

I thank the Speakses for their friendship over the years, and I am so glad to be able to wish them a happy 50th wedding anniversary this December 6.

#### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT SUCCESS STORIES

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, the Affordable Care Act is already improving access to quality affordable health care for millions, including my constituents.

In my home State, for example, Covered California is a shining example of how the Affordable Care Act, when implemented fully, will be a success. California's exchange is now enrolling thousands of Californians into health care coverage every day.

Residents in my district, ranging from young adults, to seniors, to children with preexisting conditions and those who cannot afford health insurance, have been receiving critical protections and savings because of the Affordable Care Act.

In fact, one constituent wrote me recently after receiving a letter from his insurance company. After looking at the plans offered through Covered California, he was able to find coverage that was both more affordable and better for him. He told me that he does not want to put insurance companies back in charge and pay higher premiums for less coverage.

Every time Republicans vote to repeal or dismantle the Affordable Care Act, they make it perfectly clear that charging women more for being a woman is okay, that denying victims of domestic violence coverage is okay, and allowing insurance companies to increase premiums to increase profits is okay.

#### CONGRATULATING THE BOZEMAN, MONTANA, GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

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

Mr. DAINES. Madam Speaker, this weekend, the Bozeman High School girls cross-country team will be in Portland, Oregon, to run in the Nike Cross National Championship. These dedicated and talented young women have won seven consecutive Montana Class AA State championships and have competed for five consecutive years at the Nike Cross Northwest Regionals.

This year, after securing their seventh State championship, they came in first at the Nike Cross Northwest Regionals in Boise, Idaho. They will now advance and compete this Saturday against high school runners from across the country at the Nike Cross Nationals.

As a graduate of Bozeman High School and a Bozeman Hawk, I couldn't

be more proud to see the Bozeman girls cross-country team representing Montana at the Nike Cross Nationals. I join all Montanans in wishing them the very best on Saturday. Go Hawks.

#### MEDICAID EXPANSION

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, prior to the passage of the Affordable Care Act, 23 percent of Ohioans with incomes below 133 percent of the Federal poverty level were uninsured. But thanks to the expansion of Medicaid in my home State of Ohio, all of the almost 600,000 residents who are uninsured with incomes below 138 percent of the Federal poverty level will now have access to Medicaid coverage.

In my district alone, an additional 72,000 people became eligible for Medicaid. And next Monday, December 9, all of these individuals will be able to begin signing up for health care coverage that begins January 1. No longer will I receive calls from constituents like Brandon Proctor, who was told that he was "too rich for Medicaid but too poor for subsidies."

This is the way the Affordable Care Act was supposed to work. Finally, all Ohioans will have access to quality and affordable health care.

#### A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP WELLINGTON BOONE

(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 today to pay tribute to an incredible man of faith, with a true calling and a heart for serving the Lord, Bishop Wellington Boone.

Bishop Wellington Boone was ordained into ministry in 1973; and in that same year, he married his childhood sweetheart, Katheryn. Today, Bishop Boone not only celebrates 40 years of ministry, but 40 years of a loving marriage with his wife. In today's world, it is unique and certainly admirable to see a couple celebrate 40 years of marriage. Their long-lasting marriage is a testament to not only their commitment to each other, but their dedication to serving the Lord.

Bishop Boone's 40 years of leadership and service in ministry is also a tremendous accomplishment and one that deserves recognition. Through his work, Bishop Boone has faithfully led others in their quest to glorify and serve the Lord.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Bishop Boone as he celebrates 40 years of ministry and 40 years of marriage with his lovely wife, Katheryn.

#### SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

(Mr. WAXMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus to call attention to a new report from the Nation's premier scientific body, the National Academy of Sciences. We typically associate climate change with gradual, longer-term problems, but according to the academy, climate change could also pose a risk of rapid hard-to-predict environmental changes that have the potential to cause widespread damage in the near term.

The report warns that the collapse of the polar sea ice could send sea levels soaring. The destruction of the coral reefs could cause a mass extinction of sea life. The elimination of summer sea ice in the Arctic could alter the world's weather patterns.

These "tipping points" could happen suddenly. It is reckless to do nothing when faced with these threats. If there is a 10 percent chance that these threats would happen, it is irresponsible for us to ignore it.

Dr. Richard Alley, one of the co-authors, compared the threat of abrupt climate change to the dangers posed by drunk drivers. He said, "You can't see it coming, so you can't prepare for it."

Congress is acting irresponsibly if we don't take this issue seriously. We want to pass on a planet that is worthy of our children's and our grandchildren's future.

#### LIMITING ACTIVITY ON THE OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, next week, the National Park Service will begin holding public meetings on its ridiculous plan to limit recreational activity on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways in Missouri's Eighth District. I urge families and individuals across Missouri to attend these hearings and oppose the Obama administration's changes to the riverways.

Let me reiterate what I have said to the Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, and the Director of the National Park Service, Jonathan Jarvis, that we adamantly oppose the proposal to appease environmentalists by limiting the public use and enjoyment of our riverways. This proposal would hurt small businesses that rely on the riverways and keep my constituents from enjoying the riverways that belong to them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my constituents to attend public meetings in Van Buren, Salem, and Kirkwood to show opposition to the Obama administration's Park Service's attempts to restrict our access to our rivers.

#### THE PHILIPPINES

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Congressman CHRISTOPHER SMITH of New Jersey for leading a codel to the Philippines. I, along with Congressman TRENT FRANKS, were members of the codel. And I want people to know that there is still great work to be done for our friends in the Philippines.

This picture depicts some of the damage that we were able to see while we were there in Tacloban, which is a province in the Philippines. This is another picture that shows actual homes. This is a USAID sign. And these are places where people are actually dwelling at this time. The number one problem that they have right now is shelter.

I will also add that our military has done an outstanding job. I had an opportunity to meet with many of our military people who were there with heavy equipment, and I commend them for what they have done.

Finally, I would like to say this. We have a bill, H.R. 3602, which would accord people from the Philippines in the United States a temporary protective status. This would allow them to stay here, as opposed to going home where the income is less than \$2 a day for more than 40 percent of the people.

My hope is that we can pass H.R. 3602. It does not give any pathway to citizenship. It will only allow them to send money back home while they are here working in the United States.

#### CONGRATULATING THE BATAVIA, ILLINOIS, HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Batavia High School Bulldogs for winning their first ever Illinois State football championship.

On Saturday, November 30, Batavia faced off against Richards High School, which shares the same nickname, in an epic battle of the Bulldogs. At NIU's Huskie Stadium in DeKalb, an estimated 12,000 Batavia fans roared as Micah Coffey, the quarterback, threw for two touchdowns and running back Anthony Scaccia ran for three more. Both teams fought hard, but Batavia prevailed, capping their virtually undefeated season with a 34-14 victory.

I commend Coach Dennis Piron and the entire Bulldogs team for the hard work that went into a strong 13-1 season and the IHSA Class 6A State championship. Go Bulldogs.

#### INNOVATION ACT

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3309 under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 429 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3309.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

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##### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3309) to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, and for other purposes, with Ms. FOXX in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, we are here to consider H.R. 3309, the Innovation Act. The enactment of this bill is something I consider central to U.S. competitiveness, job creation, and our Nation's future economic security. The bill takes meaningful steps to address the abusive practices that have damaged our patent system and resulted in significant economic harm to our Nation.

During the last Congress, we passed the America Invents Act. Many view the AIA as the most comprehensive overhaul to our patent system since the 1836 Patent Act. However, the AIA was, in many respects, a prospective bill. The problems that the Innovation Act will solve are more immediate and go to the heart of current abusive patent litigation practices.

This bill builds on our efforts over the past decade. It can be said that this bill is the product of years of work. We have worked with Members of both parties in both the Senate and the House, with stakeholders from all areas of our economy, and with the administration and the courts.

To ensure an open, deliberative, and thoughtful process, we held several hearings and issued two public discussion drafts in May and September of this year, which led to the formal introduction of the Innovation Act in October. I strongly believe that the Innovation Act takes the necessary steps to address abusive patent litigation.

Abusive patent litigation is a drag on our economy. Everyone from independent inventors to start-ups to mid- and large-sized businesses face this constant threat. The tens of billions of dollars spent on settlements and litigation expenses associated with abusive patent suits represent truly wasted capital—wasted capital that could have been used to create new jobs, fund R&D, and create new innovations and technologies that “promote the progress of science and useful arts.”

And that is what innovation is really about, isn't it? If you are able to create something, invent something new and unique, then you should be allowed to sell your product, grow your business, hire more workers, and live the American Dream.

The Innovation Act puts forward reasonable policies that allow for more transparency and brings fundamental fairness to the patent system and the courts.

The Innovation Act is designed to deal with systemic issues surrounding abusive patent litigation as a whole, and includes a number of provisions designed to ameliorate this significant problem.

Within the past couple of years, we have seen an exponential increase in the use of weak or poorly granted patents against American businesses with the hopes of securing a quick payday. Many of these abusive practices are focused not just on larger companies but against small and medium-sized businesses as well. These suits target a settlement just under what it would cost for litigation, knowing that these businesses will want to avoid costly litigation and probably pay up. The patent system was never intended to be a playground for litigation extortion and frivolous claims.

The Innovation Act contains needed reforms to address the issues that businesses of all sizes and industries face from patent troll-type behavior, while keeping in mind several key principles, including targeting abusive behavior rather than specific entities, preserving valid patent enforcement tools, preserving patent rights, promoting invention by independents and small businesses, and strengthening the overall patent system.

Congress, the Federal courts, and the PTO must take the necessary steps to ensure that the patent system lives up to its constitutional underpinnings, and let me be clear about Congress' constitutional authority in this area. The Constitution grants Congress the power to create the Federal courts, and the Supreme Court has long recognized that the prescription of court procedure falls within the legislative function.

To that end, the Innovation Act includes heightened pleading standards and transparency provisions. Requiring parties to do a bit of due diligence up front before filing an infringement suit is just plain common sense. It not only reduces litigation expenses, but saves