

of the taxpayers' dollars. There are critical issues that need action now. How about creating some jobs, raising the minimum wage, or maybe fixing our broken immigration system before we leave here?

I can tell you that the constituents in my district could use a raise in the minimum wage. There are also people out there that are hurting, that need their unemployment benefits extended.

This lawsuit disregards the priorities of the American people. I do not support this lawsuit. It is frivolous. And I suggest that we use our time to address critical issues that will positively impact Americans.

I will be voting "no" on this lawsuit and urge the House leadership to use their time wisely this week—like we are taught early in elementary school—to bring up bills that will put hardworking Americans back to work.

CONGRATULATING GENERAL WILLIAM L. SHELTON ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE AIR FORCE

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize General William L. Shelton on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Air Force.

Over the course of his career, General Shelton has served with great distinction and made countless sacrifices for our country. We commend his service and the sacrifices of his wife, Linda, and their two children, Sara and Joel, in support of his service.

General Shelton has been a vigilant advocate for national security space programs. As the commander of Air Force Space Command, he was responsible for more than 40,000 military and civilian personnel who assure space and cyberspace protection for our Nation. He established an unmatched level of success during a time of increasing challenges. His frank and informed discussions on space systems have helped leaders and citizens around the world appreciate the value of our Nation's space capabilities.

General Shelton deserves our most heartfelt gratitude and praise. Thank you, General Shelton, and best wishes to you and your family.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, while the House Republicans are busy wasting taxpayer dollars on conspiracy theories and a lawsuit to nowhere, Democrats have unveiled an agenda to put working families and the middle class first.

For millions of Americans struggling to make ends meet on the current minimum wage, times have gotten harder and harder as the cost of living rises and wages stagnate. Our plan puts fam-

ilies first and expands opportunity for all Americans by fighting to create good-paying jobs here at home, supporting equality for women, both in their workplaces and in their doctors' offices, and creating a sustainable future for students by helping to slow down the ballooning costs of college.

Now is the time to empower our workforce by showing them that they can make ends meet and provide for their families by working hard. Now is the time to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, to ensure that women finally receive equal pay for equal work. Now is not the time to be suing the President. Now is the time for action and dedication to making our country stronger.

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DAY THREE, WASHINGTON UNDER SIEGE

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

Mr. MASSIE. Day three, Washington under siege—3 days ago, a Federal judge struck down D.C.'s unconstitutional ban on the right to bear arms. D.C. went from having the most restrictive gun laws in the country to having virtually no restrictions on carrying a handgun in public.

Did gun-toting tourists commence to shoot-outs? Did residents cower in their homes? Did vigilante posses maraud about the city? Did politicians revert to dueling at 10 paces? No, none of these things are happening. History will show the streets are safer today as more law-abiding residents and visitors are armed.

Contrary to apocryphal warnings from D.C. leaders, no one is panicked—except for the city's leaders. Why are the city's leaders apoplectic, and why are they asking for an immediate stay from the judge's ruling? Because the emperor has no clothes and all of the lies about gun control are being exposed right here in the District of Columbia on day three.

CORRECTING THE CRISIS AT THE VA

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's obligation to our veterans should go far beyond simply thanking them for their service. We must also make sure that they are being properly cared for and supported when they return home. That is why I—like so many others—was outraged by the news that the VA health system had broken down.

I am pleased that the House and Senate leaders have come together and drafted legislation to address some of the most fundamental issues to this crisis, like access to timely medical care, upgraded facilities, and consequences for misconduct and poor performance.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that future reforms to our VA medical system will include a unified electronic health records system between the VA and the Department of Defense. In today's hyperconnected world, we ought to be doing much better than shuffling large paper files between facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to put partisanship aside and take action to correct this crisis at the VA now.

CONGRATULATING MOOSE LODGE NO. 1568 IN ANGOLA, INDIANA

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Moose Lodge No. 1568 in Angola, Indiana, for its 100th anniversary celebration.

Mr. Speaker, on August 26, 1914, the Loyal Order of Moose Supreme Council officially issued a charter for the Angola Lodge, and over the past 100 years, the lodge has grown in membership and has become a recognized service and volunteer organization in the Angola community.

Importantly, the organization's robust community service program has been engaged in countless humanitarian efforts through the lodge's own work, as well as annual donations to other community groups, health support organizations, and local services, such as food banks and homeless shelters.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize, for the record, Mr. Ed Palmer, Angola Lodge's first governor.

In addition, I would like to recognize Tony Culver, Eric Henion, Ron Nusbaum, and Richard Gens for their recent leadership of the organization, as well as the rest of the Moose Lodge's membership as they begin their next 100 years of service to the Angola community.

Congratulations and happy 100th anniversary.

REPUBLICANS IGNORE AMERICA'S PROBLEMS

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, in 2 days, we will go home, leaving behind a long list of unfinished business, but it is not for lack of trying on the part of Democrats.

We have introduced bills, signed discharge petitions, protested on the steps of the Capitol, and fasted on the Mall, all to try to prompt or at least shame the Republicans into some kind of action, but they are shameless.

Apparently, they just don't care. They don't care if women get paid less, as long as CEOs get record salaries. They don't care if children stack up at the border and families are divided, as long as they can sue the President.

They don't care if people struggle to get by on low wages or with no unemployment insurance, as long as corporations can keep their tax loopholes, and they don't care if the environment is raped, as long as big polluters can continue to circumvent regulations that protect our air and water.

Before we go home, we need to show the American people that Congress does care about them, and we need to pass important measures that jumpstart the middle class, so we can say we did something while we were here.

OBAMACARE PREMIUM HIKES ARE HURTING FAMILIES

(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, the failing Affordable Care Act has proven not to be affordable for American families. Health care premiums have increased with confusing coverage destroying jobs.

When Stepheni from Monetta went to the doctor, she found her "copay for each therapy session is \$250. However, I can be an uninsured self-pay patient and get the same therapy for \$85 per visit."

Connie from Aiken says, "I was more than shocked to learn what used to be an \$89 prescription was now more than \$300."

America's devoted mothers know firsthand of the failure of ObamaCare. Small businesses are hiring more part-time workers than full-time workers because ObamaCare costs are too high. Longtime employees are having hours reduced, putting families at risk.

We must repeal and replace ObamaCare, so that people like Stepheni and Connie receive relief from unworkable mandates.

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

Best wishes for continued success for Chad Sydnor, Military Legislative Assistant of the Second District, for continued service with Senator JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas.

LITIGATING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, often, the American people hear the term "Congress," but I think it is important to let all of my colleagues know and remind them what the Republicans will be doing over the next 48 hours.

It is important to know that there will be a resolution—a bill—on the floor of the House, H. Res. 676, and it says that they are looking for the power to intervene in one or more civil actions to file suit against the President, to seek any appropriate relief

against the President, the head of any department or agency, or any other officer or employee.

Let me be very clear. The Republicans are looking to sue the secretary who didn't order enough paper clips and indicate that we need to sue the President for not doing his job, while veterans are suffering and need a whole reformation and a new bill, while people are still not getting their unemployment insurance, while we are not able to expand Medicaid to help those who need health care, and while we are not raising the minimum wage.

Democrats want to work for the American people, but Republicans want to sue the secretary, meaning the secretary who orders paper clips, because the President is not doing his job. Let's work for the American people.

LET'S UNITE TO FIX THE VA

(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, the Sunflower State has a long and proud history of Kansans answering a call of duty to serve their country. From pre-Civil War battles to keep Kansas a free State, to brothers joining arms to fight for democracy in wars around the globe, to today's battles fighting terrorism in remote and dangerous places, Kansans proudly step up to serve when asked, time and time again.

Kansas is now home to more than 220,000 veterans, courageous men and women who have honored our Nation by sacrificing and serving; yet, sadly, our Nation does not always honor them. I have been heartbroken to see how some of our veterans are treated when returning home from service.

Mr. Speaker, it is past time that Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate, unite on legislation that would fix the problems in the VA, that would give our veterans in long waiting lines options to receive quicker and better care when needed and legislation that would ensure that adequate resources are available to care for posttraumatic stress disorder and other injuries sustained in today's battles.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans have honored and fought for us. How about we, as a Congress, honor and fight for them.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4315, 21ST CENTURY ENDANGERED SPECIES TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 693 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 693

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant

to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4315) to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this resolution and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-55. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York by way of Kentucky, Ms. SLAUGHTER, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which they may revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this resolution provides for a structured rule for the consideration of H.R. 4315, the Endangered Species Transparency and Reasonableness Act, and