

DHS FUNDING BILL

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my Republican colleagues to stop toying with our Nation's security. Disrupting funding to the Department of Homeland Security is an extreme and reckless form of partisan politics. Even Senate Republicans have expressed concern over the tactics used by their House colleagues.

Defunding key security infrastructure is unacceptable. Republican Senator MARK KIRK said it best: cooler heads must prevail, and we must defend critical security infrastructure.

In recent days both France and Nigeria experienced tragic terrorist attacks. These attacks highlight the threat here at home. Now is not the time to weaken our defenses.

Mr. Speaker, shutting down any government agency is irresponsible. House Republicans should have learned their lesson in 2013. When will they stop the partisan politics and start legislating?

HONORING THE MEMORY OF HUGH TARBUTTON

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

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Hugh Tarbutton. Hugh will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.

During his life, Hugh was many things: a husband, a father, a philanthropist, and an entrepreneur. Mr. Tarbutton attended the Sandersville high school and went on to Emory Oxford College.

Among his many accolades, Hugh received the Emory Medal, which is the highest medal given and honor granted to Emory alumni. In addition to advancing education, Mr. Tarbutton championed economic growth in Georgia while serving as president and CEO of the Sandersville Railroad Company.

Mr. Tarbutton is survived by his wife of 53 years, Gena, and their four children—Hugh, Jr., Charles, Ben, and Louie—and their eight grandchildren.

Hugh will be remembered in many ways, but to those who knew him best, he will be remembered as a great friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Hugh Tarbutton.

BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, since last year's kidnapping of over 200 Nigerian schoolgirls, Boko Haram's violence and attacks have not stopped. Instead, they have become more violent, more deadly, and more frequent.

Mr. Speaker, last week Boko Haram attacked the Nigerian town of Baga, killing 2,000 men, women, and children. Furthermore, as recently as Sunday, there have been reports of young girls as young as 10 years old being used as suicide bombers and sent into crowded markets by Boko Haram militants.

Mr. Speaker, we can no longer stand by idly and watch as innocent little girls are strapped with explosives and civilians are slaughtered by the thousands. Too many lives have been lost and innocent people murdered at the hands of those who use religion to propagate hate and oppression. My heart goes out to the victims and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to join me and members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee in condemning the devastating actions of Boko Haram. We must keep fighting those that would use terrorism and fear to oppress us, and we must keep tweeting, as I have for 273 days—#BringBackOurGirls and #JoinRepWilson—to show that we have not and we will not forget.

Tweet, tweet, tweet, tweet.

URGING THE PRESIDENT TO WORK WITH REPUBLICANS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge President Obama to work with Republicans in this new Congress.

After being sworn in last week, we immediately got to work voting on legislation to boost job creation, provide relief from ObamaCare, increase America's energy security, and create more job opportunities for veterans. All these bills passed with strong bipartisan support. Yet for some reason the President has already said he will veto at least two of them.

Mr. Speaker, building the Keystone pipeline will put Americans back to work and help secure our energy future. Restoring ObamaCare's definition of full-time employment from 30 hours to 40 hours will increase take-home pay for hourly workers.

Mr. Speaker, we are here to solve problems and deliver positive results for the American people. For the good of America, I hope the President will put down his veto pen and join us in that effort.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I think they have reached a new low. The Republican majority has decided that they are willing to shut down the agency that detects,

deters, and responds to threats in our homeland.

With an elevated terror alert status and in light of what just happened in Paris, they must have a good reason; right? Wrong. They are holding essential antiterrorism funding hostage because they want to deport the DREAM kids. They are putting our homeland security and our entire way of life at risk because they want to separate mothers from their children.

Mr. Speaker, there is a phrase in Spanish for this: "no tienen vergüenza," which means, "they have no shame."

Stop playing games with our homeland security and put forward a clean funding bill.

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS

(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, I rise to discuss President Obama's recent expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, which will protect a large number of unlawfully present aliens from deportation. In addition to constitutional concerns and national security implications, the action poses a range of unintended consequences.

Because illegal immigrants who are granted deferred action are exempt from being counted under the 2010 health care law's employer mandate, which requires employers with 50 or more employees to offer health insurance or pay a penalty, the President's policy, in effect, creates an incentive to hire illegal immigrants over lawfully present workers.

Mr. Speaker, the President's policy disadvantages the hiring of American citizens and those lawfully present in the United States—the men and women who have come through legal channels, worked hard, and played by the rules—by making it economically advantageous to hire workers who came to the country illegally.

This week Congressman MATT SALMON of Arizona and I intend to offer an amendment to the Department of Homeland Security appropriations that will address this injustice. I encourage my colleagues to join in support of the commonsense, necessary check on the Obama administration.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE SETS HOLIDAY RECORD

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize a Federal agency that I am proud to say that I was a part of for many years: the United States Postal Service. I recall the pride and the sense of responsibility in delivering the U.S. mail.

I am honored to share the most recent achievement of the postal service with you. Sunday deliveries and other adjustments to mail processing were instrumental in allowing the United States Postal Service to set holiday season records, with 524 million packages delivered in December. That is up 18 percent from 2013.

The United States Postal Service has reported it delivered more than 28 million packages on December 22, the busiest day and the largest single day for package delivery in its history. The package delivery record on December 22 was set while the United States Postal Service also delivered about 463 million pieces of mail.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this moment to recognize and applaud the hardworking individuals who made this possible and to also say another 118,000 packages were delivered on Christmas Day.

RENEWED OPTIMISM FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(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, I rise today humbled and thankful for the opportunity to represent the people of the great State of Kansas for a third time.

As we begin the 114th Congress, we start with renewed optimism for a fresh start for the American people. I am proud to join my colleagues here in the people's House from both sides of the aisle from across our great Nation as we work together to try to repair this institution and to represent the voices of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, last week we took steps to create jobs and unleash our economy by authorizing construction of the Keystone pipeline, rolling back job-killing portions of ObamaCare, and helping our heroic veterans get back to work.

This week we will move decisively to stop the flow of illegal immigration into our country and to reestablish the rule of law and to adhere to the Constitution that governs our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are counting on us. Now is the time for bold leadership to do great things. Now is the time for the people's House to rise to the challenge and to stand up for the American people.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF HAITI EARTHQUAKE

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the devastating earthquake that struck the nation of Haiti. Monday marked 5 years since a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck some 15 miles southwest of

Port-au-Prince, Haiti's population center and the seat of its government.

Mr. Speaker, the aftermath of the quake was unimaginable. Estimates of as many as 316,000 people perished, and nearly 1.3 million were displaced. This tragedy struck in a nation already hobbled by grinding poverty, health disparities, and food insecurity. It crippled the infrastructure of government, destroyed the National Palace, ministry buildings, and tragically robbed the nation of some of its most talented civil servants.

In spite of the many challenges, once again, the Haitian people rose to the occasion, and our Nation, to date, has contributed billions to recovery efforts, along with donors around the world. The American people and the Haitian people deserve that this aid be delivered in the most effective way.

My bill, the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act, had bipartisan support and was signed into law by President Obama. This bill—now this law—provides critical oversight and reporting. And this week, along with my colleague Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON, we are asking our colleagues to join us to reintroduce a resolution commemorating this tragic earthquake.

□ 1230

BOKO HARAM KILLS IN THE NAME OF RELIGION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, a 10-year-old girl walked into a crowded Nigerian market with a bomb strapped around her body. She walked through a metal detector, and the bomb exploded, killing her and dozens around her. The device reportedly was controlled by Boko Haram terrorists.

Days earlier, Boko Haram invaded the town of Baga, Nigeria, armed with grenades, explosives, and assault rifles. News reports say up to 2,000 bodies have been found, many of them children and the elderly who could not escape.

Boko Haram means "Western education is sinful." They have inflicted genocide in their reign of terror in Nigeria. Their goal is to impose sharia law in that country.

This al Qaeda-affiliated group of thugs, bandits, and outlaws slaughter both Christians and Muslims in the name of religion. 10,000 people were killed last year in Boko Haram terror. Boko Haram abducted 200 Nigerian girls and made sex slaves out of them. These girls are still missing.

Mr. Speaker, Boko Haram is not going away. They are part of the cancer of radical Islamic terror that has to be eliminated.

And that is just the way it is.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my Republican colleagues to just stop it; stop endangering the American public, stop endangering our national security and get to work for the American people.

The Department of Homeland Security should have been properly funded when the CR/Omnibus bill passed. Homeland Security is supposed to ensure our local law enforcement, emergency responders, antiterrorism experts, and border security professionals have the resources they need to keep our country safe. Instead, House Republicans continue to talk about deporting kids and pushing their anti-immigrant agenda against Dreamers and compromising our national security.

This way of thinking, this type of exclusion is what divides our Nation. In a time when we need to be strong and stand together, Republican House leadership continues to turn their backs on opportunities to work together. The only way to fix our broken immigration system is by passing true immigration reform that secures our borders, protects our workers, unites our families, and provides an earned pathway to citizenship.

It is time to pass a clean DHS funding bill and bring comprehensive immigration reform to a vote.

CONGRATULATING THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my alma mater, the Ohio State University, on being the first team to win the college football playoff. Go, Bucks.

After beating the number one-ranked University of Alabama team in the Sugar Bowl, the Ohio State University beat the number two-ranked team, the University of Oregon, last night 42–20 to become the first undisputed national champion. Go, Bucks.

This Buckeye team has heart, talent, and teamwork on their side. In fact, they are the first team in history to be ranked outside the top 10 in November and go on to win a national championship. Go, Bucks.

This championship is a result of coaches like Urban Meyer, Luke Fickell, and Chris Ash, and impressive scholar-athletes like Braxton Miller, J.T. Barrett, Cardale Jones, Ezekiel Elliott, Tyvis Powell, Darron Lee, Joey Bosa, as well as the entire Buckeye squad. Go, Buckeyes.

Mr. Speaker, before I yield back the balance of my time, I want to leave you with this: O-H.