

our government can make that provide as high a return on investment as scientific research and development.

Despite this, Federal investments in research and development are at an historic low, comprising merely 3.8 percent of the Federal budget—or 0.8 percent of the GDP.

In fact, over the last 3 years, Federal research and development expenditures have decreased by 16.3 percent, which is the steepest decline over a 3-year period since the end of the space race.

These results are an important reminder of the value of Federal investment in research and development. Without the proper investment in scientific research, we must expect fewer of these groundbreaking scientific discoveries, at least in the United States.

The greatest long-term threat that our country faces on both the military and economic fronts is the threat of losing our role as world leaders in innovation and in science and technology.

Nothing is more crucial to preserving that role than having adequate funding for fundamental and applied scientific research. The recent advances in cosmology are just one of many examples of the breadth of intellectual capital and state-of-the-art technology that the U.S. currently possesses.

As Congress determines how to allocate funding for these agencies in the coming year, with many proposing budgets that will cripple future investments in education and research, I urge my colleagues to capitalize on these discoveries and ensure that we are investing enough in research, science, and education.

Because of Federal investments in science, we have just looked significantly farther into the early universe than anyone has done before. This not only tells us about the birth of the universe, but it also gives us insight into our fundamental understanding of the laws of physics.

This discovery by the BICEP2 team has been globally recognized as one of the most important fundamental breakthroughs in science in our lifetimes, a landmark of American academic achievement that will live on in the science textbooks forever.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET PROPOSAL UNDERMINES AMERICA'S FUTURE

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday night, I introduced legislation to provide an extension of emergency unemployment benefits that would extend the important safety net of unemployment benefits, unemployment insurance to over 2 million Americans who lost their benefits on December 28 and thereafter as a result of the failure of this body to act to protect those benefits.

Many of us, particularly on the Democratic side—and I know some on

the other side as well because they have expressed it—would have preferred that we had dealt with this question as we were dealing with the budget issues and the budget question that we faced at the end of last year, but we did not, so we are left now with the fact that we have some unfinished business.

On Monday evening, in a bipartisan fashion, the U.S. Senate enacted similar legislation. In fact, the bill that I introduced on Monday night was the precise language enacted on a bipartisan basis by the U.S. Senate.

Two million Americans are living right now with the fear of losing their homes, losing their cars, having their families split up because they don't have that basic need being met of a roof over a head and food on the table between their last jobs and their next jobs.

For typical workers in America, when they lose their jobs, it takes an average of 37 weeks. I know, in my home State, it is probably longer before they find their next opportunities. In Michigan, once one loses one's job, one has got 20 weeks of unemployment insurance. What happens to one after that is what we are dealing with today.

The fact that people go from one week to the next not knowing if they are going to be able to keep their families together and keep roofs over their heads is something that this Congress can do something about if it chooses to.

I know there are Members of the Republican Conference who are anxious to see this enacted because several put together a letter to the Speaker, asking that this issue be brought up immediately, and that is what I hope my colleagues will do—bring extended unemployment compensation, unemployment insurance to the floor, so that we can protect those workers who are trying to get from their last jobs to their next jobs without starting a cycle of poverty that could last generations.

There are some who say we don't need this because, number one, workers who are on unemployment don't want to work. I suppose there may be an exception or a myth that we could conjure up about an individual who is receiving unemployment compensation who doesn't want to work, but for those of you who believe that, come to my district or, better yet, go to your home district.

Talk to people in the unemployment lines and ask them if they would trade their situations today for meaningful work. I assure you that the vast majority, if not all of the people in that situation, would trade, in a minute, their situations for a real job with a decent wage.

There are some also who say that we shouldn't do this because it is not an emergency, that these are supposed to be emergency benefits. As far as I can see, it is not only an emergency here in Washington, but if you are about to lose your house or if you are about to

lose your car or if you don't have enough food on the table to feed your kids, for you, it is an emergency.

We represent those folks, and we ought to be thinking about them, and we ought to take this up.

So why is it that we need to do this in the first place? I think the Republicans and Democrats could agree that the economy is not growing at a rate to put all Americans back to work. We will acknowledge that. We will stipulate that, while there has been growth and while there has been private sector job creation, it is not enough.

We will probably disagree on the reasons behind that, but we can agree that the current economy is not enough to put these folks back to work. We should help them, but we should also do the things that it will take to get America back to work again.

Unfortunately, what we will deal with in the next couple of days is a budget that undermines economic growth, that undermines the kind of investments in the skills of our workforce by cutting job training, by cutting Pell grants, by cutting early childhood education—programs like Head Start—that actually change the trajectory for those individuals, that make them more capable and more able to get into the workforce in this competitive economy that we are in.

□ 1030

Rather than investing in our people, what this proposed Ryan budget would do is to cut those essential programs and not contribute to economic growth.

It also would cut important investments in infrastructure. Democrats and Republicans alike agree that we need to rebuild our infrastructure—our roads, our bridges, our rail systems, and our ports.

This budget takes us in the wrong direction.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Congress can come together around this question and realize that if, in the short term, we are going to deal with the crisis that families are facing, we will pass an unemployment extension, and, in the long term, we take the kind of steps that we need to rebuild our economy.

The budget proposed by Mr. RYAN that will be coming to the floor will take us in the wrong direction.

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 31 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

Reverend Darius Pridgen, True Bethel Baptist Church, Buffalo, New York, offered the following prayer:

To the grand architect of the universe, who meticulously and purposefully placed each star and planet into a predestined position in the universe, the results of such methodical placement has caused tranquility in the universe in that Mars does not clash with Jupiter, Venus does not war with Saturn, and the Sun does not compete with the Moon.

As You have done in the universe, You have also done in this House of the people. May those whom You have perfectly placed in these hallowed seats remember they, like the perfectly planned universe, have been placed here by You, not to clash, crash, and war, but to work together for the good of their constituents, the country, the world, and, indeed, the universe.

In the name of the God we serve, 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 North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTENGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND DARIUS PRIDGEN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to welcome Pastor Darius Pridgen to the House of Representatives today from the True Bethel Baptist Church in western New York.

Pastor Pridgen is well known and well respected in our community for his passionate and inspiring leadership. We could all benefit from adopting his style of cooperation and uniting people of different beliefs and ideologies.

His contributions to our region are many. In addition to being a role model, he works through creative ministry to create jobs, to care for those in need, and to influence good in his church and far beyond.

This is most notable by his expansion of True Bethel's reach from east Buffalo into the city of Niagara Falls. Pastor Pridgen is also a family man and

encourages strong families. In addition to his ministry, Pastor Pridgen has served our Nation, as he is a veteran of the United States Air Force, and he currently serves as president of the Buffalo City Council.

Pastor Pridgen is the embodiment of Buffalo's reputation as the City of Good Neighbors, and I am honored to have him here today to represent our community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

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

WILL GRIER

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Will Grier who, as quarterback of the Davidson Day School, led them to three consecutive championships.

Over his high school career, Will threw for 195 touchdowns, averaged 383 passing yards a game, and once threw 10 touchdown passes in a single game. For his exploits on the field, Will Grier was named Parade Magazine's 2014 All-America Player of the Year and was selected as America's top high school football player by Football USA.

He graduated from high school a semester early and is already attending classes at the University of Florida, where he will continue his football career.

While I congratulate Will for his football accomplishments, I also want to congratulate him for remaining focused off the field. At Davidson Day, he chose to be a positive role model, regularly spending time with younger students and always reading to the elementary classes.

Please join me in congratulating Davidson's and North Carolina's Will Grier for his accomplishments and for his commitment to serving others.

T.C. GILLESPIE

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

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend who departed this Earth last week, who I know is headed to glory because of the great things he did in Tarrant County for working men and women.

T.C. Gillespie, who was the president of the Tarrant County Central Labor Council, died after a long battle with lung disease.

T.C. was such a tireless advocate for men and women. Before he was president of the Central Labor Council, he was the treasurer and secretary of the Communications Workers of America.

T.C. just believed in people. He was someone who helped me very early on in my career, before I was in Congress. He helped so many people he believed would do the right thing for so many workers and for so many families in Tarrant County.

Even as I watched T.C. struggle in the last couple of years of his life, I would say: T.C., you don't need to be here; you need to be home resting.

He was having such a hard time walking and breathing because of the lung issue that he was having, and he just wanted to be there for people he believed in.

I want to thank the family and friends he leaves behind. T.C. Gillespie was a dear friend and a great man to so many people in Tarrant County.

KELLIE HINSHAW

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

Mrs. ELLMERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Mrs. Kellie Godwin Hinshaw, who fought and battled cancer until it took her body this week in Dunn, North Carolina. Her spirit will truly live on within all of us.

Kellie was a friend who inspired me in her strength to go forward even on the worst of days. She was a strong, loving, caring woman with an incredible sense of humor. She was a daughter, sister, wife, and mother of two beautiful boys, Kenneth and Kannon.

Kellie had adenoid cystic carcinoma, a rare form of cancer. Despite this terrible disease, Kellie and her family chose to use this as a platform to do good. Kellie's Krew successfully organized and grew a 5K race that has raised well over \$100,000 for adenoid cystic carcinoma research and has brought our whole community together.

Kellie taught our community that "vain" is a four-letter word and that beauty truly comes from within. She will be forever loved by her family, her community, and me.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the most important issue facing our country. Guess what? It has nothing to do with repealing ObamaCare. It is about jobs.

Instead of bringing the American Jobs Act to the floor, an act which would create nearly 2 million new jobs, my Republican colleagues remain obsessed with trying to repeal ObamaCare.

This may be the only job in America at which you can try to do something more than 50 times and still have a job. It is time to move on and pass a bill that will help to create jobs.