

each year. The potential closure of the tower is unacceptable.

As we know, President Obama initially proposed the sequester in 2011. I voted against its creation, and I voted twice to replace its arbitrary cuts. Americans deserve real solutions and genuine accountability. Improper payments by the Federal Government exceeded \$115 billion in 2011. Surely, the President would be willing to address those improper payments before allowing the sequestration cuts to take place.

IMPACTS OF SEQUESTRATION

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

Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring awareness to the automatic trigger cuts—known as sequestration—and the impact they will have on domestic programs in California.

I thank my colleagues who voted today for a commonsense piece of legislation known as the Violence Against Women Act. This landmark legislation comes on the eve of looming budget cuts that will have devastating impacts on domestic violence preventive programs throughout California, which already operate on tight budgets.

The Obama administration estimates almost \$1 million of funds that provide services to victims of domestic violence in California will be cut, resulting in 3,000 fewer victims being served. Although we have made significant strides towards safeguarding all women by passing this important bill, we must ensure that we continue to strengthen these programs by avoiding this sequester.

IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, President Obama's sequester will take effect tomorrow. Because of the President's irresponsibility of cutting just pennies of waste for every dollar Washington spends, the men and women of the 122nd Air National Guard in my district face furloughs. Across the globe, our national security will pay the price for Washington's failures.

How did this happen? It seems that during his Chicago-style campaigning, President Obama forgot that his primary responsibility is to serve as Commander in Chief. Today, instead of working to replace these security cuts with cuts to waste, President Obama and HARRY REID are trying to pass a tax hike in the Senate, a tax hike that the nonpartisan CBO says will increase our deficit for the next 2 years. It seems that instead of solving the problem, President Obama and his allies are only making it worse.

Mr. Speaker, it's time to get serious about the \$3 billion we borrow every

day and cut spending in a responsible way that saves the American Dream and keeps our national security strong.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, unless we do something, Friday will be a day that none of us want to see but that very few of us seem to have the courage or conviction to prevent.

Today, we stand here with two options: devastating, meat-cleaver cuts or political courage.

Last week in my district I met with the leadership of the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base. California military cuts of almost \$70 million would put this base at risk.

Who are we talking about? These are our first responders, our firefighters, our citizen soldiers. These are the people that will be affected by sequestration.

If we must choose between cuts or political courage, I choose political courage. We must come together to do what is right.

I ask for a balanced approach to deficit reduction that eliminates sequestration. I support Congressman VAN HOLLEN's bill, H.R. 699, and I ask unanimous consent to bring this bill to the floor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded on page 752 of the House Rules Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the gentleman's request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

TRIBAL PROVISIONS IN VAWA

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, this is one of those moments where you come up here for 1 minute, and I wanted to share a certain frustration, particularly the votes we just had here in the House.

I come from Arizona. We have 22 tribal communities, 21 actual designated reservations. I lived almost my entire life alongside the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian community. It's a sophisticated tribe with wonderful outreach into the community. They've come light years in the last 10. They've done amazing things.

We have been working with that community and Congressman COLE's office trying to work on language that would work with them in VAWA, and yet Congressman COLE and Congressman ISSA were not allowed in the process to offer their amendments. That's of great frustration to me because there was months of months of labor and work put into that.

But there was also another irony here. I heard some folks on the right

and a lot on the left talking about the self-determination court process within those tribal communities. Okay, great. Are we now ready to have this body step up and help our tribes in Arizona that are sophisticated manage their own finances and their own health care? Because they're asking for that self-determination.

SEQUESTER

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give voice to the concerns I am hearing from my constituents and my community when it comes to the sequester.

El Pasoans are worried about cuts to public education, canceled flights, delays in processing Social Security and veterans' benefits, and fewer resources for law enforcement.

They are also worried about their jobs. For example, I represent 20,000 workers and their families who are going to be facing furloughs. We are concerned that wait times at our ports of entry will increase to 4 or 5 hours if the sequester happens and furloughs result in 7,000 fewer Customs and Border Protection officers. This undermines those employees and their families and the trade that supports nearly 100,000 jobs in the El Paso region.

Mr. Speaker, let's fix this. Let's vote on legislation that will replace the sequester with responsible cuts and revenues.

I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 699.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

□ 1250

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the impending cuts to the Federal programs that are harmful to our national security, education system, transportation infrastructure, and economy. If we allow the sequester to take effect, Americans will see more teachers laid off in their neighborhood schools, indiscriminate cuts to special education, a loss of 4 million meals for seniors, and debilitating cuts to health care for military families.

The severe and arbitrary cuts caused by sequestration will go into effect tomorrow. Unless we vote on a resolution today, these cuts will deeply hurt the constituents that I represent in the north Texas Congressional District 33 and also citizens across the Nation.

I was not in Congress when sequestration was passed 2 years ago as part

of the Republican cut, cap and balance bill. There's still time to prevent these harmful, across-the-board spending cuts.

I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 699, a balanced bill to replace the sequester that includes both spending cuts and revenues.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained without appropriate clearance.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to really applaud the House for renewing today the Violence Against Women Act. This will protect our citizens. It's important legislation. I had the privilege of helping to author the original one in 1994 with Patricia Schroeder, LOUISE SLAUGHTER, and JOE BIDEN; and we reauthorized it twice. I'm pleased that it passed today.

I was very pleased that the bill included two bills that I had authored, one the SAFER Act with Congressman POE, in a bipartisan way, that would process the DNA rape kits that are sitting on shelves across this country gathering dust and hopefully put rapists behind bars and protect women from future assaults from these particular rapists; and also the Campus Security Act, which would require campuses to keep statistics on violence on the campus and steps that they're taking to protect their citizens; also the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act to crack down on sex trafficking.

It's an important bill. I applaud my colleagues for passing it.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share my deep concern with my colleagues of what these dangerous sequestration cuts mean to my community.

I have the honor to represent the suburbs of Miami-Dade County and the Florida Keys. We are a community of middle class families, and my constituents will be hurt if the leadership of this Congress fails to act.

Here are a few examples: south Florida's economy depends on the flow of tourists. It is an engine which fuels us. If sequestration goes into effect, TSA and customs agents will be furloughed, passengers throughout the country will miss their connecting flights, and we will have fewer tourists and hurt business.

Up to 600 civilians who work in the Florida Keys Naval Base will be furloughed. This means less money for everyday needs in the economy of the Keys. Students on work-study programs at schools like Miami-Dade Col-

lege and FIU will see their funding cut. The leadership of this Congress owes the American people an explanation of why we have gotten to this point.

There is a better alternative that will create jobs, and that is H.R. 699. I respectfully ask unanimous consent to bring up this balanced budget bill that replaces the sequester with balanced cuts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER OF CONGRESSIONAL ADVISORY PANEL ON THE GOVERNANCE OF THE NUCLEAR SECURITY ENTERPRISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 3166(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Pub. L. 112-239), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Congressional Advisory Panel on the Governance of the Nuclear Security Enterprise:

Ms. Heather Wilson, Albuquerque, New Mexico

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BRITISH-AMERICAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276L, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following Members on the part of the House to the British-American Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. PETRI, Wisconsin
Mr. CRENSHAW, Florida
Mr. LATTA, Ohio
Mr. ADERHOLT, Alabama
Mr. WHITFIELD, Kentucky

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913 and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China:

Mr. SMITH, New Jersey, Co-Chairman

SEQUESTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, in this Chamber, we've heard over the last sev-

eral days numerous speakers who have spoken quite eloquently about the impact of sequestration on their communities and their constituents across this country; and I daresay there are many Americans who have no idea what sequestration is. But they will come to know, Mr. Speaker, exactly what sequestration is when they figure out that of the range of programs and services that impact them and their communities, the Federal Government is taking a step backwards because of Republicans' failure to bring forward a balanced approach to dealing with our budget. In fact, we've just been moving from one crisis to the next crisis.

Today, in this House Chamber, we did something very special. We passed the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which was first passed in 1994 and had enjoyed bipartisan support up until recently. We ended up passing the Senate version of the Violence Against Women Act which, frankly, we could have done about a year and a half ago but for failure in this House Chamber.

In passing the Violence Against Women Act, we, on the one hand, provided for authorizing funds to support shelters, services, and programs for victims of domestic violence, many of them women, all across this country. And on the other hand, March 1 sequestration looms and, in fact, is happening, and we take away with one hand what we've provided with the other under the Violence Against Women Act that was just reauthorized today by a bipartisan vote with overwhelming support from Democrats. But tomorrow, \$29 million will be cut from the very shelters and programs that we authorized today.

Six million women all across this country face domestic violence, and yet the programs and services that they depend on from the Federal Government will be ripped away in a sledgehammer approach—across-the-board cuts, arbitrary cuts to the budget beginning on March 1.

Workers and families all across this country have truly grown weary of watching this and past Congresses create and kick down the road fiscal disaster after fiscal disaster. Sequestration is going to rattle our very still-recovering economy and take an axe hammer to so many agencies and programs that are struggling to meet their work loads to deliver services for the American people.

□ 1300

Sequestration is estimated to lower the U.S. economic output by \$287 billion.

In the Fourth Congressional District of Maryland that I have the privilege of representing in this Chamber, people are truly preparing for the drastic impact sequestration will have on them, their capacity to pay their bills and to meet their obligations.

These cuts are devastating, and today we're here to talk very specifically about the devastation to women