

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Nation's very first public community college, Joliet Junior College, on its 115th anniversary.

Two Illinois community leaders, J. Stanley Brown and William Rainey Harper, founded the college in 1901 to provide high school graduates the fruits of higher education without forcing them to leave their communities. Over the next 20 years, JJC grew from 6 enrolled students to almost 100, and it later evolved its curriculum to include business, technological, and industrial education.

With the end of the wars, JJC and other 2-year institutions served vital educational roles for veterans who were returning to their communities. Joliet Junior College inspired an entirely new model for higher education, one that suited the needs of both the Nation and its citizens, one that allowed both flexibility and quality, and one that continues to be urgently relevant today.

Brown and Harper's vision of community-organized, community-focused education has since become a touchstone for millions of young American students. This year, the 14th District of Illinois honors Joliet Junior College for its pivotal role in the advancement of higher education in America.

#### DOING THE WORK OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, normally, I would be having a colloquy with the majority leader about the schedule for the week to come, but there is no schedule for the week to come, and there is no schedule for 6 weeks thereafter. We were scheduled to meet tomorrow to do the business of the American people. We will not meet that schedule, and we will not meet the schedule of doing the business of America for those who are concerned about the epidemic of gun violence in America, not even the small but meaningful and important steps of making sure that, if you can't fly, you can't buy a gun, to make sure that the background checks are universal and comprehensive so that dangerous people do not get guns.

We will not do the business of those who are confronting being bitten by a mosquito and having the risk of having a child who is deeply disabled, nor will we do the business of those thousands of children in Flint, Michigan, and of the people in Flint, Michigan, who still, 2 years later, do not have clean water to drink.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I sit here, ready to do the business of our country. We sit here, ready to address those critical public health issues that confront our country—of gun violence,

of Zika, of Flint, and of water that is not drinkable and that will damage our children.

Mr. Speaker, the American people will see that there is a party here that is willing to work and protect them every day; so my colleagues will, one after another, express their own views as to what this House ought to be doing.

We ought not to have taken a walk on the American people. We ought to be sitting here, doing the work of the American people. Yes, we will go to a convention, and we will tell them that we are going to protect them, that we are going to make their lives better. We can do so right here, right now.

#### COBRA ZONES

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, in 2012, constituents of mine, the Welberrys, purchased a home in Cedar Key, Florida. Two years later, their Federal flood insurance was canceled retroactively due to a determination that the property was partially located within a COBRA zone. For over 12 years, this property was zoned outside of the adjacent COBRA zone, and, for 12 years, it was covered by the Federal flood insurance.

Yet, as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife updates its maps, the Welberrys' entire retirement investment is threatened due to the government's inconsistency. The Welberrys' home did not move—just the map of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

Mrs. Welberry pleaded: The government cannot be allowed to erase our life savings like this.

If you want to talk about covering preexisting conditions, how many constituents are going through this nightmare?

Congress needs to know. Chairman CALVERT and the Appropriations Committee agree; and our amendment, which requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to conduct a study on how COBRA zones affect private property, was accepted last night. Congress needs to know.

#### A VOTE ON NO FLY, NO BUY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, Republican leaders are recessing the House for 7 weeks without their taking a single vote on legislation to help stop the mass gun violence that has become far too common in our country.

More than 30 people are killed every day by someone who uses a gun. Do the math. That means, by the time the House comes back from the summer recess, in 52 days, over 1,560 Americans may have been killed by someone who was using a gun.

We can't wait for more innocent lives to be cut short by someone using a gun. We need to vote on bipartisan, pro-Second Amendment no fly, no buy and comprehensive background check legislation to help keep guns away from those who shouldn't have them—terrorists, criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill.

Mr. Speaker, it is wrong; it is irresponsible; it is dangerous to send us home without giving us a vote on this important bipartisan legislation. Give us a vote. Let us do the work that the American people sent us here to do.

#### HONORING MRS. JACK KOESTER

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge over 40 years of exceptional pro-life and pro-family efforts by Mrs. Jack Koester of Teutopolis, Illinois.

In June of 1973, a group of concerned residents came together to found the Effingham County Right. Mrs. Koester has served as the secretary of that group ever since.

As secretary, she has issued a monthly newsletter, has helped the organization grow through its breakfast and rummage sale, has hosted an annual day of prayer, has organized the Life Chain, has manned the pro-life booth, and has publicized the monthly prayer vigil. Mrs. Koester also cofounded the Family Life Center in Effingham 20 years ago.

After suffering a stroke last fall, she is still recovering and has shifted her focus to encouraging other citizens of the Effingham area to volunteer so as to carry on her pro-life efforts.

Mrs. Koester is a mother of 3, a grandmother of 10, and a great-grandmother of 2. One of her granddaughters is currently an intern in my office.

I want to personally thank Mrs. Koester for her lasting dedication to the pro-life movement, and I wish her the best in her ongoing recovery.

#### REPUBLICANS ABANDON AMERICANS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today, the Republicans are leaving Washington for almost 2 months—the longest congressional summer recess in nearly 60 years—and are abandoning Americans, who are counting on us to do what we have to do to protect them.

There are serious public health crises in this country, and, right now, the GOP-led Congress continues to fail to do anything at all to protect the basic functions of government—to protect human life, to protect Americans.

Families in my own hometown of Flint, Michigan, today, can't drink their water. They don't have access to

clean drinking water. Rather than bringing up my bill, the Families of Flint Act, which would provide relief to those folks back home, who should be able to depend on their Federal Government when they are at their moment of greatest need, the Republican-led Congress is not only recessing but is recessing a day early—a day in which we could have taken up legislation to help the people of Flint. We could have taken up legislation to deal with the Zika virus. We could have taken up legislation for commonsense gun safety policy.

This is what the Congress is charged with doing. This is our job. We should be here on the floor of the House doing it. I am pleased to be here with my colleagues, who are ready to go to work in order to deal with these big problems that our country faces.

#### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION

(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, as chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, I was proud to join with a bipartisan group of my House colleagues yesterday in introducing H. Con. Res. 144, recognizing the 75th anniversary of the American Tree Farm System.

The American Tree Farm System is operated by the American Forest Foundation. It is the largest and oldest sustainable forestry program for forest owners. The program was created in 1941 in order to engage and support landowners to ensure the health and safety of the forests, especially in facing wildfires in the Western States.

This resolution commends the work of tree farmers and volunteers across the Nation who have participated in the program over the past 75 years, especially their investments in time, manpower, and personal funds to further sustainable forestry practices.

Mr. Speaker, family forest owners own the largest share of forests in the United States. These forests provide for Americans well beyond their properties, as they help to maintain clean water, clean air, wood supply, wildlife habitat, jobs, and recreational opportunities. Programs such as the American Tree Farm System help these forest owners continue to steward our lands and protect those benefits.

#### ZIKA-RELATED MICROCEPHALY CASE IN HARRIS COUNTY

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Zika is here, and Congress is not doing its job.

Yesterday, health officials in Houston, Harris County, Texas, diagnosed

an infant with microcephaly, which is a birth defect that causes a severe underdevelopment of the brain and a long list of health problems. This is the first documented case of Zika-related microcephaly in Texas. Unfortunately, it is one of the many tragedies that will continue if we fail to act.

Zika poses a grave and unprecedented threat to our public health. It is time Congress fulfills its constitutional and moral duty to protect the health and welfare of our people. It is an appalling disservice to the American people that we are not yet providing resources to combat this virus.

Congress' reluctance to provide funding is attributed to a distorted sense of fiscal responsibility. The fact of the matter is that their reluctance is putting the health and lives of the American people at risk, and inaction now will only be more costly in the long run. We are delaying medical research for a cure for Zika. We are delaying funding for our communities to fight Zika. We need to work with a sense of responsibility for the health and welfare of our Nation and approve the funds that are necessary to prevent Zika from spreading in our country.

#### HONORING UTAH'S OLYMPIANS

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor all Olympians but, especially, the Olympians who are heading to Rio from my home State of Utah.

My family and I hardly ever watch TV. We have lost the remote control for months at a time and no one has really cared, but, every 4 years, we do look forward to watching the Olympic Games on television. Part of the reason it is fun for us is that we realize the enormous commitment, strength, and courage it takes to become an Olympic athlete, and we realize the endless hours of training and sacrifice that will, hopefully, lead to their success.

I am extremely proud of the Utahns who have earned their spot on Team USA: Devery Karz for rowing, Jared Ward for track and field, and Jake Gibb for volleyball. Others will be added to the Olympic team in the next few weeks.

We should all look to these Olympians as examples of hard work and dedication. They may not be guaranteed medals in Rio, but to all of us Americans, to Utahns, and others, we view them as champions. I wish them all good luck, and I wish them success and safety. My family and I will find the remote control, and we will be cheering for them this summer.

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#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is sad that people are leaving this Chamber with much unfinished business, such as action on Zika, threats to drinking water, and the most important for me is the failure to take any action to stem the epidemic of gun violence that takes three to four Americans' lives every hour.

Whether it is from domestic violence, mass shootings like in Orlando or Dallas, suicide, there are multiple causes, but there are things we can do to make a difference.

There ought to be no more anonymous gun purchases. We need universal background checks. People who are too dangerous to buy a plane ticket should not be able to buy an assault weapon. And the outrageous prohibition that Congress has on doing research from the CDC on gun violence ought to be abolished.

These provisions are overwhelmingly supported by the American public and, indeed, gun owners themselves. There is no excuse for us leaving early today, for us to be gone tomorrow, for us to be gone for the next 7 weeks.

Maybe the people who are getting out of town should just be gone from the next Congress.

#### A BETTER WAY

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleagues in the House for passing the Zika bill and sending it to the Senate, and I hope that the Senate Democrats will at sometime put that bill on the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise today as an advocate for "A Better Way." This blueprint put forth by Speaker RYAN and my colleagues in the House Republican Conference is our vision for a more confident America.

We have a framework that is a better way to free millions from poverty, a better way to make America strong and safe, a better way to create an environment for Americans of all walks to experience true economic growth and opportunity, a better way to govern by returning to the rule of law outlined in our Constitution, a better way to lead healthy and productive lives by replacing a failing ObamaCare with a healthcare system that works for the American people, and a better way to pay for essential government services by creating a simpler, fairer Tax Code.

As we dream of an America with a future that outshines our blessed past, I urge my colleagues to embrace this vision, work to see its proposals implemented, and leave to our posterity evidence of our good stewardship of this most portentous responsibility.

#### INACTION

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission