

According to the Brookings Institution, the endowment tax in particular, threatens the ability of low-income students to pursue college and graduate studies.

This is because endowments subsidize students from lower-income families, while allowing students across the board to graduate with less debt.

This bill is beyond sinister: the GOP tax bill is written so that in just 10 years, certain tax cuts (benefitting the wealthy) would remain permanent and paid for with other permanent measures that raise revenues or reduce program spending, while letting lower priority tax cuts (typically benefitting lower-income folks) expire.

That is why Americans reject this Republican tax giveaway by an overwhelming 2:1 margin according to a poll released yesterday by Quinnipiac.

Specifically, 61 percent think the Republican tax scam will benefit the wealthy the most; only 16 percent say the plan will reduce their taxes.

59 percent think it a very bad idea to eliminate the deduction for state and local income taxes.

Nearly half of respondents (49 percent) think it a bad idea to lower the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent.

In fact, the average annual tax cut for the top one-tenth of one percent is \$320,000; for the top one percent it is \$62,000, and for those earning \$1 million a year it is \$68,000.

Nearly 25 percent of the tax cut goes to households in just the top one-tenth of one percent, who make at least \$5 million a year (2027).

While super-wealthy corporations and individuals are reaping windfalls, millions of middle-class and working families will see their taxes go up:

13 million households face a tax increase next year.

45 million households face a tax increase in 2027.

29 million households (21 percent) earning less than \$100,000 a year see a tax increase.

On average, families earning up to \$86,000 annually would see a \$794 increase in their tax liability, a significant burden on families struggling to afford child care and balance their checkbook.

It is shocking, but not surprising, that under this Republican tax scam, the total value of tax cuts for just the top one percent is more than the entire tax cut for the lower 95 percent of earners.

Put another way, those earning more than \$912,000 a year will get more in tax cuts than 180 million households combined.

Mr. Speaker, an estimated 2.8 million Texas households deduct state and local taxes with an average deduction of \$7,823 in 2015.

But this is not the end of the bad news that will be delivered were this tax scam to become law, not by a long shot.

Equally terrible is that this Republican tax scam drastically reduces the Earned Income Tax Credit, which encourages work for 2.7 million low-income individuals in Texas, helping them make ends meet with an average credit of \$2,689.

The EITC and the Child Tax Credit lift about 1.2 million Texans, including 663,000 children, out of poverty each year.

So to achieve their goal of giving more and more to the haves and the "have mores," our

Republican friends are willing to betray seniors, children, the most vulnerable and needy, and working and middle-class families.

The \$5.4 trillion cuts in program investments that will be required to pay for this tax giveaway to wealthy corporations and individuals will fall most heavily on low-income families, students struggling to afford college, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

#### RECOGNIZING LOICE TROTTER FOR THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

#### HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2017*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Loice "LA" Trotter of Libby for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Trotter joined the United States Army Air Corps at the outbreak of World War II. He was captured by the Japanese during their invasion of the Philippine Islands. During his 40-month captivity, Mr. Trotter endured extreme malnutrition and abuse and witnessed many atrocities. He was repatriated in 1945, shortly before the Japanese formally surrendered.

Stateside, Mr. Trotter continued his service as a member of the VFW, a volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program, and a builder helping to construct a church. At 99 years old, he remains extremely proud of his country.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending LA Trotter for his dedication and service.

#### TRIBUTE TO SANKALP YAMSANI

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sankalp Yamsani. Sankalp and his fellow teammates created the winning app, City Recycle Day, as part of the 2017 Congressional App Challenge. Their team is combined of students who attend Waukee High School and PrairieView Middle School in Waukee, Iowa.

The Congressional App Challenge encourages students to learn how to code through annual district-wide competitions hosted by Members of Congress from their home district. The team's app is entitled "City Recycle Day". It is designed to alert members of a community as to the date of their next trash/recycle pickup day. It also alerts users of special pickups and delays.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Sankalp and his teammates for creating the winning app, and I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Sankalp and his teammates on this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2017*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I missed Thursday's votes to be back in Florida with my wife while she had surgery.

Had I been present, I would have voted: Nay on Roll Call No. 642; Yea on Roll Call No. 643; Yea on Roll Call No. 644; Yea on Roll Call No. 645; Nay on Roll Call No. 646; Nay on Roll Call No. 647; Yea on Roll Call No. 648; and Yea on Roll Call No. 649.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL PFITZENMEYER OF WEST CALN TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA

#### HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2017*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Paul Pfitzenmeyer of West Caln Township, Pennsylvania. Mr. Pfitzenmeyer served honorably in the U.S. Army, was a dedicated employee of Acme Markets, and has committed himself to his community by serving his township's police office, as a volunteer firefighter, EMT, and as Chairman of West Caln Township's Board of Supervisors.

While in the military Mr. Pfitzenmeyer received the Good Conduct and Marksman medals. After finishing his military service in 1964, he returned home to continue serving the public.

Paul began a career with Acme Markets where he remained for 38 years. While working full-time he also spent 25 of those years working at the West Caln Township Police Office. Paul didn't stop there. He also became a volunteer firefighter and EMT then was elected to the Township's Board of Supervisors in 1991. Quickly thereafter he was elected Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and continues to hold the position today. But after serving with distinction for over a quarter century, Paul is stepping down.

I commend Mr. Paul E. Pfitzenmeyer for his tireless dedication to our country and his local community. His work has made him a pillar for the public to depend on. I know West Caln Township will be forever grateful for Paul's steadfast and loyal service.

#### RECOGNIZING RICHARD GALE FOR THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

#### HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2017*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Gale of Bozeman for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Gale served with honor during the Vietnam War as a United States Marine. His service to the nation continued following his military career.

Richard Gale is a pillar of the Bozeman community. He was awarded the President's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015 for his strong commitment to volunteerism.

Mr. Gale is an active member of the Bozeman American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, and eight other organizations. His civic service includes positions on the Bozeman Police Commission and the Gallatin County 9–1–1 Advisory Committee. The Bozeman Elks honored him as the 2017 Veteran of the Year.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Richard Gale for his dedication and service.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2017*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on November 30, 2017, I was not present for votes because I was unavoidably detained due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted: Nay on Roll Call No. 642; Yea on Roll Call No. 643, passage of H.R. 3905, Minnesota's Economic Rights in Superior National Forest Act; Yea on Roll Call No. 644; Yea on Roll Call No. 645; Nay on Roll Call No. 646; Nay on Roll Call No. 647; Yea on Roll Call No. 648; and Yea on Roll Call No. 649.

## TRIBUTE TO SHRIYA MAGATAPALLI

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Shriya Magatapalli. Shriya and her fellow teammates created the winning app, City Recycle Day, as part of the 2017 Congressional App Challenge. Their team is combined of students who attend Waukeez High School and Prairie View Middle School in Waukeez, Iowa.

The Congressional App Challenge encourages students to learn how to code through annual district-wide competitions hosted by Members of Congress from their home district. The team's app is entitled "City Recycle Day". It is designed to alert members of a community as to the date of their next trash/recycle pickup day. It also alerts users of special pickups and delays.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Shriya and her teammates for creating the winning app, and I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Shriya and her teammates on this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

## RECOGNIZING FRANK STOLTZ FOR THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

### HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 1, 2017*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Frank Stoltz of Miles City for the Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Stoltz joined the United States Army Air Corps in 1943 and fought overseas during World War II. He was awarded numerous medals including the Purple Heart and the Prisoner of War Medal. His service to his community, however, did not stop after his discharge in 1945.

Upon his return to Miles City, Mr. Stoltz started his own auto body repair shop and became active in supporting Montana communities through local and statewide business organizations. He also participated in the VFW and ExPOW organizations.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Frank Stoltz for his dedication and service.

## BROWNFIELDS ENHANCEMENT, ECONOMIC REDEVELOPMENT, AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

### HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2017*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letter:

THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES, AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS,

*March 28, 2017.*

Hon. GREG WALDEN, Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. FRANK J. PALLONE, JR., Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER, Chairman, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. PETER DeFAZIO, Ranking Member, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WALDEN, RANKING MEMBER PALLONE, CHAIRMAN SHUSTER AND RANKING MEMBER DeFAZIO: On behalf of the nation's mayors, cities, counties and regions, we strongly encourage you to reauthorize and improve the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields program, which is key for both economic development and job creation in local communities across the country.

Since its creation, the EPA Brownfields program has provided crucial assistance to local governments for reclaiming hazardous, polluted and underutilized properties. To date, there have been over 26,000 brownfields assessments and 1,200 brownfields cleanups

nationally, which has led to over 123,000 jobs. Each of the \$22 billion federal dollars that has been invested since the program was established in 2002 has leveraged approximately \$16 in other investments, close to \$400 billion in total.

While many communities have benefited from brownfields redevelopment efforts under this program, the U.S. Government Accountability Office estimates there are between 400,000 and 600,000 remaining brownfields sites throughout the United States. To build upon these past successes and assist in the cleanup, reuse and redevelopment of remaining sites, some key improvements to the program are needed.

## INCREASE OR MAINTAIN AUTHORIZATION AMOUNTS

While we understand the fiscal challenges and constraints faced by the U.S. Congress, we strongly encourage you to authorize and fully fund the Brownfields program to at least previously authorized levels. The Brownfields program has a proven track record of leveraging additional investments, creating new jobs, and redeveloping new properties, while creating additional tax revenues.

At current appropriation levels, EPA has had to turn away many highly qualified applicants due to a lack of funding. EPA estimates that for the past 5 years, over 1,700 requests for viable projects were not awarded money because of limited funding. EPA estimates that if they were able to provide funding to those turned away applicants, an additional 50,000 jobs would have been created along with \$12 billion of leveraged funding.

Additionally, President Trump has made reinvesting in America and putting people back to work as key priorities for his administration. In order to make this happen and to do so quickly, Congress should utilize existing programs, and we believe that the Brownfields program would be a strong candidate for any type of reinvestment initiative. That is why we urge Congress to increase or at least maintain the current authorization levels for EPA's brownfields program.

## INCREASE OVERALL GRANT FUNDING TO ALLOW COMMUNITIES TO CLEANUP MORE DIFFICULT SITES

Although many brownfield sites have been redeveloped, what remains are brownfield sites that are more difficult to redevelop due to their level of contamination or marketplace conditions. Communities would like the EPA program to be expanded to address the clean up challenges at these more complex sites.

We suggest the following:

**Increase Cleanup Grant Amounts**—Congress should recognize the complexity of the cleanup process for larger or more complicated sites by increasing the funding limit for cleanup of a single site to \$1 million. Under special circumstances, EPA could waive the limit, up to \$2 million per site.

**Establish Multi-Purpose Brownfields Grants**—Congress should allow local governments to have the option to apply for multi-purpose grants that can be used for the full range of brownfields-funded activities (assessment, cleanup, reuse planning, etc.) on a community-wide basis. Applicants should be required to demonstrate a plan and the capacity for using this multi-purpose funding within a set timeline in order to qualify for such funding.

**Allow Funding for Reasonable Administrative Costs for Local Brownfields Programs**—Congress should allow brownfields grant recipients to use a small portion (10 percent) of their grant to cover reasonable administrative costs such as rent, utilities and other costs necessary to carry out a brownfields project.