

every American over 65 can have, you will get vouchers, and you can go into the private insurance market and do better. It sounds a little bit like the failing ObamaCare plan that they talk about all the time. Now they want to put seniors in that same boat, instead of guaranteed Medicare.

Then, of course, \$1.5 trillion cuts in Medicaid. That is welfare. Well, actually, the largest recipients of Medicaid are seniors in long-term care. A lot of people are going to be surprised when grandma or granddad is out in the street or comes home and needs a lot of help and assistance and there is none to be had.

□ 1015

So that is the largest group.

Now, what is the second largest group of freeloaders on Medicaid?

Oh, it is kids. God forbid that kids should get medical help when they are growing up. Let's have them long-term, lifetime disabled. Deny them medical care when they are young and we will just worry about all that later. This is quite a set of priorities they are putting before us and fiscally irresponsible.

So as I have in past years, I am introducing a fiscally responsible balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, not like the Republican one that said you have to have two-thirds to increase taxes and one vote to cut taxes, no. This one would say you have to balance the budget, but you do it by prudent reductions in spending, and also you have to deal with the revenue side. And, oh, by the way, mine protects Medicare and Social Security totally from these sorts of cuts. It makes them into the entitlement programs they are supposed to be that the Republicans want to do away with in their budget.

So I think there is a better way to go forward, but just like in their fake healthcare bill, which was really disguised tax cuts for the wealthiest among us, they are now giving us a supposedly prudent fiscal budget blueprint, which, again, is huge tax cuts for the wealthy, massive increases for the Pentagon and cuts for everybody else.

#### DEATH OF THE CONSERVATIVE AGENDA

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, our Republican Senate majority is killing our conservative agenda, our Republican agenda, and President Trump's agenda. The murder weapon is the Senate filibuster rule, an archaic accident of history created during the days of horse-and-buggy and slavery.

The filibuster rule destroys the basic democratic principle of majority rule and obstructs passage of legislation unless a 60 percent supermajority of Senators agree. While today's 52-Senator Republican majority can abolish the filibuster rule anytime it wants, so

long as the filibuster rule is in place, Republicans can pass nothing without the consent of CHUCK SCHUMER and the Democrats.

Think about it. Our Republican Senate majority has abdicated control and empowered CHUCK SCHUMER and the Democrat minority to obstruct the will of the Republican House, obstruct the will of the Republican Senate majority, obstruct the will of President Trump, and obstruct the will of the tens of millions of American voters who send us to Washington.

That is political suicide and an abject betrayal of the millions of American voters who sent us here.

There will be no border wall because our Republican Senators empower Democrats to kill it. There will be no ObamaCare repeal because our Republican Senators empower Democrats to stop us. America's out-of-control deficits and debts will cause a debilitating insolvency and bankruptcy that destroys an America it took generations of our ancestors to build because our Republican Senators empower Democrats to spend money we don't have, have to borrow to get, and cannot afford to pay back.

During 2015 and 2016, the House worked hard to address America's challenges. Over 500 of our bills never got so much as a single Senate floor vote. All that work wasted.

The Senate filibuster rule is not in the Constitution. It is not a Federal law or statute. It exists solely at the discretion of the Senate majority.

President Trump understands the filibuster rule and that it threatens the President's entire legislative agenda. On May 2, President Trump urged our Republican Senators to end the filibuster rule, stating: "Change the rules now to 51 percent."

On May 30, President Trump reiterated: "The U.S. Senate should switch to 51 votes immediately and get healthcare and tax cuts approved fast and easy. Dems would do it, no doubt."

President Trump's pleas have fallen on deaf ears. Exhibit A in this murder trial is an April 7 letter to CHUCK SCHUMER, of all people, and MITCH MCCONNELL that lists the accomplices, those deaf ears, who are killing the conservative agenda, the Republican agenda, and President Trump's agenda.

The letter states: "We . . . urge you to . . . preserve existing rules, practices, and traditions as they pertain to the right of Members to engage in extended debate on legislation before the United States Senate. . . . We are united in our determination to preserve the ability of Members to engage in extended debate when bills are on the Senate floor."

Each Senator on exhibit A empowers CHUCK SCHUMER and the Democrats to kill President Trump's agenda. Remarkably, even an Alabama Senator supports killing President Trump's agenda.

Mr. Speaker, Republican Senators claim we need the filibuster to play de-

fense when Democrats control the Senate. I submit that claim is myopic and shortsighted. In the past 90 years, Republicans have not had a single filibuster-proof Senate, while Democrats enjoyed filibuster-proof Senates in the 1930s, the 1960s, and in 2009. In those years, Democrats passed ObamaCare and forced great society welfare programs on us that busted our budgets, destroyed the work ethic, broke up American families, and threatened America with a national insolvency.

Over the long haul and because of the filibuster, Democrats force their leftist, socialist policies down America's throats, while Republicans never have the power to reverse the damage done.

That is the Senate filibuster legacy.

Mr. Speaker, time is running out. America's future is at stake. Now is not the time to play procedural games. I agree with President Trump.

Senate: End the filibuster.

#### VOTE ON LIFESAVING LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise, yet again, to beg this House for action. Let us have a vote on lifesaving legislation.

Just this weekend, 57 Americans were shot in just one U.S. city. Tragically, 11 of them passed away, including a 10-year-old boy and a revered community activist who worked to create jobs for at-risk kids.

The violence did not take a rest after the weekend. On Monday, 13 more people were shot and 3 were killed.

Mr. Speaker, what are we doing here?

People, Americans, American kids are dying every day in every community, in every State, in every district, yet this House, the people's House, continues to do nothing.

Why, Mr. Speaker? Why is that?

Well, I think greed and dollars.

My 101st victim I want to share with you is Gustavo Garcia, who was 10 years old. Mr. Speaker, Gustavo would have turned 11 next month. He would have started fourth grade at Arnold Mireles Academy next month. Instead, he was murdered in the back seat of an SUV by an assault weapon, a weapon of war that this House has allowed to be legal and spill blood on our city streets.

These weapons have one purpose: killing people. They are not for sportsmanship. They are not for personal defense. They are for theaters of war. They are designed to devastate, maim, kill, and destroy. That is why assault weapons were banned from our streets until this House, poisoned by NRA dollars, allowed the bill to expire.

Mr. Speaker, Gustavo Garcia was 10 years old. He had an entire lifetime ahead of him. Mr. Speaker, the operative word in that sentence is "had." Now he has become "Dollar NRA No. 101."

\$102, William “Willie” Cooper, who was 58 years old. Willie was working to change Chicago and give our children a future. He founded the Lilydale Outreach Workers for a Better Community and helped mediate more than 50 conflicts that could have turned deadly.

Willie was everything you could want in a neighbor, a community leader, and a friend. He was kind, concerned about others in his community, someone who truly loved all of his fellow men. Now he is “\$102.” He was assassinated also with an assault weapon in front of the nonprofit he founded to help young people find jobs.

Time and time again I hear from the other side of the aisle that work is transformative, it gives people purpose and direction in life. I could not agree more.

Mr. Speaker, nothing stops a bullet like an opportunity. What Chicago needs is jobs for our young people, not guns flooding from States like Wisconsin and even the Vice President’s home State of Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, it is about jobs. So I join Senators DICK DURBIN and TAMMY DUCKWORTH to introduce three pieces of legislation directly targeted to support at-risk youth and the amazing businesses that take a chance on them to change their lives. To date, these bills have simply been referred to committee.

Mr. Speaker, when is the agenda of this House going to turn to the actual issues devastating American families?

This Congress has voted to allow companies to poison our air and water. We passed a bill that stripped 23 million Americans of their health insurance. We even passed a bill that lets dangerously mental ill people buy a firearm. Shameful.

We have not had one single debate, not passed one bill, nothing, zero, zilch, to save American lives. I guess some things just aren’t worth the price.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF COLONEL THOMAS KUNKEL

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Thomas Kunkel, who retired on July 10, 2017, as the commander of the 23rd Wing at Moody Air Force Base, near Valdosta, Georgia.

Colonel Kunkel has served in the United States Air Force for over 20 years, and he has logged nearly 3,000 hours of flight. As commander of the 23rd Wing, he led over 5,000 airmen spread over four bases throughout the country.

An example of his extraordinary leadership and bravery occurred when one of his fellow airmen was shot down behind enemy lines during the Kosovo conflict in 1999. Colonel Kunkel bravely led a successful mission to rescue the missing pilot that was shot down by a missile.

Colonel Kunkel was also a part of the Air and Joint Staffs in Washington, D.C., that serve as advisers to the President of the United States.

He was stationed all over America, in addition to his time abroad in Iceland and Qatar, defending the freedoms we all greatly enjoy.

I am proud to rise today to honor Colonel Kunkel for his leadership, his commitment to our country, and his commitment to our airmen. Colonel Kunkel will now begin service in the Secretary of the Air Force Legislative Liaison Office here in Washington, D.C. I wish him all the best.

#### HONORING ERNIE LEE, STATE OF GEORGIA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ernie Lee, who was named the 2016 Teacher of the Year for the State of Georgia.

Mr. Lee is a dedicated U.S. Government, civics, and history teacher to his students at Windsor Forest High School on Savannah’s south side.

After being named as Georgia’s Teacher of the Year, Mr. Lee was a finalist for National Teacher of the Year.

Before becoming a teacher in 2008, Mr. Lee practiced law for over 20 years. You can clearly tell through his demeanor and passion that he discovered his true calling when he began teaching.

Mr. Lee is currently working as a fellow at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., studying the State of Georgia’s historical relationship with Indian Nations, specifically the Supreme Court case, *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia*.

His research during the fellowship is centered around writing and publishing lesson plans on the topic. I can’t thank Mr. Lee enough for his dedication to Georgia’s students and his ability to inspire them to learn about history and government.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF JAMES P. BURNS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mr. James P. Burns of Warner Robins, Georgia, who passed away on April 31, 2017, shortly after celebrating his 100th birthday.

Mr. Burns used his 100 years to make his country and his community a better place to live. Mr. Burns served in the Army Air Corps and the United States Air Force from 1940 to 1960, fighting for his country during World War II and the Korean war.

After being honorably discharged from the Air Force, Mr. Burns worked another 16 years for the Department of Defense before retiring at Robins Air Force Base in Georgia.

Upon his retirement from the DOD, Mr. Burns and his wife, Lucille, dedicated their lives to helping fellow members of the south Georgia community. In his 20 years, Mr. Burns volunteered over 14,500 hours at the Houston Medical Hospital. When he wasn’t volunteering for the hospital, Mr. Burns could be found helping seniors do their

taxes or transporting food for the local food bank.

I am proud to recognize Mr. Burns’ life today and his dedication to the community. He will certainly be missed.

#### TASK FORCE ON DENYING TERRORISTS ENTRY INTO THE U.S.

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

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, the liberation of Mosul from the Islamic State the other week was a major victory for the Iraqi people and for the United States, which supported the operation.

But to achieve victory in our broader mission of destroying radical Islamic terrorism and keeping the American people safe, we must confront some tough questions about the road ahead.

As chairman of the Task Force on Denying Terrorists Entry into the United States, I am concerned about the degree to which jihadists and foreign fighters threaten our homeland and our ability to meet these threats.

□ 1030

We know that Iraqi fighters are concealing their identities and fleeing with groups of refugees, many to Europe. These returning fighters have learned to make dangerous weapons, have gotten battlefield experience, and are successfully training young people susceptible to radicalization. We know our visa waiver program, which allows many European citizens to travel to the U.S. without a visa, provides a window of opportunity for these determined terrorists to exploit.

Confronting these threats lies in our ability to quickly and effectively vet and screen travelers, share sufficient intelligence with our allies, and act on credible threats when identified. And the threats are real.

Between 100 and 250 ideologically driven foreigners are thought to have been smuggled into Europe between 2014 and 2016. These foreign fighters pose a greater threat to the West than ever before; and for the sake of our national security, it is a threat we cannot overlook, and it is a threat we must work together to confront. Nothing can be put ahead of the safety and security of the homeland.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### THE ROLE OF CONGRESS IN PUSHING BACK AGAINST RUSSIA

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not as a Republican or a Democrat, but as an American. If we can really find a way to cut through the media circus surrounding the debate about Russia in the past few weeks, I think it would reinforce for all of us that whatever our political differences, our country must always come first.

Those who would destroy our way of life do not wear the jersey of one political party or another. The only laundry