

rural and small town America that are more dependent than anybody else on public broadcasting support to be able to maintain that service.

The people who are resisting this reckless administration have this new assignment: resist the budget; make clear to their representatives that it should be dead on arrival; that decades of bipartisan support for vital programs to protect the environment, human services, international humanitarian interest, medical research, even public broadcasting will not be tolerated.

People are making a difference, but America needs all of us to find our voice so that Congress does its job.

PENN STATE EXTENSION IS A VALUABLE SERVICE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of Penn State Extension, which is an educational network that gives the people in Pennsylvania's 67 counties access to the university's resources and expertise, especially its agricultural resources as a land-grant university.

Cooperative extension services began in 1914. The Smith-Lever Act established a system of cooperative extension services connected to the land-grant universities in order to inform people about the current developments in agriculture, home economics, public policy and government, leadership, 4-H, economic development, coastal issues, and many other related subjects. It helped farmers learn new agricultural techniques by the introduction of home instruction.

Since its inception, it has been focused on informal, noncredit adult continuing education. Thus, cooperative extension is not a service, but a scholarly content-driven educational mission of the university. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, State, and county governments. Through these county-based partnerships, Penn State Extension educators, faculty, and local volunteers work together to share unbiased, research-based information with local residents.

Penn State Extension can help you become a master gardener. It helps teach families how to prepare and preserve food safely. It can help you learn about how to start a home-based business or how to properly prepare tax forms. Penn State Extension helps individuals, families, businesses, and communities throughout Pennsylvania with information and a broad range of educational programs.

Everyone in the community can tap into the assets and information of our major research university, and there are numerous ways to learn. You can attend an educational event, take an

online course, read a publication, or speak face-to-face with an extension educator. There is no shortage of learning opportunities with Penn State Extension.

Mr. Speaker, this is just one way that Penn State is extending knowledge and improving the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians. The programs are very localized and touch every county in the State through 21 separate districts. Extension is particularly helpful to farmers and those involved in the agriculture industry, which is Pennsylvania's number one economic driver.

Whether you are a beginning farmer or you have a few years under your belt, it is good to know you are not in the farming world alone. Extension activities can help connect you with others to share ideas, trials, and tribulations. In fact, Federal cooperative extension programs have helped more than 137,000 farmers stay in business just since 1985. Without cooperative extension and the underlying research, researchers have estimated that the country would have lost 28 percent more farmers than those who actually left agriculture.

Who would feed us? Who would provide that food, fiber, building materials, even forms of energy that our farmers and farm families do today?

By design, extension is locally directed and responsive to the needs of local communities. I am grateful that Penn State is one of those land-grant universities and can offer this service to the public. It helps keep our local farmers abreast of the most up-to-date information that impacts the industry and impacts the lives of families. It helps promote lifelong learning and provides invaluable support and assistance to our communities. That is something for which we can all be very proud.

AN IMMIGRANT STORY

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share the story of a family that I have come to know. They came from a humble place, scraping by. Amidst instability in their native land, they could barely keep food on their table. For years, their government ignored their struggle and suffering. Like so many others, they dreamed of a better life in America.

Finally, they managed to cobble together enough money to make the dangerous journey to our shores. Yet, once here, they discovered that life wasn't so easy. They were resented for their accents, their faith, and their foreign ways. Doors were slammed in their faces when they sought work.

So they worked harder. They leaned on each other and those who came before. They forged a community and they organized. They built churches,

businesses, and schools. Slowly but surely, they began to enjoy some measure of success and stability.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that there are Garcias or Asgaris or Rodriguezes that share that same story, but the one I tell is not theirs.

This family's name is Kennedy. Struggling immigrants whose quest for a better life took them from Ireland's potato famine to Boston's immigrant barrios. It is the ageless story of a young man looking for a better future, of a family in search of a safe place to settle down, of the sacrifice that any parent would make for the benefit of their children. And it has been repeated millions of times in every corner of our world in the over 150 years since my ancestors fled their home to find a new one.

My father has a memory of my great-grandmother, Rose, that he shared with me once. He was playing outside with friends one day when she called him in. As he fidgeted around and impatiently tried to sit still, she pulled out a big scrapbook and flipped to a stack of carefully folded newspapers in the back. One after another, she opened them up to the help wanted section. There, she pointed to ad after ad marked in big block letters: No Irish need apply.

My great-grandmother's message was clear: Don't forget where you came from, don't forget the blood and the sweat and the tears that generations before you have shed so that you would never feel the sting of prejudice.

For my family and so many others, this became a deeply personal fight. In July of 1964, a young Attorney General named Robert Kennedy sat in front of the House Judiciary Committee. There, my grandfather urged Congress to act on immigration reform. Our system, he said, "is a source of embarrassment to us around the world, it is a source of anguish to many of our own citizens, it is a source of loss to the economic and creative strength of our nation as a whole, it is inconsistent with our principles and out of step with our history."

The opposition that he and other advocates have faced half a century ago sounds eerily familiar to so many of us today: Immigrants will flood our cities and towns. They will take American jobs. They will poison American culture. They aren't from here. They aren't like us. They are somebody else's babies.

Fifty years later, the opposition still hasn't updated their talking points. Fifty years later, our broken immigration system is still a source of embarrassment, but worse, of anguish and of loss. Fifty years later, we face a threat unlike almost any we have seen in recent history: a President who has built an entire campaign—and now an administration—on the scapegoating of immigrant families.

We have watched President Trump threaten our most fundamental American values with border walls and bad

hombres. We have heard his racial epithets. We have seen cold-hearted executive orders. We have stood in horror as his administration sweeps the country with raids that appear unprecedented in their utter disregard for family, community, and common decency.

That is why I stand here today, on the eve of St. Patrick's Day, the proud son of Irish immigrants and the humble beneficiary of our country's golden doors, to deliver a message to immigrant families: President Trump does not speak for all of us, and his immigration policies are opposed by leaders in Washington who do not take your patriotism for granted. We are grateful for your contribution to our communities, our culture, and our economy. We understand your willingness to walk to the ends of the Earth, to navigate oceans and mountains and deserts and war zones because every parent would do the same. We know what you have risked to give them a better future and what you have sacrificed to be a part of our United States. We stand by your side in the fight ahead.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

THE NEED FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the need for bipartisan and comprehensive immigration reform. I am disappointed by President Trump's actions on immigration during his first 2 months in office. I do not say that lightly, because I want this President to succeed, as I want every President to succeed, because if they succeed, so does our country.

But the President's comments and actions to implement policies that don't hold up American values has me feeling very uneasy. To say the least, his erratic statements made on domestic and foreign policy, that he has either taken back or corrected, demonstrates a lack of diplomatic experience. For example, issuing an executive order to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexican border is not a real solution to fixing our broken immigration system. It does little, if anything, to improve our national security, and it would only hurt trade relations with Mexico, which would have a very serious economic impact not only on American exporters, but especially California's agriculture industry.

Additionally, the Trump administration's directives to deport undocumented immigrants, regardless of how long they have lived here and the contributions they have made to our society, is a strong example of the President's implementing policy that not only is flawed from a human rights perspective, but it is going to have a negative impact on our economy as well.

President Trump is forcing over 11 million individuals who have lived in the United States for decades deeper into the shadows of our communities. They are scared to go to work, scared to go to school, and scared to live their lives. California's agriculture industry relies heavily on a workforce of individuals who are undocumented and work every single day to accomplish the American Dream for themselves and their families. These individuals are not only contributing to the agriculture industry, but they are also students, entrepreneurs, and businessowners.

Furthermore, implementing an executive order to ban travel to the United States is not the American way. As many people in my district are aware, President Trump's first travel ban prohibited a 12-year-old girl, Eman, and her U.S. citizen father from coming home to the United States, and his order put them in harm's way while they waited in Djibouti.

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Last month, a Federal appeals court ruled to block that executive order travel ban. Four weeks ago, father and daughter finally came back to Los Banos to rejoin their family.

Our President and his team had to go back to the drawing board, as we know, to issue a new executive order. And just last night, his second executive order to ban travel was blocked.

The Trump administration claims that the flawed executive orders are:

One, a vital measure for protecting national security;

Two, work to improve the vetting process; and

Three, that the United States has a right to vet people who are entering the country and keep people out who are doing us harm.

I agree that we need to work together to protect national security. The Federal Government is obligated to keep our country safe and vet people who enter this country. And guess what? Thorough and rigorous vetting policies are already in place, and they have been going back to the Bush administration ever since 9/11. That is nothing new. My office receives casework on a weekly basis regarding visas that are being extremely vetted and individuals who are waiting for years to get the proper visa to come to this country. That is extreme vetting.

I strongly encourage the President to work with us in Congress and implement a policy that actually strengthens our national security, upholds our national security, and upholds our American values that we all cherish. Working together on a bipartisan basis, we can fix our Nation's broken immigration system. Working together, we can make important investments in our infrastructure, and we should. Working together, we can reform our tax system so it is simple and fair. Working together, we can negotiate a farm bill that provides benefits for all

Americans. Working together, we can fix the Affordable Care Act.

Clearly, in regards to the ACA, my Republican friends have decided to go at it alone. That is too bad.

I stand ready to work with the President on a bipartisan basis on all of the above, but the President must reach out. I sincerely want our President to do well because that is what is in the best interest of our country, as I want every American President to do well. But it will not happen. It will not happen, my colleagues, my friends, unless we work together.

MASSIVE TAX BREAKS FOR THE WEALTHY

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

Mr. DEFazio. Mr. Speaker, over the last 7 years, we have heard a lot from the Republicans about repeal and replace. They voted some 67 times to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which they call ObamaCare.

We have seen their so-called replacement plan. Actually, it is a plan to gut the Affordable Care Act and stuff through massive tax breaks for the wealthy. What is new? That is the number one, two, and three priority of the current Republican majority here in the House of Representatives.

They got an analysis Monday. It was a little discouraging, but not really. The Speaker touted the fact it would reduce the deficit by \$377 billion. Sure, if you take away health care from 24 million people, you can save some money on that end, but you lose a lot on the other end with families going bankrupt. The most frequent cause of bankruptcy in America was an uninsured healthcare emergency before the Affordable Care Act.

Small rural hospitals will be closing their doors all across America if this bill goes through. And even the larger hospitals, having to give more uninsured care to people in crisis, will be having to jack up prices, and, of course, that means higher premiums for everybody else. Back to the good old days of freedom to choose. In this case, their freedom to choose bankruptcy, or death, or who knows what else, under this plan.

They have really painted a target on older Americans. They are going to allow the healthcare insurance industry—which, by the way, is exempt from antitrust law, so it is not competitive. They keep saying: Competition and choice. How do you have competition when an industry does, and is, allowed to collude to set prices to exclude certain areas or people from coverage or certain diseases from coverage? They can do that all behind closed doors. It is legal for that industry. And they will not include a provision to take away their antitrust immunity as part of this bill.

So they are going to allow insurance companies to charge anybody age 50 or