

sides of the aisle to work together to pass the long-term extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program.

178,000 Pennsylvania children rely on CHIP to get their healthcare, thousands of them in my own district. It is a bipartisan program, and for decades it has continued to earn bipartisan support.

The House did its job last month, passing a 5-year extension of the program, and I am grateful for Chairman WALDEN and his leadership and support for CHIP. But just a few minutes ago, the House passed an extension through March, and that is good, but it is not good enough.

Unless the House and Senate can reach a real agreement, Pennsylvanians and their children will again face the prospect of losing their care, and it isn't right to jeopardize kids in the name of partisan bickering.

We have done a lot on the agenda this week: tax reform for the middle class, keeping the government open, important tasks. But CHIP is important, too, and I say to my friends on both sides of the aisle: Don't let this become a bargaining chip. Get it done.

CALIFORNIA IS ABLAZE

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, right now, my home State of California is ablaze, and the communities of Idyllwild, Anza, and Mountain Center in my district are still bruised from the 2013 wildfires and are on high alert for the next fire.

Today, we passed my bill and delivered a win for our firefighters and victims of fires by increasing Federal funding to recover, rebuild, prevent future fires, and keep communities safe.

The 2013 Mountain Fire in my district burned over 27,000 acres, destroyed homes, and cost over \$25 million. I worked with Cal Fire, Idyllwild Fire Protection District, and Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council to author the bipartisan Wildfire Prevention Act, which will deliver tens of millions of dollars to recover, rebuild, prevent future fires, and keep our communities safe.

This bill puts people above partisanship and solutions above ideology to improve the lives of the people we serve. It makes government work for the people.

Thank you to these incredible local partners for working with me to deliver this pragmatic solution for the district and for the community.

TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that President

Donald Trump and congressional Republicans are delivering on the first meaningful tax cuts in a generation. These tax cuts are in the tradition of Ronald Reagan, allowing American families to keep more of their hard-earned paychecks and creating jobs.

Over 80 percent of hardworking American families will keep more of their own money. As early as February, American families will see more of their own money revealed in their paychecks.

Additionally, by lowering the corporate tax to 21 percent, American businesses will become more competitive overseas and jobs will be created, such as Nephron Pharmaceuticals, led by Lou and Bill Kennedy of Cayce.

I am grateful for the success of Speaker PAUL RYAN, Chairman KEVIN BRADY, and all House Republicans in delivering tax cuts for American families. In the words of the great President Ronald Reagan: "Whenever we lower our tax rates, our entire Nation is better off."

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

I want to thank Ambassador Nikki Haley for standing tall with President Donald Trump for recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

God Bless Guatemala, courageously led by President Jimmy Morales, for being a friend of America today in the United Nations.

IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL STUDIES

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, our public schools and public universities are essential for economic growth and educating future generations.

But knowledge alone is not enough. Our Nation's future depends on innovative ideas, and innovative ideas require diverse people working together. In the public schools and public universities across the country, educators are helping foster diverse ideas through cultural studies.

One such educator, Dr. Antoinette Ellis-Williams of New Jersey City University, has used poetry, film, scholarship, and service as a way to help young people explore issues that affect women and minorities. She has spent her career helping public university students understand the experiences of marginalized communities in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. Ellis-Williams and cultural studies educators like her for helping future leaders develop the knowledge and wisdom to work together for a better future. She has been an asset to educating young people in the State of New Jersey for years, and I commend her.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE WINNER FROM ARKANSAS' SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Congressional App Challenge winner from Arkansas' Second Congressional District, Anne Li.

Currently a sophomore at Central High School in Little Rock, Anne aspires to major in computer engineering and has the goal of pursuing a career in programming.

STEM education is education for the future, and having serious skills in computer programming and coding open up tremendous opportunities for our youth. It gives them the skills to compete in a 21st century job market as well as the skills to act on their imagination and engage in their entrepreneurial exploration.

I wish Anne the very best as she continues her studies at Central High School and beyond in this critical field.

As a member of the Congressional STEM Education Caucus and the dad of a STEM student at the university, I want to continue to support the growth of STEM education throughout Arkansas and America.

SAVE NET NEUTRALITY

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, last week the FCC abdicated its responsibility to serve the public interest and put at risk the free and open internet that we have all come to depend on when its three Republican commissioners voted to repeal the Obama-era net neutrality protection.

Net neutrality keeps access to the internet equal for everyone. It protects free speech. It protects equal access to the marketplace of ideas. It has been the fundamental principle underpinning the massive innovation and opportunity that the internet has unleashed. But that is all at risk now.

Fortunately, Congress has a say. I am proud to support Congressman MIKE DOYLE's resolution to overturn the FCC's decision and restore our net neutrality protections. I also believe the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee should investigate the reports and allegations of fraudulent public comments.

Repealing net neutrality will inhibit innovation, stifle competition, and threaten free speech. It is time for Congress to overturn this decision.

HONORING AMY WRIGHT, 2017 CNN HERO OF THE YEAR

(Mr. ROUZER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Amy Wright, the co-founder of Bitty & Beau's Coffee Shop in Wilmington, North Carolina, on being named CNN Hero of the Year.

When Amy and her husband, Ben, found out that 70 percent of adults living with disabilities do not have jobs, they opened the doors of Bitty & Beau's in January 2016 with the goal of providing these worthy individuals the opportunity to interact, contribute, grow, and succeed in the workplace.

As those in Wilmington know, Bitty & Beau's is more than just a place to grab coffee. It is a warm, inclusive environment with exceptional customer service. Named after their two children who have Down syndrome, the coffee shop employs 40 exceptional individuals with disabilities.

Congratulations to Amy on this very special honor. Her and Ben's contribution to our community and our fellow man is truly remarkable and an inspiration for us all.

HONORING KEVIN LYNCH

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend, Kevin Lynch, who passed away following a 5-year battle with cancer just this week.

Kevin was a great Hoosier, a public servant, a tremendous leader, and a tireless advocate in advancing southeastern Indiana. He served as a Dearborn County commissioner and as the president of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments.

Kevin was a giant Reds fan and a loyal friend, with a positive spirit, quick with a smile, and an encouraging word.

Kevin served Lawrenceburg and Dearborn County with pride, but his most important priority was his family. He was the loving husband to Mary Jo—"Joey"—for 27 years and the proud father of Michael. Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with the entire Lynch family and all those who knew Kevin well.

Congratulations to my good friend Kevin on a tremendous life well done. Godspeed my friend.

□ 1730

HONORING MR. SAM POLLAK

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

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Mr. Sam Pollak on the occasion of his retirement. Mr. Pollak is retiring after 20 years of dedicated service to the Oneonta and Otsego County commu-

nity as editor of the Oneonta Daily Star.

Having worked for decades in newsrooms throughout the Nation, Mr. Pollak brought many years of experience and a proactive leadership to The Daily Star.

I thank Mr. Pollak for his commitment to the people of the State of New York, and I wish him and his wife, Julie, every happiness as they embark upon this new chapter in life.

TAX CUTS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in light of the passage of once-in-a-lifetime, once-in-a-generation tax relief for millions of middle-income families, including the vast majority in my district.

Some, however, are not satisfied with cutting taxes for every income level and are unnerved at the thought of seeing more money in their own monthly paycheck.

I am here to tell those people today that there is a very simple solution to their problem.

As you can see here—outlined on page 92 of the IRS handbook, those individuals who feel right now that they are undertaxed and want to pay more of their income to the U.S. Government can do exactly that. When filing their income tax return, one can simply include a check payable to the Bureau of the Fiscal Service.

The best part is they can help pay down the debt without raising taxes on everyone else—America's hardworking families who deserve a tax break.

So just a reminder, no one is stopping those who are feeling undertaxed from paying as much additional money to the government that they would like. I am sure Uncle Sam would appreciate the Christmas present.

So don't complain about what your neighbor is paying. If you are feeling guilty about it, when you have the opportunity, feel free. Send it in.

UNITED NATIONS JERUSALEM VOTE

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express deep disappointment in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/ES-10/L.22 and state my serious concern over the anti-American and anti-Semitic behaviors of the United Nations.

Today, the United Nations continues its ugly legacy of singling out Israel for condemnation. According to the NGO, UN Watch, 86 percent of the U.N. General Assembly resolutions criticizing countries between 2012 and 2015 have targeted Israel.

It is a sad and confounding sight to watch Syria, North Korea, Cuba, and other human rights abusers degrade our ally, Israel, and attempt to nullify a decision made by the United States regarding our own Embassy.

I applaud Ambassador Haley for her resolute remarks and strength of spirit as she stood against rogue regimes for democratic values and American interests.

I look forward to working with the administration and my colleagues in Congress to reassess our foreign aid commitments and realign them with our values and our strategic interests.

44 YEARS OF HOME RULE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this evening to commemorate 44 years of home rule. The Home Rule Act was signed by President Richard Nixon on Christmas Eve 44 years ago after the Home Rule Act was passed by a bipartisan vote.

Although it was a Democratic Congress, I think it is worth noting what President Nixon said in his signing speech. I am going to quote a few of his sentences:

"As a longtime supporter of self-government for the District of Columbia, I am pleased to sign into law a measure which is of historic significance for the citizens of our Nation's Capital. I first voted for home rule as a Member of the House of Representatives in 1948, and I have endorsed the enactment of home rule legislation during both my terms as President."

Then he went on to say: "It is particularly appropriate to assure those persons who live in our Capital City rights the privileges which have long been enjoyed by most of their countrymen."

The bill enjoyed bipartisan support throughout those congressional deliberations.

Mr. Speaker, surely we can get back to that moment. The District of Columbia is proud and pleased that it has been steeped in American history ever since the site of the Nation's Capital was chosen by George Washington himself.

We are proud to be not only hometown D.C., but the Capital of our country.

So this evening, I want to speak about those two roles and about the role of Congress as we move past December 24, 44 years ago—1973—to today, when D.C. residents have every reason to believe that our country is ready and overdue for D.C. statehood itself.

Now, my Republican colleagues understand fully our role as the Nation's Capital. They understand it because they welcome their own constituents,