

States this year—more than in any other country in the world.

One of the causes for this gun violence epidemic is that the NICS system, which is the background check system that we rely on to keep our communities safe, is not working.

Over the last few years, shooters in Aurora, Charleston, and at Virginia Tech were all able to buy guns legally despite numerous red flags; and, as of last year, 11 States still were not even providing information to the NICS system. Congress needs to do more to bring them into the system.

Right now, someone who has committed a violent crime could walk into a gun store and put an assault rifle on the counter, and if a background check is not completed within 3 days, there is no prohibition to selling that individual the gun. We need to extend this review period so NICS can thoroughly vet someone before he is able to buy a gun.

These are commonsense solutions, and it is time for Congress to act and put a stop to an epidemic that is taking the lives of thousands of Americans each year.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE STOUT

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Art Conservationist Specialist George Stout in honor of his granddaughter and Mishawaka resident, Lauren Parker.

George Stout was one of the leaders of the Monuments Men, a group established in 1944 of men and women who served in the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives section under the Allied Armies during World War II.

We cannot thank him and the Monuments Men enough for their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

Today, in accordance with H.R. 3658, the Monuments Men Recognition Act of 2014, a Congressional Gold Medal was given in commemoration of the Monuments Men.

Stout is an honorary Hoosier, in my eyes, and I am grateful for the opportunity to meet his family as we honor him and the other Monuments Men with the Congressional Gold Medal Award.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring George Stout and the other Monuments Men for their invaluable efforts during World War II.

CALENDAR OF CHAOS

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the American people saw the television

spectacle of the Benghazi hearing. In watching my Republican friends on television, it was like watching an “I Love Lucy” episode—the same plot, the same characters, the same script, and nothing new.

Here is what the American people did not see yesterday from the majority in this Congress: They didn’t see a hearing to create jobs. They didn’t hear an idea to increase incomes. They didn’t hear one single solution to reduce the cost of education.

The American people want Republicans to spend their time increasing incomes and less time trying to take down Hillary Clinton. We are tired of this calendar of chaos, Mr. Speaker. It is time for action. It is time for negotiation. It is time for compromise. It is time to stop wasting time and tax dollars.

NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Forest Products Week. I would like to recognize the more than 18,000 hardworking men and women who are employed by the forest products industry in Louisiana, including nearly 2,500 working in the pulp and paper sector in my district alone.

Many of America’s forests exist to support a strong market for forest products—markets that encourage landowners to replant forests responsibly and manage them sustainably. In Louisiana, this industry provides hard-working Americans with over \$1.1 billion in compensation every year and is a top 10 manufacturing sector in the State.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating National Forest Products Week and reflect on the fact that, today, the U.S. has 20 percent more trees than it did on the first Earth Day in 1970. Together, let’s ensure that the sustainable and renewable products that come from these forests endure for generations to come.

GUNS AND GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I stood in this Chamber and called on Congress to take action to improve our Nation’s background check system for firearm purchases.

Despite an overwhelming amount of support across the country for universal background checks and bipartisan legislation to implement them, this Congress has still done nothing. It is just the latest example of Congress failing to do the work of the American people. The debt ceiling and transportation funding are two others.

Last week, I joined with our former police chief and Republican mayor and a group of moms and other San Diegans who now imagine the possibility of sending their children to school and never seeing them again, and we called on Congress to take action, to do something.

In San Diego, keeping guns out of the hands of those who shouldn’t have them is not a partisan issue. In fact, more than 90 percent of Americans support increasing background checks and closing loopholes. I have brought the signatures of those San Diegans with me here to Washington and have personally delivered their requests for action to the Speaker of the House.

It is time to get to work. It is time to do something.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, as Commander in Chief, the President of the United States is tasked with upholding the safety and security of our Nation; but, yesterday, President Obama vetoed the annual defense bill that ensures the right policies are in place to protect us.

The National Defense Authorization Act is actually one of the few pieces of legislation up here that regularly gets voted out of the House and Senate, regardless of who controls the Chamber.

This year, the NDAA passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 270–156, and it passed the Senate 70–27. It is one of the few things that gets done like it is supposed to. In fact, the NDAA has been enacted into law every year since its inception in 1961.

President Obama vetoed this bill not because he disagreed with its substance, but because he wanted to use it as a bargaining chip to force Congress to increase its spending for his non-defense programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Taliban is reentering Afghanistan. Islamic extremists are attempting to conquer Iraq. The U.S. is at odds with Russia over Syria’s civil war; and China is expanding beyond its territorial claims in the Pacific. Frankly, the world is in chaos.

While he only has one more year in office, there could not be a worse time for President Obama to so selfishly—no—so recklessly—push his agenda at the cost of U.S. national security.

In God we trust.

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS FOOT-HILLS AND RIVERS PROTECTION ACT

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to protect a national treasure.

The San Gabriel Mountains are the crown jewel of Los Angeles County,

but, for decades, they have suffered from a dire lack of resources. This has meant that the 3 million yearly visitors who have flocked there for the trees, trails, and streams have been greeted with graffiti, trash, and safety hazards.

For over 10 years, I and others who love these mountains have fought to get the San Gabriels the resources they deserve; and, just 1 year ago, we celebrated as President Obama declared them a national monument—opening the door to new funding.

Today, I am introducing the San Gabriel Mountains, Foothills and River Protection Act to expand that monument and to create a new national recreation area. This bill, with the support of local water, conservation, and recreation groups, will complete the vision of a city seamlessly and sustainably connected to its mountains, mountains that are accessible for all.

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because October is Dyslexia Awareness Month.

According to the National Center for Learning Disabilities, nearly 5.8 million students in the U.S. have been diagnosed with a learning disorder. Up to one in five of these students suffers from dyslexia.

This learning disability causes difficulty with reading comprehension, math, and a variety of other subject areas. More research is needed to understand dyslexia so students receive research-based instruction and have the best opportunities to learn and succeed in the 21st century.

That is why I have cosponsored the READ Act of 2015, a bill that requires the National Science Foundation to fund dyslexia research. This bill is good for students, good for educators, and good for America.

RAISE THE DEBT LIMIT

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, November 3 is when we reach our statutory budget limit. That is when we must raise our debt limit or we default on our obligations: Social Security payments, Medicare reimbursements, and military paychecks.

Some critics don't want us to raise the limit. They say that spending is too out of control; but, frankly, that is like going into a restaurant, eating a meal, and then skipping out on the check because you wanted to save on calories. If that happens, you are not paying what you owe.

Even if you commit to spending nothing more, you are still on the hook

for your financial obligations and commitments. I have a lot of hardworking small-business owners in my district. They don't skip out on their bills, and they don't expect the government to either.

There is no doubt about it. Our economy will suffer. At a time when our budget deficit is at its lowest level in 8 years, we should not take this step backward. Let's pay our bills, not torch our economy.

□ 0915

RESTORING AMERICANS' HEALTHCARE FREEDOM RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 483, I call up the bill (H.R. 3762) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 2002 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia). Pursuant to House Resolution 483, the amendment printed in House Report 114-303 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 3762

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Restoring Americans’ Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act of 2015”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

Sec. 101. Repeal of automatic enrollment requirement.

TITLE II—COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Sec. 201. Repeal of the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

Sec. 202. Federal payment to States.

Sec. 203. Funding for community health center program.

TITLE III—COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Subtitle A—Revenue Provisions

Sec. 301. Repeal of individual mandate.

Sec. 302. Repeal of employer mandate.

Sec. 303. Repeal of medical device excise tax.

Sec. 304. Repeal of the tax on employee health insurance premiums and health plan benefits and related reporting requirements.

Subtitle B—Repeal of Independent Payment Advisory Board

Sec. 311. Repeal of Independent Payment Advisory Board.

TITLE I—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SEC. 101. REPEAL OF AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT.

The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) is amended by repealing section 18A (as added by section 1511 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148)).

TITLE II—COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SEC. 201. REPEAL OF THE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4002 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-11) is repealed.

(b) RESCISSON OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.—Of the funds made available by such section 4002, the unobligated balance is rescinded.

SEC. 202. FEDERAL PAYMENT TO STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 504(a), 1902(a)(23), 2002, 2005(a)(4), 2102(a)(7), or 2105(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 704(a), 1396b(a)(23), 1397a, 1397d(a)(4), 1397bb(a)(2), 1397ee(a)(1)), or the terms of any Medicaid waiver in effect on the date of enactment of this Act that is approved under section 1115 or 1915 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315, 1396n), for the one-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act no Federal funds may be made available to a State for payments to a prohibited entity, whether made directly to the prohibited entity or through a managed care organization under contract with the State.

(b) DEFINITION OF PROHIBITED ENTITY.—In this section, the term “prohibited entity” means an entity, including its affiliates, subsidiaries, successors, and clinics—

(1) that, as of the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) is an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code;

(B) is an essential community provider described in section 156.235 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, that is primarily engaged in family planning services, reproductive health, and related medical care; and

(C) provides for abortions, other than an abortion—

(i) if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or

(ii) in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself; and

(2) for which the total amount of Federal and State expenditures under the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act in fiscal year 2014 made directly to the entity and to any affiliates, subsidiaries, successors, or clinics of the entity, or made to the entity and to any affiliates, subsidiaries, successors, or clinics of the entity as part of a nationwide health care provider network, exceeded \$350,000,000.

SEC. 203. FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER PROGRAM.

Effective as if included in the enactment of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-10, 129 Stat. 87), paragraph (1) of section 221(a) of such Act is amended by inserting after “Section 10503(b)(1)(E) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(1)(E)) is amended” the following: “by striking \$3,600,000,000 and inserting \$3,835,000,000” and “.

TITLE III—COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SEC. 301. REPEAL OF INDIVIDUAL MANDATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) TERMINATION.—This section shall not apply with respect to any month beginning after December 31, 2014.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 5000A(c) of such Code is amended—