

why this report from FRAC is so encouraging. Schools are starting to offer breakfast free of charge to all children, not just kids who qualify based on income. Schools are moving breakfast out of the cafeteria and into the classroom after school starts, something that is known as Breakfast After the Bell.

I am pleased that a new Federal program called Community Eligibility, a program in seven States that allows high-poverty schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students without the need for an application, is increasing daily breakfast participation. FRAC found that daily breakfast participation rose by 5 percent in these seven States compared to 2½ percent in nonparticipating States.

We can do better, but this is encouraging. Kids who eat healthy, nutritious meals do better in school and have fewer problems as they grow up. School meals are a critical part of ensuring that kids eat properly. School breakfasts are a big part of the equation. FRAC found that if all States increased participation so they reached 70 poor kids with breakfast for every 100 that ate lunch, 3.8 million children would have been added to the breakfast program, and States would have received more than \$964 million in added Federal nutrition funding in 2012 and 2013.

We should be proud of the work that USDA and States and localities are doing to increase breakfast participation. As we move towards a reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act, we must remember these important programs and build on them. We must do everything we can to end hunger now, and improving on the school breakfast program is just one way to do it.

All of us, Mr. Speaker, both Democrats and Republicans, need to step it up in our battle to end hunger. We should all be ashamed that so many in our country, including millions of our children, go hungry. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, many of the actions that have been taken by this Congress have made hunger worse in this country. We are the richest country in the history of the world. Surely we can do better. Surely we can end hunger now.

EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

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

Mr. NUNNELEE. Mr. Speaker, Tupelo, Mississippi, the town of my birth and my hometown, is known for a lot of things: the birthplace of Elvis Presley; we are the headquarters of the Natchez Trace Parkway. One of the things we are also very proud of is we are the very first TVA city.

Many people around America think of the difference between rural America and city as the difference between whether you have a shopping mall, a lot of nice restaurants, things like

that. Eighty years ago, the differences between rural and urban America were even more stark. That is why today it is my privilege to rise as we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Tennessee Valley Authority. In the 1930s, rural America did not have many of the basic things of life like electricity, running water, and a lot of the things that we consider frills today, like radio, music, and news.

As a result, many Americans, particularly younger generations of Americans, were migrating from the small towns and the farms across rural America and moving to the larger cities. Seeing this shift, a couple of visionary members of the Congress, including my predecessor, Mississippi Representative John Rankin, and Senator George Norris from Nebraska, made it their mission to bring electricity to rural America.

On May 18, 1933, the Tennessee Valley Authority was created by this Congress in an effort to improve the living conditions and the economic conditions for seven southern States, including Mississippi. In 1934, President Roosevelt came to Tupelo, Mississippi, and literally flipped the switch to turn on the lights. Shortly after that, north Mississippi became one of the Nation's earliest regions to begin to adopt rural electrification.

Over the past 80 years, the Tennessee Valley Authority has been committed not only to providing reliable, cleaner, and low-cost energy, but also committed to the economic well-being of our region across the Tennessee Valley.

They have worked with local power companies, directly served customers and regional, State, and community development organizations. TVA works to create economic development opportunities around our region, collaboratively focusing on attracting and retaining jobs, capital investment, and helping our communities prepare for growth.

I was once told by my friend and former TVA Chairman Glenn McCollough that the mission of TVA could be summed up in three phrases: keep the lights glowing; the economy going; and the river flowing. Well, for 80 years, TVA has done just that. With current leadership like Richard Howorth from Oxford, who is currently on the TVA board of directors, TVA is helping our region achieve success.

The electricity provided by TVA has helped attract opportunity and success for thousands of people in Mississippi and throughout the valley, allowing them to show the world that we are a friendly, reliable and competitive workforce.

So on this day of commemoration, I say happy 80th anniversary, TVA, and my wish for you is a prosperous and successful future.

IRAN SANCTIONS

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, there is no area of foreign policy that produces greater concern amongst American citizens than the prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran. Whether Democrat, Independent, or Republican, there is remarkable unity across the ideological spectrum that we must do everything in our power to prevent that outcome.

We have heard the steady drumbeat over the years that Iran is moving closer and closer to achieving nuclear capability. We have seen the regime engage in dangerous provocations and offer support to Hezbollah and other militant groups that have threatened the stability of the region and caused significant concerns for our allies and friends.

The Obama administration worked with our international partners to impose crippling sanctions on Iran. Those sanctions covered Iran's banking, energy, shipping, shipbuilding, insurance, and broadcasting sectors, and even gold and precious metals.

Now, after decades of tension between the United States and Iran and the escalating international pressure of sanctions and isolation, we have seen positive steps in relatively quick succession. After the election of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in 2013, I joined over 130 of my colleagues calling on President Obama to "utilize all diplomatic tools to reinvigorate ongoing nuclear talks," including the potential that "bilateral and multilateral sanctions be calibrated in a way that they induce significant and verifiable concessions."

Those diplomatic overtures, coupled with the debilitating sanctions on Iran's energy and banking sectors, yielded the historic phone call between President Obama and President Rouhani, the first direct contact between leaders of our two nations in 34 years, and, ultimately, the signing of the Joint Plan of Action representing real progress towards a nuclear agreement.

There remain ample reasons to question the prospects of a long-term agreement with Iran. We have heard the President 1 week ago in this very room speak of the challenges for negotiators, cautioning "they may not succeed. We are clear-eyed about Iran's support for terrorist organizations like Hezbollah, which threaten our allies, and the mistrust between our nations cannot be simply wished away."

Now, Members of Congress in both Chambers are discussing legislation for new and expanded sanctions. Our constituents, deeply concerned with the Middle East and strongly in favor of peace, are asking us what we think, how we would vote, and what we should do as a Congress and as a nation.

I have had the honor of serving on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and as a Member have regular access to the classified assessments of the professionals in our intelligence community, who provide a much fuller and clearer picture

of the situation in Iran. I cannot tell you what the information is here or anywhere else because it is appropriately classified, but based on the classified briefings I have received on the situation in Iran and the Joint Plan of Action, I am very reluctant to support any additional sanctions at this time.

Mr. Speaker, given the importance of this issue to all Members and the stakes involved in preventing a nuclear-armed Iran, I think many of my colleagues would be in a much better position to evaluate the options before us if they also had access to the very classified briefing from which I regularly benefit. That is why I wrote a letter to the Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER, and Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI last week asking them to convene a classified briefing for Members of the House of Representatives.

All of us could have had access to classified materials or request a briefing if we wanted one on a case-by-case basis, but the point is that we are facing a crossroads as a nation, and we are facing a crossroads as a Congress, and I want us to be as informed as possible.

I understand the mistrust between the United States and Iran, and the desire of some in this body to seek additional sanctions, even as we are implementing the terms of the 6-month agreement.

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We need clear-eyed, apolitical, informed decisionmaking so we can make the best possible choices on behalf of our constituents and the Nation.

I believe my colleagues would find great value in the classified briefing and come away with greater confidence in the work of the administration and our international partners.

I have been convinced that now is not the time to consider additional sanctions, but I want my colleagues to make up their own minds and to do so with as much information as possible, so I renew my request for classified briefings as soon as they can be arranged.

I have every confidence that if talks falter or we have evidence that Iran is not abiding by the terms of the Joint Plan of Action, the Congress will not hesitate to take appropriate actions, including imposing new sanctions on Iran. But with Iran at the negotiating table, taking steps to halt enrichment and submit to enhanced inspections and monitoring, it is worth giving diplomacy the chance to succeed.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT WILL SLOW ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office,

CBO, issued a report stating the Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as ObamaCare, will slow economic growth over the next decade substantially more than previously predicted. According to yesterday's report, the Affordable Care Act could lead to 2 million fewer workers in the workforce between now and 2017, which is nearly three times as high as CBO's earlier predictions. What is even worse, this number is supposed to rise in later years to the equivalent of 2.5 million jobs by 2024.

According to The Hill newspaper:

The agency, CBO, also said employer penalties in the law would decrease wages, and part-year workers would be slower to return to the workforce because they would seek to retain ObamaCare insurance subsidies.

We cannot afford more blows to jobs. We cannot afford more blows to the American workforce. We cannot afford more blows to our economy. We as policymakers should be focused on breaking down barriers to employment in order to increase wages.

Mr. Speaker, the administration better get better at explaining this law to the American people or start working with this body to repeal and fix it. The American people deserve better. The American people deserve jobs.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM SCANDAL

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, before turning to the subject at hand, I really hope that people look at the CBO report that was referenced by my good friend from Pennsylvania, and you will find that the 2 million people who would no longer be working, are not going to increase unemployment. The unemployment rate will be lower. There are people who are trapped in the workforce now because they can't afford health care. The Affordable Care Act will actually enable some people to retire who want to retire or stop working a second job. Read the report and find out that this is actually a very positive signal.

But, Mr. Speaker, I am here today to reference something else that was in the newspapers. The papers are filled with scandal about the nuclear weapons program. The real scandal is not the cheating or drug use by people with their finger on the nuclear button. The scandal is that these people are there on the job at all, with these nuclear weapons; jobs and nuclear weapons that should no longer exist.

Don't get me wrong. The alleged drug use by the people who stand watch daily with a finger on the nuclear trigger, or that were cheating on their proficiency exams, is outrageous, but it is scandalous that we are frozen in time linked to a nuclear Cold War past and committed to wildly wasteful spending.

These are weapons that have never been used in 69 years, that did not

deter the 9/11 attackers, and cannot help us in our major strategic challenges today. They have never been used in battle since World War II, but they have almost been used by miscalculation and mistake.

In Eric Schlosser's recent book called "Command and Control," there are terrifying examples of what were termed "broken arrows," nuclear mishaps.

A nuclear bomb was accidentally released over South Carolina, landing in Walter Greg's backyard, leaving a 75-foot wide, 30-foot crater, leveling his home. Luckily, it failed to trigger the nuclear explosion.

In North Carolina, a B-52 fell into a tailspin carrying two hydrogen bombs, each 250 times more powerful than Hiroshima.

There were numerous instances when our bomber fleet, which used to be on the runway idling, on alert 24/7, was prone to catching on fire while packed with nuclear bombs.

A few years ago, there was a B-52 which flew across the country unknowingly carrying six nuclear-armed air-launched missiles.

By no stretch of the imagination, do we need these 450 intercontinental ballistic missiles on alert, plus nuclear armed bombers, all on top of our nuclear submarine-based missiles? We don't need a fraction of this weaponry. At most, we need perhaps one scaled-down system. There is nobody left to deter. We are competing in Russia in the Winter Olympics right now.

A small portion of one of these delivery systems is all the nuclear deterrence we could ever possibly need. The larger and more complex the infrastructure is not just more expensive, but more prone to mistake.

We are talking about upwards of \$700 billion over the next 10 years in operations, modernization, new systems, new nuclear submarines. It is outrageous. It is dangerous. Let me put that in context. \$750 billion is more than the Federal Government will spend on education in its entirety in the next 5 years.

It is time for Congress and the American people to put an end to this.

STOP OUTSOURCING AMERICAN JOBS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the further outsourcing of American jobs through more unfair trade agreements. The Obama administration is currently working on the next executive branch job-killing so-called "free trade" agreement. They are calling it the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP.

The contents of this agreement have been kept secret from the American people and Members of Congress and, as well, the general public wherever they might live. The administration is using the same old failed trade model