

Noah Giedroc, Brayden Comly, Jayden Bechdel, Carter Rhoades, Olivia Reed, Hannah Ternent, Thomas Beck, Elyssa Greene, and Mikayla Irvin for a job well done.

This is the first time that Howard Elementary has ever won grand champion. Congratulations, and keep on reading.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Lord, You have promised to be with all people wherever they are, whatever their need. We reach out in prayer for the homeless, the poor, those anxious about the future, those who are ill, or those to whom freedom has been denied.

Bless the Members of this people's House. Inspire them, as representatives of the American people, to labor for justice and righteousness in our Nation and our world, mindful of Your concern for those most in need.

For all the riches of our human experience, O Lord, we give You thanks. Make us aware of our responsibilities as stewards of Your divine gifts, and empower us with Your grace to faithfully and earnestly use our talents in ways that bring understanding to our communities and our Nation, and peace to every soul.

May all we do be done for Your great honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today's debate over the Save American Workers Act, which will attempt to fix another unintended consequence of ObamaCare, reminded me of the recent CBO report which estimated that regulatory changes created by ObamaCare would remove the equivalent of 2.3 million Americans from the full-time workforce.

Putting aside the tremendous human costs of this loss, let's simply consider the economic damage done to our Nation. Journalist Kevin Williamson compared removing 2.3 million from the full-time workforce to "burning down 1,000 factories" and further noted that "that 2.3 million workers exceeds the current workforces of McDonald's, IBM, UPS, Target, Hewlett-Packard, and General Electric, combined."

The Save American Workers Act will likely proceed to the Senate today, where it will join a cue of 30-plus other House-passed bills that would help the economy and create jobs.

Americans want to work. Why won't the Senate do its job and consider those bills?

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my Republican colleagues to bring the Senate's bipartisan compromise on extending unemployment insurance to the House floor for a vote.

Our economy is recovering, but not fast enough. We need to continue helping our businesses create jobs that pay living wages; but, in the meantime, we can't forget about those who lost their jobs in the downturn. Many of them have families to support while looking for jobs in a tough economy.

An analysis by Moody's found that for every dollar spent on unemployment benefits the economy generates \$1.64 in economic activity. That is money that gets spent on basic necessities like food; so the grocery checker gets paid; the truck driver that delivered the food gets paid; and the farmer who grows the food gets paid. It doesn't take a Ph.D. to do the math.

And speaking of math, the Senate deal is paid for, so unemployment insurance doesn't add to the deficit.

For all these reasons, I call on my Republican colleagues to bring this to the floor for a vote today.

HELPING THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

(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. Madam Speaker, according to a Hoover Institute study, 2.6 million Americans are at risk of receiving smaller paychecks because of reduced hours as a result of ObamaCare's harsh regulations on small businesses.

It is obvious that the President's broken health care promises have made lives more difficult. What do we tell single mothers who have been forced to pick up an additional job because their hours have been reduced? And what about the college students who are paying their way through school but are struggling to achieve an education because their paychecks will not cover expenses?

At a time with record unemployment and a record number of people not seeking work, the government should not make it more difficult for employers to hire workers. Later today, the House will vote on a bill, which I have gratefully cosponsored, that provides relief for millions of Americans who have received smaller paychecks because of the President's health care takeover which destroys jobs.

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

Welcome, Mead Hall Episcopal School of Aiken, South Carolina.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, across the Nation, Social Security offices are experiencing increased backlog, longer wait times, and insufficient staff levels. Despite this, the Social Security Administration has proposed the closing of four New York regional offices, including the Amherst office in my western New York community.

Since 2010, 96 field offices have been consolidated into 46 without a uniform closure process. In response, I have introduced H.R. 3997, the Social Security Administration Accountability Act, which brings transparency to the Social Security field office closure process.

This legislation requires the Social Security Administration to consult with local officials and the public before deciding to relocate or merge offices. In my own community, after the notice of proposed closure of the Amherst field office, we learned from the Buffalo Fire Department that the new office has insufficient capacity and would be a fire hazard. If this bill were already law, this would have been discovered before a proposed closure was announced.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting our communities from hastily planned and ill-conceived Social Security field office closures.

CONGRATULATING BLACKMAN HIGH SCHOOL

(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, I rise today to commend Blackman High School boys' and girls' basketball teams for winning State championships last week.

The boys' team defeated Oak Ridge by a score of 60-58 by making an exciting comeback in the final minutes. In doing so, they captured their first State title and the first boys' basketball championship for a Rutherford County team since 1965.

The girls' team, the Lady Blazes, had captured the school's first State championship in any team sport a week earlier.

I especially want to acknowledge the Lady Blazes' Crystal Dangerfield for her work both on and off the court. Named the No. 7 college prospect for 2016 by ESPN, Dangerfield was also awarded this year's Tennessee Gatorade Player of the Year. This prestigious accomplishment recognizes a student's athletic achievement, as well as academic success and overall character. Ms. Dangerfield certainly fits the bill, with volunteer work with her church and active involvement in the local literacy outreach program.

I know the city of Murfreesboro is so incredibly proud of these young men and women, and I wish them continued success in the future.

NO MORE SNAP CUTS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, over the past 6 months, this Nation's premier antihunger safety net program, SNAP, has been cut by nearly \$20 billion. Forty-six million Americans saw a cut of about \$30 a month for a family of three, and hundreds of thousands more will see a cut of about \$90 because of two separate cuts that took effect in November and in February.

But those pale in comparison to the Ryan budget. This budget, which will be voted on by this House next week, cuts at least \$137 billion from SNAP—\$137 billion. That is simply devastating.

Budgets are moral documents, and the Ryan budget is immoral. What kind of nation are we if all we do is continue to take food from the mouths of the hungry?

We can't keep balancing our budgets on the backs of poor. It is time to say enough is enough, no more cuts to

SNAP. We should protect the vulnerable and the least well off in this country instead of punishing them simply for being poor.

SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my Hoosier colleague, Representative TODD YOUNG's excellent bill, the Save American Workers Act of 2014.

We are a country built on hard work. We are a country where people want to work. But right now, the Affordable Care Act is stopping people from working the hours they need and the hours they want to work. By redefining a full-time employee as someone who works 30 or more hours a week, the Affordable Care Act has caused workers' hours to be reduced in vital industries across the Nation. 2.6 million workers are losing because of this provision. America is losing because of this provision.

A school employee from my district in Elwood, Indiana, recently shared with me the pain losing 10 hours from her workweek has caused. She said:

It just doesn't make sense to me. I'm trying to be a self-supporting person and was doing good. It could have been better, but I was making it. How am I supposed to pay a house payment, utilities, car insurance, let alone food?

This is an unwise provision that must be repealed. That is why we must take action and restore the traditional 40-hour workweek. Let's pass the Save American Workers Act of 2014. If we do, our workers win, our employers win, and our Nation will win.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call on just 25 Republicans to join 195 Democrats to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour and to raise wages for tip workers whose \$2.13-an-hour wages haven't been raised in 23 years. The current minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour has failed to keep pace with the cost of living, leaving families struggling to fill the gap.

Even if you work 40 hours a week at minimum wage, you still live below the poverty line. You rely on taxpayer-funded programs such as nutrition assistance, energy assistance, and housing assistance.

In short, the profit lines of multinational corporations are being subsidized by taxpayers who fill the gap between the mandated minimum wage and what constitutes a fair wage, what people need to live on.

This has an even greater impact for women, who often work for only 77

cents on a dollar; for African American women, 64 cents on a dollar; for Latinos, 58 cents on a dollar. Seventy percent of low-wage workers in this country are women.

So, essentially, we need to raise the tip minimum wage and raise the regular minimum wage. It is the fair thing to do. I call on my Republican colleagues, just 25 of them, to raise the minimum wage.

THROW-BACK THURSDAY

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

Mr. DUFFY. Madam Speaker, if it is Thursday, it is throw-back Thursday.

I want to take a look back to April 15, 2011, the House Republicans passed a budget that balanced.

March 29, 2012, House Republicans led the charge to pass a budget that balanced.

March 21, 2013, we passed a budget that balances in 10 years.

Just last night, we passed a budget that is again going to balance in 10 years.

The bottom line is that we can't do it by ourselves. If you look to the President who introduces budgets that never, ever, ever balance, and you look to the Democrats in the Senate who don't even introduce budgets, we can't get this job done.

We have Americans who are young that want opportunity, that want jobs and don't want to pay higher taxes. If we don't balance our budgets, they are the ones who are going to pay.

But it is the poorest among us who look to government for a little bit of help. If we have a debt crisis, we won't be there to help them.

Let's work together. Let's balance our budget. Let's be sustainable in government spending.

□ 1215

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS BUDGET

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

Ms. HAHN. Madam Speaker, yet again, we have been presented with a budget that stands at odds with the morality of this Nation. The Ryan budget attempts to balance our budget on the backs of the middle class and low-income families while bowing to special interest groups and giving billionaires unnecessary tax cuts.

This out of touch budget leaves hard-working families in my district in California and across this country in the cold by cutting more than \$135 billion from the food stamp program. PAUL RYAN's budget also eliminates the Affordable Care Act and breaks our promise to seniors by fundamentally ending the Medicare program as we know it. With one in three women struggling on