

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about the Democrats' plan to get the middle class working in America again. The Democrats' Make It In America plan will boost job growth by giving employers tax incentives for jobs created in the U.S. It also raises the minimum wage and updates our current infrastructure.

I want the constituents that I serve in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex to know that me and other Democrats are here, working hard for America to bring back these good-paying jobs.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I wanted everyone to know that I started my Marc Means Business initiative, where I work spending time at different jobs in the district that I serve.

This month, I worked at a concrete batch plant as a laborer at a downtown highway construction site in Dallas. Not only do I get to see what the constituents that I serve go through every day on the site, but this also highlights just how important rebuilding our infrastructure is to the U.S. economy.

Let's give middle class Americans a jump-start and continue to work on policies that expand our economy and get Americans back to work.

100TH BIRTHDAY OF ST. STEPHEN, MINNESOTA

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, it is such a thrill to be a Member of the United States House of Representatives. We are privileged to represent the great people in our districts, and I am obviously very biased that for 8 years, I have been privileged to represent what are the greatest people I think in the United States.

We truly embody in Minnesota's Sixth District the great, good-humored, full values of this country that are represented in that district, and this is a feel-good story, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today to honor the people of St. Stephen, Minnesota, as they are celebrating their 100th birthday as a community. You see, it was in the late 1800s when Slovenian settlers came to this wonderful area in Minnesota and built the foundation of what later came to be called St. Stephen, Minnesota. It is what America fondly refers to as Lake Wobegon.

Today, led by Mayor Cindy VanderWeyst, St. Stephen boasts a very close-knit community of families and farmers and businesspeople. It is fitting that the town motto is "A Place to Call Home" and that it truly is.

St. Stephen is a shining example of small-town life in the United States. Congratulations, St. Stephen, on your 100th birthday.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, far too many of our young girls have fallen victim to modern day slavery. Last fall, I witnessed human trafficking firsthand during a visit to Costa Rica with my colleague from Texas, TED POE.

The stories we heard were heartwrenching. Girls—8, 9, 10, 13 years old—were being victimized and abused by grown men. This is not just a problem outside our borders. This is happening in our backyards.

In my community in Los Angeles, African American girls are overwhelmingly at a greater risk, making up 92 percent of youth sex trafficking victims. This is alarming and shameful.

On the average, victims are recruited between the ages of 12 and 14. These girls are victims, not criminals, and we must do everything in our power to protect them.

Recently, we have seen a paradigm shift in the protection of these victims. L.A. District Attorney Jackie Lacey has implemented the First Step diversion program, which will give victims the opportunity to rebuild their lives through counseling and education, an alternative to prosecution.

Programs like this and my colleague KAREN BASS' legislation that is on the floor today will help protect victims of human trafficking and not punish them.

HAPPY 91ST BIRTHDAY, BOB DOLE

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, Senator Bob Dole, born and raised in Russell, Kansas, and a graduate of the University of Kansas, has spent his life in the service of the American people and today remains the embodiment of public service. On Tuesday, Kansans from all across the Sunflower State wished him a happy 91st birthday.

Senator Dole enlisted in the Army once the U.S. entered World War II and was stationed in Italy. While leading an assault on a German machine gun nest, Senator Dole's unit was heavily fired upon.

Without hesitation, Senator Dole courageously returned to help rescue an injured radioman—he, himself, suffering life-threatening injuries. Many Army medics didn't think Senator Dole would survive.

With a strong spirit and steadfast resolve common to many Kansans, Senator Dole not only survived, but he returned home to the Sunflower State and spent many years in elected service on behalf of Kansans, including in the State house, as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S.

Senate, and runs as Vice President and President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride to that I wish my good friend and fellow Jayhawk, Senator Bob Dole, a happy 91st birthday and many more to come.

Happy birthday, Senator Dole.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK REAUTHORIZATION

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I was honored to bring together New Hampshire business leaders to discuss the importance of the Export-Import Bank and to call for its immediate reauthorization.

I thank leaders from BAE, Boyle Energy, Conductive Components, and other Granite State employers for joining this important discussion on how supporting U.S. exports grows our economy and creates good jobs here at home.

The Export-Import Bank provides essential risk management services to American businesses selling their products in an unstable global economy. Dozens of Granite State firms have used these services, which have supported over \$350 million in New Hampshire exports in recent years, and in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, the top destination for American exports is China.

Because of the Export-Import Bank, more consumers across the world are buying goods stamped "Made in America," and more American families are able to make it here in America. Granite State exporters, like Mountain Corporation, Arch Energy, and Centorr Vacuum are counting on Congress to act, but time is running out.

In just over 2 months, authorization for the bank will expire, and I have heard from New Hampshire exporters who are already losing business because of uncertainty over the bank's future.

So let's renew this commonsense program that grows our economy, reduces the budget deficit, and helps create jobs.

MEDICAID EXPANSION

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker and Members, I rise today as member of the new congressional State Medicaid Expansion Caucus, and I call on my colleagues to join us in encouraging States to close the coverage gaps by expanding Medicaid.

Texas, my home State, has the option to accept Federal Medicaid funding to provide affordable health insurance to more than 1.4 million uninsured Texans. For many of these citizens, there is no affordable option, as

long as Texas refuses the Federal funds.

Texas could extend insurance through Medicaid to residents with incomes up to 138 percent of the Federal poverty level, less than \$28,000 for a family of three for whom there is no current alternative. Fifty-eight percent of the uninsured in our State would benefit, and if Texas does accept funding, the Federal Government will virtually pay for all of the costs in the expansion.

Closing the coverage gap is the right thing to do and is a sound investment for the State, by creating a healthier workforce, strengthening the State's economy, and improving our health care system.

I urge my colleagues to work with their home States and encourage Medicaid expansion.

RECOGNIZING THE OKONITE COMPANY

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the employees, staff, and leadership at Okonite Company's facility in Cumberland, Rhode Island.

I am proud that Okonite's Rhode Island manufacturing facility, which supports 90 jobs, is located in my home district. Led by plant manager Eric Dodge, the 90 workers in Cumberland produce high-quality power line cables that are sold all across America and the entire world.

In May, I toured Okonite's Cumberland manufacturing plant as part of my Congress at Your Company series. I was delighted to meet with their talented employees and discuss ways to grow Rhode Island's manufacturing sector and support existing manufacturers.

I am thrilled that Okonite is expanding its operations in Rhode Island and that its plans for expansion are underway. Okonite has made a smart investment that is good for business and is good for Rhode Island.

I look forward to touring Okonite's new facility once it is completed, and I thank Eric and the rest of his team for working to strengthen Rhode Island's manufacturing sector. This is another great example of why it is important to make things in America and make things in Rhode Island.

#100 DAYS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, over 100 days have gone by, and the kidnapped schoolgirls in Nigeria are still not home. The consequences of their absence and the lack of formal action to find the girls is unimaginable.

Eleven parents of the abducted girls have died—died from the heartbreak,

died from fighting for their girls, died from international silence. A father slipped into a coma, repeating his daughter's name until he passed away. These stories are real.

In the meantime, Boko Haram has continued to kidnap more girls. Last week, they took over a whole town. This issue is real. We cannot ignore Boko Haram and the plight of these missing girls.

Mr. Speaker, with a tweet and a hashtag, you are showing the Nigerian people, Boko Haram, the missing girls, and the world that we have not forgotten. We have to keep tweeting. We have to keep talking. This is not an African problem. This is a world problem. These are our girls, and we will bring them home.

I urge you every day to join my Twitter storm and tweet: #joinrepwilson and #bringbackourgirls.

Tweet, tweet, tweet. Tweet, tweet, tweet.

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COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, right now students all over America are enjoying their much-earned summer vacation. We all know the enormous pressures today's youth face, and it hardly seems they get a chance to breathe anymore. Yet students all across the country are attending college in record numbers.

That, unfortunately, is where the good news stops. As our college students settle into their internships over the summer, many are running into old classmates who recently graduated, and all of them are asking the same question: How do you live with such debt?

We face a student debt crisis of truly mind-blowing proportions, but instead of working to give middle class families a fair chance at making college affordable, some of my colleagues are arguing over what to sue the President for.

Later today, we are going to vote for a tax credit—it is unpaid for—and that will barely make a dent in what is quickly becoming the economic challenge of our era. I ask my colleagues, all of us who are talking often, constantly about the need to care for future generations, is this really the best we can do?

THE BRING JOBS HOME ACT

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Speaker BOEHNER to allow a vote on the Bring Jobs Home Act. I co-sponsored this bill to help businesses create jobs in my home district and

across America. In the Coachella Valley, there are unacceptable high unemployment rates, in some areas over 17 percent.

The Bring Jobs Home Act will create critical tax incentives for businesses to bring jobs back to the United States and close tax loopholes for corporations who ship jobs overseas.

Over the last decade, America lost 6 million manufacturing jobs. That is millions of jobs families can gain if Congress does their job and votes to bring jobs home. Congress must put hardworking families above corporations that ship jobs overseas.

This week, the Senate will vote on legislation. The House must act. Mr. Speaker, Congress must put people before politics, solutions above ideology, and allow a vote on the Bring Jobs Home Act.

Let's put people back to work.

THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM FOR ALL ACT

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, everyone deserves the opportunity to travel and explore the many incredible destinations located throughout our country, but individuals with disabilities, however, face much greater difficulties when they try to arrange travel.

Now, Las Vegas, my district, is a world leader in disability access. We have more handicap-accessible guest rooms than any other American city. Our casinos offer gambling tables and slot machines designed for wheelchair users, and all our show venues have designated handicapped seating.

Other places could benefit from our example, and that is why I have introduced the Travel and Tourism for All Act that would require the National Council on Disability to conduct a review of existing disability standards in the tourism and hospitality industries and provide recommendations to help Congress ensure that people with disabilities are able to enjoy traveling throughout the U.S.

This act would ensure that we continue to set the international standard for disability accommodation in the hospitality industry, and it will attract tourists from other parts of the world where accommodations are less welcoming.

THE SUPPORT THE FAMILIES OF FALLEN HEROES SEMIPOSTAL STAMP ACT

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

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5085, the Support the Families of Fallen Heroes Semipostal Stamp Act.

The brave men and women serving in uniform put their lives on the line for