

gone. We also thank the Christ Lutheran Church and many other community organizations and partners that have come together to assist these families who have lost so much so unexpectedly.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, thank you to Overland Park Fire Department Chief Bryan Dehner and all of the fire-fighters in Kansas who came together to contain the largest fire in Overland Park history.

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT MAKES US INSECURE

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the American Health Care Act and the repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act 7 years ago, in my district, the uninsured rate has dropped from 19 percent to 9 percent. In my district, there has been the creation and the funding of 6,500 jobs in local hospitals and rural healthcare clinics.

Yet, despite this progress in my community and across our country, the majority wants to replace the ACA with a quickly and carelessly crafted AHCA.

If the AHCA becomes law, in my district, 56,000 people will lose their healthcare coverage. In Salinas, hard-working families will pay more than \$3,000 for healthcare coverage; and in Santa Cruz, low-income senior citizens will be stripped of \$10,000 worth of subsidies.

Yes, the ACA does have its faults, but we should come together to thoughtfully fix it. But it is not just about money; it is about people. And it is not just about people; it is about the security that the ACA provides people to live their daily lives.

Mr. Speaker, the AHCA makes us insecure, and that is why I am voting against it.

ACA AND THE STRONGER GENERATION

(Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the President and I do agree on one thing: designing a healthcare system is complicated.

But the effects of TrumpCare are as simple as they are devastating: 24 million hardworking Americans will lose their coverage; your healthcare costs and premiums will go up, and your coverage will go down; and for those of us between the ages of 50 and 64, we are about to be hit with an age tax just when we need coverage the most, just when we are trying to help with college tuition and save for our retirement. As we face an opiate crisis in this country that takes 120 American lives a day,

TrumpCare will close the door on treatment for over 1 million Americans.

Our President tells us that he is a dealmaker. This is the ultimate bad deal for the American people, and we should reject this bill.

STAND AS PATRIOTS AGAINST TRUMPCARE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this morning I came in contact with two mothers of two young boys who are homebound with catastrophic illnesses. My heart broke as I listened to them say: The only way that I survive to see their happy face and I can work is because they have insurance through extensive Medicaid.

And so I come today to ask my friends on the other side of the aisle not to worry about threats about losing your office or your job. This is about patriotism and being an American. Vote against this horrible TrumpCare debacle that will create higher cost, less coverage, and an age tax that will hurt the old and devastate the young.

This is a time for the flag to be waved and for patriots to stand and to be heard across America. Vote down TrumpCare not for self and selfishness, but really to be able to stand with those who cannot help themselves.

I wanted to embrace those mothers as a mother, as a grandmother, because we are giving life to those beautiful children, now 9 and 10, living because they got health care under the Affordable Care Act. Stand as a patriot against TrumpCare.

WINNERS IN TRUMPCARE BILL

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I understand that major laws often have winners and losers. Unfortunately, I am struggling to figure out who wins under this healthcare plan.

We have seen who stands to lose: 24 million fewer people will have insurance; States will lose billions, forcing painful cuts to education and other services; California, alone, will lose \$6 billion in 2020 and much more in the years that follow; hospitals and clinics will have to cut back on services and investments.

So, who are the winners? It is hard to find any, except, of course, for insurance companies and millionaires who will get almost all of the tax relief included in this package.

Do Americans really think that we should pass a bill that cuts coverage in order to give millionaires an average tax cut of \$49,000?

We can do better. I hope we will.

BEWARE OF TRUMPCARE

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I stand here with this simple explanation about what TrumpCare really means for Americans: You pay more for less care.

Twenty-four million Americans will lose the access to health care by losing their insurance. It is an age tax on older Americans; and it guts Medicaid that not only goes to seniors now, it goes to young people as well, young families.

But it is also a huge tax cut for millionaires.

If you look at TrumpCare, you realize the great supposed negotiator actually has a great reputation of being the great bankrupter.

What this TrumpCare will do: It will affect tens of millions of Americans, and it will put them into misery, take away the dignity of health care and put them in a place that no one should ever have to be: lacking the dignity of being able to see a doctor. This is going to send us back to the Dark Ages.

You probably think I am exaggerating, but when you look at these facts, you realize that is just the truth. These are the facts.

Beware of what you are being sold. This is not going to help America.

□ 1230

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 22, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 22, 2017, at 9:12 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 69.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 22, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of

the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 22, 2017, at 11:22 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1228.

That the Senate passed with amendment H.R. 244.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

TERRORIST AND FOREIGN FIGHTER TRAVEL EXERCISE ACT OF 2017

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1302) to require an exercise related to terrorist and foreign fighter travel, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1302

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel Exercise Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. EXERCISE ON TERRORIST AND FOREIGN FIGHTER TRAVEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to, or as part of exercise programs currently carried out by the Department of Homeland Security, to enhance domestic preparedness for and collective response to terrorism, promote the dissemination of homeland security information, and test the security posture of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security, through appropriate offices and components of the Department and in coordination with the relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, develop and conduct an exercise related to the terrorist and foreign fighter threat.

(b) EXERCISE REQUIREMENTS.—The exercise required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a scenario involving—

(A) persons traveling from the United States to join or provide material support or resources to a terrorist organization abroad; and

(B) terrorist infiltration into the United States, including United States citizens and foreign nationals; and

(2) coordination with relevant Federal departments and agencies, foreign governments, and State, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector stakeholders.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the completion of the exercise required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, consistent with the protection of classified information, submit an after-action report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-

resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate presenting the initial findings of such exercise, including any identified or potential vulnerabilities in United States defenses and any legislative changes requested in light of the findings. The report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “material support or resources” has the meaning given such term in section 2339A of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 3. EMERGING THREATS IN THE NATIONAL EXERCISE PROGRAM.

Subparagraph (A) of section 648(b)(2) of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 748(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in clause (v), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) by adding after clause (vi) the following new clause:

“(vii) designed, to the extent practicable, to include exercises addressing emerging terrorist threats, such as scenarios involving United States citizens departing the United States to enlist with or provide material support or resources to terrorist organizations abroad or terrorist infiltration into the United States, including United States citizens and foreign nationals; and”.

SEC. 4. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act and the amendments made by this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1302, the Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel Exercise Act.

This legislation furthers the efforts that I and several of my colleagues on the House Homeland Security Committee engaged in last Congress as members of the bipartisan Task Force on Combating Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel. For 6 months, our task force investigated our security vulnerabilities and the threat posed by ISIS. Our work produced 32 key findings and over 50 recommendations to make Americans safer.

In our findings, the task force found that the growing complexity and changing nature of the foreign fighter phenomenon may be creating unseen gaps in our defenses. Yet, it has been years since any large-scale stress test has been conducted on U.S. Government protection and prevention programs against terrorist travel.

The last major government exercise on terrorist travel occurred in 2009 when the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, conducted an exercise focused on the aftermath of a national terrorist event outside of the United States and how to prevent subsequent efforts by the terrorists to enter the United States and carry out additional attacks. The objective of the exercise was to determine how government agencies at all levels would respond in such an environment.

However, the threat environment has changed considerably and relying on information gathered during an exercise that took place nearly a decade ago is simply unacceptable and puts American lives at risk.

The exercise conducted in 2009 also focused primarily on terrorists attempting to infiltrate the United States. However, our task force found that officials today should be just as concerned about Americans leaving the country to train overseas with terrorist groups as foreign fighters and then come back.

The ability of these hardened fighters to return to the United States is a legitimate security threat to the homeland. Catching individuals who are looking to join the ranks and train with ISIS and other terrorist organizations prior to their initial departure is equally important and should be a goal for law enforcement as well.

As such, H.R. 1302 would require that the executive branch conduct an exercise to evaluate the Nation’s preparedness against all phases of foreign fighter planning and travel. Carrying out such attacks would be beneficial in understanding how partners at all levels of government and abroad are currently responding to these scenarios.

We must take decisive action to defeat the threat of ISIS and other terrorist organizations. The findings of the exercise required by this legislation will identify weaknesses at home and abroad that may be exploited by terrorists and foreign fighters, particularly to infiltrate the United States to conduct attacks. These findings will also be provided to Congress and Federal law enforcement and intelligence officials to provide information on how we can best address these weaknesses.

Passage of the Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel Exercise Act today represents continued action by this body to fight against ISIS and ensure we keep Americans safe. I urge all Members to join me in supporting this commonsense, bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, March 10, 2017.

Hon. MICHAEL T. McCUAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN McCUAUL: I write concerning H.R. 1302, the “Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel Exercise Act of 2017.” This