

in school lunch programs. The bipartisan bill recognizes the importance of milk to the health and well-being of school children. It also works to improve the variety and availability of milk offered in schools, which was supported by U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Purdue earlier this year. In May, Secretary Purdue directed USDA to begin the process of allowing schools to serve 1 percent flavored milk through the school meals program.

When schoolchildren don't drink milk, they are missing out on essential nutrients. I urge my colleagues to support this bill so another generation of children can fall in love with milk.

EXTEND TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE STATUS FOR HAITIANS AND CENTRAL AMERICANS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am joining the Congressional Black Caucus to ask for an extension of the temporary protective status for Haitians.

I am absolutely appalled that this government would deny this extension and only allow it for 6 months. Apparently, they are not aware of the scarcity of food in Haiti and the cholera epidemic. All of these challenges are continuing since 2011.

Along with the Haitians, I understand that they have now taken away TPS from 300,000 Hondurans, Nicaraguans, and Salvadorans as well. This is an outrageous act, and it is important for them to act immediately.

I also stand against the scam tax plan. The scam tax plan would, in fact, take away opportunities for Americans to have higher education, build the deficit way beyond one's recognition, would not create jobs, would send jobs overseas, would allow for 80 percent of the benefits to go to the top 1 percent, and, frankly, would provide no benefits for middle class, hardworking Americans.

This plan is not tax cuts and jobs; it is a tax scam with no jobs.

I ask my colleagues to vote against this tax bill, and I ask this administration to do what is right and provide humanitarian relief and extend the TPS for Haitians and all others similarly situated for 18 months.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SPILLWAY AT THE OROVILLE DAM

(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, after the near disaster we had in Butte County, near Oroville, with the breakage of the spillway at Oroville Dam, I am very happy to congratulate the folks of Kiewit Construction, and so many others, on their reconstruction

of the spillway, phase 1. We will have a working, viable spillway for this upcoming rainy season, if needed, due to the intense and incredible efforts to rebuild that project.

If you had seen the size of, basically, the canyon that was carved out where the old spillway stood from having to release water to keep the lake level, in February, at a safe level, you would see how amazing it was, the work that was done in order to rebuild that spillway in its current phase. It will be able to handle 100,000 CFS and be able to keep the lake stable for the upcoming year.

However, we do need to have balance in the process and have that lake be able to store enough water for California's needs this coming year, because we will still have those needs in 2018, and not drain the lake all the way because of an overcautious thought process.

So congratulations on a viable lake that works for all.

□ 1930

TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE STATUS AND OTHER ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to anchor this CBC Special Order hour. The Congressional Black Caucus, under the leadership of the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND), is committed to sharing with this Congress, as well as with the American people, the issues of great importance to the Caucus, to Congress, and to the constituents we represent.

For this Special Order hour, at this time, we believe it is very and vitally important to discuss the temporary protective status of Haiti and other countries.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague, the gentlewoman from Utah (Mrs. LOVE), to discuss this very important issue.

Mrs. LOVE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues at the CBC for the opportunity to speak at this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I traveled to Haiti to investigate sex trafficking, as part of my work on the Financial Services Committee's Subcommittee on Terrorism and Illicit Finance. While I was there, I had the opportunity to observe conditions as well as meet with leadership and the President.

What I saw was a nation struggling to rebuild after the 2010 tragedy that hurt and rattled the nation with an earthquake, a cholera epidemic, and Hurricane Matthew. What I heard was the nation was not prepared for the tens of thousands of Haitians that were to return.

Haitian TPS recipients contribute significantly to the United States' economy and to the Haitian economy. As Haiti works not only to rebuild, but to rise itself out of poverty that has plagued it for years, I ask the White House to please take a moment to help our friends and allies in Haiti and to extend the temporary protective status.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman so very much for her moving words. I know that this is an issue that is very close to her heart, being of Haitian-American descent, and we are grateful for her leadership on this, being supportive of the letters to the President, letters to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for her working in a bipartisan fashion to support the people of Haiti as well as other countries on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND), the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus who is leading us in this discussion that is affecting the people of Haiti as well as other countries, along with the President's tax plan and how it would affect those Americans who are the least of us and would have the most repercussions for that.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for leading this Special Order and for the outstanding work that she has done as her island, the U.S. Virgin Islands, recovers from two devastating hurricanes.

Being from New Orleans, I understand what two twin hurricanes can do. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged our city, our State, along with Mississippi, Texas, and the Gulf Coast. To be very candid, the people of the Virgin Islands, unfortunately, are doing this too much on their own.

Part of what makes America exceptional, part of what makes us the greatest country in the world is that when we find our citizens in a vulnerable position, through no fault of their own, we come in as a government and we help. When you look at the Virgin Islands and the fact that the damage they have received is more than their capacity to rebuild, and it is through no fault of their own, it is Mother Nature. It is an act of God.

Some would say it is global warming and climate change, but it doesn't matter what caused it. What matters is the United States' response to how we fix it. So when we start talking about our response to the Virgin Islands, it is a great segue into Haiti and temporary protective status.

It was that 2010 earthquake that rendered Haiti in a position where they could no longer safely and adequately care for their citizens, and we allowed them to have temporary protective status in the United States. On May 24 of this year, the Department of Homeland Security redesignated Haiti for 6 months of temporary protective status rather than 18 months that the Government of Haiti, Haiti experts from the United States, the Congressional Black Caucus, and others requested.

The fact is, the DHS designation didn't reflect any of the reality on the ground. In fact, it ignored that there is great food scarcity, and it ignored the ongoing challenges posed by the unprecedented earthquake.

We sent a letter November 3 asking once again to fully extend Haiti's TPS designation for another 18 months. However, time and time again, unfortunately, it appears that this administration, through all of the rhetoric, has an inability to do right when right is needed, especially when we talk about vulnerable populations, especially when we talk about immigrants. It is too easy for this administration to turn a blind eye and ignore real-life needs.

Now, there are some out there who could argue: Is this America's issue?

I would argue that it is absolutely America's issue.

First of all, not extending the TPS will have drastic consequences for the United States' economy. That is why the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, national security experts, and the Catholic bishops have all come out in support of extending this vital program, because they know that these nations are in no condition to receive the 300,000 people that will be returned to them.

They understand the public health crisis and the destabilization of the new government. In El Salvador and Honduras, the return of 250,000 people would strain government services and lead to job displacement in countries besieged by violence, drug trafficking, and weak institutions.

So let me just clear it up for a lot of Americans sitting at home and asking: Well, why does this affect us?

Thirty percent of TPS recipients are homeowners in the United States. So just think about the consequences of simultaneously dumping 60,000 mortgages on the U.S. housing market. Think about 13,000 mortgages in Texas, 5,000 mortgages in Florida, 4,100 in Virginia. The mass deportation alone will cost the taxpayers of this country more than \$3 billion.

Oftentimes, we find ourselves in this place, in this body arguing about the fiscal argument of things and talking about how it would affect our economy—which I just did—talking about how it would hurt the U.S. market in foreclosures and mortgages, and we give all of these examples of how this could bankrupt the United States.

The bigger concern we have, and that this administration should have, is

that this country is on the fast track to moral bankruptcy because we do not stand up when we are supposed to; we don't call out wrong when we see it; and, too often, we turn our backs to injustice. That is not what this country is about. That is not what made this country great. So with that, I would just say that it is time for this country, this Congress, this administration, to do what is right simply because it is the right thing to do.

It just so happens that the right thing to do this time has extreme economic benefits that go along with it. Tonight, you are going to hear from a number of our remarkable Congressional Black Caucus members who don't just advocate for Black people. We advocate for people all across this country who are oftentimes voiceless, who can't afford lobbyists, who don't influence government, but people who just wake up every day, go to work, put food on their table, provide for their kids, and hope for a better future for their families. They hope that their parents can live out their lives with dignity and respect. They hope that their immediate family—that they can provide for their kids, and their kids can reach their wildest dreams.

That is the American Dream. That is what we fight for. It is such a great privilege to be the chair of that Caucus. You will see in the next couple of seconds the talent and the passion of which this Caucus fights for, which is why I am so proud and humbled to lead this Caucus during this Congress.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. We are grateful and thankful and proud to have him as the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, particularly in the time period that were are in, because the energy and passion that he has for people of color and for all Americans is extremely evident.

The fact that we are not having discussions that are based on emotion, but really based on facts, digging more into policy and the actual effects that those policies have on Americans and throughout this country, is something that is what I think this Congress should be driven by, rather than emotion or visceral reactions to actions that people have that take our eyes off of the things that we should be focused on.

We are grateful that he is continually not moved by the shiny object that is in the room, but on the real bread-and-butter issues that affect Americans. When he talks about the talent of the members of the CBC, part of that talent is in its grounding, in those members of the Congressional Black Caucus that have been engaged in this battle, in this struggle, in this fight, that have had this passion for many years.

I am happy to yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), who has been at the forefront in fighting for people who have been underserved not only in this country, but around the

world. It is through the work of this Member that individuals and countries in Africa have been able to receive the support from this country as this country was trying to pull it away in other parts of the world. We are grateful for her doing it in her own backyard in California, but also in those inner cities throughout this country and rural areas as she sits on the Appropriations Committee to support Americans throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and also for organizing us here tonight and every week on the issues that are so important to this country. Her leadership, specifically, for the Virgin Islands, is truly commendable, and just know that we are doing everything we can do under her leadership to help her recover and rebuild.

Mr. Speaker, I just have to say to our chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressman RICHMOND, I have to thank him for his bold and his visionary leadership of the CBC.

First, let me just take a moment to offer my deepest condolences to the family, friends, and community of those who lost loved ones in the senseless act of gun violence in Texas, my home State. We mourn their loss, we pray for the recovery of those injured, and we say once again that this House needs action on gun safety measures to save lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with them tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the urgent need to preserve temporary protective status for immigrants fleeing famine, war, and violent conditions around the world, especially those countries from within the African diaspora who account for 10 percent of all TPS beneficiaries.

Today, 440,000 individuals from 10 countries reside in the United States under temporary protective status because, as a nation, we have kept our commitment to being a beacon of hope and security for those in need.

The TPS program grants immigrants the right to lawfully remain in the United States for 6 to 18 months. This longstanding practice has been honored for decades through Democratic and Republican administrations because, regardless of political affiliations as Americans, we have always stood for protecting the value of human life.

Sadly, the Trump administration fails to grasp the lifesaving impact of this program.

□ 1945

Just last month, the administration announced that it would terminate the TPS designation for Sudan, despite the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the region.

In the coming days and weeks, Mr. Speaker, the Trump administration, unfortunately, will decide the fate of TPS holders from vulnerable countries including Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Haiti. Let me be clear: failure to renew TPS status would mean

deportation for over 300,000 individuals who are working and living in the United States.

We also know that this issue disproportionately impacts immigrants from countries within the African diaspora. Take Haiti for example. After a devastating earthquake and horrific hurricane, there is an active cholera outbreak and protracted food security crisis. Letting TPS expire for this country would send 50,000 people back to uncertain fates. An influx of people of this size would further destabilize a fragile recovery. That is why I joined my colleagues in sending a letter to the Department of Homeland Security calling for a full 18-month extension of Haiti's TPS designation.

In El Salvador and Honduras, the return of over 250,000 people would strain government services and lead to job displacement in countries besieged by violence, narcotics trafficking, and weak institutions.

Unfortunately, this week, Secretary Tillerson falsely claimed that conditions on the ground no longer warrant TPS designation for these countries. How he came up with that, I have no idea. This is really a shame and a disgrace. That is why members of the Congressional Black Caucus are here tonight fighting for temporary protected status because we cannot turn our backs on our brothers and sisters in their time of need. TPS holders have families, they own businesses, and they contribute to this country in countless ways.

At a time when devastating hurricanes and flooding ravages our neighbors in the Caribbean, the last thing that our government should be doing is turning its back on TPS holders. It is not only TPS holders that we are fighting for. We are also now recognizing, understanding, knowing, and making public—as everyone knows—that millions of undocumented youth are living in fear of deportation because this President and Republicans in Congress can't muster the courage to do what is right.

Our Nation has been and should continue to be a nation of immigrants. From TPS to DACA, deporting innocent young people who came to the United States to escape devastation and violence, or as a child, is not only wrong, it is really cruel, and it is heartless. So that is why we will continue to fight to protect undocumented youth as we work towards comprehensive immigration reform once and for all.

Now we are going to say we are going to continue to fight to make sure temporary protective status is granted for the 300,000 immigrants. I want to thank Delegate PLASKETT for helping us to, once again, raise our voices, educate the public, and stay woke.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, as we give condolences to those individuals in Texas, of course, we would be remiss not to give condolences out to our colleague and one of the former chairs of

the Congressional Black Caucus, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, who has lost one of her siblings. We just want her to know that our prayers are with her and with her family as they grieve, and we are there for the gentlewoman throughout this mourning process and however she may need us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE). The gentlewoman is my dear sister. She is a tireless champion of the issues of Caribbean people throughout the United States and throughout the world. Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE is not just from New York, but, in particular, Brooklyn. She knows how that is very dear to me having been a child of Brooklyn myself.

Congresswoman CLARKE's work and all the efforts she has made in being one of the co-chairs of the Caribbean Caucus, being the member at large of the Congressional Black Caucus, the work that the gentlewoman is doing, and she has really forged a partnership with the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus as well as MIA LOVE to make sure that the issue regarding Haiti, regarding the Haitians, and the temporary protected status are here. It is because of the gentlewoman's work that we are now having the Special Order hour and are continuing to push the pressure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman to discuss with us, with the American people, with this Congress, and with the Speaker how we should be moving forward with the issues regarding the people of Haiti and how extending the temporary protected status is not only good for the Haitian economy, it is good for America as well.

I thank the gentlewoman for leading us in this effort.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands for her leadership on this matter, serving as co-chair for the Caribbean Caucus, and being an outspoken advocate and fighter on behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands who are still reeling from the two hurricanes that wreaked havoc on the three islands of the U.S. Virgin Islands. I want to thank the gentlewoman for organizing us this evening and really moderating what we all have to say here today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern for the more than 300,000 temporary protected status beneficiaries who are under attack from this administration.

Temporary protected status was signed into law with bipartisan support by President George H. W. Bush as part of the Immigration Act of 1990. Since then, it has been used in roughly equal numbers by Democratic and Republican Presidents alike. This program is based on a simple idea that we can all agree upon: the idea that it is immoral to send someone back to a country suffering from famine, disease, war, or governmental collapse where they could reasonably expect to perish.

Today, instead, we, as a society, decided long ago as a humanitarian gesture to extend ourselves as a safe haven and to temporarily allow such people the ability to lawfully remain in the United States for up to 18 months at a time and seek gainful employment as conditions in their home countries would improve.

This is not citizenship, and this is not amnesty. Rather, it is a way of protecting human life while allowing eligible individuals from Haiti, Yemen, Honduras, Nicaragua, and numerous other countries across the world to earn wages for themselves and their loved ones abroad. Unfortunately, this administration's antipathy toward immigrants—particularly immigrants of color—has found its way to some of the most vulnerable amongst us and threatens the existence of this commonsense program rooted in human decency and respect for life.

This program of agreement is now being totally undermined with real lives hanging in the balance. For example, while it would seem obvious to extend Haiti's temporary protected status in light of the catastrophic 2010 earthquake, subsequent cholera epidemic, food insecurity crisis, and the damage inflicted by Hurricanes Matthew, Irma, and Maria, this administration only extended Haiti's status for 6 months in the month of May, while, at the same time, the administration insinuated that Haitian TPS recipients were criminals.

The administration now appears ready to ignore the advice of Haiti experts in the United States and the request of the Haitian Ambassador by forcing some 50,000 Haitians to subject themselves to life-threatening conditions in Haiti. This would not just be tragic for those forced to return, it would also be detrimental to Haiti's economy which benefits significantly from the hard-earned remittances that Haitian TPS beneficiaries send back to their loved ones. It is also no way to treat a neighbor that is located less than a 2-hour flight away from American soil, the most impoverished nation of the Western Hemisphere. Indeed, such a decision would be cruel and unusual punishment.

For this reason, I have worked with Congressman CEDRIC RICHMOND, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus in sending a letter to Acting DHS Secretary Elaine Duke, signed by the entire Congressional Black Caucus, requesting a full 18-month extension of Haiti's TPS status. I also asked that Acting Secretary Duke take the Haitian Ambassador up on his invitation to visit Haiti and to see the conditions for herself.

However, Haiti is not the only country that clearly merits an extension. Nearly 60,000 Hondurans and Nicaraguans currently await news of their fate, as will thousands of other immigrants from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

While I hope that Acting Secretary Duke will do the right thing and make an evidence-based decision in light of the human cost to her actions, our experience teaches us that we must also prepare for the worst.

Where this administration refuses to respect decades of bipartisan agreement, Congress must assert its constitutional powers and act to safeguard human life and American interests. I, therefore, call upon my congressional colleagues to come together and pass bipartisan legislation that will protect the hundreds of thousands of TPS beneficiaries from around the world—Black, brown, Asian and other—who are, at this moment, relying upon us for their very lives.

Although we live in times of great division, now is the moment to come together and recommit to the basic values that unite us all. This country was founded upon the idea of human dignity, and TPS is yet another test of whether we will be true to that idea or fall painfully short. We must not fall short, but instead we must rise to the occasion.

Mr. Speaker, TPS is something that falls within our purview to address. It is my sincere hope that we will address this impending crisis.

When I think about Haitians who are living here, many who, at this stage, had children born in the United States, and many who are here during the most productive time of their lives when they can work because of their strength, their ability, and their intellect, it would be a travesty to begin separating families and to wrench from these individuals the opportunity to add value to our civil society while undergirding the nation of their birth, the nation that many hope to return to at the appropriate time by summarily excusing them from our civil society.

Having said that, I, too, stand with my colleagues to extend on behalf of Chairman RICHMOND, the executive officers, and members of the CBC a heartfelt condolence in this season of bereavement to our dear colleague, Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, on the loss of her sister. She remains in our prayers at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands, once again, for her leadership.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman very much for the insight she has given us into the conditions not only in Haiti but the responsibility we have as Americans to our near neighbor, to a neighbor which supported us during our own Revolution, and who was there for us at the inception of the United States.

Haiti has been ravaged by so many natural disasters, and the benefit that we are receiving and the benefit that so much of Haiti is receiving from those individuals who are really industrious people here in the United States is just bar none.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Newark, New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. DONALD PAYNE has worked tirelessly on behalf of so many people throughout the world as he sits on the Committees of Homeland Security as well as Transportation and Infrastructure where he works on issues related to developing and building. It has oversight in homeland security and over the issues that affect us.

I am sure Congressman PAYNE has particular insight into how this temporary protected status would affect the people of Haiti and what it means to the security of this country to allow that temporary protected status to be continued from the gentleman's perch on the Committee on Homeland Security.

□ 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands for her leadership on these issues. Right now, her focus has been on helping her country come to grips with the devastating hurricanes that have struck all the islands of the American Virgin Islands, and she has demonstrated great leadership in that endeavor.

Also, on the whole issue around TPS, Ms. PLASKETT and Ms. CLARKE have been our true leaders in the diaspora around these issues, whether it be the Caribbean or back to the Continent of Africa. I just want to acknowledge their great work on all of these issues and also thank the gentlewoman for hosting tonight's Special Order hour on protecting TPS recipients.

Before I start on the topic at hand, I would like to send my condolences out to the loved ones of the 26 people tragically murdered and the 21 people injured in yesterday's mass shooting in Texas.

When will we realize that something must be done in this country?

I have to ask: How much blood must be shed before Congress acts on gun control?

It has been 10 years since Congress has passed a gun control law. Since then, more than 300,000 people have been killed by guns in this country. More than 100,000 of those deaths were homicides. The American people deserve better—much better.

As the news cycle moves from one tragedy to another, we have not forgotten, and must not forget, that the citizens that Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT and Congresswoman JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico represent are still recovering from this summer's hurricanes. They, too, deserve swift action to help them recover from these devastating storms.

That, Mr. Speaker, brings me to the topic of tonight's Special Order hour. I want to start by dispelling the myth that the temporary protected status designation poses a threat to America's security. The truth is that TPS holders are rigorously vetted before entering the country, and they go through stringent background checks before each TPS renewal.

Mr. Speaker, the TPS designation is a part of our national character, and it must be protected.

What do I mean by that?

We are a compassionate people, aren't we—a compassionate nation?

The Americans I know are proud to live in a country that is free and prosperous enough to extend a helping hand to those in need. The TPS designation does just that.

TPS is a helping hand that reaches out past our national borders to lift people out of the depths of despair brought on by natural disaster, violence, or turmoil. Yet the administration is reportedly planning to remove the TPS designation for nationals of several Latin American and Caribbean countries. This is really bad news for the United States.

First, ending the TPS designation for nationals of Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras will destabilize communities in the United States proper. TPS holders own small businesses. They pay taxes. They take out mortgages. They fill jobs that we rely on every day in construction; hospitality; restaurants; landscaping; and elder care, in particular.

Ending TPS designations mean ripping people out of their communities and local economies. Businesses will shutter. Essential jobs, like disaster cleanup, will go unfilled. The national economy will suffer a \$164 billion loss in gross domestic product.

Without TPS holders from Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras, New Jersey will lose \$864 million from its GDP. My State cannot handle that burden.

Second, ending TPS designations for Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras will tear apart families of color. Many TPS holders have lawfully lived in the United States for more than a decade. They have established their families here. They are parents to 270,000 U.S. citizens. In New Jersey, 8,800 U.S. citizens were born to TPS holders from Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras.

Forcing TPS holders to leave the country means forcing them to leave their families. Hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens will have to say goodbye to their parents and grandparents. People will be forced to return to countries that are still suffering from the problems that led them to the TPS designation in the first place.

Third, removing the TPS designation for nationals from Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras will threaten security throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. These small countries are still suffering from disasters, public health crises, and political instability.

The sudden influx of 300,000 additional people has the potential to destabilize national governments and threaten security throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, in 2015, 2016, and 2017, I led the effort to get the TPS designation for Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. These countries were reeling from public health and infrastructure

emergencies. They faced an existential threat from the Ebola virus, and the American people lent a helping hand by giving them temporary protected status. I have had no doubt that authorizing nationals from those West African countries to enter the United States saved lives; no doubt whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, we must not abandon our national character to the cynical call of “America first.” The TPS designation does not weaken us. It strengthens us by showing the world that the United States is morally worthy of its status as a superpower.

Rolling back the TPS program is bad policy, it is bad politics, and it is immoral. If the United States turns its back on those in need, what have we the people become?

Ms. PLASKETT. I thank the gentleman for the information that he has shared with us, and, more particularly, for causing us to reflect on who we are as Americans and what we stand for, and for reminding this Congress and this House how we have a responsibility to those in need, and that with greatness comes responsibility. Too whom much is given, much is required. That requirement goes particularly to our neighbors. We know that Haiti is, in fact, our neighbor. We have a responsibility to be there for them.

I thank the gentleman for all that he is doing and how often he is here for the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour to give us information and give us time to reflect. I am extremely appreciative of that. I thank the gentleman so much for all that he does for the Congressional Black Caucus, for his steady reliability in being there to support the issues that are important to the Caucus and to all of us as Americans.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida). The gentlewoman has 20 minutes remaining.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS). She may be new to this Congress—this is her first term, as a freshman—but she is not new to supporting issues that are important to the American people. In her time in Florida, having served as a public servant on the front lines for all of us and now here in the Congress, she is continuing that work.

From her position on Homeland Security and particularly to border and maritime security, this is an issue that she has great insight into. I know that she has a large number of Haitians in her own community and recognize the productivity that they provide, the stability that they provide in the community, how embedded they are in that community.

We are grateful for the gentlewoman being here in part of this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour on the issue of temporary protected status for all countries—there are 30 countries

and 300,000 individuals that have that—but, in particular, to the 50,000 Haitians who are living in this country during this time.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from the Virgin Islands for her leadership on this issue and for making it a priority and giving it the urgency that those under TPS status deserve.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, of course, I want to extend my condolences to the families whose loved ones were murdered in Sutherland Springs, Texas, while attending worship service.

I also extend my condolences to my colleague from Texas, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, who is mourning the death of her sister.

Mr. Speaker, after college—it was a lot of years ago, but I remember it like it was yesterday—I worked as a social worker, working with families in need of emergency services, in need of shelter, in need of food, and in need of medical care. I also worked with foster care children.

Mr. Speaker, you may know that I also spent over 20 years as a law enforcement officer. As such, the preservation of human life was my number one priority. Saving lives was first. But then we also wanted to improve the quality of life for persons living and working in our community.

Mr. Speaker, the quality of life matters also. That is what we are here to talk about tonight as Members of Congress: improving the quality of life for families who desperately need our help.

Approximately 50,000 Haitians hold TPS status, and 32,500 of them live in Florida. 18,800 U.S.-born children in Florida have Haitian parents who are TPS holders.

How did we get here, Mr. Speaker?

As you know, an earthquake—not planned, not expected—left thousands dead and resulted in the total collapse of Port-au-Prince’s infrastructure. A few years before the earthquake, I participated in a mission trip to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. We worked with children and families from a local church in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. That church was totally destroyed by the earthquake.

The earthquake displaced 1.5 million Haitians within their own country, destroyed more than 100,000 homes, and damaged nearly 200,000 more. The number of schools that were destroyed in Port-au-Prince alone is unbelievable. Over 55,000 Haitians who lost their homes in the earthquake are still living in 31 camps for internally displaced persons, unable to leave.

We are here tonight to talk about improving the quality of life for persons, for families, who desperately need our help.

□ 2015

This crisis is not over. In April of this year, heavy rains caused flooding and landslides. According to the Haitian officials, an estimated 80 percent of spring harvest may have been destroyed.

This crisis is not over. Since September of 2016, damage from Hurricane Matthew and recent rains have compounded food insecurity experienced by an estimated 3.2 million people in Haiti, not to mention the devastation caused by Irma and Hurricane Maria. Hurricane Matthew also exacerbated the food insecurity crisis that already existed, placing 2.4 million Haitians, 32 percent of the population, in the grips of an acute food insecurity crisis.

Mr. Speaker, forcing the return of 50,000 people to Haiti would disrupt any meaningful effort to recover. As you know, in May, the Department of Homeland Security redesignated Haiti for 6 months of temporary protective status rather than the full 18 months requested by the Government of Haiti. DHS’ decision, obviously, did not reflect the reality on the ground.

Regardless of how you might feel about the policy, TPS holders are perhaps the most vetted, legally present, and work-authorized community in our country. They have submitted to numerous criminal background checks every 18 months. Americans with temporary protective status are hard-working individuals who are contributing to our economy, our communities, and our industries. Just check the numbers.

Mr. Speaker, the only strategic and humane decision is to fully extend Haiti’s TPS designation for 18 months by the November 23 deadline. Working to improve the quality of life for families who desperately need our help, that is the promise of America, and I pray that America keeps its promise.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. DEMINGS so much for that heartfelt appeal to the better senses of us, to the better angels within us as Americans, but, also, just speaking practicably about what this policy does not only for Haiti, but for us as Americans.

You know, you hear stories about most people, how this affects them. We hear the larger numbers: 50,000 individuals from Haiti, 300,000 individual groupings from all other countries. We found out, a report just came out, that Nicaragua will only have 12 additional months for temporary protective status, while the conditions in Nicaragua have not changed.

I heard a story about a woman, Joana Desir, one of the Haitians. On a recent day in Manhattan, the 32-year-old home healthcare provider races in between patients. By midday, she has already helped transport one of her regular patients, a young girl with severe respiratory disease, to school and visited two senior patients in their home. It is a hard job, but she says it is rewarding.

“Most of the immigrants that I know, they have a busy life like me,” she says. “I leave home like 5:45 a.m. and sometimes get home by like 9 p.m.”

Joana came to the U.S. in 2018 and was still in the U.S. when a powerful

earthquake struck Haiti in 2010. Hundreds of thousands were killed, and the Obama administration granted Haitians temporary protective status. They were shielded from deportation and given work permits.

Critics say the temporary program for Haiti and others where disasters and wars took place decades ago has become permanent and amounts to a backdoor immigration policy. However, what we need to understand is what is still going on in Haiti right now.

Why this also makes sense for us is that it is estimated by the think tank Inter-American Dialogue that all Haitians abroad this year—this year alone, Mr. Speaker—will send home \$2 billion in remittances to that country. That is nearly equal to Haiti's annual operating budget, that \$2 billion. The money that the Haitians that are living in the United States and sending back home is keeping that economy afloat. Without the money that the Haitians in the United States, in America, are providing, there would be a complete collapse in the country of Haiti, which would then create additional cataclysmic work that we, as Americans, would need.

We talk about immigrants trying to come into this country. We talk about the collapse of infrastructure, the collapse of an economy that will happen if the Haitians who are still living here in the United States under temporary protective status with jobs are caused to leave.

On May 24, the Department of Homeland Security redesignated Haiti for 6 months of temporary protective status rather than the full 18 months. It is important to understand that, because of that smaller amount of time, Haitians still have to apply. It costs almost \$2,000 to apply for an extension of a visa. These people are in flux as to whether or not they should continue to apply.

In a letter sent on Friday, November 3, the Congressional Black Caucus urged the Department of Homeland Security once again to fully extend Haiti's TPS designation for 18 months by the November 23 deadline in light of the aforementioned conditions in Haiti, as well as the damage caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which has exacerbated these conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD that letter from the Congressional Black Caucus for others to see.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS,
November 3, 2017.

Hon. ELAINE C. DUKE,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ACTING SECRETARY DUKE: On May 24, the Department of Homeland Security redesignated Haiti for 6 months of Temporary Protected Status, rather than the full 18 months requested by the Government of Haiti, Haiti experts in the United States, the Congressional Black Caucus, and others. This decision was against the weight of the facts on the ground, which included Haiti's food scarcity crisis, cholera epidemic, and

the ongoing challenges posed by the unprecedented 2010 earthquake. We write again to encourage DHS to fully extend Haiti's TPS designation for 18 months by the November 23 deadline in light of the clear conditions that justify such continued treatment, including the damage caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which has exacerbated these conditions.

As recently as October 4, 2017, the Haitian Ambassador to the United States wrote to you to formally request a full 18-month redesignation in light of the ongoing economic and humanitarian conditions that Haiti's citizens face each day. In that letter, the Ambassador explicitly stated that the goal of this request was to allow Haiti to recover from the effects of the earthquake, cholera epidemic, and Hurricanes Matthew, Irma, and Maria so as to continue with Haiti's recovery efforts and to become more independent of American assistance in the long term. The Ambassador also graciously invited you to visit Haiti and see such conditions for yourself. A government does not undertake such action lightly and this request should merit considerable weight.

A recent independent statutory analysis of Haiti's qualification for TPS confirmed the validity of the government's concerns, finding that the conditions that justified Haiti's 2011 re-designation remain. The analysis found that nearly 40,000 Haitians uprooted by the 2010 earthquake are officially displaced and that many more likely remain unofficially displaced in dangerously inadequate shelters. The cholera epidemic that was tragically caused by international efforts to aid Haiti in 2010 more than doubled following Hurricane Matthew and is expected to directly affect more than 30,000 people by the end of 2017. Hurricane Matthew also exacerbated the food insecurity crisis in Haiti, placing 2.4 million Haitians—22 percent of its population—in the grips of an acute food insecurity crisis. Based on these clear facts, the analysis rightfully concluded that it is in the best interest of Haiti and the United States to re-designate Haiti for another 18 months of TPS because it continues to face extraordinary and temporary conditions stemming from the 2010 earthquake and worsened by subsequent events that justify such relief.

Despite these serious challenges, the Haitian government has been working diligently for years to improve its economy, public health conditions, and infrastructure in coordination with the United States government and international community. In order to accomplish this task, Haiti relies in large part on remittances that its citizens receive from TPS beneficiaries in the United States. Therefore, the negative consequences of terminating Haiti's TPS designation would be twofold. It would end essential remittances that significantly contribute to Haiti's recovery while also forcing the poorest republic in the Western Hemisphere to absorb the cost of reintegrating thousands of citizens all at once. Such actions could be catastrophic to Haiti's recovery efforts and run counter to Congressional efforts to improve American relations in the region through the recently-passed United States-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act (Public Law 114-291).

Finally, it is essential to note that Haitian TPS beneficiaries directly contribute to the United States. They pay taxes, spend money, contribute to Social Security and Medicare, and help promote American prosperity in numerous sectors, such as the restaurant and food service, construction, and hospitality industries. About 30 percent of TPS beneficiaries are homeowners, stimulating the real estate industry and contributing to the local property tax base. Also, one in nine

TPS beneficiaries in the labor force is self-employed, meaning they not only create jobs for themselves, but likely create jobs for others. A recent report found "that the expiration of Haitian TPS would cost America \$2.8 billion over a decade in lost gross domestic product."

For these reasons, we urge you in the strongest terms to take advantage of the full amount of time granted by Congress to study the conditions on the ground and reach the only appropriate decision—a full 18-month re-designation of Haiti's TPS designation.

Sincerely,

Cedric L. Richmond, Chair, Congressional Black Caucus; Yvette D. Clarke, Chair, CBC Immigration Working Group; Cory Booker, U.S. Senator; Kamala D. Harris, U.S. Senator; John Conyers, Jr., Member of Congress; John Lewis, Member of Congress; Eleanor Holmes Norton, Member of Congress; Maxine Waters, Member of Congress; Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Member of Congress; James E. Clyburn, Member of Congress; Alcee L. Hastings, Member of Congress; Eddie Bernice Johnson, Member of Congress; Bobby L. Rush, Member of Congress; Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, Member of Congress; Bennie G. Thompson, Member of Congress; Sheila Jackson Lee, Member of Congress; Elijah E. Cummings, Member of Congress.

Danny K. Davis, Member of Congress; Gregory W. Meeks, Member of Congress; Barbara Lee, Member of Congress; Wm. Lacy Clay, Jr., Member of Congress; David Scott, Member of Congress; G.K. Butterfield, Member of Congress; Emanuel Cleaver II, Member of Congress; Al Green, Member of Congress; Gwen S. Moore, Member of Congress; Keith Ellison, Member of Congress; Hank Johnson, Member of Congress; Andre Carson, Member of Congress; Marcia L. Fudge, Member of Congress; Karen Bass, Member of Congress; Terri A. Sewell, Member of Congress; Frederica Wilson, Member of Congress; Donald M. Payne, Jr., Member of Congress.

Joyce Beatty, Member of Congress; Hakeem Jeffries, Member of Congress; Marc Veasey, Member of Congress; Robin Kelly, Member of Congress; Alma Adams, Member of Congress; Brenda Lawrence, Member of Congress; Mia Love, Member of Congress; Stacey Plaskett, Member of Congress; Bonnie Watson Coleman, Member of Congress; Dwight Evans, Member of Congress; Lisa Blunt Rochester, Member of Congress; Anthony Brown, Member of Congress; Val Butler Demings, Member of Congress; Al Lawson, Member of Congress; A. Donald McEachin, Member of Congress.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, in that letter, which is signed by all of the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, who are members in both the Democratic as well as Republican caucus, Members in the House as well as the Senate, we urge Secretary Duke that the Ambassador to Haiti has explicitly stated that the goal of the request was to allow Haiti to recover from the effects of the earthquake, a cholera epidemic, and Hurricanes Matthew, Irma, and Maria.

Matthew struck Haiti in 2016 of last year. Of course you are aware of Irma and Maria. We Americans, unbeknownst to ourselves and the work

that we have done, also exacerbated food insecurity in Haiti by placing individuals, causing the cholera epidemic that is there. Unbeknownst to ourselves, when we came there to give support to Haiti, we Americans brought the cholera epidemic that is now ravaging Haiti and has taken about 10,000 people.

Additionally, Hurricane Matthew exacerbated the food insecurity crisis in Haiti, placing 2.4 million Haitians, 22 percent of the population, in the grips of an acute food security crisis.

I have many Haitians who are in my community in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and we count them as some of our hardest workers, and we recognize the impact that sending so many of these people back would have not only on the loss of jobs here and the work that those individuals are doing in the United States, but on the economy of Haiti itself.

There is no infrastructure that will support the 50,000 people going back to Haiti at this time, and that economy will probably completely collapse without the remittances that the Haitians who are living in the United States would be able to bring to that country.

Therefore, the negative consequences of terminating Haiti's TPS designation would be twofold: such actions would be catastrophic to Haiti's recovery efforts and run counter to congressional efforts to improve American relations in the region through the recently passed United States-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act, Public Law 114-291.

So the 300,000 Honduran, Nicaraguan, Haitian, and Salvadoran immigrants await a mass deportation decision on temporary protective status, and we are requesting—we are urging, Mr. Speaker—that this Congress would continue to urge the Department of Homeland Security, and use our own powers, to ensure the safety of those individuals, ensure the safety of the stability of the economies of our near neighbors, of Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, and El Salvador, and urge the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for their protections not to expire and not to put these people into difficult choices of returning to countries that still face many of the same extraordinary conditions that led to the initial grant of TPS or remaining in the United States without lawful immigrant status.

We believe that this is the right thing to do, that this Congress wants to do the right thing, that the Trump administration's 2018 proposed budget cut, budget request to Congress, for example, proposes to reduce foreign aid to Latin America and the Caribbean to levels not seen since 2001. Because of that, the remittances of these individuals is even more important. Remittances from the United States to El Salvador equal \$4 billion; Honduras, \$3.3 billion; to Haiti, almost \$2 billion. Using GDP estimates from the World Bank, remittances make up more than

15 percent of the GDP for El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti.

Therefore, if we are going to reduce the budget in terms of foreign aid to these countries, it is important that we do not allow the collapse of these countries. It will not only bring economic collapse, but we know it is very likely to bring political anarchy and political disruption, as well, to countries that are instable as they are, countries where we are looking to bring stable democratic governments. Ensuring that individuals are allowed to stay here in this country and provide those remittances, provide the support that is necessary to grow those economies, embed democratic ideals, will be most beneficial to us and to ensure the stability of the Western Hemisphere at this time.

Mr. Speaker, this is an imperative that is important to this country, imperative to the United States, and we are grateful that we have had this time to share this information with you, with the American people, with this Congress. We are urging our colleagues, urging Members of this Congress, to work with members of the Congressional Black Caucus, individuals you have heard tonight, MIA LOVE, CEDRIC RICHMOND, YVETTE CLARKE, DONALD PAYNE, VAL DEMINGS, BARBARA LEE, all the members of the Congressional Black Caucus and others who urge that this support be enacted not only by the Department of Homeland Security, but by this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committees on the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committee, I rise today to express my strong objection to the announced intention by the Trump Administration not to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haiti, Honduras, and El Salvador.

On May 24, 2017, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) re-designated Haiti for 6 months of Temporary Protected Status (TPS), rather than the full 18 months requested by the Government of Haiti, Haiti experts in the United States, and the Congressional Black Caucus, among others.

DHS' decision did not reflect the realities on the ground in Haiti, which include Haiti's food scarcity crisis, cholera epidemic, and the ongoing challenges posed by the unprecedented 2010 earthquake.

In a letter sent this past Friday, November 3, 2017, the Congressional Black Caucus urged DHS, once again, to fully extend Haiti's TPS designation for 18 months by the November 23, 2017 deadline in light of the aforementioned conditions in Haiti, as well as the exacerbated damage caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

In a report published in October 2017, the highly regarded Global Justice Clinic concluded that conditions justifying Haiti's qualification for TPS in 2011 remain as acute today as they were then.

The study also found that 40,000 Haitians uprooted by the 2010 earthquake are officially displaced and that many more likely remain unofficially displaced in dangerously inadequate shelters.

The cholera epidemic that was tragically caused by international efforts to aid Haiti in 2010 more than doubled following Hurricane Matthew and is expected to directly affect more than 30,000 people by the end of 2017.

Hurricane Matthew also exacerbated the food insecurity crisis in Haiti, placing 2.4 million Haitians—22 percent of its population—in the grips of an acute food insecurity crisis.

The Haitian government has been working diligently for years to improve its economy, public health conditions, and infrastructure in coordination with the United States government and international community.

In order to accomplish this task, Haiti relies in large part on remittances that its citizens receive from TPS beneficiaries in the United States.

Therefore, the negative consequences of terminating Haiti's TPS designation would be twofold.

It would end essential remittances that significantly contribute to Haiti's recovery while also forcing the poorest republic in the Western Hemisphere to absorb the cost of reintegrating thousands of citizens all at once.

Such actions could be catastrophic to Haiti's recovery efforts and run counter to Congressional efforts to improve American relations in the region through the recently-passed United States-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act (Public Law 114-291).

Finally, it is essential to note that Haitian TPS beneficiaries directly contribute to the United States.

They pay taxes, spend money, contribute to Social Security and Medicare, and help promote American prosperity in numerous sectors, such as the restaurant and food service, construction, and hospitality industries.

About 30 percent of TPS beneficiaries are homeowners, stimulating the real estate industry and contributing to the local property tax base.

Also, one in nine TPS beneficiaries in the labor force is self-employed, meaning they not only create jobs for themselves, but also create jobs for others.

A recent report found that the expiration of Haitian TPS would cost the United States economy more \$2.8 billion over a decade in lost gross domestic product.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be both smart and compassionate when it comes to extending TPS for Haiti.

The compassionate thing to do is extend TPS for Haiti.

But just as important, extending TPS for Haiti is the smart thing to do because it strengthens the American economy and advances the national interests of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I also join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus in drawing attention to the Republican Leadership's latest plan to hurt the American taxpayers, especially those who did not support the President during the election.

The Republican tax cut would result in the biggest increase in the deficit by any President in the history of the United States, likely growing it by the annual sum of \$1 trillion from now on.

Some may wonder if the President would stoop to punishing people because they did not vote for him—I would point them to the Republican Tax Proposal and say the answer is found in the 429 pages of H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

Americans who send their children to private school will be able to do so—at the expense of taxpayers who send their children to public schools courtesy of the Republican tax cut plan.

The Republican Tax plan amends Title 26 of the United States Code § 529 that deals with Qualified tuition programs.

The Code was intended to encourage persons to attain higher education and provide incentives for persons who pursue doctorates.

Most people know that going back to school to obtain a degree is a difficult choice to make with full time jobs and family obligations.

Having a degree can substantially increase income and provide choices that would otherwise be unattainable to the recipient of advanced degrees.

The benefit to the economy and our nation's leadership in the sciences rests with the number of people who attain undergraduate and graduate degrees.

The Republicans have gone into this section 529 of the tax code and extended the tax write-offs to those sending their children to K–12 private schools.

Other ways the Republican Tax bill hurts taxpayers who pursue college educations for themselves or their children.

Repeal of Lifetime Learning Credit;

Repeal of the Student Loan Interest Deduction;

Repeal of the qualified tuition reduction;

Repeal of educational assistance program;

Termination of private activity bonds; and,

Creation of a new excise tax on endowments at private colleges and universities.

The Republican leadership of the House is also causing problems for private sector investments in Colleges and Universities.

The tax bill threatens tax write offs for donations to colleges and universities and will limit tax credits associated with university-industry partnerships.

The Republicans claim that their Child Tax Credit proposal would help working families, but it simply does not do enough.

The House tax plan proposes a nonrefundable \$600 increase in the Child Tax Credit (CTC), and would make more families earning six figures eligible to claim the CTC.

This proposal wouldn't help the women who need it most.

In addition, whatever benefits this CTC proposal would provide pales in comparison to those that would be received by the wealthy and corporations under this tax plan.

The bill cuts taxes for major corporations who already pay far less than their fair share.

Republicans claim that economic growth will more than pay for the lost revenue but we've tried this before.

When trickle-down economics fails again and this bill explodes the nation's deficit, Republicans will call for huge spending cuts to critical programs that hardworking Americans depend on to make ends meet.

The plan's negative impact on the Lone Star state would be particularly hard.

Independent analyses show the Republican plan would actually raise taxes on about 1.5 million Texas households, or 12.4 percent of households next year.

On average, families earning up to \$86,000 annually would see a \$794.00 increase in their tax liability, a significant burden on families struggling to afford child care and balance their checkbook.

According to the IRS, 23 percent of tax filers, or 2.8 million Texas households, deduct their state and local taxes with an average deduction of \$7,823 in 2015.

The Ryan-McConnell plan eliminates this deduction, which would lower home values and put pressure on states and towns to collect revenues they depend on to fund schools, roads, and vital public resources.

Placing further strains on middle-class Texans is the elimination of the personal exemption, which deducts \$4,050 for each taxpayer and dependent on a return from taxable income.

In 2015, roughly 9.3 million dependent exemptions were claimed in the Lone Star State.

The GOP's reckless and irresponsible tax plan is made all the more obscene by its disproportionate and immoral handouts to the wealthiest few.

According to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, millionaires in Texas, 0.31 percent of filers in 2015 would receive almost 57 percent of the benefits from the tax plan.

Texans deserve a tax plan that puts working and middle class families first, not more deficit-expanding tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires.

We need bipartisan tax reform that creates jobs, fuels economic growth, and puts more money into the pockets of hard-working American families.

A recent Pew Research Center report found little support for cutting taxes for high-income households, which is defined as more than \$250,000 or large businesses and corporations.

In fact, 43 percent favored raising taxes on high-income households and 52 percent said corporate taxes should be raised.

The Republicans persist with their scheme of raising taxes on hard-working middle class families to pay for tax cuts for the rich.

It is reckless to explode our deficit which according to the Tax Policy Center, would skyrocket by \$2.4 trillion over the first decade.

The wealthy must pay their fair share, but the GOP tax scheme offers them a free lunch at the expense of those who are most in need of a helping hand.

The power of the purse rests with the House of Representatives and it is our job to make sure that the American People are treated fairly.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. UPTON (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for November 2 through today on account of a family commitment.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. HASTINGS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and November 7.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through November 9 on account of death in family.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, November 7, 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:

3084. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Major final rule — Restrictions on Qualified Financial Contracts of Certain FDIC-Supervised Institutions; Revisions to the Definition of Qualifying Master Netting Agreement and Related Definitions (RIN: 3064-AE46) received October 31, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3085. A letter from the Acting Administrator, MFH Portfolio Management Division, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Multi-Family Housing Program Requirements to Reduce Financial Reporting Requirements (RIN: 0575-AC98) received October 27, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3086. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's withdrawal of direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Rules for Open Burning and Incinerators [EPA-R01-OAR-2017-0138; FRL-9970-41-Region 1] received November 2, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3087. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Continuous Opacity Monitoring Requirements for Municipal Waste Combustors [EPA-R03-OAR-2017-0484; FRL-9970-28-Region 3] received November 2, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3088. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Benzovindiflupyr; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0448; FRL-9967-33] received November 2, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3089. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Formaldehyde, polymer with 1,3-benzenediol, 2-methyloxirane and oxirane, ethers with polyethylene glycol mono-Me ether; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0362; FRL-9969-99] received November 2, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3090. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Formaldehyde, polymer with 1,3-benzenediol, ethers with polyethylene glycol mono-Me ether; Exemption