

ALLARD and Congresswoman NAPOLITANO to discuss women's economic agenda. Over 200 women showed up to talk about this.

We heard from women like Sonia and Caryn. Sonia has been a hotel worker for 9 years, barely making it on minimum wage, while balancing her work with the needs of her three young sons. Without paid medical and family leave through her employer, whenever one of her boys was sick, she had to stay home without pay.

For mothers like Sonia, we must increase the minimum wage and ensure employers provide paid family and medical leave for all of our families.

Caryn's life has turned around after she was finally able to access affordable child care in San Pedro, after struggling to balance taking care of her daughter as a single mom and building a future. Because of that she has already earned an associate's degree and is now studying for her bachelor's degree.

The success of our Nation relies upon the economic security of these women because when women succeed, America succeeds.

FOUR YEARS AND OBAMACARE IS STILL FAILING

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, according to an institute at the University of New Hampshire, the number of long-term unemployed Americans has more than doubled since 2007, to a gruesome 39.3 percent.

The President has had more than enough time to get our weak economy back on track. Instead of working with Congress on pro-growth reforms to our tax system and encouraging businesses to hire more workers, he has focused his attention on implementing his disastrous health care takeover, destroying jobs.

American families have felt the duplicity of the "Unaffordable Care Act." They have lost health care plans. They have been forced to pay higher insurance premiums and receive smaller paychecks due to reduction in work hours.

A key to economic recovery starts with repealing and replacing the takeover with a commonsense, patient-centered solution. Our workforce should not lose 2.5 million more jobs because of government mandates. We must work together to promote jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

NATIONAL LIHEAP ACTION DAY

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

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about a critical Federal

program that helps seniors and low-income families in Michigan and across the country with their utility bills.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, provides short-term assistance to help households with their heating costs in the winter and cooling costs in the summer. In Michigan, more than 600,000 households received LIHEAP assistance last year. Nationally, LIHEAP serves 6.7 million people.

These mostly one-time payments provide a financial bridge to ensure that vulnerable populations do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and affording the other necessities of life, like food and medicine.

Today is National LIHEAP Action Day, and constituents, businesses, and nonprofit organizations are all in town to ask Congress to provide adequate funding so residents across the country are able to continue accessing this vital program. Please welcome them into your offices, and please support the critical LIHEAP program.

With this year being one of the coldest winters in decades, many agencies are struggling with record numbers of people seeking assistance. LIHEAP benefits have already been cut; it is not time to cut them again.

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HONORING ILLINOIS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR SHERYL GRAY

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a caring and innovative educational leader from Illinois' 14th Congressional District.

For her hard work, Sheryl Gray was named Illinois Assistant Principal of the Year by the Illinois Principals Association.

Since she began at Prairie Trail School in Wadsworth, she has created and implemented fresh ideas that bring together students and their families in education.

Her brainchild Partnership and Achievement Lead to Success, or PALS, has been extremely successful in educating and empowering at-risk children. She has also devoted her time to improving Prairie Trail School's special education program and increasing school attendance by supporting families who are in need.

A servant to the Lake County community, Sheryl Gray is an inspiration to her students and to the next generation of educators.

With more leaders like Sheryl in schools, all of our children will be able to reach their true potential.

RAISE THE WAGE

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, during the past 40 years, we have made tremendous progress in America technologically, medically, socially, and—for many of our citizens—economically, but not if you are a family trying to get by on the minimum wage.

In real value, today's Federal minimum wage is about 30 percent below the days when President Ford pardoned Richard Nixon and Cannonade won the Kentucky Derby.

As American productivity has surged, the economic status of the American worker has weakened and, along with it, the capacity of American consumers to continue driving our economy.

Even Walmart executives have admitted an obvious cause and effect. When their employees can't afford to shop in their stores, profits will suffer.

Madam Speaker, a fair minimum wage has the power to make work pay a little better, to give families a shot at a stronger future, and to grow our economy substantially.

It is a corrective to obscene corporate welfare, whereby American taxpayers must support low wage workers when their employers don't.

It reaffirms the basic American idea that, if you put in 40 hours a week, you should be able to put food on your family's table every day.

PARALYMPIC CHAMPION EVAN STRONG

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Evan Strong in celebration of his continued achievements in the 2014 Sochi Paralympic Winter Games.

Bordering the Tahoe National Forest, Nevada City is home to 3,000 people, including Evan and his wife, Mariah. Today, I join the members of that community in recognizing his accomplishments, generosity, and strength.

Evan Strong grew up with a strong passion for sports. Whether it was surfing the waves in Maui or skateboarding around the neighborhood, you could not find him without a board in his hand. Unfortunately, shortly before his 18th birthday, Evan, on his motorcycle, was struck head-on by a drunk driver. Three days later, his left leg was amputated.

Today, 10 years after his accident, Evan remains the most dominant athlete on the adaptive snowboarding circuit.

Evan's story of overcoming adversity is an inspiration to California and to athletes all across the country. By turning an obstacle into opportunity, he has earned every title in the sport of adaptive boardercross, including a Winter X Games gold medal, a world championship title, two overall titles, and 11 world cup titles.

Perhaps most extraordinary, his historic performance in the 2014

Paralympic Winter Games led the United States to a sweep in the men's snowboard cross event and to earn himself the first gold medal in the games.

I congratulate Evan on his remarkable achievements. You make California and our Nation extremely proud.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today, the National Association of Letter Carriers Buckeye Branch 78 arrived in Washington for its national conference. I rise to honor these dedicated postal workers and thank them for the great service that they provide, bringing news during tragedy and triumph.

America's letter carriers have a long history of delivering the mail for well over 200 years. Their tireless commitment helps ensure the timely delivery of prescriptions, paychecks, Social Security checks, and other communications to countless Americans and keeps the stream of commerce flowing.

In light of the fiscal challenges faced by the United States Postal Service, a number of postal workers have been presented that they could potentially be downgraded; thus we would downgrade Postal Services, hurt postal workers, and shutter post offices.

As we continue these debates on this House floor, I wish to reassure the National Association of Letter Carriers Buckeye Branch 78 that they have an ally in me.

REPEAL OBAMACARE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Supreme Court heard arguments in the Hobby Lobby case. This business is simply asking that owners' rights under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act are respected.

In an ironic bit of timing, the administration just effectively waived the March 31 deadline for signing up for an ObamaCare plan.

Despite President Obama's continuous extra-legal rewriting of his health care law, he remains unwilling to accommodate religious businessowners who are providing health care coverage for employees.

Yesterday also brought a news report from North Carolina of 200 substitute teachers having their hours cut in order to comply with ObamaCare mandates. The teachers' plight is not unique.

As Republicans noted during the original debate over this law, putting the government in charge of 1/7th of the economy is a recipe for disaster.

We need to repeal ObamaCare and enact health reform that empowers patients, not bureaucrats.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT DEADLINE

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, with the deadline to sign up for the Affordable Care Act approaching, I want to encourage everyone, especially young people and people in my district, to sign up for health insurance.

For those who think the process is too cumbersome or you won't get an affordable rate, listen to this story from a 29-year-old woman from New Jersey, Fawziah Qadir. She said: My employer agreed to provide \$300 a month towards any health plan I could find.

Unfortunately, trying to find an affordable insurance plan on her own in New Jersey where she lives, she said, was insane. One quote was over \$700; others provided flimsy coverage.

Full of frustration, Fawziah's mother told her about the health care insurance marketplace. She says that when she logged onto healthcare.gov, she was surprised to find out how easy it was to enroll.

With her employer's contribution, she has a comprehensive plan that costs just \$63 a month. That is less than a cell phone bill or a cable bill, and we are talking about something much more important—our Nation's health.

Don't wait. Go to healthcare.gov and find a plan that works for you.

RUSSIAN VIOLATION OF THE INTERMEDIATE NUCLEAR FORCES TREATY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Napoleon of Siberia has launched cold war II. He seems to be on a mission to restore the Soviet empire. He invaded Georgia, then Ukraine. He seized Crimea. Putin's next target? Well, no one knows.

However, quietly, behind the scenes, Putin seems to be resurrecting a cold war nuclear program in violation of the 1987 INF Treaty with the United States.

Mr. Speaker, what good is a nuclear treaty if not all sides abide by it? Will Russia's cheating start a 21st century arms race?

Representatives MIKE ROGERS, JOE HECK, and I have introduced a resolution stating that the Russians have violated the treaty and there must be consequences. Russia cheats on treaties, invades other nations, and we basically watch and talk and say that just isn't nice.

The President said of treaties in 2009: "Rules must be binding. Violations must be punished. Words mean something."

However, as my grandfather used to say: "When all is said and done, more is said than done."

What are the consequences for Russian violation of the INF Treaty? We shall see.

And that's just the way it is.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, 42 years ago, Congress passed the Equal Rights Amendment to guarantee equal rights for American women. Although we have made progress leveling the playing field, we still have a ways to go.

Women earn more advanced degrees and make up half of our national workforce, but the return on their educational investment doesn't come close to their male counterparts. Women still earn 77 cents to the dollar men earn and are working lower wage jobs in a time when their families are becoming more dependent on their salaries.

I am working to balance the inequities that disadvantage American women and, consequently, their families. I cosponsored House Joint Resolution 56, the constitutional proposal for an equal rights amendment, and I supported the Paycheck Fairness and Fair Minimum Wage Acts. These bills are good for working women and good for their families.

Today, I urge my colleagues to stand up for the many unemployed women and impacted families in their districts by passing an unemployment insurance extension immediately.

Let's honor Women's History Month by supporting fair wages for all, promoting equal treatment under our laws, and by supporting vulnerable women by extending safety net benefits like unemployment insurance.

CONGRATULATING SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Slippery Rock University, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

In 1887, the citizens of Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, saw the need for affordable and accessible higher education in their community. In less than 18 months, land was purchased from my good friend and colleague JIM GERLACH's family, to whom it had belonged for three generations.

On that land was soon established Slippery Rock State Normal School. It opened to 168 students on March 26, 1889, with its ultimate object to make the student an educator. It was purchased by the Commonwealth in 1926 and was granted university status in 1983.