

month. An estimated 170,000 of those 900,000 veterans could be affected by the House Republican proposal to cut \$40 billion from SNAP.

In my State, studies estimate that 72,184 veterans receive assistance from this important food assistance program. That means roughly one in three veterans in Nevada—one in three—receive assistance from SNAP.

Well, my question to the House Republicans is: Is this how we repay our veterans—is their sacrifice not enough?—by trying to ram through \$40 billion in cuts to programs that people rely on, and then when that doesn't work, doubling down and trying to make those cuts even worse?

Military families are on a pace this year to redeem more than \$100 million in food aid on military bases, and the House Republican reaction is to tell them that they need to live with less?

I can't do that. I can't tell those families, Sorry, but you haven't sacrificed enough.

I urge my colleagues to do the responsible thing, do the right thing. Avoid these draconian cuts to programs that combat hunger effectively. This isn't waste. This is a critical social safety net program that families and children and veterans rely on.

I urge this body to oppose the House Republican plan.

□ 1045

AMERICA SHOULD TAKE NOTICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I rise to call upon the consciousness and the conscience of not only America, but my colleagues.

I rise in the backdrop of a dreamer's speech, Dr. Martin Luther King, who spoke about the greatness of America. Dr. King had no quarrel with this Nation. He loved its values. He found it a place of promise. And I imagine if he were alive today, he would have an answer to Mr. Putin: America is exceptional.

The world looks to America. America has been the Nation's breadbasket. It has served and fed the world. Mr. Speaker, the farmers I know want to feed the world. They relish being called the suppliers of the breadbasket. They enjoy seeing their products arrive in places where people are hungry. In all the years that I have worked in the United States Congress, we've found a way to work with our family farmers and feed our children. That's why I rise today in opposition to a devastating food fight.

America should take notice. Today, all the food banks around the Nation should be bombarding this House and all of the faith leaders should be immediately rising up and dialing in, for this is a devastating food fight—a \$411 million reduction in my State alone, impacting 3,997,000 if this bill containing

\$4 billion in cuts to food stamps, or the supplemental nutrition program, goes forward today.

There are 46.2 million people who are living in poverty in America, and 9.5 million of them are families. Also, 16.1 million children under the age of 18 are living in poverty. Is that the exceptional America? We know that we are better than that.

Thirty-four percent of children in Texas are in poverty, 50.1 million Americans live in food insecurity, and 16 million children do not eat nutritiously. In larger proportions, that is what will happen today.

And so this is the message: don't cut SNAP. Stop the GOP from cutting \$40 billion, which is 33.4 million meals, or 24 meals per month per family. That's our message.

How can we stand here as a country of dreamers and those who believe in acting? Dr. King dreamed, but he was focused on action. He believed in helping the poor. He believed in jobs. And we come here today to stand on this floor with a straight face and engage in a battle of a food fight. I think it is atrocious, and it needs to stop. Where is the goodness that gives all Americans opportunities to rise?

I heard a Member on the floor discuss the Affordable Care Act. Well, get the facts. Right now, as we speak, the Affordable Care Act is providing premiums under \$100 for those individuals that need to be insured, helping to cut poverty. That's why we need all of these factors—not cuts in SNAP, not the elimination of the Affordable Care Act and a continuing resolution that is not going to go anywhere. All of these pound on people who are in need.

I'm asking for relief. I'm asking for the very promised land that Dr. King also spoke of: the exceptionalism that is America. When we send young soldiers to foreign lands, they are exceptional. But yet some of the families of our soldiers are now on food stamps. Is that what America is about—cutting the food stamps of Active Duty soldiers?

We have to do better than that. And so our message is going to be a strong one. We're against it. We're against all the pounding down on those who are trying to climb the ladder of success. We want to end the sequester that is going to cut 67.8 million teachers out of the primary and secondary schools.

It is time now to say no, don't cut SNAP, no to the CR, no to sequester, and yes to America, yes to the promised land, yes to the dream, yes to implementing what is right, yes to allowing us to climb the ladder of success. That's the opportunity for Americans. Say yes to jobs, say yes to education.

I believe that if we do not do that, Mr. Speaker, our ancestors and early Founding Fathers, the visionaries, even though we had our ups and downs, Mr. Speaker, are going to ask us, Why?

God bless America, an exceptional Nation with a big heart. Vote "no" today. That's what America wants: something for all of us.

A DREAM-KILLING BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, here we go again.

Last week, we averted an attack on the country of Syria. This week, we again attack the country of the United States of America. We attack the working poor.

What is it about the GOP-led institution? They can find nothing wrong with Wall Street criminals who have driven the American families into ruin, but we can spend several days attacking the victims of the recession.

I'm talking about people who need food stamps, which is the SNAP program. It's a debit card. They need help to buy food. Our farmers help them by growing the food, our grocery stores help them by selling the food, and our charity organizations help them when they fall through the cracks. And guess what? The helpers get paid. That's the money that supports the food stamps. Those are jobs. But that's about to go away. It's about to hurt those who need the help.

The bill on the floor today is H.R. 3102. It's the Republican Take Away Nutrition Reform and Take Away Work Opportunity Act. I added the "takeaways" because that's what it does. Sensible people ought to vote "no" on this bill.

You will hear that there are a lot of cheats out there. But guess what? The program has enforcement officers. They're in place. And when cheats are caught, they're fined or they go to jail. This is in contrast to the misguided Wall Street investors and the banking foreclosure mess, where no one seems to get caught or go to jail. But we here in Congress can pass a bad bill that takes food away from working mothers.

Who are these people on food stamps? Who receives this aid? You know them. They're parents, sisters, brothers, moms and dads, and, as you've heard from previous speakers, they're veterans and people on Active Duty service. They're people in need of extra money to buy food.

Yesterday, I met one of those persons here in the United States Capitol. She's a working mom. She dropped out of high school at the age of 16 but eventually got a GED degree. With her GED degree, now that she had a baby, she was urged that she needed to go on. But she didn't have a job. She needed help. She got it through food stamps. She decided now that she could care for her baby, she could go to community college to further her skill development and later go on to a California college. She's 21 years old. She's a senior in college this year and now the mother of a 5-year-old son.

I met her here in the United States Capitol because she works here. Her name is Lisa Russell. She won a Leon Panetta Hill internship. She is one of our best and brightest and needs food

stamps to make it work. I met her because she thanked me for opposing this bill. As she told me, There are a million Lisas out there, millions of people who need assistance. Don't deny them a chance to get out of poverty and to have help when they need it.

H.R. 3102 is a dream killer. It's un-American.

A few minutes ago, we pledged to this flag behind me. Now it's time to live up to the responsibilities in that pledge of justice for all, not just for a few.

H.R. 3102 is a bad bill. It needs defeating.

DON'T CUT SNAP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about this heartless and mean-spirited attempt by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to cut \$40 billion from the SNAP program—the food stamp program—that ensures that children, seniors, and poor Americans can put food on the table.

Earlier this year, I participated in a food stamp challenge. We agreed for a period of 1 week to limit our expenditure for food to \$4.50 a day. That's about the average amount that a food stamp recipient receives for food. And so trying to eat on \$4.50 a day was a mind expander and an eye-opener for me because it helped me see how fortunate I was to not be one of the many millions of people who rely on food stamps for their nutrition.

During that week that I was on that food stamp challenge, I went around to a number of food pantries where people were lined up, White and Black, Hispanic and Asian, awaiting the food truck or the tractor-trailer to get there loaded with food so they could get some of it. People lined up several hours before the pantry actually opened just to get some food.

So I can assure you that there are many people out there. And I spoke with many of them. I spoke with one woman who worked three part-time jobs that pay minimum wage. She was trying to take care of a family with that, and was still eligible and needed to have those food stamps.

And so people have lost their jobs and have been offered and accepted new jobs after this economic meltdown caused by Wall Street. People lost jobs. They have accepted part-time jobs—cobbling a few part-time jobs together to try to make ends meet for the entire family. And they need those food stamps.

□ 1100

But what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle plan on doing is cutting \$40 billion for this next year, 2014. They want to cut \$40 billion out of the budget.

The budget is a statement of our values. If you can give farmers crop subsidies—\$15 billion, \$20 billion per year—

and then, by congressional legislation, hide the identity of the recipients of those crop subsidy payments that you, the taxpayer, give to the insurance companies on behalf of the farmers; then what you do, you give the insurance companies, you offset their administrative and operating cost in operating that program, we pay them billions of dollars a year. So, as it ends up, over \$100 billion in a 10-year period, crop insurance for people who don't need it. And we're going to cut food stamps today \$40 billion? That's not the values that America stands for. I will be voting against that legislation.

NO MORE STEAK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, in my district, California 14, we have about 4,000 families who are on food stamps. But some of my colleagues have thousands and thousands more; yet they somehow feel like crusaders and heroes when they vote to cut food stamps.

Some of these same Members travel to foreign countries under the guise of official business. They dine at lavish restaurants, eating steak, vodka, and even caviar. They receive money to do this. That's right. They don't pay out of pocket for these meals. Let me give you a few examples.

One Member was given \$127.41 a day for food on his trip to Argentina. He probably had a fair amount of steak. Another Member was given \$3,588 for food and lodging during a 6-day trip to Russia. He probably drank a fair amount of vodka and probably even had some caviar. That particular Member has 21,000 food stamp recipients in his district. One of those people who is on food stamps could live a year on what this Congressman spent on food and lodging for 6 days.

Another 20 Members made a trip to Dublin, Ireland. They got \$166 a day for food. These Members didn't pay a dime. They received \$50, \$100, almost \$200 for a single meal only for themselves. Yet for them, the idea of helping fellow Americans spend less than \$5 a day makes their skin crawl. The faces of families of veterans, of farmers, of the disabled, of the working poor are not visible to them, not even when they are their own constituents.

Last week, a man named Ron Shaich wrote in an article on his LinkedIn page about food stamps. Ron is the founder, chairman and CEO of Panera Bread. In his article, Ron admitted that, despite wanting to fight poverty and hunger in America, he really didn't know what it was like to be truly hungry. So this week, Ron is taking the SNAP Challenge. The millionaire food mogul is living on \$4.50 a day.

I've taken the SNAP Challenge in the past, and I can tell you it is a horrible experience. You think about food constantly. You are always hungry. But those on food stamps live on \$4.50 every

day, not for one week, for long into their future. That is soul crushing.

Historically, food stamps have been part of the farm bill. It's that same bill that 26 corporate farmers—who remain nameless—get \$1 million each in subsidies meant for real farmers. The taxpayers are giving \$7 billion per year to large agribusiness; yet Republicans feel SNAP programs cost us too much money. They want to cut it.

Mr. Speaker, I can stand here and say that my point is about saving food stamps from cuts—that's true. But my larger point is about us as a country, as a society, as neighbors. I'm a Member of the least productive Congress in the history of this country; I'm ashamed of that. To be honest, if the Federal Government shut down for a couple of weeks, as we keep hearing, would Americans even notice? When a government of the people or for the people becomes a government in spite of the people, then who are we really serving? If we refuse to take care of those who are the most vulnerable at a tiny fraction of the cost of, say, our defense budget, don't we cease to be true public servants?

Ron Shaich is putting himself in the worn-out shoes of 48 million fellow Americans. I'm ready to do the same again. I wonder how many of my Republican colleagues would want to cut food stamps if they had taken the SNAP Challenge. After all, that means no more steak, no more caviar or vodka. Based on these Members' eating habits, I wonder if they could survive.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Bishop J.W. Macklin, Glad Tidings Church, Hayward, California, offered the following prayer:

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who has led us thus far along the way. For this land of freedom and the promise of America, we are thankful.

In the face of daunting tasks, monumental and complex challenges, grant this, the 113th Congress, Your sovereign wisdom. Allow this august body, like eagles, to soar above partisan disagreements and personal agendas. Grant the Members of the House of Representatives strength, that they may run for those whose legs are weak, and give them courage that they may