

The problem was the legislative language included only the Bois Forte Band. The Grand Portage Band was inadvertently, accidentally left out, and, as a result, many members of the Grand Portage Band have been denied financial assistance and other benefits they are entitled to because their income appears higher than the law permits.

So this bill simply corrects the mistake by amending the act of October 9, 1973, to allow members of the Grand Portage Band to exclude up to \$2,000 in per capita income payments from the State of Minnesota from their taxable income. It is the correct and the fair thing to do.

Let me also point out, Mr. Speaker, that this bill marks another step toward restoring the letter and the spirit of the 1854 treaty between the Federal Government and the Chippewa of Lake Superior, a treaty marked by serious violations from the very beginning as the waves of settlers were permitted onto the lands the agreement reserved for the Indians in perpetuity.

I often point to my colleagues that the bust of Chief Buffalo of La Pointe greets them, or greets us as we enter into the House Chamber from the west front. Chief Buffalo was recognized as the Head Chief of the Greater Chippewa Nation, and at the age of 92 years of age, he led a tribal delegation to Washington to meet with President Fillmore and paved the way for the treaty of 1854 to stop the removal of Lake Superior Chippewas from their native homes.

It was quite a trip. They left Wisconsin's Madeline Island by birch bark canoe—mind you, a 92-year-old man—traveling all the way to Sault Ste. Marie. From there, they took a steamer bound for Detroit, and then on by steamer to Buffalo, New York. Then the railroad took them to Albany, New York, where they boarded another steamboat to New York, and finally back onto the train to Washington, D.C., where they made their case to the President of the United States.

So, in asking my colleagues to support this bill, I ask them to also remember Chief Buffalo and the diligence and the long, hard work and the long and difficult trail that is often so often required to do the right thing when we are representing people that we have been, in our case, elected to represent.

It is a good lesson in point in a time and life where we have a kind of a fast-food mentality and everybody is expecting things to happen now. The voyage, the extraordinary effort that Chief Buffalo made, is a lesson to us all.

So here we are, 160 years later, still trying to fulfill the results of that important mission that he made. This legislation to restore a small piece of a larger trust relationship is part of that journey.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill, and I thank my colleagues for their bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3608.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, at 1 p.m., Congressman TED DEUTCH and I will convene a subcommittee hearing on the dangers of a nuclear deal with Iran, the dangers that this could pose for the United States and global security interests.

Retired General Michael Hayden, former Director of both the NSA and the CIA, will be testifying to share his concerns about Iran's past weaponization efforts and the guarantees needed to monitor and verify this agreement. In fact, he has warned that, were he still in his role as CIA Director, he "would feel compelled to advise the President that the agreement could not be adequately verified."

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to remain engaged. We need to continue our oversight. We need to use all the tools that we have available to us, including strengthening and increasing sanctions against this regime, in order to ensure that the President does not sign an agreement that is not in our national security interests.

#### CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES RESCINDS PROHIBITION ON SPEECH-GENERATING DEVICES UNLOCKING

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, currently, more than 113 million Americans are facing long-term disease or disability. Significant policy advancements have recently been signed into law to encourage the development of drugs for those with limited medical options and continued efforts to get advanced diagnostic tests to patients more quickly. Yet a segment of the population remains who are in the midst of an ongoing struggle.

As someone who spent most of my professional career serving those with life-changing disease and disability, a shared goal of health care providers is to improve the quality of life for their patients. This is particularly true when it comes to those with limited speech, whether they have suffered from stroke, trauma, or progressive neuro-

logical diseases such as ALS, MS, or Huntington's.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that after years of recommendations, earlier this month the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has lifted prohibitions on unlocking of speech-generating devices from accessing our technologies such as email or Internet access.

Moving forward, our goals should be the continued empowerment of those facing disease and disability, to ensure their dignity, mobility, and communication abilities can be enhanced in our modern world.

#### THE PLIGHT OF SAEED ABEDINI

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to the plight of Iranian American Saeed Abedini, a 34-year-old Christian pastor who was unlawfully arrested by the Islamic Republic of Iran for refusing to renounce his Christian faith.

Saeed, along with his wife, Naghmeh, are prominent in the house church movement throughout Iran, credited with establishing around 100 churches in 30 different Iranian cities.

After the election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in 2005, the church movement became the subject of authoritarian crackdown, prompting the Abedinis to return to the United States.

On September 26, 2014, Saeed Abedini returned to Iran to visit family and continue his humanitarian work to establish an orphanage. During this trip, Saeed was arrested and charged with undermining national security. In early 2013, Saeed was transferred from Tehran to the Rajai Shahr prison in the town of Karaj, an institution known for harsher and often life-threatening conditions.

I call on the administration to act swiftly for the immediate return of this American to his family.

#### AN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM THAT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the American people sent a strong message to Washington, one that was apparently not received by the President. His latest threat to unilaterally grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants would not only serve as a massive abuse of power, but also make clear the unprecedented disconnect between this administration and our citizens.

The American people deserve a government that can demonstrate both

the ability and the commitment to enforcing our Nation's laws, not a President who continually sidesteps Congress and the American people to advance an agenda which appeals exclusively to one side of the aisle.

I urge the President to end the political ploys to go around the laws we have on the books and start working together toward an immigration system that is in the best interest of the U.S.—not one that endangers our citizens, even takes some of their lives and some of the lives of our law enforcement officers, but truly one that secures our borders, respects the rule of law, stops violent criminals at the border, and prevents future illegal immigration.

I call on the President to work with Congress.

### MARCH TOWARD A MORE PERFECT UNION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to once again have this opportunity to stand on the House floor and to anchor the Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order hour, where today we want to discuss some of the issues and challenges confronting this country that we hope this newly constituted Congress will be prepared to take up.

As we move into the 114th Congress, there is still a lot of business that is undone over the remaining few weeks that we have left during this session, but a whole lot of challenges that we have got to confront as we move forward.

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One hundred fifty years ago or so, President Abraham Lincoln publicly pondered the question: How do we create a more perfect Union?

President Lincoln asked that question at a time when the country was tearing itself apart in the context of the Civil War. Since the conclusion of that war—since President Lincoln publicly pondered that question—year after year, month after month, century after century, we certainly have made some progress, significant progress, here in America, but we still have a long way to go, and it is still relevant for us to ask the question: How do we create a more perfect Union?

Where do we go from here?

So I am pleased that so many of my distinguished colleagues from the Con-

gressional Black Caucus have come to the floor today to share their thoughts and their insights and their policy prescriptions in our continuing march toward a more perfect Union.

Let me first just yield to the dynamic chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus, who has provided such great leadership to this caucus, to this Congress, and to this country during her career, the distinguished gentleman from Ohio, Chairwoman MARCIA FUDGE.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to thank my colleagues JEFFRIES and HORSFORD for leading the Congressional Black Caucus Hour. It is an issue that, I think, is important to this entire country, and it should be a priority for all Members, not just members of the Congressional Black Caucus—a discussion on where Congress goes from here in pursuit of a more perfect Union.

Mr. Speaker, even before the final ballots were counted from the midterm elections, conservatives began sharing their priorities for the upcoming Congress.

Instead of promising to improve our health care system, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle began promising to renew their campaign to repeal the Affordable Care Act—a campaign that has wasted millions in taxpayer dollars, with 53 unsuccessful votes.

Instead of searching for common ground, they are still committed to finding a way to impeach President Barack Obama.

Instead of using the next Congress to create more opportunities for the American people, the decision has already been made to continue efforts to obstruct and undermine the President.

None of these actions will move our Nation forward or do what is best for the country. We must do something more than advance a partisan, political agenda. It is irresponsible, Mr. Speaker, and is an insult to the very public that gave us this awesome responsibility in the first place. We were elected to represent the American people—all of the American people. Let's write and pass legislation that will make their lives easier and their futures more promising. It is time for this Congress to unite and move forward together. This is not the time for doubling down on the tactics of distraction, obstruction, and confusion.

We have the opportunity now to lay a foundation for the 114th Congress that is built upon bipartisan cooperation and a shared commitment to doing what is best for all of our citizens. I urge my colleagues to join the CBC in doing the people's work.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished chair for her observations and, certainly, for pointing out that, while we should be coming together to march toward perfecting our Union, there are some, inexplicably, who want to march toward impeachment before even seeing Presidential action, the same type

of folks who, from the moment that Barack Obama was sworn in as President, believe he exceeded his authority just by raising his right hand and taking the oath of office. So let's just hope that we can hit the refresh button on the partisanship, on the obstruction, on the obfuscation and can come together to do the business of the American people.

Certainly, the gentleman who I would yield to next has been a great patriot. He has helped to bring our Constitution to life. For tens of millions of Americans, he is one of this country's greatest freedom fighters, a civil rights icon, and a distinguished Member of Congress. It is my honor and my privilege to now yield to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia, Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and my colleague, Congressman JEFFRIES, for organizing this Special Order.

Thank you for all that you do. Thank you for speaking up and speaking out. Thank you for finding a way to get in the way.

Mr. Speaker, our march toward a more perfect Union has been long, hard, and tedious, but we must continue to move forward. I know there are forces that want to stop us, slow us down, and take us back, but as a Nation and as a people, we have made too much progress to turn back now. Through hard work, discipline, and with the blessing of the Almighty, we can—and we will—move to redeem the soul of America and create a more perfect Union.

The American people are ready.

They have grown by leaps and bounds to build bridges of understanding between diverse communities. As their Representatives, will we follow their lead? Can we work together in this body as one people, one family, who live in the same house, one house—the American house? We don't have to be mean to each other. We don't have to put each other down.

My work in the movement taught me—my faith has taught me and many others—to respect the dignity and the worth of every human being. There is some good in the worst of us because everything that is was made by our Creator. That is why we must respect the worth and dignity and that spark of the divine in each one of us.

As A. Philip Randolph—a dean of Black leadership, the visionary who planned the historic March on Washington in 1963 and the founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters—once said: “We may have all come here on different ships, but we're all in the same boat now.”

My colleagues, my brothers and sisters, we must keep the faith. We must press toward the mark of the public good and put our personal ambitions aside.

As Mr. JEFFRIES did a few moments ago, let me paraphrase the words of a great Republican President who lived