

BOKO HARAM

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed light on the hundreds of Chibok schoolgirls who were abducted by Boko Haram nearly 600 days ago. Some girls have been recovered, but many more are still missing.

Boko Haram is now the most dangerous terrorist organization in the world, killing more than 6,000 people in 2014 alone.

While our Nation and the world are reeling from the death and destruction ISIS has caused in recent weeks, we must not forget the terror that Boko Haram brings every single day.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud our government's efforts in helping provide Nigeria with the support they need to fight these militants. But there is more to be done. We cannot turn a blind eye to the destruction and bloodshed they have caused. We must continue to dedicate resources and support to wipe out the world's deadliest terror organizations.

There also needs to be a continuous effort to save so many lives from falling into Boko Haram's hands.

I thank Representative WILSON of Florida for leading the charge on this issue here in Congress. I am proud to stand with you in the fight to Bring Back Our Girls and stop Boko Haram.

PROPER PROCESS FOR THE 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I want to address the importance of passing the reauthorization of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, H.R. 1786, and this needs to be done as a standalone bill. The reauthorization of this bill is far too important to be rolled into a package at the end of the year.

Our country was attacked 14 years ago, and these Americans responded without hesitation. First responders are undoubtedly heroes in the eyes of America. They at least deserve to have their bill heard individually.

Five years ago, in the last days of the 111th Congress, this bill was passed. It was the last bill that Congress passed that year in the lame-duck 2010 year.

It is important that this bill be brought up. It is important that each of us put our cards in. Vote your conscience. Vote "yes" or "no." But we deserve a chance to vote on this bill as a standalone bill.

WORLD AIDS DAY

(Ms. CLARKE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in commemoration of World AIDS Day and to honor those who labor to end its spread.

Today is the day to raise our awareness of HIV/AIDS and our unwavering fight against it. New infections worldwide are down 35 percent since 2000, and AIDS-related deaths have been reduced by 42 percent since 2004.

Though HIV and AIDS are now considered chronic illnesses, like with any chronic illness, first you must know that you have it in order to treat it.

We know that 35 million people are living with HIV/AIDS globally, and that is unacceptable. My own district, the Ninth District of Brooklyn, New York, has been particularly hard hit over the past three decades by HIV/AIDS.

Nearly 29,000 Brooklyn residents were living with HIV/AIDS since June of 2014. Over 30 percent of new HIV diagnoses in the first half of 2014 were made concurrent with AIDS diagnoses and years after infection. Surveys suggest that 40 percent of Brooklyn adults have yet to receive an HIV screening.

Mr. Speaker, in the first half of 2014, Brooklyn had the highest percentages of HIV/AIDS, so now is the time for us to act. Let us end HIV/AIDS. Help stop the spread today.

CADILLAC TAX LETTER

(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 request the President's timely response to a bipartisan, bicameral letter from congressional Members willing to work with him to repeal the Affordable Care Act's tax on middle class families' healthcare benefits.

This month I joined House and Senate Members, both Democrat and Republican, to express our constituents' extreme concern about the 40 percent tax on employer-sponsored benefits coming in 2018. Public and private employers and employees tell me that the tax will cost jobs and incomes across New Hampshire as they cope with higher taxes and premiums.

Companies and municipalities are planning for the worst. Families will face lower wages and higher prices as organizations shift costs to pay for new taxes. Our coalition asks the President to meet with us as soon as possible so we can find a solution to this so-called Cadillac tax by the end of this year.

I would like to thank Senators HELLER, BROWN, and HEINRICH, as well as Representative JOE COURTNEY, for their help.

Mr. President, please respond to our request to work together. If we act now, we can avoid more unintended consequences of the Affordable Care Act.

WEAR RED WEDNESDAY

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Wear Red Wednesday to Bring Back Our Girls.

Boko Haram has been declared the world's deadliest terrorist organization. Boko Haram has actually murdered more people than ISIS. This means that Boko Haram's attacks are more lethal and more devastating than anything we have seen in the history of modern terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, Boko Haram's January attack on Baga was the second deadliest terrorist attack in modern history after 9/11. An organization capable of this level of death and destruction must be eradicated.

I urge Congress to pass my bill, H.R. 3833, which would require the U.S. Government to develop a regional strategy to assist Nigeria in defeating Boko Haram. Please continue to tweet, tweet, tweet #bringbackourgirls and remember to wear something red tomorrow, Wednesday, a tie, a pin, a flower. Just wear something red and tweet, tweet, tweet #bringbackourgirls, #joinrepwilson. Tweet, tweet, tweet.

IMPORTANT ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me say that I join my colleagues in asking for the James Zadroga bill to be passed in honor and tribute to our first responders after the tragedy and heinous terrorist act of 9/11.

And then, of course, today is World AIDS Day. I want to congratulate my constituents. I join the city of Houston, Harris County, in honoring the President's 2020 initiative, which is to encourage all of us to surge back into education and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

So many of us have lost too many. Today in my district as well, the Thomas Street Clinic and a number of other organizations will be acknowledging those who still live with AIDS. It is certainly our responsibility to fight to ensure the stopping of HIV/AIDS in this Nation.

I also rise to speak of the intelligence bill that will be on the floor today. What I would like to note is that I am glad that some of the issues have been resolved.

Particularly, I am concerned and glad that it will provide critical resources for the fight against ISIL, emphasize collection to monitor and ensure compliance with the Iranian nuclear agreement, which some have been very concerned about, that intelligence is very important, and as well it promotes foreign partner capabilities such as helping our allies in France.

Mr. Speaker, as I close, let me say my concern, however, still remains on

the authority limited of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board. It is a bill that we all should consider.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8, NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2015; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 23, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF A RULE SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 24, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF A RULE SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 539 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 539

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8) to modernize energy infrastructure, build a 21st century energy and manufacturing workforce, bolster America's energy security and diplomacy, and promote energy efficiency and government accountability, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate, the Committee of the Whole shall rise without motion. No further consideration of the bill shall be in order except pursuant to a subsequent order of the House.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House any joint resolution specified in section 3 of this resolution. All points of order against consideration of each such joint resolution are waived. Each such joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in each such joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on each such joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and (2) one motion to commit.

SEC. 3. The joint resolutions referred to in section 2 of this resolution are as follows:

(a) The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 23) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units".

(b) The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 24) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Sta-

tionary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

□ 1230

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 539 provides for a rule to consider three important bills that will help millions of Americans and their families who are having to pay or will soon be paying higher energy costs due to the administration's misguided and ill-conceived energy policies. The rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided between the majority and the minority of the Energy and Commerce Committee, on each of the pieces of legislation before us, including S.J. Res. 23, a resolution of disapproval of a rule promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency on greenhouse gases from new stationary sources; S.J. Res. 24, a resolution of disapproval of a rule promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency on greenhouse gases from existing stationary sources; and H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015, which will move this country in a direction of greater energy independence.

The rule before us today provides for a closed rule on both resolutions of disapproval, as is standard for such measures, allowing for 1 hour of debate equally divided between the majority and minority of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, while allowing the minority a motion to commit on each of the resolutions.

Further, the rule provides for 1 hour of debate on H.R. 8, also equally divided between the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. A subsequent order from the Committee on Rules will likely address any amendments to be made in order later in the week.

The House, in taking up these measures, is doing so to reflect the will of the people so many of us represent who are opposed to the administration's actions and wish to stop this out-of-control Environmental Protection Agency from doing further damage to the economy. Further, H.R. 8 reflects a broad consensus of energy stakeholders who are ready and willing to move the country's energy future into high gear.

S.J. Res. 23, disapproving of the Environmental Protection Agency's new greenhouse gas rules on new stationary sources—loosely translated, that means the Nation's power plants, keeping the lights on in your home, the heat on in the winter, and the air-conditioning on in the summer—and S.J. Res. 24, disapproving of the EPA's new greenhouse gas rules on existing stationary sources, both of these joint resolutions passed in the Senate in October by a majority vote of 52–46. The Congressional Review Act, the law which allows for the process of disapproval by Congress when an administration goes too far with one of its rules, allows us an up-or-down vote on the resolution, which cannot be filibustered, thus allowing the measure to be considered in the Senate. It is now time for the House to be heard on this measure as well.

Mr. Speaker, the Environmental Protection Agency's overreaching greenhouse gas rules have had an extensive number of hearings in the Energy and Commerce Committee over the last few years. The committee reviewed all aspects of the proposed rules, including the impacts on reliability and the impacts on consumer costs, including bringing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to discuss possible impacts on reliability around the country due to these rules.

Already, in many States across the Nation, coal-fired power plants are closing because they see that the Obama administration's EPA has made it clear that it will go after them relentlessly until they are shuttered. This means fewer cost-effective options for consumers and also the potential for brownouts and blackouts during high-consumption times, like during the peak of the summer in Texas, where rolling brownouts are already not uncommon. The Environmental Protection Agency's new rules will only exacerbate this issue.

Whether Members of this body support these rules or oppose them, the measures before us today will provide each Member the opportunity to be officially registered on where they stand on these EPA rules, and that is what we are all here to do.

H.R. 8, in contrast to the EPA's regulations, moves the country to a place of greater energy security and abundance. Over the past several years, the Energy and Commerce Committee has worked towards modernizing the Nation's energy laws, making the government more accountable, more accountable to the people it is meant to represent as it makes decisions which affect literally every citizen in this country and their pocketbooks.

The free market has long been the guiding force in moving this country ahead in the energy sector. Texas was one of the first major beneficiaries, with the oil boom in the last two centuries. Now, as new technologies and innovations emerge, Congress must stand on the side of the free market