

health insurance exchanges, even if they use their own money.

My legislation will change that. It says that we stand for inclusion. It says that we understand the principle that, if you are here, if you are working and caring for your family and contributing to society, you should be healthy. Not only that, but your health and your protection from diseases, injuries, and preventable illnesses impacts my health care and the health care of my family.

As a nation, we all benefit when we spread the risk, invite younger, healthier workers to join our exchanges, reduce the costs of compensating hospitals for caring for the uninsured, and reducing the number of uninsured who live and work here.

Doing unto others as you would have them do unto you means moving forward with no restrictions on which brother and sister and neighbor we think of as eligible or deserving or is, in fact, considered my neighbor, my sister or my brother.

My party and the vast majority of my country understands that getting immigrants on the books and into the system and integrating them into today's American society should be the goal, just as we have done with every other group of immigrants throughout our history. My legislation, the Exchange Inclusion for a Healthy America Act, is a step in that direction.

NORTH EAST BLUE RIBBON

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend two schools in my district that were named this week as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2015.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools program was started by the United States Department of Education in 1982 and recognizes overall academic excellence or the success of the schools in closing achievement gaps in their student population.

Youngsville High School in Warren County and North East High School in Erie County both received this honor. They are among less than 20 schools in the State of Pennsylvania to be recognized, which is quite an accomplishment when you consider the many hundreds of schools in Pennsylvania's 500 school districts. Overall, 285 public schools across the Nation received this honor.

For Youngsville High School, this honor is many years in the making. The school has greatly improved its test scores and is using the collaboration of teachers, students, and staff, along with community members, to make sure its academic success continues to grow.

In Erie County, administrators at the North East High School say that their learning model is built on heart, trust,

and respect. School organizations such as National Honor Society, student council, and the school's Inspire group are intended to boost student performance in the classroom and highlight their service in the community.

I know that the administrators for both the Youngsville and North East High Schools have worked for many months toward this goal. I congratulate them, their students, and teachers on this major accomplishment.

TAX REFORM AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Politico yesterday had a fascinating story about CHUCK SCHUMER, widely expected to become the next Democratic leader in the Senate, in talks with Republican leaders in the House and Senate about a major tax and infrastructure deal.

It would give a lower tax rate on hundreds of billions of dollars parked overseas by international corporations and use the tax on those proceeds to finance a more robust 6-year transportation bill. What is not to like?

I have been working tirelessly for us to be able to finance America's failing infrastructure, having introduced the first gas tax increase on the Federal level in 22 years. I have been working with stakeholders, like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, organized labor, truckers, AAA, contractors, transit, the whole array of people who build, operate, use, and rely upon American infrastructure.

I am sympathetic to getting this job done. America is falling apart while we are falling behind. It doesn't work to try to pay for 2015 infrastructure with 1993 dollars.

The simple answer that Ronald Reagan successfully championed as President was raising the gas tax, in his case, 125 percent. It is taking hold around the country as even very red Republican States—six already this year—have raised their gas taxes, and our legislation in Congress is gaining more attention as people understand that this is the best way forward to solve the problem.

What is wrong with the deal that is being examined by Senator SCHUMER? Well, first of all, the path towards international tax reform is very complex and rocky, with many competing interests. No one disputes that the patchwork of our corporate tax system that we have currently is unfair to some and produces distorted results.

We have the highest stated statutory corporate tax rate in the world. But, for many corporations, that is not so much of a problem because they have been working to carve out their own exemptions and loopholes so that what the average that corporations pays is much less than the stated rate. But, for

some, particularly those that build and operate in the United States, they do pay that statutory rate and it is a problem and it is unfair.

There is also still the incentive for some to park more money overseas. Most of us think that it is going to require revenue to buy down the corporate rate, to reform it, and repatriated dollars would be a source to adjust that in a way that doesn't make the deficit much, much worse.

There is also a problem of competitiveness. Some organizations actually have offshore operations to be closer to their markets. If you are going to sell in China, for instance, it makes sense perhaps to manufacture it there rather than ship it halfway around the world with all the complexity and expense.

I have been meeting with a wide variety of corporate tax officers who ask the question about equity. Why should they with their overseas operations pay for domestic infrastructure that everybody benefits from? That is a great question.

This has the potential of actually costing the Treasury more in the long run, making it harder to have an equitable adjustment in corporate tax reform, and shift the burden that should be paid by all American users instead concentrated on a small portion of American taxpayers on their overseas operation. They ask where is the equity, and it is hard to see.

That is why we have the basic principle of a user fee: People use a service and they pay for it. The gas tax for decades has served that purpose since it was first introduced in my home State of Oregon in 1919 for road construction. It is still the simplest, most direct, most fair, easiest to administer, and would enable us to solve this problem in a matter of months.

Unfortunately, the path we are on is very uncertain as well as unfair. We are going to have the 35th short-term extension of the highway trust fund next month. No country has become great building its infrastructure 10 months at a time.

The answer is not an elaborate deal that is being discussed which makes it less likely we solve the problems. Why don't we just deal with it directly, put hundreds of thousands of people to work at family-wage jobs, actually reduce the deficit, increase the economy, and strengthen the quality of life in communities large and small all across America.

Let's not engage in gimmickry. Let's rebuild and renew America.

HONORING SPECIALIST KYLE GILBERT

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

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of U.S. Army Specialist Kyle Gilbert.

Specialist Gilbert was recently killed in Afghanistan while serving our Nation just days before his 25th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my most sincere and heartfelt condolences to Kyle's family and to let them know that I and we have them in our thoughts and our prayers.

Kyle is survived by many loving family members and friends, including his mother and stepfather, Ceann and Clyde Tate; father and stepmother, Ralph and Sandra Gilbert; sisters, Sasha Ashley and Becky Bailey; brother, Myles Gilbert; as well as his grandmother, Jean Ann Carrington; his stepbrother, Chris Manning; as well as a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Kyle was born in Lawrenceville, Georgia, and graduated from Mill Creek High School in 2009 and in 2013 joined the United States Army. He was a 10th Mountain Division soldier with the 2nd Battalion, the 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to share with you that Specialist Gilbert received the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, Kyle received the Bronze Star, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and the NATO Medal.

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Though I did not have the privilege of meeting Kyle personally, I would like to use this opportunity to sincerely thank him for his incredible service to the State of Georgia and to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it has been relayed to me that Specialist Gilbert's deepest dream was to serve our Nation in the military, and I thank him for his incredible service and sacrifice so that so many others can share the American Dream. Kyle leaves a legacy of service, dedication, and kindness that will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I humbly ask that you join me in praying for Specialist Gilbert's family during this time of their bereavement.

21ST CENTURY WOMEN'S HEALTH ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the 21st Century Women's Health Act to increase access to reproductive health care and to provide compassionate care to survivors of sexual assault.

Funding for the government runs out in a matter of hours. Rather than crafting a bipartisan solution on the Nation's budget, House leadership has been focusing on denying women their right to make their own healthcare decisions.

This is 2015. We should be doing all we can to increase access to health

care for women. We should not be rolling back women's rights and cutting access to lifesaving cancer and preventative health screenings for women, men, and youth across the country.

As a mother, a daughter, and a Member of Congress, I understand the value of increasing access to health care for women; and that is why I am proud to introduce the 21st Century Women's Health Act, with my colleagues Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congresswoman DIANA DEGETTE, and with our leadership of our ally in the Senate, Senator PATTY MURRAY from Washington.

This comprehensive bill will increase access to preventative health services and contraception for low-income women, and it will help women report instances of inappropriate charges for birth control, a problem that affects too many women across the country. It will also expand the primary care workforce and ensure that survivors of sexual assault are provided with free emergency contraception and compassionate care.

I want my daughter and every woman in this country to live in a place where they have access to affordable healthcare providers like Planned Parenthood, a full range of reproductive choices, and, most importantly, the ability to make their own healthcare decisions.

Colleagues, I grew up before Roe v. Wade, and I know what our country looks like when women don't have access to a full range of reproductive healthcare options. We know that if abortion is restricted, it does not go away.

Let us not return to a time when women had to seek care in the shadows or the back alleys. Let us come together to prevent unwanted pregnancies, and let us champion our march forward toward a more equal society with the introduction of the 21st Century Women's Health Act.

I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors, and I look forward to working toward the passage of this important bill.

THANK YOU STATE SENATOR BRANDEN PETERSEN

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor State Senator Branden Petersen of Andover for his public service. Branden was elected to the Minnesota House in 2010 at the young age of 24 and then reelected to serve his constituents, but this time in the Minnesota Senate in 2012. Recently, Branden resigned to spend more time with his young family. His leadership in the Minnesota Legislature will be sorely missed.

Branden represents portions of my district, and I have been honored to work with him and to know him. He is a man of great character and principle.

While in office, Branden worked hard to improve Minnesota's schools, economy, and budget, all while being part of a growing family that now includes three little ones at home. It has been wonderful to see Branden's dedication over the past 5 years, and I believe that the people of his district are so lucky to have benefited from his service. Branden's leadership will be truly missed, but I have no doubt that he will find success and happiness in his future endeavors.

Enjoy your time with your family, Senator. You deserve it.

MANUFACTURING DAY 2015

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Manufacturing Day and the importance of Minnesota's manufacturing industry.

Manufacturing is one of the main drivers of the economy in my district and my State. Manufacturers generate billions of dollars in revenue for my State each year, making them a key pillar of Minnesota's economy.

Minnesota is home to an impressive 292,000 manufacturing jobs, and the State's manufacturing industry has the second largest payroll of any business sector.

Minnesotans are hardworking people, and they deserve the best that life has to offer. They deserve a strong State economy, which allows for individual growth, prosperity, and the pursuit of happiness. That is why I will continue to emphasize the importance of manufacturing-friendly policies for as long as I serve in Congress.

I am proud to support Manufacturing Day in our country, but I want to make it clear that every day is Manufacturing Day in Minnesota.

HAL BECKER, A SERVANT TO DELANO

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hal Becker for his tireless service to the city of Delano and to wish him luck in his upcoming retirement.

Hal graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1977 with a degree in mathematics. Not long after completing his education, Hal began to work at Delano Municipal Utilities and served as the general manager there for 30 years. He was the perfect candidate for this position, as he also graduated from the St. Paul Public Schools electricity course, holds an electrician's license and a water supply system operator license.

Hal has done an outstanding job over the past 30 years, which is proven by the recognition he has received for his work. In 2013, he was the recipient of the impressive American Public Power Association's Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award.

Hal has been a great neighbor and member of our Delano community and, above all, our friend.

Hal, your shoes will be tough to fill, and we will all miss your service. I wish you a peaceful and happy retirement.

MARCO, INC., OF ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate