

State's annual economic output shrink by \$1.5 billion, labor income fall by \$1.3 billion, and an increase in both racial and gender income inequality.

If right to work laws are not actually good for the economy, what are they good for? Right to work laws do a great job at harming hard-working middle class families, widening income inequality, and weakening unions. Right to work States have seen almost a 10 percent decline in unionization, which has undermined growth in wages and led to the deterioration in workplace safety.

In right to work States, wages for all workers, not just unionized workers, are over 3 percent lower than in non-right to work States. That is about \$1,500 less per year in the pockets of teachers, firefighters, nurses, and other hard-working Americans.

Furthermore, injuries and deaths in right to work States are much higher than in non-right to work States. In the high-risk environment of construction, where unions have played a fundamental role in demanding adequate safety standards, deaths are 34 percent higher in right to work States than in non-right to work States.

As you can see, right to work is not right for our country, not right for our States, and not right for our workers. Using right to work as a strategy to lower wages and attract more businesses is not a suitable and sustainable strategy.

Instead of focusing on attacking unions and middle class workers, Governors should focus on fixing broken budgets and investing in our schools, public safety programs, and transportation systems. That is the real recipe for economic success.

Let's stand up against right to work laws and stand up for the right to organize, the right to a safe job, and the right to a fair wage.

HONORING DR. PETER SCHRAMM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Peter Schramm of the Ashbrook Center at Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio. Earlier this week, the Ashbrook Center, supporters, and friends gathered to recognize Dr. Schramm for his years of service and to name the center's library in his honor.

Since 1987, Dr. Schramm has been teaching political science at Ashland; mentoring students; and shaping the minds of the next generation of teachers, lawyers, and political thinkers.

His story starts in Hungary, as a young boy living under the brutal Soviet regime. When he was 10, after the Communists crushed the Hungarian uprising in 1956, Peter's father decided it was time to leave Hungary and come to America. Peter asked his father why he chose America, and he was told: "We were born Americans but in the wrong place."

After leaving Hungary, the Schramm family found their way to California, thanks to an American dentist his father met shortly after World War II.

With just a few American dollars, Peter's family started a new life. His parents found work, and Peter and his sister went to school. Peter did not know English and had to learn along the way, with the help of his classmates.

Eventually, they saved enough money to open a restaurant. The whole family worked there. Peter continued his studies and worked through college. He studied history and graduated, taking a few years longer than usual because he was unaware he actually had to graduate. Peter was content to learn for the sake of learning. Years later, he once said: "I think it is true that human beings by nature desire to know."

His economic curiosity led him to Claremont for his master's and doctorate degrees. It was there that he studied the classics, focusing more on philosophy than history.

When he began teaching, Dr. Schramm insisted on an open discussion, encouraging and directing debates among his students. He once said: "A good education is a conversation."

He didn't want to lecture his students and believes that a classic liberal arts education should teach its students how to read, to analyze, and to explain and defend their beliefs.

The Ashbrook Center, where he served as executive director and senior fellow of the scholar program, states that their mission is to restore and strengthen the capacities of the American people for constitutional self-government. Having witnessed the corruption and horror of the Soviet rule, he was able to impress upon his students how important Ashbrook's missions and values are.

One of his most recent students and an intern in my office, James Coyne, told me: "Dr. Schramm has dedicated his life to preserving and perpetuating American greatness by teaching us what it means to be an American. The many of us he has taught will continue his work and honor his legacy by educating future generations on what makes America great."

Dr. Schramm, who is battling an aggressive illness, can be assured that the principles of self-government of free men with free minds and the values that our Founding Fathers cherished are alive and well in the generations of students he has taught.

On Monday evening, Dr. Schramm said that, despite his medical condition, no man has been happier than he has been.

Thank you, Dr. Schramm, for adopting America as your home and teaching so many young minds to keep the flame of freedom burning.

DARK PERIOD IN AMERICAN HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express the utter outrage of the Congressional Black Caucus regarding the Calvert amendment, scheduled for later this afternoon, which is an amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill.

That amendment would allow Confederate imagery to remain on graves on Federal lands. Don't Republicans understand that the Confederate battle flag is an insult to 40 million African Americans and to many other fair-minded Americans?

The Confederate battle flag, Mr. Speaker, is intended to defend a dark period of American history, a period when 4 million Blacks were held as slaves, held as property, as chattel, not as human beings. The slaves were bought and sold and mortgaged and gifted as chattel.

Mr. Speaker, this period of enslavement continued for more than 200 years and did not legally end until December 6, 1865.

Here is the history, Mr. Speaker. Following President Lincoln's election in November 1860, 12 Southern States ceded from the Union in response to their belief that President Lincoln would free the 4 million slaves. South Carolina was the first State to cede from the Union, on December 20, right after Lincoln's election.

These Southern States formed the Confederate States of America. They empowered a military, elected a President, adopted a constitution, and adopted a currency. They engaged in a brutal, brutal civil war with the Union. Thousands of lives were lost on both sides of the battle. The Confederate flag, Mr. Speaker, was their symbol; it was their flag.

The Southern States lost the war. The States then rejoined the Union. President Lincoln then proposed the 13th Amendment, legally ending slavery. That amendment, Mr. Speaker, passed this Congress on January 31, 1865, and finally was ratified by Georgia on December 6, 1865. During the period of ratification, President Lincoln was assassinated.

For the next 50-plus years, every Black person living in the South faced the possibility of lynching. More than 4,000 Blacks were lynched between 1890 and 1950, and 136 Black people were lynched in South Carolina.

There are some now who want to continue to honor slavery and to honor bigotry, and this House, Mr. Speaker, must not be complicit.

The horrific shooting in Charleston, South Carolina, was an example of a 21st century lynching.

□ 1030

The manifesto left by the Charleston killer stated:

I have no choice. I am not in the position to, alone, go into the ghetto and fight. I chose Charleston because it is the most historic city in my State, and at one time had

the highest ratio of Blacks to Whites in the country.

He was right, 57 percent.

We have no skinheads, we have no real KKK, no one doing anything but talking on the Internet. Well, someone has to have the bravery to take it to the real world, and I guess that has to be me.

Mr. Speaker, bigotry continues to exist in this country. This Congress should not pass any legislation, today or any other day, that would embolden those who continue to hold racist beliefs.

The Calvert amendment—the Calvert amendment—is misguided, and it emboldens bigotry. I ask my colleagues, Democrat and Republican, respectfully, let's defeat the Calvert amendment this afternoon, and even if the gentleman would consider to withdraw his amendment and not put this House through this turmoil today.

HELPING FAMILIES IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, in a terrible attack, over 200 people were killed across these United States. This headline should lead every TV news show, hit the front pages, and generate outrage from across the country, but it did not appear. This is not make-believe. The news is real, but no one reported it.

We lose more than 80,000 people a year now to suicide and drug addiction overdose. That is over 200 people a day. Where is the news?

Now, these are the sudden and tragic deaths. Then there are the slow-motion deaths which we can't even count, those who have a mental illness and ended up homeless, or have a co-occurring chronic illness, such as diabetes or heart disease, and face that slow-motion death sentence. In fact, people with serious mental illness tend to die 25 years earlier than their cohorts.

And then there are the mentally ill who are victims of attacks. Last week, The Washington Post revealed how, in the first 6 months of this year, a person who was in mental health crisis was shot and killed every 36 hours by police. The vast majority were armed, but, in most cases, the police officers who shot them were not responding to reports of a crime. More often, they were called by relatives, neighbors, or other bystanders, worried that a mentally fragile person was behaving erratically. The crisis built, and it ended in death.

Further, the mentally ill are more likely to be the victims of violence, robberies, beatings, rape, and other crimes. These individuals are also 10 times more likely to be in jail than in a hospital.

If you are a minority, chances are your mental health treatment comes in a prison, not in a community health center.

Have we become so numb we no longer notice? Are we so numb, we no longer care?

Tragically, government tries to help, but, frankly, it is a mess. The chaotic patchwork of current government programs and Federal laws make it impossible for those with severe psychosis, schizophrenia, and serious mental illness, to get meaningful care.

For example, when someone with serious mental illness is haunted by delirium and hallucinations and doesn't even know they are ill, they frequently stop taking their needed medication. They don't follow up on appointments and their health declines. Our Federal laws prevent a caregiver from getting their loved one to the next appointment or to follow up on their care.

We need to provide treatment before tragedy and get these individuals help before their loved ones dial 911. The Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, H.R. 2646, provides millions of families the tools needed for effective care.

H.R. 2646 empowers parents and caregivers to access care before the mental illness reaches the most severe stage. It fixes the shortage of inpatient beds, so patients in mental health crisis can get proper care, not be sent to a jail, not tied to an emergency room gurney, and not sent home.

It helps reach underserved and rural populations. It expands the mental health workforce. It drives evidence-based care. It provides alternatives to institutionalization. It integrates primary and behavior care.

It increases physician volunteerism, advances critical medical research, brings accountability to mental health and substance abuse parity, and it also provides crisis intervention grants for police officers and first responders. This training helps law enforcement officials recognize individuals who have a serious mental illness and learn how to properly intervene.

My bill eliminates wasteful and ineffective programs and directs money where it is needed most. It restructures the Federal mental health system to focus on serious mental illness rather than behavioral wellness and feel-good fads that yield no meaningful results yet cost taxpayers millions each year.

My bill elevates effective programs and helps communities adopt programs to stop the revolving door of mental health crisis, violence, incarceration, ER visits, and abandonment.

This bipartisan legislation, now with more than 50 cosponsors, marks a new dawn for mental health in America. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort by cosponsoring the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, H.R. 2646. Let's no longer turn a blind eye and, instead, help those that need it the most.

Whether on the fast road or the slow road, the 200-plus deaths per day, the 80,000 deaths per year and unknown number of victims is far, far too many. Compassion calls us to act—and act

now. The cost of delay is deadly. For those families who are suffering, how can we look them in the eye and defend our delays to act?

CONFEDERATE FLAG AMENDMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, there are days in this House when morality and the values of our country, as articulated in the Declaration of Independence and in the Constitution of our country, summon us to vote as Americans, as moral representatives, and as representatives of the values of our country. Today is such a day, my colleagues.

Three Democratic amendments were adopted earlier in the consideration of the Interior bill that would end the practice of displaying or selling Confederate battle flags and flag merchandise in national parks and National Park Service cemeteries. Those amendments were adopted by voice vote. They reflect the strong consensus in this country and, hopefully, in this Congress, that a symbol of slavery, secession, segregation, and secession has no place in our national parks or in the cemeteries whose grounds have been hallowed by the veterans who rest there after having served and given their lives in defense of freedom and justice and the values of our country.

Unbelievably, however, Mr. Speaker, several hours ago, in the dark of night, the chairman of the Interior Subcommittee offered an amendment on this floor that would effectively strike those amendments which surely reflect the values to which all of us have risen our hand and sworn to protect.

Today, on the anniversary of the ratification of the 14th Amendment to our Constitution—how ironic that we would meet this vote on this day—which enshrined the principle of equality for all Americans, we have this shameful Confederate battle flag amendment on our floor.

This amendment would keep in place a policy that allows Confederate battle flags in our national parks and National Park Service cemeteries, a symbol, as my colleague JIM CLYBURN, the assistant leader and the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus and an extraordinary Representative in South Carolina, said yesterday was so offensive and hurtful to so many millions of our fellow citizens and our fellow colleagues in this body.

Even in South Carolina today, where the Confederacy was born, that flag is being taken down from the State capitol grounds after both Republican-controlled houses of that State's assembly voted to remove it.

Certainly—certainly—on this day we ought not to see a Republican-led Congress move in the opposite direction. My colleagues, together, not as Republicans and Democrats, but as Americans deeply committed to the values of