

Mr. Speaker, I am trying to address these issues by having a job fair in my district on Friday, January 24, in Fort Worth at the Resource Connection. It is efforts like these and many others that will help get the middle class back on track in this country.

GABRIELLA MILLER KIDS FIRST RESEARCH ACT OF 2013

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

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, "Stop talking; start doing." That is what Gabriella Miller, a passionate childhood cancer advocate asks of our Nation's leaders.

As an original cosponsor of the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act, I encourage my colleagues to honor her request and support this piece of legislation. The bill directs \$126 million to fund a new pediatric research initiative at the National Institutes of Health. These dollars will fund research, clinical trials, and medical advancement aimed at discovering better treatments to help kids fight their battles against childhood diseases.

In my State, the University of Kansas Medical Center is making great strides in the fight against pediatric illnesses, including plans for a pediatric blood cancer program, research to prevent severe behavior disorders in children, and efforts to establish an institute for children's health and development.

Although Gabriella lost her battle to brain cancer in October, this bill supports programs that will find cures for brave kids like her.

NELSON MANDELA

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, our lives will go on, but the life of the world community was forever changed by the life of Nelson Mandela, who passed away this week.

He chose the principles of truth and reconciliation and democracy and peace through justice to guide his life, and he was willing to give his life for those principles.

It is unfortunate that the United States didn't support world sanctions against South Africa. I would hope if we had the opportunity to oppose apartheid wherever it exists throughout the world again that we would follow the lead of Nelson Mandela.

Treating people differently because of their race or their class or their religion is simply wrong. The way that we honor Nelson Mandela best is to follow his principles. He transformed this world. We have the opportunity now to learn from his life and to follow his principles.

COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Computer Science Education Week, a time in which educators, businesses, policymakers, and communities can come together to celebrate the important role of computer science.

In the next 10 years, there will be more than 1 million more computer science jobs than we have students studying computer science. We need to address that gap. That is why Representative BROOKS and I introduced the Computer Science Education Act, H.R. 2536. Without creating any new Federal programs or requiring any new spending, our bill would allow existing Federal funding to support computer science programs across our schools.

This week, students across the country can try out computer science by participating in the "Hour of Code." On Monday in my district, St. Vrain Valley School District students worked with Oracle to develop apps to help get K-8 students excited about computer science. At CU-Boulder, college students designed their own video games that allow people with no coding experience to create their own 3-D worlds. Through the National Center for Women and Information Technology in my district, more than 300 companies are working to increase the participation of girls and women in computing.

I hope you join me in supporting Computer Science Education Week either by participating in the "Hour of Code" or supporting the Computer Science Education Act.

NATIONAL INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy anniversary to an organization that is actually helping people.

Seventy-five years ago, the Wagner-O'Day Act was signed here in the United States Congress. It is now known as the AbilityOne Program. It honors each individual person across our country with unique disabilities to be able to say as a Nation we are going to stand with you on that.

I believe firmly that every individual evaluates success in a different way, but I think part of how they evaluate success is do they have a great family experience, do they have a great community of friends around them, are they deep in their own personal faith, and do they have work that is meaningful.

The AbilityOne Program—and what is happening specifically in my State

with an organization connected to them called NewView Oklahoma—they are helping people have great value and understanding that people that are blind and visually impaired can have great success in life and can contribute to society.

They are producing products that are sold commercially and to governments that are all over the world. In fact, 2 years ago I was in Afghanistan; and when we landed, as we got off the back of the aircraft there, there was one of the bright yellow chalks that is uniquely made in Oklahoma by people that are blind and visually impaired.

This is a great gift that we are doing, and I wish them happy anniversary.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on Speaker BOEHNER to allow passage of the comprehensive immigration reform legislation. It is vital that we approach the issue of immigration with a sense of urgency, a spirit of compassion, and a commitment to security. Most important, reform must provide a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and allow them to emerge from the shadows.

My congressional office has one of the highest volumes of immigration cases in California, and the stories that are shared with me are heartbreaking. I receive calls from constituents every day describing the hardships that our broken immigration system has placed on their families, and I have heard their pleas for help.

The current wait time for many family members to reunite in the United States can be 10 years or more. DREAMers who came to the United States as young children and are pursuing a college degree or serving in the military have limited or no career opportunities and are stuck in endless limbo.

Our broken immigration system takes a terrible toll on innocent families, local law enforcement, and our economy. We must not further delay action. The time to fix it is now.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, as Members of the House reach their conclusions on the budget deal announced by Congressman RYAN and Senator MURRAY, I might add it is a deal devoid of any support for the unemployed, real investment in jobs and education, and tax reform that produces fairness, pushing additional cost burdens on Federal employees. But it does avoid cuts to Social Security and Medicare and the Republican-inspired government shutdown and near default.

I want to remind my colleagues in the House that that same kind of effort, attention, and risk is needed on the issue of comprehensive immigration reform. If we can produce a budget deal through the crisis that we have been through, then it is time for the House of Representatives and the Republican leadership to step up and produce the same kind of effort, the same kind of attention to one of the most critical domestic issues affecting so many families and communities in this country, and that is the question of comprehensive immigration reform.

If we have the fortitude, the risk to compromise on a budget, we should certainly be able to do that for immigration reform.

NIH FUNDING

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, the National Institutes of Health has helped make America one of the great engines of biomedical discovery.

NIH funding is critical for NIH to sustain its mission of improving health through scientific breakthroughs and maintain our international leadership.

I am proud that some of the world's best scientific research is taking place right here in New Hampshire. In New Hampshire, lifesaving research at Dartmouth College and UNH is made possible by NIH grants.

Unfortunately, the first year of sequestration required NIH to cut 5 percent of its budget. Many of America's young scientists are leaving the U.S. to pursue their research abroad for more stable positions.

If the sequestration were to continue for the full 10 years, NIH would lose a staggering \$19 billion, and our Nation would lose precious time in its race against Alzheimer's disease, cancer, autism, HIV/AIDS, and countless other diseases that cause pain and suffering.

I urge congressional leaders to approve robust funding for NIH and to reverse the damaging impact of sequestration on research programs.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act is moving in the right direction and delivering what the law was intended to do: delivering a wider range of medical services to all Americans, including improved access to mental health services.

The administration announced that \$100 million of additional funding would be made available to expand and improve the way Americans receive mental health services.

According to the California HealthCare Foundation, nearly one in six Californian adults has a mental health need and approximately one in 20 suffers from a serious mental illness that makes it difficult to carry out

major life activities. The rate among children is higher where one in 13 suffers from a mental illness that limits participation in daily activities.

While most mental illnesses are treatable, those with mental illness often struggle to get needed treatment if they do not have health insurance that covers mental health services. Starting next year, insurers would not be able to deny coverage or charge an individual more due to preexisting health conditions, including mental illnesses. The health care law would also require most health plans to cover recommended preventive services like depression screening for adults and behavior assessment for children.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, AND COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Natural Resources, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 9, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: I wish to resign from my assignments to the House Committee on the Judiciary, the House Committee on Natural Resources, and the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs effective the week of December 9th, 2013. My resignation is in order to facilitate my appointment to the House Committee on Appropriations. Thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

MARK E. AMODEI.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, AND COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 11, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Please accept this letter as resignation from my seats on the House Committee on Agriculture, the House Committee on Armed Services, and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve on these important Committees. I remain committed to supporting my district's unique military, agriculture, and educational inter-

ests in my new capacity on the House Committee on Appropriations.

Sincerely,

MARTHA ROBY,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, AND COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Natural Resources:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 9, 2013.

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: As you are aware, the Steering Committee acted last week on my request to join the Appropriations Committee. In order to move on to the Appropriations Committee, I am writing to resign from my current committee assignments, including all subcommittees on:

The Science, Space, and Technology Committee;

The Homeland Security Committee; and
The Natural Resources Committee.

I have truly enjoyed my service on these committees. I similarly look forward to serving on the Appropriations Committee.

Sincerely,

CHRIS STEWART.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.

There was no objection.

□ 1230

ELECTING CERTAIN MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 437

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE—Mr. McAllister.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS—Mrs. Roby, Mr. Amodei, and Mr. Stewart.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES—Mr. McAllister.

Ms. JENKINS (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kansas?

There was no objection.