

they are national concerns. I have always believed that what makes our Nation great is our recognition that everyone should have the ability to live and rise to their full potential. Economic parity is one of the most fundamental issues facing us as a nation right now.

I hope, in this hour, we have appropriately shed some light on some of the concerns of the Congressional Black Caucus when it comes to the economy and to job opportunities in our communities—or the lack of them.

Again, I want to thank my coanchor, the Honorable Donald Payne, Jr., who himself is a strong defender of the economic possibilities of Newark, of Orange, and of communities across New Jersey's 10th Congressional District.

I will close as I began this evening in saying that the time to act is now. The necessity in responding to the economic crises of Black employment and underemployment should be an American imperative. The time is now to support a bold and inclusive economy that propels us into a sustainable future.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus in opposition to income inequality in the United States. As millions of Americans remain without work, while others are underpaid or underemployed, it is imperative that we address the growing threat to our country that is income inequality.

Since the 1970s, we have witnessed a dangerous trend develop where wage growth for middle and lower income households has become stagnant while incomes at the very top continue to rise sharply. From 1973 to 2005, real hourly wages for the top 10 percent rose by 30 percent or more, whereas the bottom 50 percent of all Americans experienced only marginal real wage increases of a little more than 5 percent.

The income gap is further amplified when comparing races. Overall, Caucasian males earn a median income of more than \$40,000 per year while African American males average roughly \$30,000 during the same time period. Hispanic Americans average just over \$26,000 each year. These discrepancies by race are particularly alarming, considering that these figures are even lower for women.

The percentage of wealth controlled by the richest Americans is another disturbing fact that is often overlooked. The top 1 percent of Americans own 40 percent of our entire nation's wealth, while the bottom 80 percent of Americans share only 7 percent of the nation's wealth. In historical terms, the last time our nation faced such a wide income gap was during the 1920s leading up to the Great Depression.

Mr. Speaker, while Congress struggles with raising the minimum wage, millions of working individuals and families across the country continue to struggle with stagnant pay and rising inflation. Until we take a serious look at comprehensive reform to curb income inequality, the consequences will continue harming our communities of color, and prove catastrophic for our nation's economy.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. JOLLY (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of a flight delay.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of her daughter's high school graduation.

Mr. CLYBURN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and June 2.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a delayed flight.

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. TAKAI (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of attending daughter's graduation.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 246. An act to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on May 22, 2015, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2496. To extend the authorization for the replacement of the existing Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Denver, Colorado, to make certain improvements in the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, and for other purposes.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported that on May 26, 2015, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2353. To provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1690. To designate the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the "Joseph F. Weis, Jr. United States Courthouse".

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 2, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1660. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General James M. Kowalski, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1661. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Requirements for Blood and Blood Components Intended for Transfusion or for Further Manufacturing Use [Docket No.: FDA-2006-N-0040 (formerly Docket No.: 2006N-0221)] (RIN: 0910-AG87) received May 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1662. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the "Iran-Related Multilateral Sanctions Regime Efforts" report, pursuant to Sec. 10(a) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, as amended (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1663. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-67, "Prohibition of Pre-Employment Marijuana Testing Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1664. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-68, "Events DC Technical Clarification Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1665. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-69, "Workforce Job Development Grant-Making Reauthorization Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1666. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-70, "Soccer Stadium Development Technical Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1667. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-71, "Medical Marijuana Supply Shortage Temporary Amendment Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1668. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-72, "Jubilee Maycroft TOPA Notice Exemption Temporary Act of 2015", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1669. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Purchase Price Safe Harbors for sections 143 and 25 (Rev. Proc. 2015-31) received June 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1670. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Applicable Federal Rates — June 2015 (Rev. Rul. 2015-14) received June 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1671. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Credit for Renewable Electricity Production and Refined Coal Production, and Publication of Inflation Adjustment Factor and Reference Prices for Calendar Year 2015 (Notice 2015-32) received June 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 287. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2577) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2578) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-135). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 2584. A bill to regulate certain State taxation of interstate commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico):

H.R. 2585. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period in the disability insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 2586. A bill to amend the Export Enhancement Act of 1988 to make improvements to the trade promotion policies and programs of the United States Government; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself and Mr. LARSEN of Washington):

H.R. 2587. A bill to further enhance the promotion of exports of United States goods and services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BOST, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. BUCK, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. MESSER):

H.R. 2588. A bill to reform the H-2A program for nonimmigrant agricultural workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina:

H.R. 2589. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to publish on its Internet website changes to the rules of the Commission not later than 24 hours after adoption; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GIBSON (for himself and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 2590. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include certain individuals who work on farms or ranches as individuals who are employed in public service jobs for purposes of eligibility for loan forgiveness under the Federal Direct Loan program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 2591. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate overpayments of tax as contributions and to make additional contributions to the Homeless Veterans Assistance Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois (for himself and Mr. ALLEN):

H.R. 2592. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to publish on the website of the Commission documents to be voted on by the Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 2593. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require identification and description on the website of the Federal Communications Commission of items to be decided on authority delegated by the Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MACARTHUR:

H.R. 2594. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that the receipt of certain loans provided by the Small Business Administration does not violate the prohibition against receiving duplicative financial assistance in the case of a disaster; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BEYER, Ms. EDWARDS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H.R. 2595. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a nationally significant Federal lands and tribal projects program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 2596. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California):

H.R. 2597. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to promote health care technology innovation and access to medical devices and services for which patients choose to self-pay under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined

by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POLIS (for himself and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H.R. 2598. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish requirements relating to marijuana-impaired driving, to direct the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to issue comprehensive guidance on the best practices to prevent marijuana-impaired driving, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 2599. A bill to prohibit the obligation of certain funds until the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency withdraws the rule relating to the definition of "waters of the United States"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SHERMAN (for himself and Mr. GRAYSON):

H.R. 2600. A bill to address the concept of "Too Big To Fail" with respect to certain financial entities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. TORRES (for herself and Mr. HOYER):

H.R. 2601. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to establish a pilot program to facilitate education and training programs in the field of advanced manufacturing; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan:

H. Con. Res. 54. Concurrent resolution authorizing the reprinting of the 25th edition of the pocket version of the United States Constitution; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H. Res. 286. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that investing in the Nation's skilled workforce is investing in the nation's economy, and that in accordance with existing law, the House of Representatives should promote public and private partnerships to increase training programs, tax incentives, industry and State apprenticeships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 2584.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 2585.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution