

to be a part of this great tradition in Utica.

In quite an unusual portion of my background, I had the opportunity to spend time in the former Yugoslavia. I also was the sole employee at the former Yugoslav Consulate before the tragic war in Yugoslavia, which broke the country up in the early nineties.

As a part of my commitment to and interest in the people from Yugoslavia, I was instrumental in helping bring a huge number of Bosnian refugees to Utica, New York, back in the early nineties and into the late nineties. And I am so pleased that I was able to have the opportunity, with my family business, to create the very first Bosnian newspaper in Utica, known as Mostovi, which means bridges in Bosnian.

Today, the Bosnian refugees make up one of the largest, if not the largest, Bosnian refugee communities in the Nation. They have done a wonderful job in Utica in successfully starting businesses and contributing greatly to our community, along with many other refugees.

I just wanted to take this moment to recognize Utica and to thank our tremendous Bosnian refugees for their contributions to our Nation and especially to our community because without them, we would never see the prosperity and the growth that we have seen in our small-business community from their ingenuity and their kindness and their generosity to us.

□ 1930

SUPPORT OUR REFUGEES

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the United States has been a leader welcoming refugees for decades. Refugees seek our shores to escape war, political and religious persecution, and sometimes fear of imminent death. People flee danger seeking refuge and safety. As Americans, we should be the last to perpetuate an environment that causes refugees to live in a state of fear and terror right here in America.

I represent the residents of Clarkston, Georgia. As a refugee resettlement hub, Clarkston is often referred to as the most diverse square mile in America. Clarkston's refugees have established themselves as taxpayers; they have started thriving businesses; and 91 percent obtain jobs and become completely self-sufficient within 6 months of arriving in the U.S.

The great diversity and cultural richness that they bring to our communities has made the Fourth District a better place to live, work, and play. Today we show our support for refugees. Today we should all stand to send a message that we will continue our work to support refugees as they continue to boost local economies and contribute to our communities with their unique and enriching cultures.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, right now we are facing one of the greatest humanitarian crises of our time. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has reported that over 65 million people are currently displaced due to war, famine, persecution, or human rights violations. That is why, on World Refugee Day, we must resist the urge to close our doors when the world's most vulnerable need our support.

As a cornerstone of American global humanitarian leadership for nearly four decades, the United States' refugee program has resettled more than 3 million refugees. I was honored to welcome one of these refugees as my guest for President Trump's joint session to Congress earlier this year.

Bothina Matar and her family were forced out of their home in Syria, and after spending months in a Jordanian camp, were resettled in Dallas, Texas. Following a rigorous vetting process, the al Sharaa family successfully resettled, and they are rebuilding their lives while contributing greatly to our country and economy, just like refugees before them.

Our country is a welcoming place where we can both protect the American people and extend our hand to people who need it. Let us not forget that fact, Mr. Speaker.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on World Refugee Day, to share some facts on the United States Refugee Resettlement Program.

America's Refugee Resettlement Program is a small but powerful humanitarian expression of American values and founding principles. And just as important, it makes us safer.

Refugees go through vetting that is already extreme. If there is any doubt about a refugee's identity, he or she is not admitted. The process is so rigorous, there hasn't been a single fatal terrorist attack carried out by a refugee in the United States since the Refugee Act became law in 1980.

Americans across our great country support resettlement. America's faith communities are leading the call for America to stand by her principles and shelter the fleeing victims of our enemies, including the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany in my own 20th District of New York. That is because it speaks directly to American values of strength, inclusiveness, and compassion.

New Yorkers have played a vital role in the resettlement program, and refugees are positively contributing to

communities across New York State and beyond. The United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants' Albany field office has helped resettle refugees from Afghanistan, from Burma, Iraq, Ukraine, and the Congo, just to name a few. Some of these refugees are single mothers seeking a better life for themselves and their children; others are families fleeing war and persecution.

We have the strength, the means, and the capacity to welcome these refugees with open arms. Let us stand with these huddled masses and remain a beacon of freedom around the world.

ELIMINATE NEW YORK STATE MEDICAID MANDATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FASO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I rise this evening with my colleagues from upstate New York to discuss a matter that is extraordinarily important to all of the people throughout New York State, but particularly to those who reside in New York State outside of New York City.

New York State is one of the few States in America that requires a portion of its share of Medicaid costs, which is healthcare for the poor and the elderly, its share of Medicaid costs to be paid by local property taxpayers. It has now been 51 years that New York State, since the days of Governor Nelson Rockefeller, that New York State imposed this incredibly onerous burden on the local property taxpayers in our State.

In fact, in the entire United States of America, there is approximately \$9.5 billion being spent by local governments on Medicaid costs which, in virtually every other State, are paid for by the State government—\$9.5 billion. But in New York State, our taxpayers pay \$7.2 billion of that \$9.5 billion in Medicaid costs mandated by New York State, mandated by Albany.

This is an outrageous burden. The county property taxpayers—those are homeowners and commercial property taxpayers in our State—pay over \$2.2 billion each year in property taxes, in mandated costs, over which the county governments have no control whatsoever.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, I rise, and I am pleased to have organized this Special Order with my colleagues from

New York State, to discuss this dire situation that our taxpayers endure and what our recommended solution is.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I were successful in including in the American Health Care Act a provision which would, as of 2020, eliminate the ability of Albany to impose this burden on local homeowners and commercial property taxpayers. It would improve the real estate values in our State. It would be one more reason for people to stay in New York rather than to flee New York.

The thing that I hear from people over and over again in my district, in the 19th District in the Catskills and the Hudson Valley of New York, is their kids and grandchildren are being driven out of State because there are no jobs, and they are being driven out of State by high property taxes.

One of the reasons for those high property taxes is the New York State Medicaid mandate. So, with Mr. COLLINS, Mr. REED, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. ZELDIN, and Ms. STEFANIK, we were successful in including in the American Health Care Act a provision which would, as of 2020, eliminate this burden on local homeowners and require Albany to do what other States, the 49 other States, do, which is to take control of its own Medicaid system and not impose these burdens on the counties.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, you can see in the 11 counties that I represent in the Mid-Hudson and in the Catskills of New York State, over \$224 million a year is coming out of homeowners' pockets, coming out of commercial real estate owners' pockets and going to pay for Albany's costs. We are ending that as of 2020 under the provision in the legislation that I have authored with Mr. COLLINS, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. REED, Mr. ZELDIN, and Ms. STEFANIK because we know that this burden is unjust and it is uncalled for.

So, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I am delighted at this time to yield to the gentleman from western New York (Mr. REED), from the Southern Tier.

Mr. REED. Well, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentlemen, Mr. FASO and Mr. COLLINS, for their leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, in my district, the 23rd Congressional District, where we sit on the border of the State of Pennsylvania, when you talk about the tax burden that is placed on my hardworking residents that are struggling, that are trying to pay utility bills, that are trying to pay for food to put on their tables, that are trying to take care of their families and put their kids through school, when you talk about a tax burden that is driven by the Medicaid shift in New York State to the local level, at our county level—a very unique circumstance across the country—to the tune of \$145 million a year in each of the counties I represent, that type of burden is not sustainable.

I thank the leadership of Mr. FASO and Mr. COLLINS for looking for a solu-

tion in the American Health Care Act that will alleviate this, that will once and for all shift this burden from our hardworking citizens, our hardworking taxpayers in western New York back to where it belongs: to our State capital, our State capital where they have mandated, under the Federal Medicaid program, essentially every optional service that is authorized under the program; where you see numbers in New York State where we spend approximately \$4,000 per enrollee versus California, another State that has invested tremendously in expanding Medicaid and Medicaid services, at \$2,500; where you see reports that in New York State our average costs are 44 percent, in New York State, under Medicaid spending than the national average.

And then you look at small things that do add up: taxi services that are reimbursed under Medicaid in New York State to the tune of \$2.20 a mile. Mr. Speaker, every hardworking resident in my district that is watching tonight knows that if they go to submit a mileage reimbursement to their employer or they go and try to get reimbursement from their local government that they work at, they are getting 55 cents or maybe 53.5 cents. That money adds up.

You also see a Medicaid program in New York that is ripe with waste, fraud, and abuse; and by putting that \$145 million tax burden on our local taxpayers, our counties cannot address that waste, fraud, and abuse. That can only be done in our State capital. So I think it is only right that we put the burden on our State capital, who has the authority, the flexibility, and the ability to address these issues, to have to deal with this burden at the same time they can implement solutions.

If our Governor so chooses to make this type of waste, fraud, and abuse rampant through Medicaid, that is his choice. But he shouldn't put it on our backs, our local residents' backs, to the tune of \$145 million of taxpayer dollars that they have no ability to address at the local level.

I also remember, vividly, a story from one of our first responders, an Olean firefighter who came in and talked about him being part of ObamaCare ambulance service where they would pick up individuals who would call for services and claim to be experiencing a medical emergency; and then as they delivered the patient to the hospital, that same patient would refuse service at the ER so they could go to the mall across the street—a ride in an ambulance that is paid for by our hardworking residents in western New York.

We are generous people. We don't mind helping people out. But when you put a burden like this on our backs and you don't give us the flexibility and ability to address these concerns, that is wrong. And what this amendment does, and I am proud to support it and stand here with my colleagues, is right

this wrong once and for all and put the burden where it needs to be: in our State capital. Let our Governor own this and, hopefully, wise up and deal with it at that level and take this burden off our hardworking taxpayers.

Thank you, Mr. FASO and Mr. COLLINS for this leadership, and we are wholeheartedly behind you.

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. REED. I think he raises a very timely and very good point.

The fact is the level of government that designs the program, that confers the benefit, that says who is eligible should also be the level of government that has to go to its citizens and say: "Here is why we need to raise the revenue to pay for that benefit."

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But, indeed, what New York does is wholly different. What New York does is they simply say: Here is the benefit, and we are going to shift part of the cost of that benefit to taxpayers at the local level, to the homeowners and to the property taxpayers, and their county governments have nothing to say over how that program is run or operated or administered. They just have to send the bill to Albany once a month.

This is what we are seeking to address.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. COLLINS) who is from Erie County.

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of the Property Tax Reduction Act introduced by my colleague and friend from New York, Representative JOHN FASO.

I am committed to working to provide tax relief to my constituents, which is why Representative FASO and I worked to include a similar measure in the Affordable Health Care Act, and I urge the Senate and Leader McCONNELL to include that measure in their healthcare bill.

The State of New York saddles its residents with the highest overall tax burden in the Nation. A main driver of this hardship remains New York's persistently exorbitant local property taxes, which are a symptom of irresponsible governing from Albany. Governor Cuomo continues to rely on New York counties to foot the bill for New York State's outrageous Cadillac Medicaid plan, which costs each recipient 44 percent more than the national average.

The Governor essentially runs up a tab and then demands that the counties find a way to pay the bill. This is an unconscionable shift of cost. The entity of government that spends taxpayers' money should be the entity that pays the bill. Instead, Governor Cuomo wants this scheme to continue shielding his outrageous spending and keeping his actions from public scrutiny. The Governor's sleight of hand costs the eight counties I represent over \$470 million a year and my home county of Erie almost \$204 million a

year—nearly 83 percent of the total county property tax.

The Property Tax Reduction Act will end this outrageous cost shift, hold Governor Cuomo accountable for the State's Medicaid spending, and deliver much-needed tax relief to the hard-working taxpayers in my district.

I want to thank my friend and colleague, Mr. FASO, for introducing this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. COLLINS' strong support. As a former county executive in Erie County, you had that experience of having to write the check every month to Albany for a program and services that you had no control over. I very much appreciate it.

One of the ironies here is that New York State, with 19 million people, spends more on its Medicaid system than Texas and Florida combined. Those two States have more than double our population, yet we spend more than those two States—Texas and Florida—combined. It is no wonder so many New Yorkers have fled to places like Texas and Florida through the years.

So I appreciate Mr. COLLINS' consistent leadership on this issue from the time the gentleman was the county executive in Erie County.

Mr. COLLINS of New York. We should put it into perspective because New York spends too much on everything. Florida now has more people than New York. Florida's entire budget is \$80 billion a year for more than 20 million people. New York, with fewer people, has a budget of \$160 billion—you almost can't make this up—double Florida.

Now, a point that I have tried to make when you see what the position of New York is, there was a day New York had 45 Members of Congress. Congress is apportioned by population. Today, we have fallen from 45 to 27. We have lost 40 percent of our representation in New York because of the high tax burden. And I know, as sure as I am standing here, we are going to lose another seat, possibly two, in the Census coming up in 2020.

Now, contrast to Florida that doesn't have an income tax and has much lower property taxes, half of the budget of New York. When we had 45, they had 7 Members of Congress—45 versus 7. Today, they also have 27. In the next Census, they are going to grow from 28 to 29. You almost can't make this up. Certainly the property tax burden is a big thing that drives these people out of New York State.

They want to live there. People want their kids to be there. There was a day in Erie County—and I was the county executive—we had 1.25 million people in Erie County in 1972, 1973. We are down to 900,000. Forget about relative growth. We have actually lost 25 percent of our absolute population over the last 40 years because of the high tax burden in New York, so much so, they coined the phrase of our airport.

They called it the Runway of Tears because the parents were watching their children and grandchildren fly off to Florida, to North Carolina, and to other States where there were jobs and opportunities—the Runway of Tears.

So anything we can do to help reduce that tax burden in New York and to let our kids come home and be able to afford to live in New York State, maybe one day again we will be the Empire State.

So I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this. Certainly I am going to be fighting side by side with the gentleman and the other New Yorkers to get this through.

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his support.

The fact of the matter is that New York has driven away so many people. In my 19th Congressional District, every single county has lost population in the last 5 years. School district populations are down 30, 40 percent. Part of the reason is because of a lack of jobs and high property taxes. What we are simply saying is there should be accountability.

When I ran for office last year, I promised the people of my district that I would introduce a measure, because then people would say: how can the Federal Government get involved in this question?

The reason is because the Federal law authorized the States to impose part of their costs on the counties or on the local governments. The fact is that only New York State did it to the degree that New York did. That is why it is going to require us to amend the Federal legislation to preclude New York from doing this.

We are giving Albany 2½ years to reform their program, to eliminate waste, and to make other priorities in its spending. There is no reason for cuts to hospitals or nursing homes, as Governor Cuomo has alleged falsely. What he needs to do is take full responsibility for this program, as most of the Governors in the 49 other States do, and then we will be able to relieve this burden on our local homeowners.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY), who was also elected with me in 2016, for her comments on this important matter.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman FASO for his leadership, and also for the great comments from Congressman COLLINS in the western New York district and for coming up with this really great piece of legislation.

It is no secret that New York residents pay among the highest taxes in the Nation. Combined State and local taxes consume over 13 percent of the average household income.

Decades of tax-and-spend policies have depleted the wallets of hard-working middle class families and forced many small businesses—including family farms; once a tradition in New York—into closure, and driven

lifelong residents out of our State in record numbers forever. These burdensome taxes, coupled with crushing regulations, have led to the worst business climate in the country. Small businesses, which create over 70 percent of the new jobs, face the threat of extinction in New York.

Year after year, New York continues to be ranked the highest in out-migration in the entire Nation. Nearly 200,000 people have left the Empire State, and two of the worst hit regions—the Mohawk Valley and the southern tier—are located in the 22nd District. Additionally, the two largest cities in our district—Utica and Binghamton—are ranked last and second to last in economic growth.

Hardworking families and our job creators desperately need tax relief. That is why I am working with the New York delegation and the Republican congressional delegation to lead the charge by cosponsoring the Property Tax Reduction Act sponsored by Mr. FASO and Mr. COLLINS and cosponsored by the rest of us.

As a note, I would just like to mention that, as a former member of the State assembly, I did sponsor legislation very similar to the type of relief being proposed in this wonderful piece of legislation known as the Property Tax Reduction Act. That legislation was cosponsored in a bipartisan way with Democrats who also recognized the need to change the paradigm in New York State.

The Property Tax Reduction Act will bring the largest local mandate relief initiative to my area in my lifetime, potentially saving the taxpayers in the 22nd District more than \$167 million annually in unfunded State Medicaid mandates. This bill relieves county governments from the burden forced upon them by Albany bureaucrats led by our Governor.

Currently, in New York State, the law requires approximately \$2.3 billion, as was mentioned earlier, that is taken from our local county governments and given to the State for the Medicaid program. This amounts to about \$140 million per week.

In 2015, Oneida County was forced to divert more than 80 percent of the property tax levies to subsidize Albany's bloated budgets. This amounts to \$54.4 million annually in Oneida County losses every year to cover the cost of their share of Medicaid.

In Broome County, more than half of the county's \$70 million in property tax revenue, about \$37 million, was taken from the county last year and diverted to Albany—a loss of more than, as I said, \$37 million. This is money that would otherwise go to reduce property taxes, fund our schools, make much-needed improvements to infrastructure, and support our first responders, among many other programs, that we need on a county level.

Combined property and sales tax rates as a percentage of value rank many of New York's counties among

the highest taxed counties in the Nation, with Oneida County being ranked 19 in the latest Tax Foundation survey. No other State in the country abuses its local governments and taxpayers quite like Albany does in order to fund its most expansive and really overly generous Medicaid programs in the Nation.

New York's Medicaid program has the highest incidents of fraud, abuse, and waste in the country. If other States can provide high-quality healthcare to vulnerable citizens without taking advantage of local taxpayers, so can New York. The imposition of over \$2.5 billion in Medicaid costs on to the counties is nearly seven times costlier than what counties in California pay, despite having higher enrollments and expenditures.

The Property Tax Reduction Act requires Governor Cuomo and the State to pay its full share of the Medicaid program that it should be paying in full and that it also forces on to the county and local governments.

This bill does not propose cuts to the programs in the 22nd District. Rather, it requires Albany to put its fiscal house in order. It requires Albany to take stock of the money that it has been using, sending these unfunded mandates to our strapped local governments.

This legislation, as the sponsor has indicated, gives the State ample time to realign the budget, to rein in out-of-control spending, and to give the taxpayers relief once and for all at the county level.

If Governor Cuomo chooses to hurt the citizens by slashing programs that upstate New Yorkers want and need with a mammoth State budget that was over \$152 billion this year for fiscal year 2017, that is his choice, not something that has been brought on by that act. His failed leadership continues to produce budgets laden with unconstitutional executive pork and wasteful spending.

In fact, let's just take a look at a couple of the items. Over \$370 million in Albany's budget these past few years was spent on the corrupt and mismanaged StartUP New York program, which produced only one-third of the promised jobs. Over \$1.3 billion in tax breaks have been handed over to Hollywood filmmakers in the last 2 years. In all, Albany spends over \$8 billion in taxpayer money on a job-creation program with little results to show for it.

The bill will simply force the State to work over a period of several years to responsibly reduce the unfair and unreasonable Medicaid liability that has been forced on to our counties. Upstate New York is in desperate need of property tax relief.

This bill is the first step in making the relief a reality. County executives and local governments across the State have voiced their support of this legislation.

While hardworking families struggle, Albany sits idly by. That is why we are

taking the lead on the Federal level to help revive our region and bring business and people back to beautiful upstate New York. By giving county governments a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reduce property taxes, this bill will save millions of dollars and hard-earned tax dollars for working families.

On behalf of the 22nd District, I just want to thank my colleagues for really taking the effort to bring this to the floor and showing true leadership in the face of difficult circumstances in finding a real solution, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all of us as taxpayers in New York to finally have some relief, to grow our business community, and to find some kind of dynamism in our economy. I thank again the sponsors, Mr. FASO and Mr. COLLINS.

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Mr. FASO. I appreciate the gentlewoman's remarks and her strong support for this reform measure.

I would also point out that a 2015 report from the New York State Comptroller indicated \$513 million in improper payments in the Medicaid program were identified. In the same report, the Comptroller questioned an additional \$361 million in transactions that would require agency actions to reduce costs or recover funds.

In the past decade, the Office of Inspector General for the Federal Department of Health and Human Services found 10 specific instances in which New York State received improper Federal Medicaid payments in excess of \$50 million, with six of those instances each exceeding over \$170 million apiece.

So there is a lot of room in the New York State Medicaid program to reduce improper payments and outright fraud that we have seen. I know my colleague, Ms. TENNEY, from her experience in the State legislature, has seen firsthand what was going on with New York State's Medicaid system.

Part of the reason this has occurred is because Albany was able to spend someone else's money. The old iron rule of government and the iron rule of family budget is that it is always easier to spend someone else's money. What Albany has been doing for 51 years has been shifting part of its Medicaid responsibility from the State level down to the local level, and so Albany was less responsible.

This wasn't a Democrat or Republican thing, either. This happened under the Republican Governors. It happened under Democratic Governors. It is true, through the years, New York State has partially reduced the burden that was falling upon the county property taxpayers, but they have never eliminated it.

Do you know what? The leadership in Albany today shows no signs of ever taking steps to finally eliminate this.

In Ms. TENNEY's district, it is over \$167 million a year in property tax re-

lief. In my district, it is over \$224 million. In Mr. COLLINS' district, it is close to \$400 million. In Nassau County, it is over \$300 million; in Suffolk County, over \$300 million; Westchester County, over \$200 million.

All throughout the State of New York, outside of New York City, the property taxpayers are being crushed. They are being driven away. Our jobs and our economy are being driven away, in part, because of Albany's Medicaid mandate.

We can change it by changing Federal law. That is what we are going to do. We have placed this provision in the healthcare legislation. It is my hope and expectation that it can be included in the final legislation that is passed. But regardless, I know Ms. TENNEY, Mr. REED, Mr. COLLINS, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. ZELDIN, and the rest of us will be fighting very hard to make sure that we can finally eliminate this injustice.

What Albany does is taxation without any representation. In my District, in Ulster County, almost half of their entire property tax levy goes to pay for Albany's Medicaid costs.

In Rensselaer County, about 57 percent of every nickel the county raises in property tax levy goes to pay for Albany's Medicaid costs, and they have no say over how those funds are expended, over how the program is operated. It is truly taxation without representation.

I yield to the gentlewoman if she has anything to add in conclusion.

Ms. TENNEY. I want to mention one thing that I think is really important. Both Congressman FASO and I served as members of the State Assembly prior to serving in Congress. One thing that we both know is that we are truly interested in helping people who are needy.

It isn't about the people who are truly needy; it is about the people who are abusing the system and taking resources that are desperately needed by our seniors and by people who really are, as I said, truly needy. This is a way of providing more resources to them without having the fraud, the abuse and waste, the mismanagement in Albany, and forcing Albany into being more fiscally conservative, protecting our counties so that we can provide those services for our communities.

I just want to make sure that we characterize that, because that is something that we all care about as people who take an oath of office, not just to uphold our Federal Constitution but also our State constitution. We take that seriously.

I know we are all committed to helping those people, but also remembering that we need to respect the taxpayers. The taxpayers need to have proper management of their funds.

I want to commend the gentleman for his work and efforts in making sure this comes to the floor and making sure we get this passed on the Federal

level, because it has been a struggle for all of us through many years. Having this come to reality is going to be, honestly, one of the greatest mandate relief packages that I have experienced in my lifetime, and I am grateful.

Mr. FASO. I thank the gentlewoman for her comments.

I would close, Mr. Speaker, simply by pointing out that New York State has among, depending on what the measure is, either the highest or second highest real property taxes in the entire Nation. We are the only State that imposes this type of burden on local homeowners, local property taxpayers.

If you look at the gross amount that people pay in their real estate taxes, the downstate counties—Westchester, Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland—pay the highest in gross amount. But if you calculate the property tax burden as a percentage of the home value, the counties in upstate New York; in western New York; along the southern tier; in the Mohawk Valley, where Ms. TENNEY lives; in the Catskills and Mid-Hudson, where I live; and in the Adirondacks, which Ms. STEFANIK represents, those counties are being crushed. Those homeowners are being crushed by the burden of real estate taxes.

A large part of that reason is this 50-year mandate that started under Nelson Rockefeller that has been imposed on New York homeowners, which is crushing them, driving them out of their homes, and this is what we are intending to stop.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the support of my colleagues here tonight, and I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of travel (airline) difficulties.

Mr. CORREA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of flight diverted for airline issues.

Mr. CUMMINGS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for June 12 through 23.

Ms. GABBARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through June 23.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 782. An act to reauthorize the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 21, 2017, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1714. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary of Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the 2016 Armed Forces Retirement Home Accreditation Report, pursuant to 24 U.S.C. 418(e)(2); Public Law 101-510, Sec. 518(e)(2) (as amended by Public Law 110-181, Sec. 1422(f)); (122 Stat. 422); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1715. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-70, "Early Learning Equity in Funding Amendment Act of 2017", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1716. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-71, "Child Development Facilities Regulations Amendment Act of 2017", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1717. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-72, "Child Care Study Act of 2017", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1718. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9524; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-049-AD; Amendment 39-18891; AD 2017-10-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 16, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1719. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Zodiac Seats California LLC Seating Systems [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5595; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-087-AD; Amendment 39-18871; AD 2017-09-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 16, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1720. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries GmbH Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0506; Directorate Identifier 2017-CE-019-AD; Amendment 39-18907; AD 2017-11-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 16, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1721. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turboprop Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0114; Directorate Identifier 2017-NE-03-AD; Amendment 39-18880; AD 2017-10-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 16, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110

Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1722. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG Turboprop Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0186; Directorate Identifier 2017-NE-07-AD; Amendment 39-18899; AD 2017-10-25] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 16, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1723. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-8849; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-174-AD; Amendment 39-18892; AD 2017-10-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 16, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1724. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-8428; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-032-AD; Amendment 39-18898; AD 2017-10-24] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 16, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1725. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9413; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-104-AD; Amendment 39-18897; AD 2017-10-23] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 16, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1726. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-8179; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-201-AD; Amendment 39-18913; AD 2017-11-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 16, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1727. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0084; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-181-AD; Amendment 39-18879; AD 2017-10-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 16, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1728. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; NavWorx, Inc. Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast Universal Access Transceiver Units [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9226; Directorate Identifier 2016-SW-065-AD; Amendment 39-18910; AD 2017-11-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 16, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1729. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9075; Directorate Identifier