

Why do we continue to refuse and cut services that our communities need? The American people need good-paying jobs, safe and modern infrastructure, and efficient transportation in order to provide a better life for themselves and for their families. We need to end these stopgap extensions.

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How do we fix a broken bridge or a broken highway? Two months of highway funding will not do that. In my home State of California, 60 percent of our roads are in poor or mediocre condition; and, moreover, almost 30 percent of California's bridges have been recognized by the Department of Transportation as structurally deficient.

Just a little bit over a week ago, California residents experienced the real-life consequences of this statistic when the Interstate 10, which connects California and Arizona, collapsed, injuring a resident and shutting down the highway for several days. This highway is critical to our Southwest economy, which is already suffering from deficiencies because of our water infrastructure and the drought that we have going on.

With more than 60,000 bridges throughout the United States in need of drastic repairs, failing to provide Americans with a long-term highway bill, we are putting jobs at risk, and we are putting our lives at risk, which is why my fellow House Democrats have come together to provide a 6-year funding bill known as the GROW AMERICA Act. The bill will provide for \$178 billion over 6 years, so that States and local municipalities can address critical infrastructure needs.

This commonsense legislation would help pay for the investments by ending an unfair tax loophole and limiting corporate inversions, meaning that big corporations, when they are renouncing their United States citizenship, they do that in order to avoid paying taxes.

Let's use that money for transportation investments here in America. Investing in local public transportation projects not only helps to improve our traffic flow, but it also helps create good jobs.

As we look for ways to put our economy back on track, we must be mindful of the services that we provide to the American people. We need to stop slashing, and we need to start providing. We need to get away from sequestration and patchwork funding mentality to actually fulfill our duty as public servants to the American people.

Our families, our roads, and our economy deserve a highway funding bill that will invest in America's future, invest in better infrastructure, and invest in bigger paychecks for our hard-working families who are trying to make it in America.

RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

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

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on matters of research and scientific integrity.

To begin with, I am absolutely, resolutely pro-vaccine. Advancements in medical immunization have saved countless lives and greatly benefited public health.

That being said, it is troubling to me that, in a recent Senate hearing on childhood vaccinations, it was never mentioned that our government has paid out over \$3 billion through the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program for children who have been injured by vaccinations.

Regardless of the subject matter, parents making decisions about their children's health deserve to have the best information available to them. They should be able to count on Federal agencies to tell them the truth.

For these reasons, I bring the following matter to the House floor. In August 2014, Dr. William Thompson, a senior scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, worked with a whistleblower attorney to provide my office with documents related to a 2004 CDC study that examined the possibility of a relationship between the mumps, measles, and rubella vaccine and autism.

In a statement released in August 2014, Dr. Thompson stated: "I regret that my coauthors and I omitted statistically significant information in our 2004 article published in the *Journal of Pediatrics*."

Mr. Speaker, also quoting Dr. Thompson:

My primary job duties while working in the immunization safety branch from 2000 to 2006 were to lead or colead three major vaccine safety studies. The MADDSP MMR-Autism Cases Control Study was being carried out in response to the Wakefield *Lancet* study that suggested an association between the MMR vaccine and an autism-like health outcome.

There were several major concerns among scientists and consumer advocates outside the CDC in the fall of 2000 regarding the execution of the Verstraeten study.

One of the important goals that was determined upfront in the spring of 2001 before any of these studies started was to have all three protocols vetted outside the CDC prior to the start of the analyses so that consumer advocates could not claim that we were presenting analyses that suited our own goals and biases.

We hypothesized that if we found statistically significant effects at either 18- or 36-month thresholds, we would conclude that vaccinating children early with MMR vaccine could lead to autism-like characteristics or features.

We all met and finalized the study protocol and analysis plan. The goal was to not deviate from the analysis plan to avoid the debacle that occurred with the Verstraeten Thimerosal study published in *Pediatrics* in 2003.

At the September 5 meeting, we discussed in detail how to code race for both the sam-

ple and the birth certificate sample. At the bottom of table 7, it also shows that for the nonbirth certificate sample, the adjusted race effect statistical significance was huge.

All the authors and I met and decided sometime between August and September 2002 not to report any race effects for the paper. Sometime soon after the meeting, where we decided to exclude reporting any race effects, the coauthors scheduled a meeting to destroy documents related to the study.

The remaining four coauthors all met and brought a big garbage can into the meeting room and reviewed and went through all the hard copy documents that we had thought we should discard and put them in a huge garbage can.

However, because I assumed it was illegal and would violate both FOIA and DOJ requests, I kept hard copies of all documents in my office, and I retained all associated computer files.

I believe we intentionally withheld controversial findings from the final draft of the *Pediatrics* paper.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is our duty to ensure that the documents Dr. Thompson provided are not ignored; therefore, I will provide them to Members of Congress and the House committees upon request.

Considering the nature of the whistleblower's documents, as well as the involvement of the CDC, a hearing and a thorough investigation is warranted.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, I beg, I implore my colleagues on the Committee on Appropriations to please, please take such action.

THE REINS ACT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House passed a measure I co-sponsored, H.R. 427, known as the REINS Act, to end this administration's disregard for the separation of powers.

The bill rightly reasserts Congress' proper role in writing our Nation's laws by requiring that any regulation written with a cumulative impact of over \$100 million be reviewed and approved by Congress before going into effect, instead of the stifling of innovation that we have seen the effects of.

Too often, we have seen this administration attempt to use creative interpretation of the law or aggressive rule-making that have had a massive negative impact on our State's economy, resulting in higher prices, thousands of dollars per year, lower wages, fewer working hours, or complete loss of job opportunities altogether.

For example, the proposed waters of the United States regulation would insert the Environmental Protection Agency in local land use planning areas across the Nation.

Do we really need the Federal Government telling us how to landscape our own backyards? Is that even proper? I think not.

Do we really think the Federal Government should be regulating man-made ditches along country roads or fields or dry streambeds and puddles which hold water only during and immediately after rainstorms or irrigation and drainage ditches which wouldn't even exist if not created by water districts and the people involved?

What a giant leap of grab of power by the Federal Government in asserting itself over these private properties via these regulations written by bureaucrats and not overseen by Congress directly.

In my district, Federal bureaucrats are unilaterally deciding, with no evidence or science, that small depressions in fields are linked to distant waterways, placing vast areas of land out of production. Despite bipartisan congressional opposition, the administration is attempting to move forward with this aggressive regulation, waterways of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the examples of this administration's aggressive and careless decisions, increasing costs, eliminating jobs are almost too numerous to count.

In 2014, Federal regulations cost our economy \$1.88 trillion in higher prices for food, energy, and goods, averaging about \$14,000 per U.S. household. This price tag has spiked, thanks to the President Obama administration, which added nearly 500 new regulations, 184 of which have combined to raise costs to Americans of about \$80 billion. The result is 81 new major regulations per year.

Mr. Speaker, unelected bureaucrats shouldn't be imposing their will on the American people at a cost of billions of dollars each year. This is not the way to stop the difficult headwinds our economy faces. Indeed, this is causing more economic problems for us to recover from in this Nation.

It is time for the Senate to join the House and send H.R. 427, the REINS Act, and help with our job economy, with the boost we all need—that we have needed for so long during this last 6 years. The REINS Act is needed to indeed rein in an out-of-control government.

Even the President himself said in his State of the Union Address in January 2011:

To reduce barriers to growth and investment... when we find rules that put an unnecessary burden on businesses, we need to fix them.

The REINS Act is that fix. Let's get it done. Let's get the Senate to get it done.

STORIES IN THE NEWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great privilege, first of all, to speak about the first item of interest to America and to many of us as certainly when the President represents

the United States of America overseas. I had the privilege of traveling with the President for a most dynamic, unique, and historic mission, and that was to Kenya and Ethiopia.

Let me congratulate him for a stupendous diplomatic success and interaction with a continent that will be the largest populated land area in the 21st century. What an amazing experience to be able to engage with businesses and see the opportunity for economic empowerment and cooperation between the United States and the many nation-states of the continent of Africa.

It was exciting to see new, young businesspersons seeking an opportunity to work in their countries, but work with the United States, eager to work with U.S. businesses, welcoming U.S. investment, creating jobs in Africa, creating jobs in America—in particular, a broadcasting company that had been there for 50 years creating jobs in the United States, creating jobs in Kenya.

Let me indicate what a success this story was. Along with the regional security issues, there was a commitment with the African Union to stand against Boko Haram and a commitment to establish civility and peace in South Sudan by demanding that there be a resolution of this by August 17—not the President standing alone, but working with the African Union, representing the tens upon tens of African nations, it was a resounding success, and I congratulate the President.

As I come home and as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary, I am reminded of the tragedy of a young woman who had all of her life before her, and that was Sandra Bland.

My commitment still is to offer my appreciation to the law enforcement officers across America and, as we all do, respect law and order; but in the instance where there is a tragic result, the death of this young woman, 28, with two undergraduate degrees and a master's degree, her death was the result of malfeasance.

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We must walk together in a respectful manner with law enforcement and civilians. We have done it before. We must do it again.

I believe that it is crucial for the Department of Justice to take over this investigation on a number of aspects, including patting down and other practices of law enforcement in Waller County and Hempstead, and certainly the question of this young lady's civil rights.

I ask that they look seriously, because even though there are alleged good intentions by the local authorities in establishing committees to review this, this is not regular order, this is not a procedure that works. No one understands the decision of a district attorney—unless he yields to an independent prosecutor, which this district attorney in Waller County is not—to

have a committee of individuals with no authority whatsoever review this matter.

People and families are in pain. Certainly, we can do better as law enforcement and civilians working together.

I also want to recognize that this is the 50th year of the Voting Rights Act. I join the leadership of NANCY PELOSI, Mr. HOYER, and Mr. CLYBURN in celebrating and acknowledging this exciting time that opened the doors of voting for everyone. One vote, one person.

On August 6, I call upon my community in the 18th Congressional District in Houston to have a voting day—registering people to vote in a nonpartisan manner, bringing them out and celebrating the right to vote, when many countries do not have it.

Let's make the Voting Rights reauthorization the cause of this Congress. Let's have Americans celebrate voting rights.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me say this. While I was in Africa, one of the headlines was the killing of Cecil, a beautiful lion. The nations I visited were falling to their knees because they believe in wildlife preservation. We enjoy it here in our Nation's zoos. We haven't had that privilege of seeing these wonderful animals—giraffes, lions, tigers, and a whole array—in the wild.

It was an American who killed this beautiful lion. What a disgrace. That individual is a disgrace. This individual had the responsibility for knowing of his guides and of the procedures of doing this kill for sport. He lured the animal out of the park.

America must stand with Kenya, Ethiopia, and the other African nations in showing its outrage. Sadly, it was a citizen of the United States who was more interested in his personal privilege and pleasure than he was in understanding this iconic lion—the last male species of this kind, with a black mane and a giant of a personality—and helping to preserve this species. He couldn't find any other joy than killing Cecil. I am saddened by this, and America should be saddened as well.

SKIP WELLS, A HERO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. TOM PRICE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, sometimes the terrorism we witness in this day and age is a world away. Sometimes it occurs very close to home.

Two weeks ago, terror visited Chattanooga, Tennessee, and, in so doing, hit home for us in Georgia. One of the five servicemen murdered on July 16 in Chattanooga grew up in the Sixth District of Georgia. He graduated from Sprayberry High School in 2012. Skip Wells was a marine—a proud marine, a proud American, and a hero.

Last week, in Georgia, thousands gathered to honor the life of this patriot, Skip Wells, who lost his life in the terrorist attack in Chattanooga.