

2017; “Yea,” on rollcall 238, passage of H.R. 1312—Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act; and “Yea,” on rollcall 239, passage of H.R. 657—Follow the Rules Act.

RECOGNIZING MEG DALY

(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 to congratulate Meg Daly, who is the founder of The Underline, a wonderful 10-mile linear park and urban trail in my congressional district that will serve to connect hundreds of Americans across Miami-Dade County through safe, alternative methods of transportation.

In 2013, Meg had an unfortunate accident that broke both of her arms. Since she couldn’t drive herself to attend physical therapy, she took the Metrorail near her home and walked underneath the train tracks to reach her destination. That is when Meg took notice of the underutilized land right below the Metrorail and envisioned its transformative potential for community mobility, positive economic impact, and enhanced quality of life.

The Underline counts with overwhelming support across Miami-Dade, providing for a safe and healthy space for our community members to express themselves. From free yoga classes to artistic festivals to projects to restore Miami’s urban green space, each day The Underline is getting closer to becoming what Meg has envisioned.

Congratulations to one of our community’s leaders, Meg Daly.

□ 1915

DISABILITY DISCHARGE OF PARENT PLUS LOANS

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the PLUS Loan Disability Forgiveness Act, a bill to relieve the burden of student loan debt on parents whose children become permanently disabled. While most student loans are forgiven if a student becomes totally and permanently disabled, parent PLUS loans are not.

It is simply wrong that a parent struggling with a child’s disability is not afforded the same loan forgiveness as other borrowers. My bill would extend disability discharge to parent PLUS loans. It would allow families to focus on healing, not servicing debt. It would help lighten the \$1.4 trillion owed by student borrowers and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these parents, who are just trying to help their children succeed.

MODERN DAY SLAVERY IN LIBYA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, after the United States toppled the Government of Libya, the nation became a failed state, one that is a brothel of slavery. Fleeing persecution from terrorists and vast famine, west Africans hand their life savings over to drivers who will take them to Niger, then off to Europe. But these refugees are labor trafficked as slaves to Libya instead. They are bound to the slave block and sold at the auction of slavery.

The slave drivers force them to work inside private prisons for little or no food. Meanwhile, the slave masters demand ransoms from the families. If the families don’t pay the ransom, the refugees are sold again to larger prisons and the demand doubles. If the ransom is never paid, the slaves are eventually murdered.

Mr. Speaker, human slavery still exists in north Africa, and it is a scourge on humanity. But the United States should be very careful about taking out a regime like it did in Libya without understanding the long-term consequences like what happened in Libya.

And that is just the way it is.

PRESIDENT OBAMA’S LEGACY

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important parts of President Obama’s legacy is the recognition that Americans should not be discriminated against based on pre-existing conditions. This principle was enshrined in law by the Affordable Care Act, and now millions of Americans across the political spectrum support these vital protections. Even yesterday, President Trump, an avowed opponent of the Affordable Care Act, stated unequivocally that he was opposed to discrimination based on preexisting conditions.

The bill under consideration by this House, the American Health Care Act, does not represent that same bipartisan principle. My colleagues are advancing a measure that would let States turn back the clock for millions of Americans and begin that discrimination again.

Today, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill for the sake of all those it would harm. For the sake of anyone who has survived cancer, battled diabetes, or was simply born a woman, I urge you, vote “no.”

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL WEEK

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Charter Schools Week and the 25th anniversary of the opening of the very first charter school.

With nearly 3 million students attending public charter schools across the country, 43 States, and the District of Columbia, it is the fastest growing choice option in public education. Minnesota is a leader in developing new innovative ways to educate our students and was the very first State to allow charter schools. Today, Minnesota has 164 charter schools that serve about 57,000 students in kindergarten through the 12th grade. Our State usually ranks among the top in having charter school friendly laws and developing high quality and independent charter school options.

As co-chair of the Charter School Caucus, I believe it is important that we do continue to create and develop this educational option. America will continue to lead the world in innovation and ideas if our students receive the best education possible from early childhood all the way through graduate school, and that means ensuring a child’s ZIP Code does not determine the outcome of their education and the quality of their education.

TELL ME IT ISN’T SO

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, a few of us were at the United Nations this morning and this afternoon, and what we heard most was the importance of empowering women in developing countries who have experienced violence, sexual violence. Tell me it isn’t so that the President of the United States has discontinued Let Girls Learn, fostered and supported by Mrs. Obama, which is an important key element of the Peace Corps, which is attempting to help these girls learn and empower them.

Tell me it isn’t so that the President of the United States, not recognizing the Constitution and freedom of speech, is trying to expand or change the libel laws that if you don’t like what they say about you as a politician, you can undermine and you can charge First Amendment privilege, First Amendment press, and others with a violation of those laws.

Tell me it isn’t so that America is going back on her values and her commitment to helping people around the world, particularly vulnerable women and children, and, of course, denigrating the First Amendment and the freedom of the press. Tell me it isn’t so.

FLEXIBILITY FOR WORKERS

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1180, the

Working Families Flexibility Act, introduced by my friend, the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY). The House will be considering the bill later this week to give private sector employees the same flexibility offered to many local, State, and Federal Government workers that have had it for many years now.

The legislation will give employees the option of choosing to receive compensatory time off from their employers instead of overtime wages. It does not change the 40-hour workweek, and it does not weaken employee protections. We are simply giving American workers more choice.

The bill does not allow for employees to coerce anyone into choosing one option over another. It would be a voluntary decision made between the employer and the employee. Everyone needs flexibility in their schedule to balance between work and personal time, and we should be giving American workers the option to choose what is most important to them: overtime wages or time off. It should be their decision, not the government's.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 1180, the Working Families Flexibility Act.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S BROKEN PROMISES

(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, add job creation and infrastructure to the list of President Trump's broken promises. After 102 days in office, the so-called "greatest jobs President that God ever created" has failed to present a single job or infrastructure bill.

At the same time, his slash-and-burn budget would cut investments in job growth and infrastructure, imposing a \$2.4 billion cut on the U.S. Department of Transportation. Included in those cuts are drastic reductions of the Federal support for Amtrak and the outright elimination of the TIGER grant program.

The President's budget proposal also phases out the New Starts grant program, making critical infrastructure projects, including New Jersey and New York's Gateway Program ineligible for Federal funding needed to move forward.

As I speak, New Jersey rail commuters are probably facing massive delays and disruptions to their already nightmarish commute. President Trump's proposed cuts to vital Federal infrastructure programs will only make the problem worse. It has been an ugly 102 days for President Trump, and, unless he tackles jobs and infrastructure, as promised, it is going to get uglier.

HONORING MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on May 1 to recognize Silver Star Service Banner Day. Today is a day when we honor the service and sacrifice of our Active-Duty men and women from all branches of the service from all wars. Silver Star Service Banner Day started in 2007 and is sponsored by the Silver Star Families of America, which is dedicated to supporting and assisting wounded, ill, injured, and dying Active-Duty veterans and their families.

May is also National Military Appreciation Month. All month long, we have the opportunity to honor, remember, recognize, and appreciate those who serve and have served. Our military men and women continue to play a major role in the development of our country documented through a history of uncompromising honor, dedication to duty, and genuine love of country.

Personally, I am a proud military dad, as my son Logan continues to serve in the United States Army and my daughter-in-law, Carley, is now a veteran. Mr. Speaker, we are the home of the free because of the brave, and I want to thank all who serve this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, only two individuals have ever offered to willingly die for you. One was Jesus Christ and the other was the American soldier. One died for your soul, the other died for your freedom.

THANK YOU TO CONGRESSWOMAN ROS-LEHTINEN

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as the senior woman in the U.S. House, I wanted to say thank you to Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, the senior Republican woman in the House, and to say with poignance I received her decision recently to retire from our beloved House.

ILEANA has been the first Cuban American elected to Congress, the first Latina elected to Congress, and the first Republican woman from Florida to be elected to Congress. She ably chaired the Committee on Foreign Affairs during her tenure, and there were many sessions when new Speakers were sworn in when she and I tabulated the results of that very important election.

I can remember when her children were born. I can always say she handled her service with great distinction, with great honor, with great humor, and she made friends on both sides of the aisle. I am glad that she is staying through the remainder of this session, but I must say that this House will lose a spark of brilliance and of wit when she chooses to leave us. I will also say that it has been a particular joy to serve with her because no matter what the issue, no matter what the time of year, no matter what the hour of day,

she always approached her position with great professionalism.

I regret her leaving, but I know her service has made a difference. For women across America, since she first arrived in 1989, our numbers have quintupled. We now have over 100 women who serve in this House with distinction, and she has helped blaze that path.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve my opportunity to say more about her in the days ahead.

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ELECTRIC RELIABILITY AND FOREST PROTECTION

(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, with all of the wildfires we have in the West each year in the summer and the fall, did you know that if a utility has a right-of-way through Federal forests, through the Forest Service, it can still take months for these utilities to receive Forest Service approval to remove trees from transmission line rights-of-way even if the trees are already in contact with electric transmission lines?

We have had blackouts for large portions of several States that have happened from this; and the power lines, when they contact a tree, can start more wildfires even. Yet, still it takes months sometimes to get the Forest Service to approve the utilities to go out there and do a commonsense removal of these trees and other material.

Well, we have a remedy that passed last week in the Natural Resources Committee. Working with my colleague, Representative KURT SCHRADER from Oregon, we passed H.R. 1873 through committee to streamline the red tape to have preapproval for utilities to be able to do the necessary and commonsense work through these already existing transmission rights-of-way through our forests, preventing fire, preventing blackouts, and just good common sense.

GI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to highlight H.R. 758, the GI Internship Program Act. I am a cosponsor of this important legislation with my colleague from Illinois, BRAD SCHNEIDER. If implemented, this bill would expand the use of the existing post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to include internships as an option in place of a traditional degree program.

The GI Internship Program Act would allow veterans to gain practical skills and work experience to help ease