

According to the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, “what was originally intended as a sanction to address poor driving behavior is now used as a mechanism to gain compliance with non-highway safety, or social non-conformance, reasons.”

Suspending driver’s license mainly to collect outstanding municipal debt rather than for public safety reason disproportionately impacts the poorest neighborhoods.

In my district, a review of four years of failure to pay fines suspensions (from 2008 through 2011) in Milwaukee County for those ages 16 through 19 found 8,700 teens received driver’s license suspensions for failure to pay court fines and forfeitures.

Most of them (85% of the total) did not have driver’s licenses so a suspension added a two year wait to them becoming eligible for their license unless they pay their outstanding municipal tickets and court fees.

We need to address that issue as well as we work to ensure that more young adults, of every race, gender, and income bracket, have a fair chance to get the skills they need to safely operate a motor vehicle.

IN MEMORIAM OF JACK ALBERT BROWN, MAY 2, 1929–OCTOBER 28, 2015

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember one of Arizona’s greatest lawmakers and statesmen, Jack Albert Brown (Jack). Jack was one of the Arizona Legislature’s longest serving Members and one of our last cowboy legislators. He served for 17 terms and represented 5 rural counties; he was elected Assistant House Minority Leader and House Minority Leader Pro Tem. Jack was Senate Floor Leader during a time in Arizona history when both parties held an equal number of seats in the Senate. Jack would later describe this period as his favorite, because both sides of the aisle worked together like no other time in Arizona’s history.

Jack was a passionate voice for our farmers and ranchers throughout his career. He routinely visited every town in his vast district and was a welcomed and familiar sight in his pickup truck, often bringing his homegrown tomatoes, citrus and pecans to the many friends he had made throughout the years.

I had the honor of serving with Jack from 2005 until his retirement in 2010. He taught me patience, how to collaborate, how to build bridges with our colleagues, and how to work in the best interest of our great state. Above all else, Jack was my friend, and like everyone who knew this wise and gentle man, I will miss him very much. On the evening of October 28, 2015, Jack passed away, with Beverly, his wife of 21 years by his side. Members, please join me in extending condolences to Beverly, his 8 children, 36 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, and thank them for sharing Jack with Arizona. Our state is stronger because of Jack Albert Brown and we will never see his likes again. Thank you, cowboy. You will be dearly missed and fondly remembered.

145TH ANNIVERSARY OF PALM VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible longevity of a place near and dear to me and many others. In a country that commemorates the 25th or 50th anniversary of an event, Palm Valley Lutheran Church has a special distinction. On November 8, 2015, it celebrates its 145th anniversary of ministry to the growing town of Round Rock, Texas.

In the early 1850’s a small number of Swedish immigrants began settling in an area known then as “Brushy,” located a few miles east of the present day town of Round Rock. Although there was neither a Swedish Lutheran Church nor pastor in all of Texas at that time, these hard-working pioneers met together in a local cabin for prayer, Bible reading, and singing of hymns.

On November 27, 1870, the “Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Brushy Church” was officially founded. In 1872 a wood-frame church was built to replace the original log cabin. The name remained until 1936, when it was changed to Palm Valley Lutheran Church.

Palm Valley Lutheran Church has been a silent witness to a country coming into being, its expansion across a continent, the aftermath of a civil war that pitted brother against brother, the strength of a people tested by the Great Depression and world wars, and the rise of a superpower. It has been the site of countless baptisms, weddings, funerals, and sermons. For 145 glorious years, this church has been a place where faith was nurtured, renewed, and embraced.

Palm Valley Lutheran Church remains committed to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed to a community that has changed much during the past 145 years. Let us honor the durability of this steadfast source of identity and pillar of stability for all Christians in Central Texas.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,532,338,091,711.48. We’ve added \$7,905,461,042,798.40 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING JEFF ZONDLO, MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jeff Zondlo—a Purple Heart recipient who volunteered to serve his country during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Zondlo, of Marshfield, Wisconsin, voluntarily entered the draft for one noble reason: to give back to his then struggling country.

While stationed at Chu Lai, Vietnam the enemy attacked his camp in the early morning hours of June 11, 1969.

Several grenade explosions knocked Mr. Zondlo unconscious, left him with devastating burns, ruptured ear drums and a gaping hole in his lower back.

In the process of receiving treatment for his wounds, a doctor asked him if he would read letters from home to a soldier whose injuries prevented him from reading them on his own. Despite his own pain, Mr. Zondlo relayed the words of love and encouragement to the soldier. Unfortunately, the soldier would not live to see his loved ones again, but his brother in arms, Mr. Jeff Zondlo, offered patient watch over him in his final days.

It’s for that selflessness—both in the call to serve his country and the drive to help others—that we pay tribute to Mr. Zondlo today.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Jeff Zondlo for his unending devotion to our nation. On behalf of this body and a very grateful nation, thank you.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Lipinski-Nadler-Dold Amendment to restore the ability of state and local agencies to use various transportation programs for transit projects.

Under current law, highway and transit projects can receive up to 80% in federal funding. When it comes to transit Capital Investment Grants (also known as New Starts and Small Starts), it has become common practice for transit agencies to receive less than 80% from that account. Agencies often receive closer to 50%, in part because New Starts is funded through general revenue in the appropriations bill, funding is stretched thin, and agencies “overmatch” to submit more competitive applications.

Transit agencies are currently able to use CMAQ, STP, and TIFIA, to help fill the gap between whatever they receive in transit New

Start funding and the 80% federal funding allowed under the law.

H.R. 3763 does two things that harm New Starts projects. It codifies a reduction in the transit New Start federal share to 50%, and it prohibits the use of other federal transportation dollars to fill the gap.

Nothing in the bill reduces the amount these states and localities will receive, so this provision does not reduce the cost of the bill, or shift funding from one state to another. It simply ties the hands of local agencies and makes it harder, and potentially more expensive, to complete transit projects.

The amendment we are offering today will restore the ability of local agencies to use CMAQ and TIFIA funding for New Starts. The amendment will also restore an 80% federal share for Small Starts and Core Capacity projects, which can continue to use CMAQ, STP and TIFIA funding toward project costs.

This amendment is a compromise that is the result of Chairman SHUSTER's commitment to work with us after we raised it during markup in committee. Under this compromise, New Starts remain at 50%, and will not be able to use STP funds. We still object to these restrictions, but the use of CMAQ and TIFIA to fill the gap is restored. We will continue to fight in conference to restore STP funding for New Starts, and to ensure that highway and transit projects are treated equally.

I thank the Chairman for working with us on this compromise, and for agreeing to correct at least part of the problem. I urge all of my colleagues to support the amendment, and to join with us in continuing to address this issue in the final product enacted into law.

CONGRATULATING MIKE BIEDIGER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Mike Biediger on his retirement as CEO of Lexington Medical Center after over 25 years of dedicated service.

During his tenure as CEO of Lexington Medical Center, he has led the hospital through an unprecedented period of growth. Lexington Medical Center has grown from 292 beds into a 414-bed modern medical complex with six community-based medical and urgent care centers and more than 600 physicians and 60 medical practices conveniently located throughout Lexington County. Under his leadership, the hospital also established an innovative, nationally certified heart program. On May 8, 2015, Clemson University awarded Mike Biediger an honorary doctorate for his achievements in improving the quality of health of the citizens of South Carolina. I am grateful for his admirable service to the community and his commitment to quality healthcare.

RECOGNIZING STANISLAUS FARM SUPPLY

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Stanislaus Farm Supply, who will be inducted as a member of the Stanislaus County Ag Hall of Fame "Legends in Agriculture" during a ceremony in Modesto, California, on November 12, 2015.

Stanislaus Farm Supply, a farmer-owned company, dedicated to being the best farm supply organization in the industry, provides services to farms in California and Nevada. They have three retail locations in California: Modesto, Merced, Susanville, and one in Yerington, Nevada. They offer products of the utmost quality in spreading, spraying, planting, equipment repair, crop consulting and scouting.

It all began in 1949 when the steel work strikes contributed to a shrinking supply of bailing wire. Area farmers were forced to pool their resources to secure wire. By the generosity of many including Fred Thiemann who donated office space or Joe Souza who worked for free for the first 6 months, the Stanislaus Farm Supply was born. The County Farm bureau supplied the bulk of the early financing and within five years of business, Stanislaus Farm Supply accomplished an impressive goal of \$500,000 in annual sales. They outgrew their current location on 8th and Washington and acquired a new warehouse on E. Service all located in Modesto. This new facility allowed room for the company to expand and grow in the future.

Sam Bettencourt became General Manager of the growing company in 1978. In Sam's 37 years he built a legacy around the company. He was active in supporting local youth through junior livestock events and scholarships for students pursuing agricultural related degrees. Sam reinvented the company to be a voice for its member owners which had been decreasing over time before he started with the company. Many of the employees still with Stanislaus Farm Supply were hired by Sam Bettencourt. He was an asset to the company and helped form it into the successful business today. In 2015, Nick Biscay took over as General Manager of Farm Supply.

Stanislaus Farm Supply has not only survived but thrived since its official opening in 1949. They contribute this to their ability to adapt with change as there have been many technological advances, climate and environmental changes and more since their opening.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praising and commanding Stanislaus Farm Supply, for their significant contributions to agriculture and to the farmers, students, and people of our local community.

HONORING WORLD STROKE DAY

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, stroke kills almost 130,000 Americans every year and it is responsible for one out of every twenty deaths, some of which could have been prevented; and

Whereas, the CDC estimates that the cost of stroke to the United States is approximately, \$34 billion each year; and

Whereas, stroke reduces mobility in the majority of survivors and it is a leading cause of disability; and

Whereas, stroke awareness is extremely important and early detection and treatment of stroke can vastly improve outcomes;

Therefore, I, RICHARD B. NUGENT, Member of Congress representing the Eleventh Congressional District of Florida, am proud to honor the victims of stroke and their families by recognizing October 29th as World Stroke Day.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the amendment.

Today, the United States is awash in domestically produced natural gas.

The Energy Information Agency (ETA) estimates that the U.S. has more than 354 trillion cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves.

In Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and most importantly, Texas, we increased production by more than 4.2 billion cubic feet per day.

While I am a big supporter of LNG exports, I also firmly believe we should consume as much natural gas here at home as possible.

Natural gas has transformed our power sector.

Today, for the first time in history, we use more natural gas for power production than coal.

Natural gas is expected to fulfill almost 40% of our power needs in the coming decades.

Our producers have become so efficient, Henry Hub prices sit at approximately \$2.89 per BCF.

We should drive demand for natural gas by encouraging natural gas vehicles.

Our corporate and government fleets as well as our public transportation vehicles all run on natural gas but the largest segment of the market resides in personal vehicles.

If we increase demand, we will resolve any environmental issues related to natural gas production.

First, producers will reduce natural gas flaring because that product will have a market.

Second, natural gas burns cleaner than gasoline which reduces carbon emissions.