

easier to hire veterans by exempting those who already have health insurance from being counted as full-time employees under ObamaCare; the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act, which would provide an annual cost-of-living adjustment for veterans receiving disability compensation; and the Ruth Moore Act, which would update regulations for veterans seeking financial compensation for mental health conditions linked to sexual assault while they were serving in the military.

The House also had to pass legislation that included provisions to allow the VA to transfer funds within its budget to cover an unexpected \$2.5 billion shortfall in hospital and medical care accounts. Without this fix, the agency said it would start shutting down hospital operations in August.

It is critically important that we take care of those who have sacrificed so much in service to our country. This week, Congress has continued its efforts to meet our responsibility to America's veterans. However, we cannot transform the VA alone. It is the President's responsibility to ensure changes are made within the agency and employees are held accountable for their actions.

America's veterans deserve a meaningful, decisive plan to right the many wrongs that have been committed. It is past time for the Obama administration to change the culture at the VA and end this agencywide pattern of misconduct and neglect.

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

REPUBLICANS ARE DELIVERING RESULTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 30 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment my two colleagues who have just spoken on the floor. I compliment Mr. NEWHOUSE from the State of Washington for highlighting a very important event in his district involving a significant constituent of his.

I particularly would also like to recognize Mr. WESTERMAN from Arkansas for getting H.R. 2647 passed, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015. It is really a coup for a freshman to get such a significant bill passed so early in his or her career. It is a major bill, a significant bill, and I want to compliment him on bringing his expertise in forestry to the House of Representatives. We need people with all kinds of backgrounds here who can help get things that the American people need for us to do on their behalf, and certainly that bill is going to do a lot for American people all across this country.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that no one hears about the plane that landed safely. What that very apt adage sug-

gests is that we are often unaware of good work being done every day, and it isn't until something goes wrong that people take notice. So, Mr. Speaker, I want to just highlight for a few minutes this evening the great work that this Congress has been doing in the past 4½ years, and particularly during the 114th Congress, which began in January.

Under the leadership of House Republicans, we have been doing very good work in tackling the difficult issues facing this Nation. We are advancing solutions that build a healthy economy, empowering every American to pursue his or her future, to reach his or her full potential and achieve a better life. Here, Mr. Speaker, are just a few specifics of what we have been accomplishing.

First, the House is more open. That may sound a little strange to people, but it is important that the American people understand that, under the majority leadership of Republicans, we have considered over 200 more amendments than the average over the last 25 years in the House of Representatives.

The House is more collaborative. House committees have passed 10.2 percent of bills out of committee compared to a 40-year average of only 6 percent of bills being passed.

The House is, overall, more productive. The House passed 193 bills in the first quarter, well above the 40-year average of 127. Of those, 32 have also passed the Senate—more than the 25-year average of 29.

□ 2015

The House is more effective. Over the last 30 years, only one other Republican-controlled House had more bills enacted in law to this point, and this Congress is above the 40-year average of 29 bills enacted with 32.

The American people want us to come to Washington, use our time well, and work on their behalf to get the things done that they see need to be done. We are working on our main focus, which are jobs and the economy.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow's good-paying jobs will come from the freedom to innovate from the bottom up, with organic growth, not from top-down bureaucracies in Washington, D.C., looking out for themselves and attempting, always, to control the American people.

Mr. Speaker, we have passed many bills, as I have said before. One is the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act, H.R. 527, which was approved by the House by a vote of 260–163 in February of this year. That is a bipartisan vote, Mr. Speaker.

We passed the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act, H.R. 50, by a bipartisan vote of 250–173.

We passed the Death Tax Repeal Act, H.R. 1105, by a vote of 240–179; this is often called the death tax; it is sometimes called the estate tax, but it hits, Mr. Speaker, not just wealthy people, but average people with huge, unfair taxes.

This bill would provide certainty for families and allow small businesses to focus on growing new jobs and is the smart thing to do for our economy.

Mr. Speaker, much of the economic turmoil that has gripped this Nation is the result of the Federal Government spending beyond its means. In North Carolina, I hear often from constituents who are worried about our ballooning national debt, which threatens economic stability and jeopardizes the American dream for our families.

Irresponsible spending isn't fair to our kids, who must repay the debt, and it is not good for the economy.

Unknown to many Americans, the House Republican majority has cut Federal spending 2 years in a row for the first time since the Korean war. We banned earmarks and achieved the most significant spending reductions in modern history. We have protected tax cuts for 99 percent of individuals and families.

We passed a balanced budget conference agreement which balances the budget within 10 years, without raising taxes, and achieves more than \$5 trillion in savings. It is the first joint 10-year balanced budget resolution since 2001.

We have passed the Student Success Act, which replaces No Child Left Behind, by reducing the Federal footprint in education, restoring local control, and empowering parents and education leaders to hold schools accountable for effectively teaching students. It stops the Federal Government from coercing states into adopting Common Core.

We expanded and strengthened 529 college savings plans by a vote of 401–20, a very strong bipartisan vote.

We have passed an energy policy, the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act, the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act. We have passed the LNG Permitting Certainty and Transparency Act. We have passed Improving Coal Combustion Residuals Regulation Act of 2015.

Mr. Speaker, we are working on the economy, on bringing down the cost of energy, on providing for national security.

We have passed the National Defense Authorization Act, H.R. 1735, and are in conference now with the Senate on this bill.

We have passed the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act, again, by a very large bipartisan vote, 355–63.

We have passed the Protecting Cyber Networks Act by a large bipartisan vote of 307–116.

We have passed a bill signed into law by the President in June, the USA Freedom Act, which ends the bulk collection of data at the National Security Agency, prevents government overreach, strengthens protections for Americans' civil liberties, and increases the transparency of certain national security authorities.

As my colleague from Arkansas talked about previous to my coming on

the floor, we have passed several bills to honor our veterans. They have earned our respect, and they shouldn't have to wait in line for months or years to see a doctor.

When our brave servicemembers come home, we have to keep our word to them by modernizing our VA system to deliver the best care in the world, and we have kept our promises to our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, we have focused also on the human side of what needs to be done in our society. We have passed the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. It was signed into law on May 29, 2015. Human trafficking is a major problem in our country, and we are doing all that we can to diminish it and eliminate it.

Mr. Speaker, we have passed the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act with a bipartisan vote, H.R. 36. We expect that bill to be passed in the Senate.

We have also passed the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act. It was approved by the House in January. This bill would permanently free taxpayers from subsidizing abortion or insurance coverage that includes abortion. Mr. Speaker, we care very much for the most vulnerable among us.

We are also doing everything we can through our hearings to hold President Obama and the executive branch accountable in conjunction with our constitutional duties. We continue to look for ways to improve what the Department of Veterans Affairs does.

We have witnessed the incompetence of the Office of Personnel Management, which allowed its records of Federal employees to be hacked.

We have held hearings on the Secret Service scandal.

We have done everything we can to stop the EPA from imposing its clean water rule, which is very tough on our farmers in particular, but on people all over this country.

We have challenged, again, ObamaCare in court with the U.S. House of Representatives vs. Burwell lawsuit; and we hope for a positive result from that.

We are also continuing our investigations into other scandals of this administration, including the situation in Benghazi. Last fall, House investigators learned that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton used a private email server located in her home, rather than an official email account, as required by administration policy. She also failed to preserve her official emails for government records as required by the Federal Records Act.

Without the diligent work of the Select Committee on Benghazi, this highly questionable email arrangement would have remained secret. Because of a select committee deposition of Sidney Blumenthal, a former aide to President Bill Clinton, the committee was able to demonstrate that, despite former Secretary Clinton's assertions to the contrary, she did not produce all

of her official emails to the State Department.

The select committee is deposing senior State Department officials, including Clinton's closest aides, and will call former Secretary Clinton as a witness as soon as the State Department produces all of the records owed to the committee.

We are continuing our investigation of the IRS and its unlawful targeting of conservatives.

Mr. Speaker, this is the people's House, and we Republicans in the majority will continue to do the work of the American people by passing appropriate legislation and by holding this administration accountable for what it should be doing and what it has done that is inappropriate.

The Republican-led House, Mr. Speaker, in the past 7 months, has delivered real results that would solve many of the challenges that face our Nation, but there is still more to do to make the outdated models in Washington, D.C., more effective, efficient, and accountable.

As we go home to our districts for the August recess, not a vacation, but an opportunity for us to be in our districts, to be with our constituents, to hear from our constituents what their concerns are, we will be gathering more ideas for legislation and come back to Congress in September with a renewed commitment to do the people's business in the people's House.

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

SENATE BILL AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A bill and a concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 764. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

S. Con. Res. 20. Concurrent resolution recognizing and honoring the 25th anniversary of the date of enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce; in addition, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on the Judiciary, and 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.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on July 27, 2015, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 2499. To amend the Small Business Act to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs, to help create jobs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1626. To reduce duplication of information technology at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, July 31, 2015, at 1 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

2318. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, LRA, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Loans in Areas Having Special Flood Hazards [Docket ID: OCC-2014-0016] (RIN: 1557-AD84) received July 22, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2319. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the 2012 Progress Report on Understanding the Long-Term Health Effects of Living Organ Donation, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 273b, as added by the Charlie W. Norwood Living Organ Donation Act (Public Law 110-144); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2320. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2013 Report on the Preventive Medicine and Public Health Training Grant and Integrative Medicine Programs, pursuant to Sec. 768(d) of the Public Health Service Act, Pub. L. 78-410, as amended by Sec. 10501(m) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. 111-148; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2321. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2013 and 2014 "Report to Congress on the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention Program", pursuant to Secs. 831 and 831A of Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, Pub. L. 78-410, as amended by Sec. 5309 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. 111-148; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2322. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report to Congress on the State Health Care Workforce Development Grant Program, pursuant to Sec. 5102 of the Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. 111-148; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2323. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threatened to disrupt the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); and Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2324. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements, other than treaties entered into by the United States, to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2325. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State,