

Reverend Chaney is a third-generation minister. He serves as the senior minister at the historic First and Calvary Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Missouri, a church that is a special place to me and my family. Reverend Chaney serves as an important spiritual voice for me and the Springfield community.

Congress has a longstanding tradition of beginning each session day with a prayer. I am privileged and honored to have the opportunity today to welcome Reverend Dr. Andrew Chaney to the people's House as he opened today's session with a prayer.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MESSER). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### FAIR AND REASONABLE FLOOD INSURANCE RATES

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, my home State of Florida has been an overly responsible—and even generous—partner in the National Flood Insurance Program.

In the last 20 years, Floridians have paid four times in premiums than we have seen returned in claims. Yet FEMA is raising thousands upon thousands of policy premiums to absurd levels, easily doubling, tripling, or quadrupling them, and in some cases far higher.

These radical changes are counter-intuitive and are forcing hard-working, diligent, and responsible families from their homes. It is time to take a step back and rein in this agency and its harmful belief that this is a potential path forward.

Families in our communities need and deserve relief from these ridiculously high premiums. I will continue to work with my colleagues on trying to find a reasonable solution to this crisis, one that will address the immediate needs of local homeowners.

#### WE CANNOT AFFORD BAD TRADE DEALS

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, trade of course can be good for Americans and our economy, but we cannot afford bad trade deals. Bad trade deals exacerbate inequality. It makes the ladder of opportunity harder to climb for working people.

Twenty years ago, Washington passed NAFTA, and the results have been devastating to our economy for

working people. Over 850,000 U.S. jobs left for Mexico, and our trade deficit skyrocketed from \$100 billion to \$700 billion. Before fast track authority, the U.S. had a trade surplus.

Fast track and the Trans-Pacific Partnership are not right for the American people. We must have more transparency. We must have more disclosure. We must have good trade deals that reflect the fact that the United States workers produce great services and products.

The trade deals need to reflect that, not have a race to the bottom for which we go to the cheapest markets around the world to compete with good American workers who make fair pay. It is not the right thing. I am for trade, but not bad trade agreements that are conducted in secret.

#### PRESIDENT OBAMA'S AMERICA

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, welcome to President Obama's America: where labor force participation rates are the lowest since 1978; where good-paying jobs are scarce; where many health insurance premiums are skyrocketing or being canceled; where jobs bills sent to the Senate collect dust on HARRY REID's desk; where the State Department concluded that the job-creating Keystone XL pipeline poses little environmental risk, yet the President has not approved it; where yesterday the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office released a report stating that ObamaCare will have substantially larger negative effects on the economy than anticipated.

The CBO projects the number of full-time workers to fall by 2.3 million, while increasing financial burdens on our children and grandchildren.

I urge the President: use that pen to approve House-passed jobs bills; use that phone to work with Congress, and let's work together to relieve the burden that so many of your policies have placed on the backs of the American people.

#### PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE GREAT LAKES

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, this afternoon I look forward to addressing the Great Lakes Environmental Summit.

The history of Buffalo is deeply rooted in the Great Lakes, as easy access to Lake Erie fueled a thriving manufacturing industry. Our future is also bright thanks to growing public and private investment in the waterfront.

Moreover, the Great Lakes support 1.5 million jobs and \$62 billion in wages per year. A report by The Brookings

Institution found that every \$1 invested in restoration generates \$2 in economic benefit and up to \$4 in economic activity through jobs, development, and increased property values.

But in order to realize these benefits, we must protect from outside threats, like nutrient runoff, invasive species, and harmful algae blooms.

I commend the work of advocates like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the Environmental Protection Agency, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeepers, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, and my colleagues on the Congressional Great Lakes Task Force for taking action on protecting and preserving this vital natural resource.

#### PRESIDENT'S BROKEN PROMISE

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker and my colleagues, too many middle class Americans are out of work or worried about losing their job, and the House has passed dozens of bills to help them. More are in the works as we speak, including important legislation that fosters more trade and opportunities for growth. In Washington, it is often referred to as TPA, trade promotion authority.

But around the country from our farms to our factories, this means jobs. It means making it easier for our workers—including the 1.4 million in Ohio whose jobs depend on trade—to be able to compete with China and the world's growing economies.

This initiative has support from Members of both parties, including President Obama himself. Unfortunately, like many of our jobs bills, his party's leaders in the Senate are standing in the way. The President needs to use his bully pulpit as only an American President can and change their minds. He can do that today when he addresses Senate Democrats.

I certainly hope and expect he will help us move this bill forward on behalf of American workers. Otherwise, all the talk about a "year of action" would appear to be just another broken promise.

#### APPLAUDING CVS CAREMARK

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud CVS Caremark's decision to stop selling cigarettes and other tobacco products in its more than 7,600 stores across the United States. CVS, which is headquartered in my district in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, is leading the way in promoting public health and wellness, and I hope other pharmacies will follow their example.

I would particularly like to thank Larry Merlo, the president and CEO of CVS Caremark; Helena Foulkes, the

president of CVS Pharmacy; and their board and their staffs for their commitment to putting people over profits. As one of the Nation's largest retail and pharmacy chains, CVS Pharmacy has helped countless Rhode Islanders and people all across this country better manage their health.

The negative impacts of tobacco are well known—lung cancer, diabetes, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis—and cigarette smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States.

Taking this product off their shelves continues CVS Caremark's long tradition of helping people improve their health and wellness, and it undermines Big Tobacco's active marketing to future generations of Americans to persuade them to take up this deadly habit. I salute CVS Caremark in their efforts to help Americans live longer, healthier lives, and I am so proud of their decision and their corporate leadership.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR KIDS ACT

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

Mr. MESSER. Madam Speaker, lots of kids in America go to a great school, but too many kids don't, and that is not okay. The simple truth is that too many families live in neighborhoods with bad schools. They can't afford to move, and they can't afford tuition to go to a better school either.

There is another way. Imagine a system not limited by ZIP Code, where education dollars follow the child and every family in America can afford to send their child to the school of their choice. This dream could become reality under the Scholarships for Kids Act. We filed the bill today. It gives States the option to use Federal education funds for scholarships to lower-income families, empowering these families to choose the best opportunities for their kids.

Let's stop defending the indefensible and start imagining a great future for every child in America.

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#### NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS FOR SNOWMOBILES IN MICHIGAN

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

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the House of Representatives for passing my amendment yesterday, which will help preserve access to the National Forest System lands for snowmobiles in Michigan and across the Nation, the same access that has long been granted for responsible snowmobilers.

In Michigan, snowmobiling has long been an important part of our State's

heritage. Half of my home State's 6,300 miles of snowmobile trails are on public land. Each year, families in my district head into the woods to partake in this winter recreational activity.

Snowmobiling supports our economy, particularly in northern Michigan. Each year, snowmobiling pumps over \$200 million into my State's economy, supporting thousands and thousands of jobs. Nationally, it is even greater: \$26 billion in economic activity annually, and over 100,000 jobs directly related to the snowmobile industry and the over 225,000 miles of groomed trails that people ride on.

My amendment supports these jobs, promotes conservation, and ensures snowmobilers that they will be able to continue to enjoy our incredible winters while preserving the natural beauty of our national forests.

#### CBO'S LATEST ECONOMIC REPORT ON OBAMACARE

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

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I come before my colleagues today as someone who comes from a family that at times did not have health care. I think we can do a much better job, and we should do a much better job, helping people get health care.

Like some predicted on both sides of the aisle, they said that the way ObamaCare was crafted it could result in a train wreck. We didn't really know, but now we do know. The facts are out. Everyone has seen the rollout, which was a disaster.

Every American should be stunned to see the Congressional Budget Office report today. You should read that: 2.5 million people will lose their jobs. That doesn't even consider the ones who have already been put to part-time status when they are trying to feed their families, make a living, and put gas in the car.

Here we have more people losing jobs because of this. Look at this, how many people will see a smaller amount in their paycheck thanks to ObamaCare.

This isn't a partisan document. This is something that is put out that has analyzed the impact, and it could be devastating.

#### PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PROPOSALS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, last week, President Obama laid out a series of proposals: "build new ladders of opportunity into the middle class" and revive and sustain a core tenet of our American system—as he put it: "the notion that if you work hard and take responsibility, you can get ahead."

I could not agree more with many of the President's proposals. Increasing

the minimum wage, supporting job training and education, and ensuring equal pay for equal work are all necessary to meet the serious economic challenges of our time: stagnant wages and the lack of upward mobility.

But the President's push for fast track authority for the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, or TPP, flies in the face of these reforms. Twenty years after the NAFTA agreement involving Mexico and its \$10 a day wages, we know that the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which includes Vietnam and its 28 cents per hour minimum wage, will depress wages. It will lead to the offshoring and the loss of American jobs.

Raising American's living standards, restoring the middle class, creating American jobs, and increasing wages—those are our economic goals. That is what we should achieve as a society. The Trans-Pacific Partnership fails on all of these goals, and we should defeat fast track.

#### THANKING THE CLEVELAND/BRADLEY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Madam Speaker, last week, I had the honor of attending the Cleveland/Bradley County Chamber of Commerce annual meeting, where Mrs. Margaret Schenck and Mr. Bob Card Both received awards for their devotion to free market values and dedication to our community.

I want to thank these individuals, along with the entire Cleveland/Bradley County Chamber of Commerce, for their ongoing fight to grow and support local businesses.

Organizations like this Chamber of Commerce show that American small business owners and entrepreneurs are doing their part in growing jobs and strengthening our economy.

Now it is time for Washington to live up to its end of the bargain. We must eliminate the numerous regulatory roadblocks that are being imposed upon businesses and holding them back from reaching their full potential. We know the path to prosperity will not be paved by Washington bureaucrats. Rather, a brighter future will be secured by groups like the Cleveland/Bradley County Chamber of Commerce who seek to foster innovation and empower local businesses.

#### IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in support of comprehensive immigration reform.

Our borders remain vulnerable, employers game the system by hiring undocumented workers, and millions of individuals are living in the shadows.