

It is because our Founding Fathers, when they created this Nation, they didn't say these were rights, the rights that they laid out in the Constitution. These were not rights that were given by men. These were rights that were granted through men from God.

Don't take my word for it. These were the writings of our Founding Fathers. They acknowledged God. They praised God. They talked about the great blessings of liberty given to us by God.

Yes, our Founding Fathers said that. This isn't some rightwing nut in the Tea Party. Thomas Jefferson may have been considered one of those rightwing nuts, using the definitions of some of the liberals running around this town today.

But if you look at what this President is doing right now, trying to trample on those religious freedoms, the Hobby Lobby case is the epitome of where those trappings of those rights converge, to our job creators.

This is a business that wants to just run and provide services to people all across this country, a few locations in my district. My wife likes going to Hobby Lobby.

They shouldn't have to be faced with a dilemma every time they cut their paychecks to their employees of whether or not they are going to violate their own religious freedoms just to continue operating as a business in this country.

Nobody should be faced with the threat of our government taking away their religious freedoms just to be able to operate as a business; and yet, that is what is happening right now with the President's mandate through his own health care law.

It is not just limited to businesses, Mr. Speaker. If you look at what is also happening, you know, the President loves talking about a war on women. This President loves dividing this country anywhere he gets the opportunity for political gain to try to divide Americans against each other. How shameless that is.

Where is the President's war on women when it relates to religious freedom?

It is against people like the Little Sisters of the Poor, a Catholic order of nuns that is just trying to do good for people. They are forced to sue the Federal Government because this President, Barack Obama, wants to make Little Sisters of the Poor pay for abortion-inducing drugs as part of their condition of providing health care. Otherwise, they are in violation of the law.

What law, Mr. Speaker, would force Catholic nuns to pay for abortion-inducing drugs just to comply with health care laws?

That is what is at stake here. That is why it is so important, this debate that is going to happen across the street, and that is why it is so important that we all come together to stand up against this kind of oppression of religious freedom.

It wasn't the tenth of all ten amendments in the Bill of Rights. It was the First Amendment that guaranteed religious freedom. That is what we stand here in support of tonight.

I sure hope the Supreme Court hears those arguments as well and recognizes not just what we are talking about tonight, but what our Founding Fathers laid out as one of the basic fundamental tenets of our Nation's constitutional guarantee, and that is the right of religious freedom.

I appreciate all of my colleagues standing up in support of it, as we all do; and hopefully, the Supreme Court hears those pleas and rules the right way.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, I am so grateful to the gentlelady from Missouri for calling so many Members and leading this in this time.

Mr. Speaker, just closing with one line from Benjamin Franklin:

Without God's concurring aid, we will succeed in our political building no better than the builders of Babel confounded by our local partial interests and becoming a byword down through the ages.

Mr. Speaker, we pray for his wisdom for the Supreme Court. I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BENISHEK (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and March 25 on account of attending a family funeral.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5037. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report presenting the specific amount of staff-years of technical effort to be allocated for each defense Federally Funded Research and Development Center during fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5038. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the Repair of Naval Vessels in Foreign Shipyards, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 7310; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5039. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Occupant Crash Protection [Docket No.: NHTSA-2013-0121] (RIN: 2127-AK56) received February

25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5040. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 13-76, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5041. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 102(g) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for FY 1994 and 1995 (Pub. L. 103-236 as amended by 103-415), certification for FY 2014 that no United Nations affiliated agency grants any official status, accreditation, or recognition to any organization which promotes and condones or seeks the legalization of pedophilia; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5042. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the semiannual report detailing payments made to Cuba as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses as required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by Section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5043. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5044. A letter from the Chairman, Occupation Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's strategic plan for fiscal years 2014 through 2018; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5045. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations; Eleventh Coast Guard District Annual Marine Events [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0361] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received February 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5046. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0466; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-156-AD; Amendment 39-17749; AD 2014-03-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5047. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries GmbH Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0937; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-029-AD; Amendment 39-17762; AD 2014-04-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5048. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; 328 Support Services GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by AvCraft Aerospace GmbH; Fairchild Dornier GmbH; Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0702; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-181-AD; Amendment 39-17753; AD 2014-03-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received

March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5049. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France) (Airbus Helicopters) [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0351; Directorate Identifier 2009-SW-049-AD; Amendment 39-17770; AD 2 014-04-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5050. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1226; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-122-AD; Amendment 39-17741; AD 2014-03-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5051. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0125; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-119-AD; Amendment 39-17778; AD 2014-05-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5052. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0866; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-131-AD; Amendment 39-17743; AD 2014-03-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5053. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0830; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-128-AD; Amendment 39-17776; AD 2014-05-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5054. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's twentieth annual report prepared in accordance with section 207 of the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5055. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office Fiscal Year 2013 Report to Congress; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

5056. A letter from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting fiscal year 2015 Congressional Justification of Budget for the Office of the Inspector General; jointly to the Committees on Appropriations, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 4284. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to encourage greater State input and authority over species and habitat management by allowing States to

propose and implement State Protective Action before species are listed under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 4285. A bill to facilitate State and local governmental entities in developing and implementing private sector job creating programs through local government financing of the installation of energy efficiency, water conservation, and renewable energy generation improvements on privately owned property with the financing to be repaid from assessments that may be levied on the local property tax bill, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BRIDENSTINE (for himself, Mr. COOK, and Mr. YOHIO):

H.R. 4286. A bill to free the private sector to harness domestic energy resources to create jobs and generate economic growth by removing statutory and administrative barriers; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, the Judiciary, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Mr. FORBES):

H.R. 4287. A bill to advance the public health by encouraging independent innovators to pursue drug repurposing research and develop new treatments and cures by providing appropriate intellectual property protections for those innovations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 4288. A bill to provide certain protections from civil liability with respect to the emergency administration of opioid overdose drugs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana):

H.R. 4289. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 4284.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California

H.R. 4285.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Commerce Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, cl. 3)

By Mr. BRIDENSTINE:

H.R. 4286.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 gives Congress the power to "make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper" to execute the enumerated power of regulating "Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes." The titles of the American Energy Renaissance Act deals existing laws affecting the production and transportation of energy among the states and Indian tribes and the export of energy to foreign countries.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 4287.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 4288.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article, 1 Section 8

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 4289.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. COSTA and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 32: Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 60: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 118: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 460: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 477: Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 487: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 494: Mr. SIMPSON and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 522: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 580: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 594: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 596: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 647: Mr. GUTIERREZ and Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 683: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 713: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 721: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 833: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 949: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1020: Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 1070: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1141: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1175: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 1249: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 1250: Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 1286: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 1313: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 1318: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 1333: Ms. BROWN of Florida and Mr. GARAMENDI.