

I urge our leadership and our Ways and Means Committee to consider leaving the personal income tax structure intact, but using the budget authority instead to provide a permanent, uniform, across-the-board reduction in the rates for all tax brackets.

Our back-of-the-envelope estimate is that, using the current framework, we can reduce tax brackets by a full 1 percent, averaging about \$600 of tax savings for joint filers. If we included the repeal of the individual mandate in ObamaCare, we could reduce all tax brackets by 1.35 percent, averaging about \$800 of lower taxes for joint filers.

I think there are four principal advantages to this approach:

First, it leaves no taxpayer behind. Whatever your circumstances, whatever the deductions you claim, you can be sure that your overall tax bill will go down.

Second, by reducing all marginal rates, it will increase the economic growth potential of the reform. Productivity depends on how much your next dollar is taxed.

That is the marginal rate. We can bring down the top marginal rate under this reform; whereas, under the current proposal, it not only stays where it is, but in the bubble bracket, it increases to 46 percent.

Third, these reforms can be communicated easily to the American people.

Fourth, it will remove a vast portion of the opposition that we are seeing among various business groups that imperils the entire bill.

Madam Speaker, the tax reform bill that emerges from these deliberations will ultimately be judged by the prosperity that it produces and the relief that it brings to all American families.

If it is done right, the tax reform bill now taking shape in Congress can deliver us to that day. But if it is done wrong, we will have squandered the most important chance the American people have given us to materially improve their lives.

I remember the Reagan era. Wages rose, opportunities for better jobs abounded, and everywhere you could sense the optimism that comes with prosperity and abundance. I want my kids to know what it is like when morning dawns again in the American economy. It is up to us in this Chamber to make it happen, so we must.

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

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CUELLAR (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and November 9 on account of returning to district to support the community of Sutherland Springs.

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

#### SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1015. An act to require the Federal Communications Commission to study the feasibility of designating a simple, easy-to-remember dialing code to be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; in addition, to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 1088. An act to require the collection of voluntary feedback on services provided by agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3031. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for flexibility in making withdrawals from a Thrift Savings Plan account, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, November 9, 2017, at 9 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

3131. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's Report of FY 2017 Audits, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Sec. 8439(b) (1994 and Supp. III 1997), and 5 U.S.C. Sec. 8477(g); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3132. A letter from the Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedule for Rating Disabilities; The Endocrine System (RIN: 2900-A044) received November 6, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

3133. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Homeless Veterans (RIN: 2900-AQ07) received November 6, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

3134. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a supplement to the Department of Veterans Affairs October 31, 2017 transmittal of the draft bill, the "Veteran Coordinated Access and Rewarding Experiences (CARE) Act

("the draft CARE Act"); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

3135. A letter from the Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "CMS Ensured Nearly All Part D Drug Records Contained Valid Prescriber Identifiers in 2016", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395w-104(c)(4)(C); Public Law 114-10, title V, Sec. 507; (129 Stat. 169); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GOWDY: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 3071. A bill to require executive agencies to consider equipment rental in any cost-effectiveness analysis for equipment acquisition, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-402). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOWDY: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 3244. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for annual surveys of Federal employees, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-403). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee:

H.R. 4294. A bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to provide a criminal penalty for unauthorized disclosures of certain individually identifiable information by officers or employees of a Federal department or agency; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. COLE, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 4295. A bill to provide for enhanced Federal, State, and local assistance in the enforcement of the immigration laws, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act, to authorize appropriations to carry out the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself and Mr. MEEKS):

H.R. 4296. A bill to place requirements on operational risk capital requirements for banking organizations established by an appropriate Federal banking agency; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 4297. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide information regarding vaccines for seniors as part of the Medicare & You handbook and to ensure that the treatment of cost sharing for vaccines under Medicare part D is consistent with the

treatment of vaccines under Medicare part B, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 4298. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to allow grazing as a mid-contract management practice in the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 4299. A bill to provide for the indefinite duration of certain military land withdrawals, to improve the management of lands currently subject to such withdrawals and to make the management of such lands more transparent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HANABUSA (for herself and Mr. BISHOP of Utah):

H.R. 4300. A bill to authorize Pacific Historic Parks to establish a commemorative display to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Pacific Theater of World War II, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. CLYBURN, and Mr. GOWDY):

H.R. 4301. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 Tom Hall Street in Fort Mill, South Carolina, as the "J. Elliott Williams Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 4302. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to create congressional accountability for emergency lending programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 4303. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to prohibit funding under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grant program and the Public Safety and Community Policing grant program to be provided to law enforcement agencies that use license plate readers unless certain conditions are met; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 4304. A bill to provide whistleblower protections to certain workers in the offshore oil and gas industry; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 4305. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to prohibit payments of premium subsidy for harvest price policies; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself and Mr. LOBIONDO):

H.R. 4306. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself and Miss RICE of New York):

H.R. 4307. A bill to provide for temporary emergency impact aid for local educational agencies; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself and Mr. O'HALLERAN):

H.R. 4308. A bill to provide for grants to finance broadband transmission in certain rural areas; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MESSER:

H.R. 4309. A bill to codify Executive Order 13771, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BIGGS, and Mr. NORMAN):

H.R. 4310. A bill to amend section 412(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require ratification of a plan with respect to a refugee by the legislature of a State before the refugee may be initially placed or resettled in the State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PITTENGER (for himself, Mr. NUNES, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. YOHO, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Ms. DELAULO, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. HECK, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. CULBERSON):

H.R. 4311. A bill to modernize and strengthen the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to more effectively guard against the risk to the national security of the United States posed by certain types of foreign investment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Foreign Affairs, Intelligence (Permanent Select), Armed Services, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RENACCI (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. LATTI, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. DAVIDSON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. TURNER, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 4312. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure the Secretary of Veterans Affairs permits the display of Battlefield Crosses in national cemeteries; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SANCHEZ:

H.R. 4313. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to provide protections for active duty military consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 4314. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the temporary halt in pension payments for Members of Congress sentenced for certain offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government

Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VARGAS (for himself and Mr. POLIQUIN):

H.R. 4315. A bill to exclude from consideration as income under the United States Housing Act of 1937 certain veterans compensation and pensions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WALZ (for himself and Mr. FOR-  
TENBERRY):

H.R. 4316. A bill to provide for the reform and continuation of the beginning farmer and rancher program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 4317. A bill to authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to issue an order continuing a stay of a hydroelectric license for the Mahoney Lake hydroelectric project in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H. Con. Res. 91. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that public health professionals should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States on "Public Health Thank You Day", November 20, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee:

H.R. 4294.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional Authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate in commerce in and among the states, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution.

Additionally, Article I, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed in the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be codified into law; and therefore, implicitly allows Congress to repeal any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 4295.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 "necessary and proper" clause.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4296.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause