

Fairness Act. That law would strengthen the Equal Pay Act by requiring employers to demonstrate that wage differences are not due to gender, and they would hold employers accountable for discriminatory actions.

This bill, which I proudly cosponsored, is only one step forward. Congress must also pass legislation to address family leave and fight to protect a woman's right to choose, because, ultimately, the challenges and burdens women face are shared by all Americans, and when half of our citizenry is in any way impeded from their full potential, all of our country suffers.

MICHIGAN FARMERS AND TRUCKERS AID WILDFIRE VICTIMS

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

MR. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the selfless actions of farmers in my district and across Michigan. In early March, wildfires spread through Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Colorado, devastating families and destroying crops and livestock—farmers' income for next year.

Hearing of the devastation, Michigan farmers and truckers mobilized quickly to bring aid to the farmers in need of immediate assistance. Selfless individuals have donated their resources, including over 250 bales of hay, fencing, cattle feed, financial support, and more. Convoys of volunteers, farmers, and truckers have volunteered their time and their vehicles to drive these resources hundreds of miles to affected areas. Farmers in 68 of 83 Michigan counties have donated supplies or driven to deliver aid, and their efforts are expanding. This weekend, 50 students from Sanilac County 4-H are delivering aid to Ashland.

These selfless acts are truly inspiring and humbling. I am proud to recognize their efforts and was happy to be able to aid some of these efforts by getting permits issued for their travel.

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

MS. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it is Equal Pay Day, and I am privileged to rise in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act today. This legislation would strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 by ensuring that women can hold employers accountable for what they earn and challenge discrimination. Representative ROSA DELAURU has introduced this bill for two decades, which is two decades too long.

Women in Ohio make 75 cents for every dollar a man makes, which is unacceptable. It is time we close the decades-old loophole that prevents the United States from closing this gender pay gap once and for all.

The Paycheck Fairness Act would close loopholes in the Equal Pay Act of

1963, by holding employers accountable for discriminatory practices. The bill would end the practice of pay secrecy, ease workers' ability to individually or jointly challenge pay discrimination, and strengthen the available remedies for wronged employees.

President Trump said on equal pay: "If they do the same job, they should get the same pay." Boy, do I agree. So let's make it happen.

WAS SURVEILLANCE OF TRUMP ILLEGAL?

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

MR. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, criminal laws may well have been broken when the Obama administration conducted surveillance of candidate and then-President-elect Trump and those close to him, including his family members.

It is reported that a former national security adviser under President Obama ordered the names of Trump associates to be revealed rather than kept confidential, as would normally be the case with any American citizen.

This exposing and disseminating personal information may well have been a criminal act. A serious question is: Who authorized the surveillance in the first place? To direct intelligence or law enforcement agencies to conduct surveillance of political opponents is a violation of the Constitution and a threat to our democracy. But the Obama administration wrongfully asked the IRS to target conservative organizations, so anything is possible.

One thing is for sure—the American people need to learn a lot more about what the Obama administration did and who did it.

NEW YORK IS NUMBER ONE IN CLOSING THE GAP

(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, think all the way back to New Year's Day—94 days ago—and contemplate for just a moment the fact that if a full-time working woman were to take all of the money she made between way back then and today, and she added that to what she had made working all of last year, well, she just now would have an amount equal to what a typical man made just last year. Well, welcome to Equal Pay Day.

The exact size of the gender pay gap can vary. It tends to be smaller when you are younger, worse when you are older, and worse still if you are a woman of color. Even where you choose to live can make a difference.

My thanks to the Democratic staff of the Joint Economic Committee, where I sit as the ranking member, for producing a new report that updates all these numbers, as well as State-by-State numbers on the gender wage gap.

I encourage all my colleagues to take a look at this report to see just how your State is doing. The best news I read all day was that New York State is number one. That was good news.

RECOGNIZING GREENBERG TRAURIG

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greenberg Traurig, an iconic law firm located in my congressional district whose growth, over the past 50 years, has been symbolic of the growth of our south Florida community.

In 1967, attorneys Larry Hoffman, Mel Greenberg, and Robert Traurig saw an opportunity to capitalize on south Florida's emergence as a center of global commerce and joined together to found the law firm Greenberg Traurig Hoffman. Over time, these visionaries played an important role in defining the south Florida skyline and its corporate landscape. Now their firm has expanded across Florida, across our country, and even internationally.

Fifty years after its founding, Greenberg Traurig today has more than 2,000 attorneys practicing in 38 locations on three continents. With a culture strongly rooted in providing legal excellence for clients and an unparalleled commitment to community service, Greenberg Traurig prospered and grew alongside Miami to the extent that both are now global influencers.

I am truly proud to have Greenberg Traurig, founded in my congressional district, as a continued partner in the growth of south Florida, and I wish the firm another 50 years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING ZACH MAIORANA AND HIS BATTLE WITH CYSTIC FIBROSIS

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my constituent, Zach Maiorana, and his ongoing battle with cystic fibrosis. At birth, Zach was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis and has been courageously battling this condition for the past 2½ years.

Cystic fibrosis is a complex, genetic disease that primarily affects the lungs and digestive systems. Those diagnosed with CF require intensive daily treatment and regular physician visits to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Despite this diagnosis, Zach and his family have channeled their determination into becoming advocates for those impacted by cystic fibrosis—a true testament to their perseverance and will to live their lives to the fullest extent possible.

Now it is up to us. This Congress can be the one to prioritize research and

funding to combat this disease and continue making progress. In 1955, children born with CF likely would not make it through elementary school. Today, more than half of those living with CF are older than age 18, and many are living into their thirties, forties, and beyond. Investment into new therapies for this disease and continuous focus on improvement have made promising gains for those suffering with CF.

I commend Zach and the entire Maiorana family for their strength, and I hope that my colleagues will stand up to cystic fibrosis and advocate for all those who are affected in this country.

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JOBS AND TRADE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) in the beginning of our Special Order this evening.

REMEMBERING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I commend Representative KAPTUR for her outstanding leadership in this Congress and past Congresses. She has been a beacon of hope for so many of my constituents and so many poor and disenfranchised Americans. She never cowered in the face of those who restrict the rights of all.

Ms. KAPTUR has been my friend and someone whom I have shared so many conversations with about justice and fighting for justice, creating a nation where all people have the opportunity to have freedom, justice, and equality. I want to commend her for being such a stalwart battler for the people of America.

Mr. Speaker, today marks the 49th anniversary of one of the darkest days in the history of this Nation: the day that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., America's drum major for justice, was assassinated.

Dr. King was murdered while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968. He was there to advocate for the rights of Black sanitation workers who were fighting for their dignity: for equal pay, for equal treatment, and for racial justice in the American workplace.

In one of the dimmest hours in our history, a voice of reason, a voice of mercy, a voice of compassion, a voice for justice, a voice of the beloved community was silenced. Yet, Mr. Speaker, his work to hold the United States to its constitutional promises that are rooted in the very fabric of our Declaration of Independence remains largely incomplete.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, America remains a divided nation, even more so now. We are tremendously disconnected from the ideals set forth by Dr. King's monumental "I Have a Dream" speech. Today, we still live in two Americas: one white and privileged, another filled with people of color, the poor, the disabled, and those lost in the margins, where people of color—Black and Brown—continue to be judged by the color of their skin rather than the content of their character.

In the year 2017, Mr. Speaker, we find the names of countless men and women who have lost their lives at the hands of too many law enforcement officials and too many police departments all across this country. Those individuals, Mr. Speaker, are now etched in the social justice history of this Nation because they were first judged by the color of their skin and not by the content of their character.

The list is far-reaching, Mr. Speaker. I am speaking of Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Freddie Gray, Laquan McDonald, Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, Rekia Boyd, Tanisha Anderson, Yvette Smith, Shereese Francis, and, lastly, 4-year-old Aiyana Stanley-Jones and so many, many others. I could go on and on and on, but the names of the men, women, and children victimized by errant and wayward police departments all across this Nation would keep us here for days, even months, if we were to recite them all.

These stalwart young citizens are joined also by the many martyrs who lost their lives in the struggle for American justice, just like Dr. King: Viola Liuzzo; Emmett Till; Jimmie Lee Jackson; Medgar Evers; Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner; the four little girls in Birmingham, Alabama; Fred Hampton; and many, many others who gave their lives during the fifties and sixties.

In my hometown of Chicago, Mr. Speaker, the killing of Laquan McDonald rocked our city and the Nation by pulling the scab off a festering wound of police relations and the Black community.

McDonald's death by 16 shots from a single police weapon fired by a police officer led to multiple investigations of previous police-involved shootings and also sparked the investigation by the United States Department of Justice under then-Attorney General Loretta Lynch and the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. That investigation concluded that the Chicago Police Department officers engage "in a pattern or practice of using force, including deadly force," that is a unreasonable. This report also found the Chicago Police Department has failed to hold officers accountable when they use force contrary to Department policy or otherwise commit misconduct.

To put it bluntly, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Justice found and reported that the Chicago Police Department engages in force in violation of the United States Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today because I am just beside myself. I am angry. I am so fed up, Mr. Speaker, because I learned recently that Attorney General Jefferson Sessions has issued a memorandum ordering officials at the Justice Department to review police reform consent agreements all across the country, including the agreement that is being negotiated with the City of Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation has fallen so very, very far. Dr. King's dream has not been realized in this Nation. The day before his assassination—this Attorney General has retreated so very, very far from the high ideals of American justice.

It is proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that police agencies—not all police officers, not all agencies, not all departments—but there are too many police departments, too many law enforcement officials, too many police officers who have wantonly killed innocent young men of color in this Nation, and it did not just begin in this year. It has been going on for decades. We are now at a point where some departments have been placed under a consent decree. The U.S. Attorney is now trying to retreat from that pattern.

I am here, Mr. Speaker, to ask—to demand—that Attorney General Sessions retreat from his position, that he stop this memorandum from circulating in the department, and that he see the light of day that many innocent American citizens are being killed because of the wayward actions of those police officers who think that they are above the law. They can't just continue to kill wantonly and think that they are above the American law and the American Constitution.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Congressman RUSH is always calling the Nation to its higher principles. I thank him so very much for sharing our Special Order this evening.

Congressman DAVID CICILLINE of Rhode Island is here on the floor. I also want to thank Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI for sharing his hour with us.

The focus tonight really is on jobs and trade, an issue on the mind of millions and millions of Americans. We have been joined by Congressman BRENDAN BOYLE of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as well.

I will place this up for the Nation to see. It is a chart showing just U.S. trade relations with Mexico and Canada and what has happened since the deal was negotiated back in the early 1990s. It was also prepared before that, during the 1980s, when the United States actually had some trade surpluses on this continent with both Canada and Mexico.

This shows, in 1994, when NAFTA was actually enacted. You could see the United States begin to kind of fall into deficit. Then we had just a precipitous trade deficit, including the collapse of the peso after the NAFTA trade agreement was signed.