

Earlier this year the administration finalized the Clean Power Plan, which establishes the first ever national standards to limit carbon pollution from existing power plants. This is a plan that will prevent up to 3,600 premature deaths, 90,000 asthma attacks in children, and 300,000 missed workdays and schooldays, all the while creating tens of thousands of jobs and saving American families money on their energy bills.

Right now world leaders at the Paris Climate Summit are working to forge international progress on the climate crisis. So it comes as no surprise that my colleagues here in Congress are taking action on this important topic as well. Not so much.

In Paris, they are developing a road map to gradually reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In Washington, we are voting on resolutions that would nullify the only national plan we have to address carbon pollution.

In Paris, the burden of slashing greenhouse gases is being shared by everyone, not just the wealthy countries. In Washington, some, the majority, are reluctant to take any blame for this growing crisis.

This all makes perfect sense. Right?

At a time when the world is coming together to address one of the defining issues of our lifetime, some of my colleagues have decided to sabotage American leadership on this critical topic.

This is not what American families need, and this is certainly not what the world needs to see from a global leader.

Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Knowing what's right doesn't mean much unless you do what's right."

We know we are running out of time to mitigate climate change. If we fail to take meaningful action now, that knowledge will mean nothing.

As with any global challenge, climate change will not be solved in one fell swoop. No single action, no single government, and no single summit will decisively address one of the greatest global threats our world has ever seen.

But Paris does allow us the opportunity to devise a common purpose to create a better world for future generations.

I urge my colleagues to do the right thing, vote against these harmful environmental riders on the floor this week, and allow America to be the leader on climate change.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF OFFICER DANIEL N. ELLIS

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and note the "End of Watch" for Officer Daniel Ellis, originally of Campbellsville, Kentucky, and more recently of Richmond, Kentucky.

On November 6, Officer Ellis was suddenly and tragically killed while on

duty as an officer with the Richmond Police Department.

As a father of a young family, my heart breaks for his wife, Katie, and their 3-year-old son, Luke.

Officer Ellis was known by his friends and family to have a gentle spirit and a servant's heart. His death, while tragic, has united Kentuckians in honoring his service in Richmond.

My wife, Carol, and I were privileged to attend the memorial service for Officer Ellis on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University. Thousands of people lined the streets to show their support during his funeral procession.

Blue ribbons and wreaths adorned the windows of local businesses, and 7,000 mourners packed Eastern Kentucky University's Alumni Coliseum, including law enforcement officers from around the Commonwealth and the Nation, to honor the life of Officer Ellis, a life, as was noted during the service, that was devoted to justice, kindness, and service to others.

His death is a tragic reminder of the dangerous, selfless, and heroic work done by law enforcement officers and first responders each and every day.

I thank Officer Ellis for his service and devotion to our community. We celebrate and honor his life.

#### SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to respectfully share with my colleagues some of the thoughts and concerns shared by residents in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. These are heartfelt views expressed since we last met as a legislative body and voted on the passage of the American SAFE Act.

A passionate public discussion is underway about the role the United States should play during one of the greatest humanitarian crises of our time. I have received calls, emails, handwritten letters, texts, Facebook messages from fellow Texans back home.

Many have expressed clearly that they think that some of the enhanced security clearances for Syrian and Iraqi refugees really means that America's legacy as a Nation that shares its freedom and opportunity is in danger.

They have expressed their disappointment, sometimes anger, that we may be allowing our national security concerns to trump our Nation's history of standing for liberty and justice.

I will take a moment to share their thoughts and views to ensure my colleagues that we also consider their views when making any future decision about the Syrian refugee crisis.

One resident stated that voting for a pause in accepting refugees from Iraq and Syria may not slow down the trickle that arrives here, but it is a huge symbolic vote.

Another resident stated that the SAFE Act only makes it harder for good people to flee from danger and being used by ISIL, and his hope is that the Obama administration is able to provide what Congress needs to do its job and that good Members reconsider the SAFE Act and don't vote to override the President's impending veto.

Other residents, like one in Arlington, directly stated that this bill was wrong.

Let me be clear. I did not view the SAFE Act as a vote against Syrian or Iraqi refugees or the greater refugee community. But the constituents that I represent have sent a strong message that any action that does not effectively balance national security with our national values is off course.

We must remember that the Statue of Liberty is more than just a symbol of freedom. It is a symbol that America is committed to welcoming and protecting those who seek and need refuge.

Many of my Democratic colleagues have joined me in supporting legislation that echoes this sentiment. We have sent letters to the administration and agencies supporting refugees this past year.

I have cosigned a letter to President Obama urging him to convene international negotiations to stop the Syrian civil war.

I cosponsored the Protecting Religious Minorities Persecuted by ISIS Act of 2015. This legislation directs the Secretary of State to establish or use existing refugee processing mechanisms to allow those with a credible fear of persecution by ISIL for gender, religious, or ethnic membership to apply for refugee admission to the United States.

But we can do more, as a Congress, to support the goals of refugee resettlement and keep the American people safe at the same time.

If we vote to update the refugee resettlement program, we must also allocate appropriate funds to ensure that men, women, and children fleeing violence do not get caught in unnecessary bureaucracy.

As a Congress, we can give legislative teeth to security enhancements to the Visa Waiver Program implemented by the Department of Homeland Security earlier this year. We can fully fund the President's budget request for aviation security. We can support and expedite our efforts to expand preclearance capability of foreign airports around the world. Doing so will provide with us a greater ability to prevent those who should not be flying here.

I am committed to keeping Americans safe, but I know that doing so is not inconsistent with providing refuge to some of the world's most vulnerable people. To turn our backs on refugees would be to betray our values.

The United States is a welcoming country that knows diversity equals strength. Our resettlement program must continue to reflect this. Any legislation that challenges this legacy should be rejected.

I will continue to keep residents' thoughts and concerns at the forefront of my decisionmaking, and I thank them for reaching out to me over the last week. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

#### STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the issue of public education in America and what we need to do here in Washington, D.C., to improve our public education system.

I specifically rise today to urge passage of the Student Success Act in the name of putting students first.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is that right now the Federal education bureaucracy has imposed more mandates on local classrooms, on students, on teachers, on administrators, than was ever intended or contemplated by our Constitution and essentially runs afoul of the principles of federalism. That being that, if power is not vested upon the Federal Government to do something, it should be left to the States or even more local subdivisions; in this case, our local school boards.

The Student Success Act seeks to empower teachers, administrators, parents, and students by sending control back to school boards and classrooms across this country.

Mr. Speaker, the Student Success Act accomplishes a great deal for the sake of the student. I am going to spend a minute explaining how and why that is. But it is also important to point out what happens if we do not pass this bill: more curriculum mandates out of Washington, D.C., more testing mandates out of Washington, D.C. If we do not pass this bill, we get more of that.

If we do not pass this bill, we have more power and control administered at the sole discretion of the Secretary of Education, as it stands right now. The Secretary of Education has the power of the purse at his disposal, and we have a waiver program that essentially plays out as follows:

If the Secretary of Education at the Federal level likes what you are doing with your curriculum and your accountability measures at the local level, you get grant money. If he doesn't like it, you don't get the grant money. There is way too much discretion in Washington, D.C., over how public education is managed and administered in this country. That is not the way it was intended to be.

The waiver program, which is in effect right now, is acting as a top-down lever to dictate what is taught in the classrooms, how it is taught, when and how much testing should be employed by teachers, how they teach in the classroom, and when students have to take tests.

I cannot tell you how often I hear from parents and students and teachers lamenting about not only the days spent testing, but the days spent preparing to test.

The effort with the Student Success Act is to roll that back and have States take a leadership role in that and the Federal Government retreat, reduce the Federal footprint in education in this country.

This is not a partisan issue. This is an issue of fairness. It is only fair that teachers and parents get more say over public education and Washington, D.C., gets less.

A vote against this bill is a vote for the status quo, and I don't think anyone really, truly wants public education coming more out of Washington, D.C.

The Student Success Act ensures that States cannot be coerced into Common Core. If we do not pass this bill, the Secretary of Education, through the waiver program, has more ability to impose Common Core. By passing this bill, States cannot be coerced into the Common Core curriculum.

The Student Success Act eliminates 49 duplicative, ineffective Federal programs. If we do not pass this bill, those 49 duplicative, ineffective programs stay on the books.

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The Student Success Act provides more flexible funding for school districts to fund their priorities at the local level.

I want to thank Chairman KLINE, Mr. ROKITA, and all my colleagues on the Education and the Workforce Committee for their work on the Student Success Act.

Mr. Speaker, let's put children first and pass this bill.

#### ROSA PARKS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the memory of the great Rosa Parks, also known as the mother of the modern civil rights movement.

Today, December 1, marks the 60th anniversary of Rosa Parks' arrest for refusing to surrender her seat on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama, to a White male. Her arrest on this date in 1955 put a face to Jim Crow and the disgrace of segregation in this country and, in many ways, united a nation in the struggle for civil rights for all.

As many of you know the story, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat, sparking the peaceful Montgomery bus boycott, which lasted 381 days and led to the eventual desegregation of the public transportation system across this Nation.

Rosa Parks in every way embodies the tremendous difference a single person, Mr. Speaker, can make through

the power of protest, nonviolence, and courage.

As a member of the Ohio General Assembly, where I served as House leader, I was proud to have led the efforts that resulted in the 2005 passage of House Bill 421 designating December 1 as Rosa Parks Day, the first State in the Nation to do so. Each year, the State of Ohio, spearheaded by the Central Ohio Transit Authority, proudly celebrates the life of Rosa Parks in our State capital, Columbus, Ohio.

It is important that we do not let her legacy of bravery die. I look forward to joining my constituents when I travel back to the district on December 3 to celebrate the 11th annual statewide tribute to Rosa Parks, "The Power of One."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congressman JOHN CONYERS, the dean of this House, for agreeing to participate in my Community Leaders Forum at this year's celebration.

For five decades, Congressman CONYERS has been a champion of civil rights and voting rights. His distinguished career is highlighted by his work on important civil rights legislation such as the Martin Luther King Holiday Act of 1983, the Motor Voter bill of 1993, and the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Today, he continues to fight for voting rights and civil rights as the ranking member on the House Judiciary Committee.

I look forward to welcoming him to our Rosa Parks celebration because he shared a personal relationship with her. She worked for Congressman CONYERS from 1964 until 1988. However, before working with Congressman CONYERS, she took a stand for justice and equality. The power of one person changed our Nation forever.

Our fight for racial equality and real inclusion is ongoing, as recently publicized tensions across our Nation have made clear. With the Supreme Court decision to strike down section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in *Shelby County v. Holder*, we no longer have the safety net that ensures that Americans, especially minorities, are able to participate in our democratic process.

Mr. Speaker, we should not be rolling back voting rights protection. Instead, we should honor the progress our country has made to ensure and protect equal rights and equal treatment for all.

That is why I am the cosponsor of the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015, H.R. 2867, which enjoys bipartisan and bicameral support. Congress should immediately bring this legislation to the floor to ensure that all Americans may cast ballots to choose their leaders in public service.

Mr. Speaker, many of the policies being pushed by the House Republican leadership would adversely and disproportionately affect people of color and individuals in low-income communities.

When we talk about reform in Washington and starting with a clean slate