through the State exchanges will reduce insurance rates by at least 50 percent. Additionally, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, 37,000 kids with pre-existing conditions will not be denied coverage because by law they can't be denied coverage.

Mr. Speaker, health care should be affordable and accessible to all Americans. The progress we have already seen is promising, and we must keep moving forward.

THE ALEXIS AGIN IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for the last 30 years, Social Security has been required to make personal information of deceased Americans public through the so-called "Death Master File."

Unfortunately, identity thieves use this file to steal Americans' identities and obtain fraudulent tax returns. Worse, the criminals target deceased children like 4-year-old Alexis Agin who's right here, whose family joins us today in the balcony.

Worrying about the stolen identity of a loved one is the last thing a grieving family should do. I salute the Agins for their tireless advocacy, and I thank you.

Today, I humbly join their efforts by introducing the Alexis Agin Identity Theft Protection Act with my Democrat colleague and ranking member on Social Security, XAVIER BECERRA. This commonsense bipartisan bill will protect families, prevent further abuse of taxpayer dollars; and it's time to stop the public sale of the Death Master File.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Alexis Agin, I urge my colleagues to join us and get this bill signed into law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from referring to occupants of the gallery.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM GRAY

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I stand this morning to recognize the passing of Congressman William Gray, a man for all seasons.

An ardent tennis advocate, he expired at Wimbledon, still racing towards his lifetime passion of tennis. He was funeralized in Philadelphia on Saturday where dozens of Members of Congress attended and President William Clinton spoke of his wonderful and brilliant legacy.

Today, his wife, Andrea, and sons, William, Justin, and Andrew, are visiting Capitol Hill. They attended the 95th birthday celebration of President Nelson Mandela.

Congressman Gray, who retired to my hometown of Miami-Dade County, was an accomplished gentleman, and his name will live forever in the hearts and minds of Congress and the millions of students he literally saved when he was president of the United Negro College Fund.

May he rest in peace.

THE STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 5, the Student Success Act.

I have heard often from educators about the urgent need to remove many Federal mandates that create needless barriers to educate our children. The legislation the House will consider goes

a long way to restoring State and local control in how best to educate our children.

I appreciate the support of teachers, administrators, charter schools, and school board members in my district that strongly advocate for the reforms in this bill that will allow States to control the accountability decisions rather than unaccountable bureaucrats in Washington that are far removed from the classroom. This bill gives State and local school districts maximum flexibility to improve their schools rather than be caught in a one-size-fits-all bureaucracy.

I thank Chairman KLINE and my fellow members of the Education and Workforce Committee for their hard work on this legislation, and I urge its passage.

SUPPORT AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM FUNDING

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, we know that before-school, after-school, and summer learning programs are successful activities that provide safe places that millions of students and parents can rely upon.

I'm very concerned about keeping the students in my district safe and out of trouble. In mid-Michigan and around the Nation, time spent out of school is often prime time for bad choices that can lead to juvenile crime; yet countless studies have shown that kids involved in after-school and summer programs are less likely to be perpetrators or victims of crime, less likely to drink or use drugs, less likely to join gangs.

Unfortunately, legislation that is set to be considered this week in the House could lead to over a million students losing access to these opportunities. Students in Michigan benefit from these after-school programs through mentors, tutoring, through cultural and fine arts activities.

We should be expanding support for these programs and for funding for these programs, not cutting them or putting them in block grants as a means of reducing support.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this legislation that's set to come before the House this week.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL THOMAS MOE

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

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true American hero for his dedicated public service, Tom Moe, who is a colonel in the Air Force and is from Lancaster, Ohio. He's retiring after 46 years of service to our Nation and our State.

While in the Vietnam war, serving in the United States Air Force, he endured 5 years of torture and isolation

as a prisoner of war. In his civilian life, he dedicated his career to serving veterans. Most recently, joining Governor John Kasich's cabinet as director of the Department of Veterans Services, he also served as the Ohio director for Troops to Teachers in the Department of Education, and he served as director of the Fairfield County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

Through his career, Colonel Moe has rightfully earned a number of public service awards and decorations, including two Silver Stars, a Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star Medal for valor, and two Purple Hearts. He was also inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 2009 by Governor Ted Strickland.

I'm truly honored to call Colonel Moe a friend, and I join hopefully with the other Members of Congress in wishing him a happy retirement.

STUDENT LOANS

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge my colleagues to reverse the doubling of rates on student loans.

Education is and will always be the great equalizer in this country. It was central to my success. And with 7 million students relying on Federal Stafford loans, it is our responsibility to keep college education affordable.

It is also necessary to keep our Nation competitive globally. That is why I cosponsored the Student Loan Relief Act, which extends the 3.4 percent student loan interest rate until 2015.

I call upon my colleagues in both the House and the Senate to take action so that college remains within reach for all Americans who dream about earning a degree, starting a business, or shaping the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF TONY CAMPBELL

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the community service of Mr. Tony Campbell.

Tony moved to Kingman, Arizona, in 2001 to become general manager of Route 66 Motorsports, also known as Mother Road Harley-Davidson.

He also joined the Kingman Area Chamber of Commerce and began leading his community, constantly finding ways to lift others up as he strived to better the lives of those around him. He organized what would become one of the chamber's signature fundraisers, the Harley raffle dinner. He is an avid outdoorsman; and, of course, he loves his motorcycles.

In 2009 after 8 years of service with the Kingman Area Chamber of Commerce, he was asked to join the board

of directors and serve on the business and government committee. With his larger-than-life personality, he had an amazing ability to bring others together, both business and government, using the strengths of each to complement each other. He showed again his leadership, one the chamber could depend on.

For the last year, Tony has served as chairman of the board for the Kingman Area Chamber of Commerce. As his time in this role comes to an end, it is with honor and appreciation that I stand here and recognize Mr. CAMPBELL for his service. I am pleased to recognize him today before this great body as a true American and a leader of businessmen and businesswomen of Kingman, Arizona.

DIWALI STAMP

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in asking the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee to issue a staff stamp in honor of Diwali. H.R. 47 has over 41 bipartisan cosponsors.

Diwali marks the beginning of the Hindu new year, one of the oldest and most storied holidays in the world. It symbolizes the triumph of good over evil and of light over darkness. Diwali is celebrated by over a billion Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, and Jains alike. It has been celebrated and honored in the White House by both parties. But Diwali has yet to join the legion of holidays that we honor with a stamp.

Yesterday, Congressman BERA, along with the Indian American leaders, including Ranju and Ravi Batra, delivered over 1,300 personally signed letters in support of the stamp to the Deputy Postmaster General. They also delivered over 400,000 signatures on a petition in support of the stamp.

The time has come to issue a Diwali stamp. Please join me in asking the Citizen's Advisory Committee to do so.

HONORING AMERICA'S TEACHERS

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will spend a lot of time talking about education and what's best for our students, but I want to make sure we spend a few moments to recognize America's teachers.

Just after the tornadoes in Oklahoma this spring, a constituent of mine pointed out to me that the teachers at the elementary school in Moore and in the terrible tragedy in Newtown were more than educators. They were first responders. They acted not simply out of human decency, but out of the deepest dedication to service to protect our children.

While most of America's schoolchildren are out enjoying summer vacations, their teachers are preparing for the school year ahead. They sacrifice time with their own families and spend their hard-earned money because putting the students first isn't part of any Federal or State mandate. It's a special calling on the teacher, deep within their heart. I ask my colleagues and constituents to join me in honoring that calling, encouraging it, protecting it, and thanking all of America's teachers for their unselfish dedication and service.

□ 1230

SEQUESTRATION THREATENING PUBLIC SAFETY

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, sequester furloughs have recently begun for hundreds of thousands of civilian Department of Defense employees. We know budget sequestration is a bad policy. It's an ax where we need a scalpel. It's hurting families and workers across the country, and it's threatening public safety. For example, at Vandenberg Air Force Base in my congressional district, firefighters are being furloughed and budget cuts may lead to the elimination of its elite Hot Shot crew.

Vandenberg Air Force Base is a high-risk fire area, and this year's fire season started early, is expected to be worse than previous years, and has already produced the deadliest single incident for firefighters since 9/11. We should not be furloughing firefighters in the middle of fire season. We should not be compromising public safety.

I urge my colleagues to put aside our differences and get to work to find an alternative to these furloughs and end sequestration at every level once and for all.

HEALTH CARE AND PPACA

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

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my continued concerns with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. It seems that every day we learn a new way this law is negatively impacting the American middle class.

Last week, three prominent unions sent a letter to the Senate majority leader and the House minority leader. In the letter, union leaders highlighted how ObamaCare is driving up the cost of small group insurance plans, causing employers to drop employees from their coverage or convert the employees to part-time status.

In fact, that's exactly what happened in my district in Mesa, Arizona. The Maricopa Community College District