

most effective civil rights legislation ever enacted by Congress.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed just 1 year after I graduated from high school. Growing up in El Paso, Texas, I vividly remember the days of Jim Crow, segregation, and the poll tax. Should the Supreme Court rule against the Justice Department and overturn this important legislation, minority communities will lose many of their voting protections.

Later this month, I intend to join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to listen to the oral arguments for this case at the Supreme Court. Many of us were part of the 390–33 majority, along with 98 Senators, who voted to reauthorize the Voting Right Act in 2006. We agreed there is still a compelling need to protect and preserve the voting rights of all Americans. After all, it is this right that lies at the very heart of our democracy that must not be eroded.

#### AMERICAN HEART MONTH

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, February marks National Heart Month, which reminds all Americans to take control of their cardiovascular health. Each year, 700,000 Americans suffer a heart attack, and approximately 600,000 die from causes related to heart disease. Nearly everyone knows a family member, a colleague, or a friend who has experienced the devastating effects of this disease firsthand.

While heart disease is currently the leading cause of death among men and women, we can all take steps to prevent this disease and promote overall heart health.

One example of community action is the great work of the Plymouth Rotary Club and Allina hospitals and clinics in Minnesota. They've teamed up together to start a new project called Heart Safe Plymouth, a plan that promotes education and training on the emergency treatment of sudden cardiac arrest.

I encourage all Americans to follow their example of involvement and action. Let's use American Heart Month as an opportunity to learn more about heart disease and prevention so that we can all live longer and healthier lives.

#### IMPACTS OF SEQUESTER

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

Mr. PETERS of California. The impacts of sequester will be felt in every district and State. San Diego is home to major research universities and technology firms. Last year, firms working on everything from improving cancer diagnostics to protecting our computer security received more than \$130 million from the National Science

Foundation and \$850 million from the National Institutes of Health. In all, San Diego received more than 1,760 grants to support America's innovators.

I recently received a letter from Arisan Therapeutics, a small biomedical group in my district. This small team of dedicated researchers has been working on vaccines against the flu and dengue fever. If the sequester goes into effect, they will have to lay off their researchers and close. The sequester will not only hurt people, jobs, and families, but it will stop critical research in the biomedical sciences and stifle innovation in our labs and universities.

Congress must act now so America and San Diego do not fall behind our international competitors and so that we continue to be on the cutting edge of technology. We must keep investing in our future.

#### RECOGNIZING HONOR FLIGHT NORTHERN COLORADO

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

Mr. GARDNER. Madam Speaker, I rise on the occasion of Honor Flight Northern Colorado's ninth flight to Washington, D.C., bringing veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam to see their memorials. On behalf of a grateful delegation, State, and country, I welcome these heroes.

The 122 veterans on this flight included 37 from World War II, 80 from the Korea conflict, four from the Vietnam war, and one from the war in Iraq. Eight of these veterans wear the Purple Heart.

The Honor Flight program was founded in 2005. It provides veterans with the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., free of any cost to them or their families to see the memorials that were built in their honor. The program, originally intended to honor World War II veterans, has developed to include veterans from several major conflicts.

Today we honor those veterans as they make the journey to Washington to visit the memorials that serve as a symbol of a grateful Nation. Of course, no memorial, no statue can ever truly convey the sacrifices our veterans have made for our country. Much has been asked of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and Coast Guardsmen; and time and time again they have delivered.

The freedoms endowed upon us by our Creator, protected by our Constitution, and enjoyed by all Americans must never be taken for granted. Today, we honor those who have sacrificed to secure the blessings of liberty for generations of Americans. Please join me in thanking these patriots.

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Please join me in thanking Willard Bauer, Robert Bell, Edward Coleman, Floyd Ewing, Albert Fairweather, Marvin Fowler, Elwyn Frazier, Robert Fulton, William Garcia, Edward Glover, Herold Hettinger, Raymond Holiday, Buford Johnson, William Kammlade, Donald Lawless, Russell Maxwell, Dale Norwood, Philip Owen, Paul Painter, George Parker, Theodore Pratt, Kenneth Robb, Henry Redd, Harley Rouze, Harold Scatterday, Dean Severin, Leonie Shannon, Keith Simons, Jacob Stieb Jr., Howard Teague, Margaret Thompson, Charles Vogel, Thomas Weathers, Victor Weidmann, John Williams, Milo Whitcomb, Quentin Younglund, Bobby Andersen, Emmett Archuletta, Donald Armagost, Robert Ambrecht, Gary Beverlin, Stanley Black, Ronald Brasseur, Earl Buckendorf, Robert Buttner, Donald Campbell, Clarence Carnes, Jerald Clark, Robert Clayton, Keith Coates, Kenneth Comin, Victor Crenshaw, Dean Daggett, Lester Edgett, Arno Engele, Roy Erickson, William Erickson, Bernard Erthal, Donald Fenske, Donald Ficksencher, Russell Foster, Franklin Fronek, Porfelio Garbiso, Carl Goegelein, William Goble, Delbert Gorsline, George Gray, Kenneth Hoff, Robert Hull, Robert Jones Jr., George Knaub, Arthur Kober, John Leach, Roger London, Willard Loose, Joseph Lopez, Arthur Lukemire, Charles Mahoney, Eathon Marr, Vernon Marston, Robert Martin, George Maxey, Loren Maxey, Albert Melcher, Gordon Michel, Kenneth Miller, Raymond Miller, Stuart Miller, Ralph Nuss, James Othrow, Theodore Pearson, Robert Phillips, Franklin Pino, Julius Racette, Dean Rydholm, Delmar Scholfeld, Carlos Scott, Stanley Shafer, Emil Shireman, Hubert Shumaker, Norris Slechta, Jack Snyder, John Stieb, Dale Stinton, Donald Svedman, James Theobald, Gem n Terrell, William Thill, Paul Van Driel, James Vincent, Paul Vohs, Leroy Waag, LaVerne Walls, Warren Ward, Duane West, David Young, Leonard Beutelspacher, John Gruver, Gaylord Mekelburg, Cloyd Rael, Marshall Spring, Charles Adams, and any participants whose names were not available at the time of this statement.

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## DOCTORS CAUCUS

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, before starting this Special Order, I'd like to yield as much time as he may consume to my friend from Mississippi, STEVEN PALAZZO.

## SEQUESTRATION EFFECTS

Mr. PALAZZO. I want to thank the good doctor from Tennessee for yielding me some time.

Mr. Speaker, in 2 weeks we face one of the most devastating cuts to our military that our country has ever seen, literally, a worst-case scenario for our men and women in uniform, all in just 2 weeks.

For a year and a half, several of my colleagues and I have been discussing with anyone who will listen the devastating impact of these automatic budget cuts, but still we have stalled and delayed till we are where no one in their right mind would want to be.

If these cuts are not stopped, not only will our military be hollowed out, but a number of other agencies will be severely impacted as well. Defense cuts are bad enough. Unfortunately, these cuts affect a lot more than just defense. These automatic cuts affect food inspections at the Department of Agriculture, FBI investigations, TSA screening at airports, and others. No agency is untouched.

One example in Mississippi alone is it is anticipated that these automatic budget cuts could cost as many as 845 jobs in the education sector alone. These are the people we task with educating our future generations and ensuring our country's success.

We're now hearing of furloughs across the government agencies. This would mean that families that are dependent on that paycheck to put food in their children's mouths and clothes on their backs will be forced to stay home as much as 1 day a week for up to 22 weeks.

This means millions of dollars in lost pay for dedicated public servants because Congress and this President cannot get their act together and do what is right for our country.

At this point, the House has passed two separate plans that were never even considered by the Senate. Ultimately, inaction by the President and Senate are allowing us to inch closer and closer to the disgusting reality of these cuts.

Even more disappointing than the Senate and the President's inaction is the ridiculous position of many that seem completely content to throw their hands up and say that we have done all we can do.

But I am perhaps the most disappointed in my colleagues that want these cuts to take place in the name of

spending cuts only. What good are spending cuts when you can't defend the Nation you are trying to save and destroying our economy in the process?

I am in favor of reducing our national debt and balancing our budget as much as anyone in this Congress, but I refuse to do it on the backs of our men and women in uniform and their families. I will not jeopardize their safety and security, yet some in this body want to do just that.

It is foolish—no, naive—to believe that allowing \$1 trillion in spending cuts to our national defense is responsible or sustainable. Many of my colleagues seem to have forgotten that these automatic cuts were intended to be the absolute worst thing we could do. It was designed to force bipartisan action on addressing our spending addiction in this Congress. It is the unintended consequences of an absolute failure by the supercommittee. So, instead of using a scalpel, we're using a meat-ax, and the impact of our failure to act will soon be all too apparent unless we avert this irresponsible action.

Despite repeated requests for over a year for more details on what effects these details will have, only now, 2 weeks before they are scheduled to take place, have we received any information from this administration.

The military services have let us know exactly what effect they think sequestration will have, and it is not a pretty sight. We are talking about one of the biggest drivers of small businesses, a major employer of our Nation's veterans, and a major economic driver in our economy. And some here are willing to see it slashed for no benefit whatsoever.

But civilians are not the only issue here. We are downsizing our force to deal with the cuts already in place—\$487 billion worth. We will have to cut further into our active duty if these cuts are not rolled back and replaced responsibly.

In my district, over 10,000 people walk through the gates of Ingalls Shipbuilding in Mississippi every day. If just one ship contract is cancelled as a result of sequestration, we are talking about thousands of people being immediately unemployed and layoffs at small businesses in over 49 States. These are some of the most patriotic and hardest working people I have ever met in my life. They have dedicated their lives to building the greatest naval ships the world has ever seen.

So this week, I spoke with our most senior military leaders, and they told us very directly, if you want our military to continue doing what it's doing today, then we can't give you another dollar.

There are similar stories across the Nation at plants building the largest planes to the smallest component parts. These are the stories of real people who go to work every day to make America a better place. These skills are not easily relearned. Once they go away they are gone forever, and I will

not stand by and allow inaction by my colleagues to kill American jobs.

I ask my colleagues: Is this what you want? Do you honestly believe this is for the best?

I beg anyone to explain to me how we're a better country if these cuts take place.

Mr. Speaker, I implore our leaders, the Senate, and the President to act. The future safety and security of our Nation is at stake.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to take the next hour or so, the Doctors Caucus, Dr. GINGREY, myself, Dr. HARRIS, and we're going to speak about the Affordable Care Act, how we got where we are, the plan to save Medicare, and other health care issues.

I came to this Congress after a 31-year medical practice in Johnson City, Tennessee, just a doctor out each day in east Tennessee taking care of patients; and I made a decision that I didn't like the direction that the country was headed in health care, and I wanted to run for Congress to be here for that reason.

Well, it turned out that two Congresses ago we did have a debate on the health care issue. We have nine physicians in our health care caucus, and not one of us was consulted about that health care bill. Not one of us was brought in the loop and said, What do you think?

Well, we had an extensive debate, I will admit, in the House. This bill was passed on a pure party-line vote in November of 2009; and on Christmas Eve, the Senate passed a bill that had not been vetted, had not been heard in the House, was not debated in the House, a completely different bill. But because of the rules in the Senate, it never got heard here and was not debated fully in the Senate.

That bill was passed, it will soon be, 4 years ago—3 years ago, I mean. We thought that we'd have an opportunity after the Supreme Court looked at this—those challenges were brought to overturn this bill—and we're going to spend the next hour explaining why we don't think it was the right prescription for the health care of the citizens of this country.

I bring an extensive knowledge about a health care reform bill we did in our State of Tennessee. The biggest problem with the health care in this country is not the quality of care. Certainly, we can always do better, and physicians want to do better and have new techniques and new innovative medicines that we use. But the biggest problem with health care in America is the cost of that care. I got to see it every day in my practice, where going to the hospital could bankrupt families if they didn't have proper insurance, it was more expensive to come in, and so the number one driver was cost.

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Number two, there's no question we had a group of people who worked