

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as students enjoy summer break, we need to ensure that our kids remain intellectually engaged.

Today we hear so much about our youth being glued to their screens, their tablets, and their gaming apps. It has caused concerns among parents who worry that their kids will remain idle without mental exercise during the summer months.

I know that our kids can be just as enthusiastic about reading as they are about Minecraft.

Last year, I started Robin's Readers, a literacy challenge for students in my district. I was blown away by the response. More than 3,000 kids participated and read over 20,000 books in a 10-week period. This past April, I hosted an awards event for these kids and saw firsthand their passion for reading.

Chicago's mayor, Rahm Emanuel, has also started Rahm's Readers, which will ensure that the love for reading continues to burn strong over the summer months.

I urge my colleagues, especially my Illinois colleagues, to work with me to promote literacy. I call on you to start your own reading programs. Together, we can instill a lifelong love of reading in our children.

□ 1215

ILLEGAL BABY PARTS SALES BY PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday my colleague from Alabama, Congresswoman MARTHA ROBY, spoke eloquently on the floor following the extremely disturbing and unsettling video that surfaced, showing Planned Parenthood's top doctor caught on camera explaining how abortion industry professionals illegally sell the body parts of aborted babies.

I rise today to thank her for her conviction and join her in raising awareness of this horrific development.

Planned Parenthood still is the largest abortion provider in the Nation and still somehow receives Federal dollars.

The video literally states in graphic, horrendous detail the procedure in how she can crush the baby's body without damaging the organs tissue brokers are seeking at the rate of \$30 to \$100 for fetal body parts, allowing this organization to profit off taking the life of an unborn child.

These revelations are not only inhumane and barbaric, they raise many questions of legality and integrity. Federal law explicitly prohibits the harvesting, sale, and use of tissue and body parts of aborted children for payment.

I urge my colleagues not only to watch this video, but to also take a serious look at the practices of this orga-

nization. I will join efforts to demand a congressional investigation into the practices of Planned Parenthood and organizations like that.

GI BILL

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the original GI Bill, the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, is one of the most significant laws in our history. It provided education to millions of Americans and created economic opportunity for a generation.

Subsequent GI Bills were signed into law to cover the soldiers of subsequent conflicts, but these benefits came with a catch. They had to be used within 10 or 15 years.

Mr. Speaker, the sacrifice of our soldiers is immeasurable and timeless, and our gratitude should not come with an expiration date. Many returning veterans postpone education to support their families or rehabilitate from war injuries.

A recent VA report found that 21 percent of veterans had not used their educational benefits because their period of eligibility had expired. Moreover, placing limits on educational benefits is out of step with the increasingly competitive global economy. Today many workers will need specific skill training throughout their entire career.

I have introduced the Veterans Education Flexibility Act to remove these outdated deadlines and retroactively restore the benefits to the Americans who earned them. I encourage my colleagues to join on this bill to correct this terrible injustice.

END FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, yesterday a disturbing video surfaced of Dr. Deborah Nucatola, Planned Parenthood's senior director of medical services, discussing the sale of fetal organs from aborted babies as she casually eats lunch.

The heartless way that Dr. Nucatola describes how Planned Parenthood clinics kill innocent children and then harvest their precious hearts, lungs, and livers to sell is sickening.

In 2014 alone, Planned Parenthood was directly responsible for killing over 350,000 unborn babies in their clinics. It is unconscionable and inexcusable that we are giving the hard-earned money of American taxpayers to an organization that callously kills an innocent, unborn child every 90 seconds.

At its core, Planned Parenthood supports the systematic extermination of the most vulnerable among us. It is past time to end Federal funding of this organization, which views the life of the unborn as a revenue-generator.

IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR DAVID GROSSMAN

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a dear friend and mentor who passed away over the weekend.

Professor David Grossman was a talented lawyer, a dedicated teacher, and a passionate advocate. He committed his life to the fair implementation of the law, believing that it applies to all of us and protects each of us.

Throughout his career, he showed how words like "justice" and "fairness" were not just ideas for discussion, but principles that had to be fought for, protected, and defended. He made the law come alive. He gave it a face and a family.

Serving at the helm of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau for nearly a decade, he trained, supervised, and worked with over 180 law students and served roughly 2,700 low-income individuals and their families.

Through his service, he protected thousands of people in need and inspired hundreds of young lawyers. Our community has lost a champion, but his values and vision live on through all those he touched.

My thoughts and prayers are with Stacy, Lev, and Shayna during this difficult time.

May his memory be a blessing for us all.

HONORING STEPHANIE BURKE

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

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a Granite State teacher who is a leader in our Nation, with her innovative and engaging approach to teaching.

Stephanie Burke, a middle school science teacher at West Running Brook Middle School in Derry, has excelled not just in the classroom, but also in her community. Her work and dedication to educating Granite State youth have earned her the distinct honor of the 2015 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Only 108 teachers nationwide received this honor.

A Granite Stater through and through, Stephanie graduated from the University of New Hampshire and obtained her master's degree from New England College. Throughout her career, she has worked tirelessly to engage and mold the young minds in her classroom.

Oftentimes, our teachers don't get the thanks or credit they deserve. Stephanie Burke represents the best in teaching, and I applaud this incredible and well-deserved accomplishment.

Stephanie, it is because of you that our Nation remains the world leader of innovation, ideas, and excellence.

CENTRAL FIRE COMPANY CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the men and women of the Central Fire Company in Warren, Rhode Island, who are celebrating their 100th anniversary this weekend.

A nonprofit organization, Central Fire Company Number 1 was first registered on July 30, 1915, to provide volunteer firefighting services for the people of the town of Warren.

"The defenders of the North End and protectors of the world," as they are known, not only serve as critical first responders for the people of Warren, they have also helped to raise thousands of dollars for those less fortunate in their community.

In February 2003, the Central Fire Company provided critical assistance during one of the most destructive fires in our Nation's history, the Station Night Club fire.

Every day, in cities and towns around our Nation, first responders put their own lives in the line of danger so that they may protect their fellow citizens.

I salute the Central Fire Company on 100 years of service to the people of Warren, Rhode Island.

SECURE THE BORDER NOW

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday at a Judiciary Committee hearing, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson didn't know who Kate Steinle was. I hope he sure remembers his own Border Patrol agent Javier Vega, Jr., a father, husband, and south Texan.

Both of these fine Americans were gunned down by illegal aliens who had been deported multiple times, but were back in our country. Mr. Johnson couldn't tell me what percentage of the border was secure.

Last month I visited the border and talked to some hard-working Border Patrol agents who are very frustrated. They keep apprehending the same people again and again.

They are frustrated with our so-called catch-and-release program, where human smugglers called coyotes and drug smugglers with small loads or less than four or five people are simply let go.

We have got to secure our border to avoid tragedies like Kate Steinle and Javier Vega, Jr. For that matter, we need to secure the borders to keep us safe.

LONG-TERM FUNDING FOR HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

(Mr. GALLEG0 asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge the Republican leadership to bring up a long-term funding transportation bill.

Rather than develop a long-term strategy, Republicans again want to pass a short-term extension for the highway trust fund that fails to make the appropriate infrastructure investments that our economy needs.

Our Nation's infrastructure is in a bad state, and it is critical that we make the necessary long-term, predictable investments in our country's roads, transit system, and highways that will create jobs, grow our economy, and offer a certainty for States to invest in larger, much-needed projects.

Mr. Speaker, 42 State chambers of commerce agree that "Our deteriorating national infrastructure is an issue that directly affects our ability to compete in the global marketplace and provide financial security for millions of middle-class American families."

It is time for the Republican leadership to stop kicking the can down the road with short-term fixes that are costing us more money in the long run, hurting our economy, and costing jobs.

I call on Republican leadership to bring up a long-term funding bill and stop playing games with America's crumbling infrastructure.

PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the glaring issue of the persecution of Christians around the globe.

Our Nation was founded on the principles of religious liberty and tolerance, and the United States continues to promote these ideals. We must remain steadfast in our efforts to help individuals who are persecuted simply due to their faith.

Everyone around the globe, Mr. Speaker, should be free to live a life of faith, to worship as they choose, without fear of persecution from a ruthless regime.

This basic freedom, which was enshrined by our Founding Fathers, must not only be promoted here, but also around the world.

As a shining city upon a hill with the eyes of the world upon us, it is our Nation's duty to be a leader in the fight against the persecution of Christians.

As ISIS continues to attack Christians in the Middle East, we must continue to show that our Nation will stand up and defend those who cannot defend themselves.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, less than 2 months ago House Republicans

refused to take the opportunity to extend the highway trust fund and, instead, decided to be reckless and kick the can down the road. Well, to no one's surprise, today we are back at it, faced with the same predicament.

How long will Republican leadership continuously refuse to govern? They have played the same political games with the funding of the Department of Homeland Security, which keeps our Nation safe from national security threats, and allowed the Export-Import Bank to expire, punishing American businessowners across the Nation. And now they want to gamble with the safety of millions of Americans who rely on our transportation and infrastructure, which is crumbling beneath us.

Enough is enough. We need a comprehensive and long-term surface transportation plan, not a short-term fix. The highway trust fund supports critical projects, which include improving the I-10 freeway in the Inland Empire, as well as countless other projects within the country.

It is time that we start governing and bring a long-term extension measured in years, not months. We don't need another short-term patch. It is time for real solutions.

IRAN DEAL

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I have deep concerns about the direction the Obama administration has taken in reaching this agreement with Iran.

While I support all diplomatic efforts to promote peace and cooperation, there is little reason to believe this deal will halt Iran's nuclear program or that the Iranian regime is truly committed to rejoining the international community.

Even during negotiations, Iranian leaders have spewed hateful language toward the United States, Israel, and the Jewish people and have unapologetically continued their state sponsorship of terrorism.

Next week the bipartisan Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing that I am proud to chair will take a closer look at Iran's role in financing terrorist groups around the world, information that I feel is vital to the administration, to Congress, and the American people when reviewing any nuclear agreement with Iran that includes sanctions relief.

In the end, this announced deal is under congressional authority to review, and I will only support it if it meets the simple benchmark of forever preventing a nuclear Iran.

TITLE VIII NURSING WORKFORCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT

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