

CLEAN THE BARN

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, Speaker BOEHNER has pledged to clean the barn before handing the Speakership over later this week.

So far, we are off to a good start. First, a bipartisan majority is finally able to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. Ex-Im supports countless American jobs and historically has enjoyed broad bipartisan support.

Today we learned of a bipartisan deal. I am still reviewing the details of this compromise, but I am encouraged that the leaders of both parties came together to protect the full faith and credit of the United States and to reduce the burden of sequestration.

Now, I represent the heart of San Diego. We don't have many farms in my district, but even I know that, when you put off cleaning the barn, the you-know-what tends to pile up.

There is so much more that Congress should be doing that we are not doing this week. We still need a highway bill that will improve our Nation's infrastructure and create jobs. We need meaningful immigration reform and a deal to get rid of sequestration once and for all.

Let's hope this week marks the beginning of an effort to not just clean the barn, but to keep the barn clean.

FIRST ANNUAL CRISTINA GOMEZ 5K RUN/WALK

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge south Floridians to run or walk this Sunday, November 1, to support the Cristina M. Gomez Traumatic Brain Injury Foundation—TBI Foundation—at its first annual Cristina Gomez 5K Run/Walk at Miami Executive Airport.

Cristina was a senior majoring in education at my alma mater, Florida International University, when she suffered a traumatic brain injury after falling while out on a run.

While her family is encouraged by Cristina's slow, but steady, recovery, she still requires 24/7 care, and her continuing treatment is not fully covered by insurance, concerns that they share with many other families.

As a result, proceeds from Sunday's event will help ensure that other traumatic brain injury victims and their families in our community receive the emotional and the financial support they need to keep hope alive.

Registration is online now at cristinagomezfoundation.org.

WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANICS

(Mr. CASTRO of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, a bipartisan effort to increase educational opportunities and improve educational outcomes for Latinos in America.

Over the past 2½ decades, the initiative has made great progress. The percentage of Hispanics with a high school degree has jumped by nearly 20 percent. The percentage of Hispanics dropping out of high school is nearly 20 percent lower. The percentage of Hispanics with a bachelor's degree or higher has nearly doubled.

Progress like this is possible because of so many committed organizations across our Nation. The initiative has identified certain "Bright Spots" in this effort, and I would like to recognize those programs that received the "Bright Spot" designation in my own congressional district.

They are: The Academy for Teacher Excellence, the Graduate Support Center at UIW, IDRA's Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program, Northwest Vista College's College Connection Program, and San Antonio College's College and Grants Development Department.

Congratulations to these "Bright Spots," and thank you to all the organizations out there helping to make this program a success.

HOME HEALTH CARE PLANNING IMPROVEMENT ACT

(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 to bring attention to the dire need for nurses in the Granite State. The New Hampshire Union Leader—my newspaper of Manchester, New Hampshire—reports the need will only increase as our population ages and more nurses reach retirement.

Also, healthcare facilities are concentrated outside the State, increasing the need for healthcare practitioners in New Hampshire. I recently hosted a Manchester Job Fair to help meet the need, and I am a proud cosponsor of the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2015.

Right now, according to Medicare rules, a nurse practitioner may not prescribe home healthcare services for beneficiaries. They must seek a doctor's permission, a process that would take weeks in rural areas like northern New Hampshire.

The New Hampshire Nurse Practitioner Association visited me in Washington last month to tell me about this critical problem. Current rules add extra time and cost to home health care. Qualified nurses should be able to make the best decisions for their patients, especially in the isolated or homebound arena.

The Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act would allow nurses to

do their jobs and help patients recover. It is time to remove a needless layer of bureaucracy and give them the tools they need to succeed.

□ 1230

FARM TO SCHOOL ACT OF 2015

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to pay attention to the Farm to School Act of 2015. Like my colleague from Arkansas, California is a big agricultural State, and we know that kids go hungry.

We have the 2010 Healthy, Hunger-Free Children Act, providing some \$5 million annually in competitive programs for schools to establish the Farm to School Act programs. These programs are vitally important to farmers, increasing their income, but even more important to kids who can get good, healthy food, locally grown and available in their schools.

So let's pay attention here. Let's get this new bill underway. Let's move this program forward. Let's put some money so our kids can have good food and our local farmers can have a good market.

FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN TURKEY

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

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the upcoming Parliamentary elections being held in Turkey. With so much on the line for Turkey, both domestically and internationally, it is my sincere hope that the elections are held in an environment that is consistent with international standards on November 1.

Free and fair elections are a fundamental part of any democratic society, and Turkish citizens of all backgrounds deserve to know that not only does their vote count, but it will be cast in a welcoming, safe and open atmosphere.

Freedom of the press is also a crucial part of democracy and, with the future of Turkey at the forefront of the November elections, Turkish citizens deserve to hear every narrative, and journalists and reporters should not have to worry about intimidation or legal action, simply for doing their jobs.

As Turkey enters a pivotal moment in its history, I wish them a safe and successful election day. And just like any democratic society, the real winners at the end of the day will be the citizens of Turkey.

CONGRESS' LAST SHORT-TERM EXTENSION OF THE HIGHWAY BILL

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, today we will vote on what, hopefully, will be this Congress' last short-term extension of the highway bill. We have made progress on a long-term bill, and the House should consider that legislation next week. This is good news.

But the short-term bill also includes an inevitable but disappointing extension of the deadline for railroads to install positive train control technology. This technology can prevent train accidents and is designed to save lives.

Originally, Congress gave railroads 7 years to install positive train control, but as that deadline approaches, the railroads are woefully behind schedule. With the railroad industry's threat to shut down over our heads, we have no choice but to go through with this extension.

I worry what the consequences will be for this. This has to be the last delay that we give to the railroads.

Congress did not mandate positive train control to be a thorn in the railroads' side. It was done to save lives.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON MEAT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to set the record straight regarding a claim this week by the International Agency for Research on Cancer classifying processed meats as carcinogenic and red meat as a probable carcinogen.

According to the American Cancer Society, there is a lifetime risk of developing colorectal cancer of 5 percent. By this organization's own findings, eating a cold-cut sandwich or a hot dog every day would only raise that risk to around 6 percent.

Doctors with the International Agency for the Research on Cancer admit that the risk for someone to develop cancer due to red meat consumption is dwarfed by the risk caused by cigarette and alcohol consumption.

With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, this study should not be used for scare-mongering in causing people across the Nation to believe that red meats or processed foods are dangerous.

The fact remains that variety is the key to a healthy, well-balanced diet, and that cancer is not caused by a single food.

FIX OUR BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I call upon the House of Representatives to finally fix our broken immigration system.

The American people have had enough. They have had enough of the

lack of security around our borders. They have had enough of the economic damage of not being able to hire and retain the people we need to grow our economy and make us strong.

We have had enough of the chaos within our borders, of the difficult decisions that police and law enforcement officials have had to make with regard to enforcing a set of unenforceable laws, under which more than 10 million people here don't have documentation.

This needs to end. We should not have 12 million illegal immigrants. We should not have 8 million illegal immigrants. We shouldn't even have 1 million illegal immigrants.

If we simply acted upon the bipartisan proposal that passed the Senate with more than two-thirds support last session and, I believe, would pass the House today if we brought it to the floor, we would finally unite families, secure our borders, boost our economy, and end the enormous number of people who are here without their papers.

I call upon this body to act.

CONGRATULATING PAUL MODRICH AND AZIZ SANCAR

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate scientists Paul Modrich of Duke University and Aziz Sancar of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on winning the 2015 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. They share this prestigious award with Swedish scientist Tomas Lindahl for their work in understanding how cells repair damaged DNA.

Dr. Modrich is the James B. Duke Professor of Biochemistry at Duke's medical school and a member of the Duke Cancer Institute. He is also an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Dr. Modrich's research has demonstrated how the cell corrects errors that occur when DNA is replicated during cell division.

Dr. Sancar is the Sarah Graham Kenan Professor of Biochemistry at UNC's medical School. Only the second Turk to win a Nobel Prize, he is the co-founder of the Aziz and Gwen Sancar Foundation, a nonprofit organization that promotes Turkish culture and supports Turkish students in the United States. Dr. Sancar has mapped the mechanism that cells use to repair UV damage to DNA.

Congratulations to Dr. Modrich and Dr. Sancar on their extraordinary achievements. We are fortunate they call North Carolina home.

EX-IM BANK DISCHARGE REAUTHORIZATION

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank.

In the First District of Georgia, the Ex-Im Bank facilitates exports for over 17 companies, more than half of which are small businesses, over \$500 million in exports, and supports over 3,200 jobs.

Around Georgia, those numbers jump to more than \$4 billion in exports from 205 companies supporting almost 30,000 jobs.

With the recent expiration of the Ex-Im Bank, many of these companies have suffered the loss of millions of dollars in new business growth, market access, and risked thousands of jobs.

While we stand here debating the future of the Ex-Im Bank, our competitors are leveraging their own versions of their export-import agencies to increase their market shares abroad.

While I advocated for reforms that go further than this legislation, it does provide critical reforms necessary to ensure taxpayers are protected while allowing the bank to do its important work.

Passing this legislation is essential to protecting thousands of jobs, and I urge my colleagues to join us in reauthorizing the Ex-Im Bank and to let the world know America is open for business.

CONGENITAL HEART FUTURES ACT

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the nearly 1 in 100 newborns born with congenital heart disease. Congenital heart disease is the most common birth defect and is the number one cause of birth defect related deaths.

This disease demands our attention. That is why I founded the Congenital Heart Caucus, and that is why, this week, I am introducing legislation to reauthorize the Congenital Heart Futures Act.

This legislation focuses on studying, educating, and raising awareness of the continuing impact congenital heart disease has throughout the life span. It promotes more research at NIH and encourages the need to seek and maintain lifelong, specialized care.

This bill helps give hope to the 40,000 babies born with congenital heart disease each year and their families across the U.S. I urge my colleagues to support this very important bill. We must continue our efforts to help our future generations live longer, healthier lives.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives: