

FULL FUNDING FOR CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the Peace Bridge, located along the northern border of my western New York district, facilitates the transport of over \$30 billion in commerce annually. However, increasing wait times and delays pose a significant threat to our Nation's economy.

While I am encouraged by the start of the preinspection pilot at the Peace Bridge for commercial vehicles, which would allow trucks entering the United States to be prescreened on the Canadian side of the border, I am concerned about staffing levels with Customs agents at the border.

I have called on Customs and Border Protection to increase staffing levels at the bridge to facilitate easier accessibility at northern border crossings and also encouraged the FY 2014 Homeland Security appropriations budget to include full funding for Customs and Border Protection officer staffing requests.

The streamlined flow of people and goods across the border is critical to the western New York economy and to the Nation's economy. I am committed to fighting to preserve and improve our relationship with Canada and our economic relationship.

OBAMACARE SECURITY

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate enough that ObamaCare has increased the cost of health care for families across the country. On top of the skyrocketing premiums, limited choices for doctors and coverage, and regulatory burdens on small business, it is worrisome that people's personal information is now being subjected to potential fraud in the ObamaCare exchanges.

The security problems with healthcare.gov go far beyond error messages and connection issues. In many cases, the people in charge of collecting and processing our most sensitive information haven't been fully trained or vetted; and although the administration knew the Web site hadn't been properly tested, they launched it anyway, leaving the American people vulnerable.

That is why I introduced H.R. 3652, the No Identity Theft in Health Care Act, which would increase penalties for those who abuse their access to personal information that Americans are forced to submit when signing up for ObamaCare to commit identity theft. I also look forward to supporting the Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act later this week.

Mr. Speaker, it is unacceptable that people's personal information is at

risk. The administration needs to address this.

REPEAL OF CUT TO COLA FOR MILITARY RETIREES UNDER 62

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, on December 23, I introduced H.R. 3804, legislation to repeal an ill-conceived provision of the budget bill that reduced the cost-of-living adjustment for military retirees.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I believe our servicemembers, veterans, and their families must receive the benefits they have so honorably earned and deserve. These benefits are owed to them without equivocation.

We should not balance the budget on the backs of military retirees who served our country so bravely for decades. They should not be punished because of Congress' failure to get our fiscal house in order. That is why I urge Speaker BOEHNER to allow a vote today on my bill, H.R. 3804, and repeal this egregious provision.

Clearly, there is substantial bipartisan support to correct this. Let's vote on H.R. 3804 for our military retirees today.

OBAMACARE'S SECURITY RISKS

(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, last October, a constituent living in Columbia received a frightening phone call from a gentleman in North Carolina. It appeared the constituent's security information was obtained by a stranger while enrolling for health insurance under the government health care Web site.

The American people should not have to worry about personal information being compromised due to the government's inability to keep a Web site secure. Had the gentleman from North Carolina not contacted this South Carolinian, he may have never realized his information was being breached.

ObamaCare is flawed and must be repealed. Because the President and Senate refuse to join us in these efforts, the House continues to act. Tomorrow, the House will vote on a bill that requires Health and Human Services to notify individuals when their personal information is stolen or unlawfully accessed.

We must continue to work to repeal ObamaCare by replacing it with a plan to preserve the doctor-patient relationship, as long proposed by Congressman TOM PRICE.

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

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CLIMATE CHANGE DENIERS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to recognize the devastating consequences of air pollution, which is causing, or at least contributing to greatly, the drastic changes in the Earth's climate.

Last year we experienced severe record-setting weather across the country, yet Republicans and climate deniers argue that no single weather event can be proven to have been caused by climate change. Paradoxically, climate deniers are now using the extreme cold snap as evidence to support their cause, which is to do away with all laws and regulations that protect our precious air quality.

The maddening denial of the link between air quality and climate change is reckless, and it is a denial of scientific fact. Our posterity deserves more. We know, and 95 percent of scientists agree, that climate change leads to more severe weather overall, and the evidence is overwhelming.

Now is the time for a real debate on climate change before another devastating year of extreme weather that takes lives, destroys communities, and wreaks havoc on our society and our economy.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of January 2014 being National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

Human trafficking victims suffer repeatedly with no apparent way out. An estimated between 100,000 and 300,000 children each year become victims in America of this abhorrent practice.

Many runaway children become victims of human trafficking within 48 hours of leaving home, and it is crucial that we, as Americans, are aware of our surroundings and immediately contact authorities when we see anything suspicious around children. Traffickers can be found at airports, parking lots, schools, malls, and other places where they search for young victims.

Two years ago, I authored a bill which this House passed, the Senate passed, and the President signed at the end of 2012 eliminating trafficking on our military bases around the world and our State Department facilities around the world.

We, as Americans, believe every person has value. Every person has rights that are given to them by their creator. Mr. Speaker, I would encourage every American, if they come into contact with someone that they suspect is a victim of human trafficking, to contact the National Human Trafficking

Hotline at 888-373-7888. Let's help our fellow Americans.

War Eagle.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, most Americans this week felt as though they were living on the North Pole. There was a condition called "the polar vortex" that became part of our common vernacular. Normal routines were disrupted. Schools closed, water mains ruptured, car batteries failed, and, tragically, weather-related deaths went up. So it didn't take long for conservative commentators to offer this cold weather phenomenon as proof that the planet isn't warming, that this is all a hoax or some left-wing liberal ideology.

But the fact is that scientists have told us that the real and measurable decline of Arctic sea ice that is the direct result of warmer weather and climate change is creating this polar vortex that allows weather conditions that normally remain fixed over the Arctic to spin out of control. They slip south and they subject us to Arctic-like weather conditions.

Now, this is a fact that we need to recognize and do something about or weather conditions are going to become far more common and far more severe.

ONE OF THE BEST BCS CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES EVER

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

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, this past week, the college football season culminated in one of the best BCS Championship games ever played when the Auburn Tigers took on the FSU Seminoles.

Even though I am a resident of Florida, I am a graduate of Auburn and was, of course, rooting for my Tigers.

I want to commend Auburn's coach, Gus Malzahn, for taking Auburn from worst to first in the SEC and leading his team to play for the national championship game. His efforts were nothing short of incredible. He made believers not only of his players, but also believers out of all of us. He showed us that persistence, discipline, self-confidence, and faith in God will lead to success, both individually and as a team.

I also want to congratulate my friend, Coach Jimbo Fisher of Florida State. Coach Fisher is not only a great coach, but he obviously married well because his wife, Candi, is also an Auburn alumnus.

While my heart is always in Auburn, my hat goes off to the Florida State Seminoles for a well-earned victory. Congratulations.

THE WAR ON POVERTY

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate a milestone in our Nation's history. Fifty years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson stood before Congress and declared an unconditional war on poverty.

As we reflect on this war, I am inspired by the progress we have made in 50 years. We have expanded economic opportunity, and we have made the American Dream a reality for millions. But this is not enough. Recent events, like allowing unemployment insurance to expire, remind us that the war is not over.

Even though our economy is recovering from a recession, 10.9 million Americans are still struggling to find work. Meanwhile, 16 million children live in poverty. And now the 1.3 million Americans who lost unemployment insurance have no means to provide for their family while they look for work.

This cannot continue. No child should go to bed hungry, and no family should struggle to keep a roof over their heads.

Fifty years ago we started a war, and yes, we have won many battles. But it is time to win the war, and we must start by making sure that Americans can continue to meet basic needs as they pursue their dreams. So I urge my colleagues to stand with me and extend unemployment insurance.

THE PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT

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

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight yet another of the unintended consequences of the Democratic health care law.

Because of the employer mandate in ObamaCare, our volunteer fire departments and emergency response organizations are at risk of having their volunteers be considered employees and are, therefore, being forced to choose between retaining those volunteers and using their precious resources to comply with this mandate or cutting those volunteers and the vital services they provide to our communities.

As I have heard from people in my district, Cattaraugus County Office of Emergency Services, the impact would be absolutely detrimental to critical services in rural areas like Cattaraugus County.

I ask Congress to fix this unfair burden on our emergency volunteers and support H.R. 3685, the Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act, introduced by my good friend, Representative LOU BARLETTA.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIKORSKY AIRCRAFT COMPANY

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the 90th anniversary of the Sikorsky Aircraft Company, one of the lynchpins of our State's advanced industrial base, a pillar of our national defense, and the world's premiere helicopter manufacturer.

Ninety years ago, Russian-born inventor Igor Sikorsky opened the Sikorsky Aero Engineering Corporation for business on Long Island. Since then, the history of this pioneering company has been a string of firsts.

Sikorsky built the first practical helicopter, the VS-300, in 1939. Five years later, a Sikorsky vehicle performed the first helicopter combat rescue in history, saving soldiers in Burma during World War II. In 1945, a Sikorsky helicopter took part in the first-ever civilian helicopter rescue, rescuing survivors from a sinking vessel in Long Island Sound. And in 1957, Dwight Eisenhower took the first Presidential ride in Sikorsky-made Marine One, long one of the defining symbols of the American Executive.

Today, in my State of Connecticut, Sikorsky continues to build the best helicopters in the world, including the Black Hawks so critical to our national security, and to move the technology of rotor-powered aircraft forward.

To UTC leadership and the almost 16,000 hardworking men and women of Sikorsky, congratulations on this anniversary, and here's to many more.

WE CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this country has 10.9 million people out of work, many of whom have been out of work for over 6 months. We can't wait any longer. Families want to work. They want a job that will allow them to put food on the table, take family vacations, and save for their children's education. And \$300 a week just won't cut it.

As we speak, the President has a permit on his desk, one that has been ready to sign for almost his entire tenure in office. The Keystone XL pipeline is a rare project supported by labor, business, and the hardworking taxpayers of this country, and one that has been studied and dissected more than most.

This project is ready to go, and, with the stroke of a pen, Mr. President, you can create 40,000 good-paying, stable jobs across this country that American families want and deserve. All they need is your signature.