

my ovarian cancer had not been diagnosed and caught in stage 1, I might not be here today, but many women are not so lucky as over 15,000 die every year from ovarian cancer. While I survived by that off chance of luck in that diagnosis, no one should have to survive by luck, which is why my Democratic colleagues and I worked hard.

We worked very hard to make sure that prevention and wellness are such a critical part of the Affordable Care Act. Before we passed this transformative piece of legislation, one in five women over age 50 had not had a mammogram in the past 2 years, mostly because she could not afford one. Now mammograms are covered—they are covered for all Americans—with no out-of-pocket costs. So are annual checkups, colonoscopies, diabetes, and other cancer screenings—at no cost. Let me repeat that. They are the beneficiaries of lifesaving treatments.

Preventive care not only helps to keep Americans healthier; it also helps to drive down the cost of health care so that people can get access to the services that they need. Chronic and often preventable diseases, such as heart disease and diabetes, cause seven out of 10 deaths in the United States of America, and they account for 75 percent of our health spending. Preventive care can help Americans avoid these ailments or to catch them before it is too late.

That is what the Affordable Care Act does. That is what the people of this country need to know. There are countless stories, after stories, after stories of people's lives being saved because they have the opportunity to get a treatment or something that says you may be at risk for a particular disease, and you can get that identification not by luck but as a routine checkup. No one in the United States of America should survive by luck. Now we have an opportunity through the Affordable Care Act, which is the law of the land today, to make sure that everyone—man and woman—can get those services.

If you expand access to preventive health, it drives the costs down, but most importantly, it saves lives. Isn't that worth doing, to be able to save someone's life? That is what the Affordable Care Act is all about. It is just one of the many ways that it is good for men, for women, for families in this Nation, and it is good for America to move in this direction.

#### NONEXISTENT REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Ms. KAPTUR. So, here is a "Jeopardy" question for you, Mr. Speaker:

How many days is the Republican majority now overdue in getting its work done to produce a budget for the Nation for 2014?

Our Nation needs a budget to operate the Government of the United States

for the upcoming year, and by law, April 15 was the deadline by which the budget was to have been completed, but that hasn't happened. Now it is December 4, so that means that their bill is 234 days overdue. In fact, technically, the Federal fiscal year began on October 1. The majority's bill is actually 7 months and 20 days overdue. A parking ticket that old might land you in jail. Not making your car payments for 7 months might likely result in your car's being repossessed, right? The Budget Committee is supposed to finish its one bill by April 15, but it just can't seem to find a way to do it.

Then, if it were to have done that, the Appropriations Committee, which depends on the Budget Committee for a total budget number, could get its work done to produce not just the one but the 12 bills it is mandated to move through to passage to run the Federal departments of the Government of the United States of America—everything from the Forest Service, to the veterans' clinics, to the Social Security Administration, department after department.

The American people are waiting for this House, led by the Republican majority, to get the job done of producing the 2014 budget. America doesn't need any more beauty pictures of committee chairs prancing and posturing in front of cameras. They need to go into the committee rooms and get the work done. The majority is 234 days overdue. Tomorrow, it will be 235 days overdue.

My goodness. There are only 26 days left in this calendar year. Even Santa Claus must be shaking his head in disbelief. Talk about running the ship of state aground. Let the majority produce the budget bill. It is way over time.

Don't hold up our Republic anymore. You are 234 days overdue, and we are all counting.

#### OUR BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to implore you and the House majority to reach across the aisle to find common ground, to reach out their hands to fix our broken immigration system.

Last summer, Republicans and Democrats in the Senate came together and passed comprehensive immigration reform with a strong bipartisan vote, a vote of 68–32. That is like a super-duper majority. In fact, one poll last month showed that 63 percent of Americans—two-thirds of Americans—support a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. Business leaders, chambers of commerce, labor unions, faith groups, immigrant families, law enforcement officials, and Americans of every race, creed, color, and ethnicity all across our country applauded our Senators for reaching

across the aisle. For many, it really gave hope and a belief in our government that we are still capable of putting aside political posturing and of building consensus around the difficult issues that face our country.

But today, as I speak, Americans are asking: What happened? They are confused as to why the House of Representatives can't do the same thing that the Senate did and pass immigration reform. They are even more confused as to why the House can't even dignify the issue with a simple up-or-down vote.

Those people have not gone away, Mr. Speaker. Oh, no. In fact, today, the call to action is still as loud and clear as it has ever been.

Just yesterday, I visited the Fast for Families movement on The National Mall, where faith leaders had actually been fasting for 22 days—22 days with no food. Some were hospitalized to safely break the fast per the doctor's orders, but others pressed on. Replacement fasters stepped up, including our own Representative KENNEDY, who, in the legacy of his grandfather, Bobby, acknowledged the need to embrace the immigrant issue.

So I ask my colleagues in the majority, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: What are we waiting for? Our job creators want reform. Our workforce wants it, and our spiritual leaders say it is the right thing to do. Overwhelmingly, so do the American people.

The facts are so clear that reform will tremendously benefit all of our country. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office has followed the money, and it estimates that immigration reform will increase the gross domestic product by \$700 billion in 2023 and by \$1.4 trillion in 2033; but here we are today, facing government shutdowns and sequester levels that eviscerate services that so many vulnerable Americans rely on.

This is where we are stuck. It has been 5 months since the Senate passed its bill; yet we have only 6 days scheduled until the end of the year, and we haven't had one serious vote on immigration reform. Americans have put their differences aside for the common good of our country, and they expect us to do the same thing in this, our beloved democracy.

Once again, I want to reiterate that I stand here, ready to work with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in order to move our country forward. I applaud my brave colleagues on the other side who have already taken a stand and have put politics aside, and I encourage more of my colleagues to answer that calling and meet us halfway.

The American people are fed up with the status quo and gridlock here in Washington. Let's come together and strengthen our businesses, our economy, our workforce, and our families.

## JOBS FOR HEROES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a piece of legislation I will be introducing that will help put our brave veterans back to work in good-paying jobs in the communities across our country. It is called the Jobs for Heroes Act—good for vets and good for the economy.

It would extend and expand two tax credits for businesses that prioritize hiring veterans. Without congressional action, both of these tax credits are set to expire at the end of the month. The time to act is now.

□ 1100

Last month, I traveled to all corners of my district to meet with local veterans to listen to their priorities and to their concerns. I also hosted an economic summit attended by roughly 200 people whom I am here to serve.

This was all about jobs and all about the economy, and this is also about our veterans. Making sure veterans have access to good-paying jobs came up everywhere I went from Pekin to Peoria, Rock Island to Rockford. Literally, everywhere I went.

Legislation to help prioritize the hiring of veterans is especially crucial due to the high unemployment rate of young veterans. Veterans between the ages of 18 and 24 have an unemployment rate of more than 20 percent. That is 5 percent higher than non-veterans of the same age. That is absolutely shameful.

I hope all Members of Congress will join me in supporting my commonsense bill to help put veterans back to work and to making sure that those who have served always remain a priority—good for veterans, good for the economy, and good for America.

## CONGRATULATING SERGEANT MANELLA FOR WINNING ARMY'S BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Sergeant First Class Jason Manella, who recently won the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year Award last week during the Army's best warrior competition. Jason is from my district in Fremont, California, and recently moved within my district to Hayward, California.

The Army's best warrior competition is a 3-day event that tests the soldier's physical and mental toughness. Sergeant Manella is the first ever reservist to win this prestigious Army-wide title.

Sergeant Manella is a member of the Reserve's 445th Civil Affairs Battalion based in Mountain View. While serving in Afghanistan in 2012, Sergeant

Manella had his convoy attacked. While it was attacked, it left him with a traumatic brain injury.

Sergeant Manella's story is one of hope and the power of resilience. As part of Sergeant Manella's recovery, he focused on training for the Army's Best Warrior Competition.

Back in August of this year, I had the opportunity to visit Afghanistan. I was able to meet with soldiers, men and women, serving from California's 15th Congressional District. Over in Afghanistan, I saw firsthand what our men and women in the armed services endure each day to make sure that we rid Afghanistan as a breeding ground for terrorism and make sure that never again the United States is attacked from enemies created abroad.

I am very thankful for the service of people like Sergeant Manella and those I met with while I was in Afghanistan. I know that Operation Enduring Freedom has led to thousands of Americans being wounded who served over in Afghanistan and are healing today back home on their own path to recovery.

Sergeant Manella's story is truly one that is uplifting for every soldier, man and woman, who is recovering.

Congratulations again to Sergeant Manella. Your strength, your determination, and your character is an inspiration to thousands of other wounded men and women of our armed services.

## PRESERVE THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the House Judiciary Committee yesterday raised the overarching question of our generation: Will the American Constitution stand?

All the laws passed under that Constitution have elaborate enforcement mechanisms backed by armed force, but the Constitution itself has no such enforcement mechanism. It was designed to be internally self-enforcing, with the powers of government clearly divided among three separate and equal branches of government.

But this self-enforcement mechanism can only work when the powers are evenly divided, when those who exercise those powers are devoted to the Constitution, and when the American people insist on it. That is the great question for our generation and for which we are deeply answerable. Are we allowing the Constitution to disintegrate before our eyes?

The Constitution makes very clear that only Congress may make laws and that the principal responsibility of the executive is to take care that the laws be faithfully executed. Yet the executive branch has increasingly asserted sweeping powers to unilaterally nullify laws that it dislikes, to pick and choose who must obey the law and who need not, and even to impose entirely

new laws that Congress has explicitly refused to enact.

James Madison, the father of the Constitution, said that its single most important feature was giving the legislative and not the executive branch the decision of war or peace. Yet the executive now asserts the authority to attack other nations without congressional authorization.

The Bill of Rights protects every American from retribution for expressing their political beliefs; it protects a free press from intimidation; it protects the free and open expression religious beliefs; it protects the means of individuals to protect themselves and their freedom; it protects every individual from having their records searched or their property seized without due process of law. Yet, these fundamental rights have been made a mockery of by the agents of this administration from the IRS to the Justice Department to the NSA.

The rot began long before this administration, but under this administration it has become a crisis. All this is happening, we are told, for the common good. Ours wouldn't be the first civilization to succumb to the siren song of a benevolent and all-powerful government, but every society that has fallen for this lie has awakened one morning to discover that the benevolence is gone and that the all-powerful government is still there.

Much of the structure of the American Constitution that has preserved our liberty for 225 years, that has contained the unwarranted expansion of governmental power, and that has preserved the natural and individual rights of every citizen has been allowed to decay.

The form is still there—the institutions continue to function—but they no longer serve their principle role to protect the rule of law and the liberty of the people.

Here in this Capitol, we are surrounded by the symbols of the Roman Republic. They should be a warning to us. The Roman Senate continued to exist 400 years after the fall of the Republic, but its nature and purpose had become empty.

Chairman GOODLATTE quoted Gibbon yesterday, who observed that “the principles of a free Constitution are irrevocably lost when the legislative power is dominated by the executive.” That is precisely what is happening.

The institutions of our American Republic continue to operate, but the structures within it are rapidly degrading. In this condition, our Constitution is becoming like a rotting porch: we can still discern its form and purpose, but the structure that gave it strength and support is hollowing out through years of abuse and neglect until one day it will simply collapse.

The Judiciary Committee hearing yesterday was the first step by Congress to assess the harm already done and to begin reversing that damage before it is too late. But I must warn that