

Code. That is something we all agree on. We need to encourage growth and support our middle class. But the Republican decision to approach taxes in an exclusively partisan and fiscally irresponsible way is not the way to go.

I am deeply concerned about the partisan plan rolled out by the Republican leadership, in no small part because it saddles future generations with trillions more in debt just to pay for tax cuts for the most fortunate Americans.

Furthermore, restricting provisions relied upon by countless middle class families, including the State and local tax—SALT—deductions and property tax deductions hurts working families. This is particularly true in States like Illinois, where one in every three filers depends on the SALT deduction.

In the days ahead, I hope my Republican colleagues will open the tax reform discussion to bipartisan engagement. I remain ready and willing to sit down and work across the aisle to achieve responsible tax reform that will grow our economy, protect our seniors, truly help middle class families, and secure our future.

TAX PLAN GIANT STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION

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

Mr. MESSER. Madam Speaker, Hoosier families deserve a pay raise, and that is what President Trump's tax plan is going to give them: more jobs, fairer taxes, and bigger paychecks for working Hoosiers.

Importantly, the plan includes a provision that I have been working on that would stop \$4 billion to \$7 billion in refundable tax credits paid out each year to illegal immigrants. This is a giant step in the right direction to protect American taxpayers and American families. In the Trump tax plan these savings will help increase child tax credits for American citizens by \$600 each child.

Hoosiers get it. It is past time to address an immigration system that rewards people who come here illegally. No one should get a tax incentive to violate the law.

CONGRATULATING CRISTINA JIMENEZ MORETA

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize and congratulate an immigrant advocate, and now MacArthur genius, Cristina Jimenez Moreta. Like me, she is a CUNY alumni and she grew up undocumented.

Since founding United We Dream in 2008, Cristina Jimenez Moreta has become a powerhouse champion for immigrant groups across the country. By elevating the stories of DREAMers and

putting faces and names to a discussion that was, at times, dismissive and dehumanizing, she changed the dialogue surrounding undocumented young people.

Her work has impacted the lives of young immigrants nationwide, and in honor of her significant contributions, she was recently selected as one of 24 MacArthur Fellow winners worldwide in 2017.

I congratulate Ms. Jimenez on her MacArthur Fellowship, and I applaud her decision to use the grant money to further the development of other undocumented young people.

Cristina, your work is paramount now more than ever now that we brace as a nation to give rich people a big tax write-off that will put our country in jeopardy, a big gambling casino effort that has seen a failed attempt in the past with trickle-down economy.

"Because we are not one. We are not 100. We are millions. Count us well." "Porque no somos uno. No somos cien. Somos millones. Cuentanos bien."

MERIT-BASED VISA PROGRAM

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Uzbekistan uber terrorist Saipov's attack in New York City is another example why the United States should end the diversity visa lottery. And I emphasize the word "lottery."

The program should have ended years ago. Under this 1990 program, the State Department gives 50,000 visas each year to immigrants from different parts of the world using a lottery system. Getting into the United States is like playing bingo. It is a game of chance.

Our immigration system should be changed to accept the best and brightest throughout the world. It is time to go to a merit-based visa system. Grant visas to people who will benefit America. Stop the random system that allowed Saipov to come in; a system that rolls the dice where foreigners win and Americans lose.

And that is just the way it is.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066

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

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, this year marks the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the internment of over 110,000 Japanese Americans on U.S. soil during World War II.

Our country will never be able to undo this grave miscarriage of justice or relieve the pain and suffering that was inflicted upon our fellow Americans. So we must remember this dark period in our Nation's history and ensure that this dark shadow of prejudice, bigotry, and hate never occurs again.

However, sadly, as we look around us, today we see that this divisiveness and bigotry persists far too much. We cannot give into hate and intolerance. We must confront it and defeat it with the light and love of the Aloha Spirit.

We must learn from this dark stain on our past and vow to never repeat it again.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DORENE ANDERSON

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Madam Speaker, Wednesday marked the 1-month anniversary of the terrible shooting that happened in my hometown of Las Vegas.

Today I rise to remember the life of Dorene Anderson from Anchorage, Alaska, a woman who was known for her kindness and her smile.

Dorene was a loving wife, mother, sister, aunt, and friend who always went above and beyond for everyone in her life. Not only was she a dedicated mother to her two daughters, she was known as a mother to her community.

Dorene loved hockey and was the treasurer of the Cowbell Crew, a non-profit hockey organization that supported hockey at all levels.

Her friends describe her as an all-around wonderful Alaskan who had a heart of gold, a person who was friendly to everyone.

I would like to extend my condolences to Dorene's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas and the State of Nevada and the whole country grieve with you.

AMERICANS DESERVE REAL TAX REFORM

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

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, again and again, President Donald Trump has promised tax reform that would help the middle class; and again and again, the President has broken those promises.

Instead of helping America's middle class and the working poor, his proposals offer big breaks for millionaires and corporations, and painful cuts for nearly everyone else.

The House Republican plan rolled out yesterday, rolls over the middle class and those looking to ascend the middle class. It cuts the estate tax, a tax that only affects a few thousand of the wealthiest American families, all while raising taxes on the lowest income bracket from 10 to 12 percent.

This plan slashes commonsense deductions for middle class families, including those for medical bills, student loan interest, and even mortgage interest. My Republican colleagues claim their plan would save people money,

but they say nothing about the \$1.5 trillion their plan would add to the deficit over the next 10 years. That is about \$12,000 of debt for each American household.

The American people deserve real tax reform, not just more tax cuts for the wealthy and powerful and those connected.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I have a couple of topics that I intend to take up for the folks here watching and listening.

Madam Speaker, I want to talk about the Heartbeat bill and I want to talk about the immigration bill and the tax policy all together. But there is an important issue before this Congress that I want to hear about before I take up these issues. And for that purpose, I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS) to get this off of his heart.

Mr. DESANTIS. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Iowa for his leadership.

Madam Speaker, it was really distressing to hear that Christ Church in Alexandria is removing a monument honoring its most famous parishioner, George Washington. It just made me think: What is this world coming to?

Now, Christ Church is free to do as it pleases, but I think we are also free to criticize such an absurd course of action. If we can't honor the Father of our Country, then we truly are drowning in a sea of knee-jerk political correctness.

George Washington was one of the few truly great men, an American original without whom we would not be standing here today as free people.

I just want to tick off a few things before I yield back to my colleague from Iowa, but this is important.

His stewardship during the American Revolution brought America a victory that we really had no right to win against the most powerful army on Earth.

He only had one-third of the country behind the revolutionary cause, yet, against all odds, Washington led our country to victory. But then having won that military victory, what does Washington do?

Throughout all of human history, when you win a military victory, that commanding general then seizes power for themselves and creates a society which is at that individual's beck and call.

□ 1215

That is not what George Washington did. He famously surrendered his sword

to the Continental Congress and gave up power voluntarily because he wanted to establish a republic. Then he went home to Mount Vernon. When word of Washington's relinquishment of power reached King George III in England, he was flummoxed. He said: Well, if that is really true, then Washington is the greatest man in the world.

It is unheard of that you would relinquish power in that way. Napoleon, on his deathbed—obviously, he had a lot of trials and tribulations—said: Look, they wanted me to be another Washington, and I just couldn't do it.

Washington presided over the Federal Convention in 1787, which created our Constitution. Had Washington not been willing to lend his legitimacy to that proceeding and to the Constitution, I think it is pretty clear the Constitution would have never been ratified.

He gets elected the first President of the United States unanimously. I think we really needed somebody with Washington's character and stature to be able to launch this new ship of state. If you had had anybody else—and there were many great Founding Fathers—you may not have been able to launch it successfully. He was that type of man.

He was also somebody who has offered some of the most eloquent defenses of religious liberty in our country's history. I want to quote from a letter he wrote to the Hebrew congregation at Newport in 1790.

He said: "It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it were the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights, for, happily, the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support."

Those are words that I think ring as true today and are as important today as they were in 1790.

He established a two-term voluntary limit for President. People thought he could have been President for life, and, of course, he could have been. He didn't think that that was the right way to go. In fact, his entire career—from surrendering his sword at the Continental Congress to the two-term limit—was dedicated to the notion that in a republic—the government of laws and not of men—no one individual is indispensable. Yet he really was the exception to that rule. He was truly first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.

Mr. Speaker, I think, when you look back at history, you can obviously point to things that we don't necessarily like, and I think it is fair to air that. But to simply remove somebody's monument—somebody who truly exhibited greatness—I think is a direction in this country that we do not want to go.

So I just thought it was important to stand up here and to say that the Father of our Country is somebody who all Americans should hold in profound esteem because I don't think we would be sitting here on the floor of the House of Representatives in the most powerful country on Earth if Washington had not existed.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for his presentation and certainly support and endorse every word that I have heard here.

I think about the leadership that George Washington provided, and a couple of things come to mind. One of them is, in my six trips into Egypt, I have met with President el-Sisi each of those times. He finds himself in a position in Egypt very similar to where Washington was in his first term, Madam Speaker, and that is now with a constitution that has a limitation of two 4-year terms for the President of Egypt. He was elected under that constitution, committed to accepting civilian leadership of the military—and that has been taking place—rebuilding the Christian churches in Egypt, establishing a parliament that reflects women as well as men, and religious diversity in allowing for a lot more religious freedom in Egypt. He has followed through on all of that.

The real test will be if President el-Sisi is re-elected in Egypt when he is up for that re-election, if that should happen, and I hope it does, then I am also listening very closely to what would be his second inaugural address. In that second inaugural address, I am calling upon him to announce that the second term will be his last term in keeping with the standards that are set by George Washington. That is how you transition into a republican form of government that is a representative form of government, a government of we the people.

I would also reflect, as I listened to Mr. DESANTIS speak about the greatness of George Washington—and we understand that there has been, I think, an erroneous reading of history and a misinterpretation of history—that there is an effort to purge from and to revise our American history to conform with what contemporary values are. So now if we disparage and expunge from history the statues, the faces, the words, and the leadership of people—some of whom were slave-owners back in that time: Washington, Jefferson, and a list of others all the way up the line—then we fall prey to this weakness of wanting to judge our Founding Fathers and the people who went before us in each generation by the standards of this generation.

Yet we admire people like William Wilberforce and John Adams who stood for years to defend the battle against slavery. They made the moral arguments against slavery. We had people who were against slavery who owned slaves. If you were in Virginia, and if you owed taxes, then you couldn't free