

And I have come repeatedly to this very podium to call my colleagues' attention to the threat that Fidel Castro and his regime pose to the U.S. and our national security. This thug, Fidel Castro, who attempted to infiltrate every level of our government through his intelligence service, like convicted spy Ana Belen Montes, who is currently still serving her prison sentence in a Texas jail.

This despot, who aligned himself with the greatest threats to the U.S., like Iran and Russia, and allowed Russia to put up a facility in Cuba in order to spy on our Nation; this autocrat, who told the Ayatollah in Iran that both Iran and Cuba would bring the U.S. to its knees, and who tried to bring the world to nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Yet, this is a man who some world leaders and media want to romanticize. They whitewash his horrific crimes and claim that he was a legendary folk hero.

The truth is, Mr. Speaker, Fidel Castro was a sadistic murderer, a tyrant, and a hypocrite. He was a thug who took control over all industries and Cuba and decried capitalism. Yet, somehow, he was likely worth about \$1 billion when he died.

When 11 million Cubans are barely struggling to get by under his Communist regime, this is a tyrant who died with more wealth than the entire island nation.

Mr. Speaker, Fidel Castro is dead, and Cuba and the world are better for it. Now we have an opportunity to move forward by reversing some of this administration's concessions to the Castro regime and press for reforms.

It is time for the Cuban people to have the opportunity to achieve freedom and democracy for which they have been yearning. We must pressure the regime in the island of Cuba.

We must not relent until there are free and fair elections, until all political prisoners are freed, and until the people's basic and fundamental human rights are restored. Is that too much to ask for the enslaved and oppressed people of Cuba?

Let that be how we honor the countless Cubans who have lost their lives or who have suffered under the terrible dictatorship of Fidel Castro. That is some legacy.

DRAINING THE SWAMP

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

Mr. DEFazio. Mr. Speaker, I remember the closing ad in the Trump campaign. He was going to drain the swamp. Good. And then he had the CEO of Goldman Sachs up there, who represented the global elite who robbed the working class of their savings and homes. Pretty powerful stuff, and I will tell you what, I pretty much agreed with it.

Now, he is already working on draining the swamp, so things are showing

up in D.C. that you haven't seen for a while. I was walking down the street by Trump Tower International last night and I found this laying in the street.

Now, I haven't seen this since a guy named Henry "Hank" Paulson, former CEO of Goldman Sachs, was Secretary of the Treasury under George Bush and he came to Congress after Wall Street destroyed our economy with reckless gambling and asked for an unlimited bailout of Wall Street, the key to the Treasury.

Now, I opposed that and, for one proud day, the House of Representatives didn't bail out Wall Street. Unfortunately, the Senate came back to town. They got scared by Wall Street tanking the market. They bailed out Wall Street and a number of my colleagues in the House changed their votes, so they all got bailed out. Well enough, good.

Now, that is Goldman Sachs that says please return to Goldman Sachs. Well, Donald Trump is returning the key to the Treasury to Goldman Sachs. Ain't that great? That's draining the swamp folks; draining the swamp.

A guy named Mnuchin—now he is a film producer, but he made a fortune at Goldman Sachs; his dad worked at Goldman Sachs for 33 years; his brother still works at Goldman Sachs—is going to get the key to the Treasury.

Now, he also made a fortune during the TARP bailout by buying an asset, IndyMac, and dispossessing tens of thousands of people of their homes.

So I would say that Mr. Trump, the candidate, and the ad was right. These people at Goldman Sachs and elsewhere are the global elite who have stolen people's savings, who have taken away their homes.

But now he is putting them back in charge. Mr. Mnuchin is getting the key to the Treasury, Goldman Sachs executive, dad, lifetime Goldman Sachs executive, brother still working at Goldman Sachs.

How the heck is that draining the swamp?

PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP MAY HAVE WON THE POPULAR VOTE

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, President-elect Donald Trump opined in a tweet on November 27 that: "In addition to winning the electoral college in a landslide, I won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally."

As would be expected, a circus of left-wing, media pundits immediately pounced on President-elect Trump's opinion in an effort to silence serious discussion of the noncitizen voter fraud problem.

For example, PolitiFact, a self-proclaimed purveyor of truth, gave Trump's statement a "Pants on Fire" evaluation and stated: "Neither Trump

nor his allies have presented any evidence of widespread illegal voting. In reality, studies have consistently shown that voter fraud is nowhere near common enough to call into question millions and millions of votes."

The truth is, PolitiFact and its allies ignore contrary studies and information. But isn't that what you would expect of PolitiFact and its leftwing media allies that have, in effect, become the communications wing of the Democratic Party?

A 2014 study by professors at Old Dominion University and George Mason University estimated that noncitizens vote 80 percent of the time for Democrats.

Does anyone really expect Democrats and their media and pundit allies to object to or scrutinize illegal votes that may be the deciding factor in the election of Democrat candidates?

Let me give but one example of how tens of millions of noncitizens are a threat to register to vote, and vote, in America's elections.

Alabama is my home State. Our laws limit voting to American citizens. That sounds pretty reasonable to me, that only Americans should vote in American elections. In order to limit American elections to American citizens, Alabama code section 31-13-28 requires proof of citizenship to register to vote. The code lists 13 different documents that are conclusive proof of citizenship, things like driver's licenses, birth certificates, passports, naturalization documents, adoption papers, military service documents. Further, an American can offer any other document that is proof of citizenship.

In January of 2016, the United States Election Assistance Commission approved Alabama's proof of citizenship voter registration requirement. The League of Women Voters then challenged proof of citizenship laws in the Washington, D.C., Federal courts.

In an astonishing ruling in September of 2016, a mere 6 weeks before the election, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia entered a preliminary injunction that barred Alabama, Kansas, Georgia and, indirectly, any other State from requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote.

The Court of Appeals' ruling opens the floodgates for voting by tens of millions of illegal aliens and other citizens on American soil, thus blatantly undermining the American Republic for which so many Americans fought and died.

The dissenting opinion of the Court of Appeals' Senior Circuit Judge Randolph well-described the Court's ruling, and I quote:

"Of utmost importance is that on the eve of a Presidential election, and elections for Federal office, a court has issued an injunction forbidding Kansas, Georgia, and Alabama from enforcing their election laws, laws requiring those who seek to register to prove that they are citizens of this country.

"That order is unconstitutional.

"In my view, the appeal should have been disposed on the ground that the League of Women Voters and their allies have not even come close to demonstrating the type of harm entitling them to an order suspending these State laws."

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Notwithstanding Judge Randolph's dissent, the bad guys prevailed.

Now, what does all that mean? It means that, right before the Presidential election, Federal courts created a massive legal hole that empowers noncitizens to register to vote and, once registered, to vote in America's elections with impunity, thereby undermining and diluting the vote of lawful Americans and striking at the very heart of our democracy.

It means that President-elect Trump may very well be right that he "won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally."

Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, we will never know for sure if hundreds of thousands or millions of noncitizens voted in the 2016 elections. Worse yet, if the leftwing media pundits continue to summarily dismiss and turn a blind eye to the problem, it will be harder to stop future elections from being stolen.

FAREWELL ADDRESS

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to condense 28 years into 5 minutes, but that is what I am going to try to do here.

This is a wonderful opportunity that I have had to represent the Seventh District of the State of Washington, and I want to thank the people who sent me here. To represent people for 28 years, having their trust, is a great responsibility and a great honor.

My constituents have witnessed the good times and the bad. They have offered encouragement when I did what they thought was right and were gracious to point out to me when they thought that I had veered from where they thought I should be. I have enduring thanks for what they did for me.

I also want to thank my colleagues here in the House, my colleagues in the Washington State delegation, all the staff who have served me over these 28 years, and, of course, my family, who allowed me to serve here in the Congress.

When I envisioned what might be my final speech on the floor of the House, I had hoped for a brighter political future than the one currently unfolding. For me and for millions of Americans, it is difficult to see the coming 4 years as anything short of calamitous. Never has the role of congressional oversight been as critical to the integrity of our Republic as it is now, and I beg my colleagues to remain vigilant as we con-

front this menacing wave of nativism, misogyny, and racism that is raging in our country.

The systems of checks and balances underpin the very survival of the democracy, and this body must not fail in its constitutional responsibility to scrutinize every executive action and to pass sanction when the rights of the people are threatened. This is the people's House, designed not just to reflect the will of the people, but also to ensure the rights of the people endure.

The right to worship as you choose, the right to marry whom you love, the right to equal pay, the right to a livable wage, the right to affordable health care, the right to reproductive choice, and, of course, the basic founding rights affirmed by our earliest tenets and enshrined as "inalienable" are always at risk without the people's advocate to protect them.

As President Obama said in his second inaugural:

History may deem equality for all as self-evident, but we know these rights have never been self-executing; that while freedom is a gift from God, it must be secured by the people here on Earth.

Mr. Speaker, you have a dark and difficult road ahead. Please do not lose sight of the fundamental decency and respect for our fellow citizens that has always made this country great.

It is fashionable these days to ridicule the Congress, but I depart this institution steadfast in the belief that the government—and the Federal Government, in particular—can, should, and does make a positive impact on the lives of all Americans.

Moreover, I am a proud member of the Democratic Party. We may spend the next couple of years massaging our message and regrouping our strength, but the values that define us as a party are as true and as important today as they ever were. This is still the party of social and economic justice; it is still the party of environmental protection; it is still the party of international diplomacy; it is still the party of guaranteed health care and quality education; and this will always—always—be the party of ethnic, racial, and gender inclusion. We are a party of service, of dignity, and of hope.

I came to this House 28 years ago to work on health care, and with President Obama, we were able to get it started. It is incumbent on this body not to leave the American people out in the cold when they are sick or ailing or worried about whether they can go to the hospital and pay for what they have got.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to serve here. I leave here. It has been a good run, and I thank everyone who has been helpful to me during that period of time.

Mr. Speaker, it's hard to condense 28 remarkable years into five minutes, and it's even harder to thank each of those people with whom I have worked and who have helped me over the course of this fortunate career.

First, I want to thank the people of the 7th District of Washington State. It has been my

privilege to serve them in the United States Congress. I leave forever grateful for their unwavering trust and support.

My constituents have witnessed the good times and the bad; they offered encouragement when I did something right, and were gracious to point me in the right direction when I had wandered off the path. They have my enduring thanks.

I also want to thank my colleagues here in the House; my colleagues in the Washington State delegation; all the staff who have served with me over the last 28 years; and of course my family who has supported me in my public service.

When I envisioned giving what is perhaps my final speech on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, I had hoped for a brighter political future than the one currently unfolding.

For me, and for millions of Americans, it is difficult to see the coming four years as nothing short of calamitous.

Never has the role of Congressional oversight been as critical to the integrity of our republic as it is now and I beg my colleagues to remain vigilant as we confront this menacing wave of nativism, misogyny, and racism that is raging our country.

The system of checks and balances underpin the very survival of our democracy and this body must not fail in its Constitutional responsibility to scrutinize executive action and to pass sanction when the rights of the people are threatened.

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The right to worship as you choose; the right to marry who you love; the right to equal pay; the right to a livable wage; the right to affordable healthcare; the right to reproductive choice; and of course, those basic founding rights, affirmed by our earliest tenets and enshrined as "inalienable," are always at risk without the people's advocates to uphold them.

As President Obama said in his Second Inaugural, history may deem equality for all as self-evident, but we know these rights have "never been self-executing; that while freedom is a gift from God, it must be secured by His people here on Earth."

My colleagues, you have a dark and difficult road ahead. Please do not lose sight of the fundamental decency and respect for our fellow citizens that has always made this country great.

It is fashionable these days to ridicule the Congress, but I depart this institution steadfast in the belief that government, and the federal government in particular, can, should, and does make a positive impact on the lives of Americans.

Moreover, I am a proud member of the Democratic Party. We may spend the next couple of years honing our message and regrouping our electoral strength, but the values that define us as a party are as true and important today as they ever were.

This is still the party of social and economic justice; this is still the party of environmental protection; this is still the party of international diplomacy; this is still the party of guaranteed healthcare and quality education.

And this will always be the party of ethnic, racial, and gender inclusion.