

Mr. HOYER. I may do that.

First of all, let me thank the gentleman. We are confronting a crisis, as the gentleman so well knows, in Puerto Rico. On May 1, they will be unable to pay their debts.

I want to thank the majority leader who has been leading to reach a bipartisan solution. Unfortunately, as the majority leader and I both know, there was a failure in committee this week to move the bill forward. But I want to reiterate my appreciation to the gentleman from California, the majority leader, for his efforts to make sure that we do, in fact, address this issue before May 1. I want to thank him for that.

It is critical that we do so, it is critical that we do so in a bipartisan fashion, and it is critical to have a bill that both sides can support. I have told the majority leader, and I reiterate, we hope that on both restructuring and the composition and the authority of a board of review, an oversight board, that we can come to an agreement so that we can have such a vote and have it in the near future.

Secondly, can the majority leader tell me where we are? I know the budget has been reported out of committee. The gentleman talks about Tax Day. Obviously, we are now at the point when a budget was expected to be brought to the floor. Can the majority leader tell me where we stand on the budget process and the budget coming to the floor of the House of Representatives?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I will first touch on Puerto Rico. I thank the gentleman for his work on that. Let me start by saying that any proposal that the House considers cannot be a bailout of Puerto Rico.

I know the committee had a markup and they postponed the vote on it simply because Treasury was still negotiating. We had heard from those on your side of the aisle that they did not want to pursue or continue until Treasury was done negotiating. So we look forward to continue solving this problem in a bipartisan manner.

I also understand the gentleman asking about the budget. I do believe the budget process is an important one, and we are continuing to work through it. It is out of the committee, and I look forward to getting it onto the floor.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Let me mention two other items briefly because I know the gentleman has a time constraint. Zika and Ebola continue to be challenges to the health of Americans and, indeed, the health of the international community as well.

Obviously, we previously committed a significant sum of money to meet the Ebola crisis, which still remains with us. It is not on the front burner as it was for a period of time, but it is, nevertheless, as the gentleman knows, a very significant and serious one.

In addition, of course, we have the crisis that Zika poses to the health and welfare not only of women who either are or may become pregnant, but also to others as well.

Can the gentleman tell me where the funding—as the gentleman knows, the administration transferred some funds out of the money that was dedicated to Ebola. And I want to thank the gentleman for having a hearing, which he invited me. We joined in having that hearing, and we had Secretary Burwell of HHS, Tony Fauci of NIH, and Dr. Frieden of CDC—a very important hearing. They have transferred some money.

Does the gentleman have any information as to when we might move forward, both on backfilling the money that has been taken from Ebola and responding to the administration's request for funding for response to Zika?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I do think the gentleman's work is bipartisan on our challenge with Zika and as we continue to move forward with it.

First, I am very happy to see that the administration did take our advice last week and began using the unused Ebola funding in our efforts to combat Zika. I know that was more than half a billion dollars. That money is going to go a long way to containing the disease. I had met with the chairman of Appropriations just today. They are continuing to look and monitor. We believe this money will take us throughout the rest of this fiscal year, but we will look and monitor where we need it and what we need to move forward.

As the gentleman knows, every day we continue to learn more about Zika. We are committed on this side, and I know on your side as well, to make sure that we eradicate this problem from ever furthering in America.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I look forward to working with him on both—continuing to focus on Ebola, while at the same time we focus on the immediate threat of Zika.

The last comment I would make, Mr. Speaker, is that Members ought to be disabused of the concept—and I have heard it, as well as the gentleman has heard it—that the legislation under consideration for Puerto Rico is a bailout. There is no money going to Puerto Rico. There is no guarantee of any of their indebtedness going from the United States to Puerto Rico.

This is simply whether or not we can construct a mechanism so that they can restructure their debt, which may prolong the period of time in which the debt is paid off. It may reduce by some amount the debt that is repaid. But as the gentleman knows—and he is shaking his head in agreement—we are not contemplating nor are we moving forward on a bailout for Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016, TO MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2016

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, April 18, 2016, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia? There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING TOM BOWERS

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Tom Bowers. Tom is a Commonwealth attorney for the city of Salem, Virginia, who today, in a formal award ceremony at Federal Bureau of Investigation headquarters, is receiving the Richmond FBI's 2015 Director's Community Leadership Award for his efforts to organize a Heroin Prevention Initiative in the Roanoke, Virginia, area.

Regrettably, the growing epidemic of heroin use is a plague on communities throughout the United States. Addressing this nationwide problem will require expanded coordination and involvement by local, State, and Federal governments, as well as law enforcement agencies and healthcare professionals.

I applaud Commonwealth Attorney Bowers and those working for him on the Heroin Prevention Initiative for their efforts to combat the heroin epidemic by bringing awareness to the pervasiveness of prescription drug and heroin use among youth in our area and helping to alleviate the damage to our community.

Others involved in this important work in this initiative include the Roanoke Area Youth Substance Abuse Coalition, the Prevention Council of Roanoke County, the Virginia State Police, the City of Roanoke Police Department, the Vinton Police Department, and the Roanoke County Police Department.

I also would note, of course, that Tom Bowers represents the city of Salem, and the city of Salem folks are involved as well.

Congratulations to Commonwealth Attorney Bowers on being presented the Richmond FBI's 2015 Director's Community Leadership Award.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Irvington, New Jersey, Christmas Day, December 25, 2013: Pierre Clervoyant, Jr., 34 years old; Woodley Daniel, 32; Mushir Cureton, 27.

Rochester, New York, August 19, 2015: Johnny Johnson, 25 years old; Rayquan Manigault, 19; Jonah Barley, 17.

Hesston, Kansas, February 25, 2016: Brian Sadowsky, 43 years old; Josh Higbee, 31; Renee Benjamin, 30.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 9, 2016: Tina Shelton, 37 years old; Jerry Shelton, 35; Brittany Powell, 27; Shada Mahone, 26; Chanetta Powell, 25.

Waynesville, Indiana, May 11, 2013: Kathryn Burton, 53 years old; Aaron T. Cross, 41; Shawn Burton, 41; Thomas W. Smith, 39.

VA ACCOUNTABILITY LEGISLATION

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge the Senate to quickly act on House-passed VA accountability legislation.

According to recent VA Inspector General reports, wait time manipulation occurred at 40 VA facilities in 19 States. Yet, almost no one has seriously been held accountable for these failures.

This isn't even including the most egregious example of failures, like the VA employee who was convicted of charges related to armed robbery and still couldn't be fired.

The House has passed legislation to get at the root of this problem, and it is past time the Senate acts.

H.R. 1994, the VA Accountability Act, contains my legislation that forces VA employees to solve problems for veterans. If they can't, then the VA needs to make room for someone who can. Our veterans are too important to us, and they are counting on Congress to deliver them the care they need and deserve.

We have to send the VA accountability legislation to the President's desk now.

HONORING JUDGE FREDERICK P. AGUIRRE

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Frederick P. Aguirre, and to congratulate him for his service.

Judge Aguirre is a member of the Latino community and a judge of the Superior Court of Orange County. He was born and raised in Fullerton, California, and he is the grandson of Mexican immigrants.

Judge Aguirre graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in history, and he earned his law degree at UCLA. His career in public advocacy began when he attended the League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC. He began to attend the meetings, and by the time he

was a senior in high school, he was the president-elect of the local chapter.

He is the cofounder of the Hispanic Association of Lawyers in Orange County; the Hispanic Advisory Council for Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA as we know it; the founder and the vice president of the Leadership Academy of the Superior Court; and the president of Latino Advocates for Education.

I know him best because he honors our veterans every year in a very large ceremony, calling out their service in the different wars.

I am honored to recognize Judge Frederick Aguirre for his outstanding achievements within the Latino community, the Orange County community, amongst our veterans, and for all citizens.

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OBAMACARE FOR FINANCIAL PLANNING

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday, the Department of Labor finalized its fiduciary rule—or, as we could call it: ObamaCare for financial planning. This rule reclassifies and expands the scope of individuals who are considered “financial advisers” and adds the Department of Labor as a new regulator.

The investment advisory industry is already among the most regulated, but this rule will force a sweeping overhaul of the financial services industry. Most importantly, it will hurt middle class Americans.

This new rule change, which circumvents the Congress and the Constitution, will significantly raise legal and compliance costs, making it expensive, difficult, and impractical for companies like State Farm, which is headquartered in my congressional district, and their advising agents to continue to provide services to small businesses and hardworking customers.

Ultimately, this rule will drastically narrow the access that these families, who are trying to save for retirement, will have by making financial advice more expensive. It will even penalize small businesses that want to provide benefits for their employees, thereby discouraging small businesses from providing 401(k) plans.

I am committed to fighting the implementation of this rule, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this week, we marked Equal Pay Day, which is the day more than 3 months into the year when women's

earnings finally catch up to men's from the previous year.

Mr. Speaker, it all adds up—\$430,000. That is how much the average income loss is for a woman throughout her career as a result of this unfair wage gap. This means our mothers and our grandmothers get less for their retirement security, and there are more of them in poverty.

Inequality hurts the heart and it hurts the pocketbook. It hurts women and their families. That is why we need paycheck fairness, affordable child care, paid family leave, and retirement security.

When women succeed, America succeeds.

SUPPORTING THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the 14th consecutive year in order to speak out on behalf of the LGBTQ youth community. It is unacceptable that, in 2016, young people are still experiencing discrimination across this country based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Kaleb Lennon, a young transgender student in my district, sees this day as a chance to combat the bullying, the slurs, and the put-downs that these children face on a daily basis. I am proud to lend my voice to Kaleb's cause. It is our duty to speak out against the bigotry and hatred facing this community. We must celebrate the diversity in this country and reject all forms of discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, this is my last year to take the floor and support these young people. I ask that, next year, my colleagues stand where I am and lend their voices to the support of the LGBTQ community.

Today, as youth across the country take a vow of silence to protest the silent response they see to bigotry, I ask one last time that you remember that, while you are silent, we here in Congress should not be.

STEERING AND POLICY HEARING ON POVERTY

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight yesterday's Democratic Steering and Policy Committee hearing on the “Failure of Trickle-Down Economics in the War on Poverty.” The hearing highlighted the daily hardships that are faced by more than 46 million Americans. We know that too many families struggle to buy healthy food, to pay rent, and to access good-paying jobs.

I was very proud that, among the witnesses at the hearing—all of whom were phenomenal—was my constituent,