

Technology degree-granting institution.

CPI is recognized throughout Pennsylvania as a premier provider of post-secondary career and technical education programs. Scores of students in the Commonwealth have earned a career in technical education thanks to Hank's vision to grow CPI into the institution it is today.

Mr. Speaker, there has been no greater champion for CPI than Hank Yeagley for the past two decades, earning him the title of Mr. CPI among faculty, staff, administrators, as well as past and present students alike. I wholeheartedly congratulate Hank Yeagley on a well deserved retirement and wish him the best.

DEFEAT THE TAX REFORM PLAN

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, the tax plan that has been proposed by the House Republican leadership fails to support working families while making them foot a \$1.5 trillion bill.

Nonpartisan research projects that this legislation would raise taxes on 38 million hardworking Americans. The impact would be far and wide as the tax plan would end deductions for seniors facing growing medical expenses, young adults working to shrink their student debt, and families paying State income and sales taxes.

This legislation would also have enormously damaging economic consequences as it would leave our children to pay off its \$1.5 trillion price tag. We need tax reform that puts working families first, but this clearly isn't it.

For the sake of our economy, seniors, students, and working families, as well as the middle class, we must defeat this bill.

STUDENTS GAIN ESSENTIAL SKILLS IN A GLOBAL AND INTERCONNECTED MARKETPLACE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask for my colleagues' support for the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act, which I introduced along with my good friend, Congresswoman CHERI BUSTOS.

As a former Florida certified teacher, I know that education is the key to unlocking long-lasting and positive change in all of our communities. But in today's interconnected world, students must gain foreign language skills and the ability to learn from other cultures.

Study abroad programs are an excellent way to learn these essential skills. However, Mr. Speaker, the ability to

study abroad remains just a dream for rural, minority, and first-generation college students.

CHERI BUSTOS and I filed this bill to address this problem by establishing a competitive grant program that will allow universities to provide low-income and other underrepresented undergraduates with the means to be able to study abroad.

Mr. Speaker, the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act is a commonsense bill that will help our students gain essential skills and empower them to thrive in a global and interconnected marketplace, and I thank my friend, Congresswoman BUSTOS, for allowing me to enter this bill with her.

HELP PREPARE OUR STUDENTS TO CHANGE THE WORLD

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act with my colleague and my friend from across the aisle, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN.

Paul Simon was a five-term Congressman and two-term Senator from my home State of Illinois. Like me, he believed in bipartisan solutions. In fact, as a Democrat, Paul Simon served as Lieutenant Governor of Illinois under Republican Governor Richard Ogilvie—the only time in modern history that Illinois has elected a Governor and a Lieutenant Governor from different parties.

Paul Simon believed in a government that helps people and encouraged Congress to work together to prepare the next generation with the knowledge required to succeed in an increasingly global world.

Our bill would establish a competitive grant program and Paul Simon's name to help do just that.

The program would increase opportunities for college students to study abroad, especially students who don't get to do so, like so many of the rural and community college students in my district.

Paul Simon once said: Some of us still think we can change the world. I am proud to introduce a bipartisan bill with Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN to help prepare our students to change the world.

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RECOGNIZING WINFIELD SCOTT "BUD" JONES

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Winfield Scott Jones, affectionately known as Bud, a respected constituent of the 22nd Congressional District, who dedicated his life to improving our community.

After graduating from Syracuse University in 1963, Bud Jones worked as a physical education teacher at Pulaski High School for 33 years. During his tenure, Bud also served as the track and field coach and the basketball coach. Bud was named New York State Coach of the Year and was inducted into the Central New York High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

Bud Jones was a shining example of the tremendous impact that one individual can have on an entire community. He was a gracious leader and a positive influence on the young men and women he taught and coached, always motivating them to strive for excellence.

Winfield Scott Jones, affectionately known by all of us as Bud, passed away peacefully on November 4, 2017. It is with sadness that we mourn his passing, and we extend our condolences to his beloved family.

We know that his spirit will live on in all those who had the privilege of knowing him. Our community is forever grateful for his service and profound impact on all of us.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, this week is American Education Week, a time to celebrate our public education system.

The public education system is one of this Nation's greatest accomplishments. In classrooms from Newark, New Jersey, to Nome, Alaska, public schools train a new generation of world leaders, bridge builders, first responders, artists, doctors, plumbers, and CEOs.

Children in this country—all of them—have a right to a high-quality education.

It is a sad state of affairs that we have a U.S. Secretary of Education who continues to tilt the board against children whose way up is through public education.

During American Education Week, I call on my colleagues to stop using public schools as a political bargaining chip. Let's put public schools back together and back to work for the next generation of leaders.

TAX BILL

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, many times, the American people wonder about the correlation between the work that we do here. As a member of the Budget Committee, I can tell them that the tax bill that is about to move through this House—the Republican Trump tax bill—will bring about \$1.41 trillion in revenue decreases in discretionary spending, which means cuts in their Medicare and Medicaid.

Why do they want to do this?

They want to do this so that they can compound the injury to those who need a mortgage deduction, which will be eliminated for any home that you buy in the future.

If you have medical expenses, that will be eliminated. You will not be able to deduct that, whether you are a young family with a catastrophic illness or a senior citizen.

Then those of you who are trying to increase your opportunities for the future—help your children—you will not be able to deduct student loan interest, tuition, and other education expenses.

Elections matter, but actions matter. This tax bill is a crippling, devastating bill, and it will create the complete opposite of what Republicans say they believe in—a huge deficit, with a huge debt, on the backs of the American people. Vote “no” on this tax bill.

TAX REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to co-anchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour.

I also want to take the time to acknowledge our chair, the Honorable CEDRIC RICHMOND from the State of Louisiana.

For the next hour, we have a chance to speak directly to the American people on issues that are important to the Congressional Black Caucus. The issue right now that seems to be of the most importance to the Congressional Black Caucus and the constituents that we represent, and the American public, for that matter, is tax reform, and the plan that is being considered that the Speaker has indicated that he would like for us to vote on this week.

We have a few Members here who would like to take the time to also express their interest in this. This is a very big deal, obviously. We don’t do tax reform that often. The last time we did tax reform was in the early 1980s, and that was, obviously, something that was very bipartisan. This experience has not been bipartisan whatsoever, and we are concerned also about the effect that it is going to have on our constituencies.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to open it up for Members to talk about whatever it is that they would like to, but I did

want to let you know that the main topic was going to be tax reform.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative PAYNE for his participation again and for always participating in the CBC Special Order hours. We know that these are very important. Our constituencies, again, want to hear how we stand on these issues. They are getting a lot of press right now. So I thank the gentleman very much for being here this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), my friend and colleague.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman VEASEY for hosting tonight’s Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, we are here, as the gentleman from Texas has stated, to discuss many different issues that face the American people.

H.R. 1, which is interesting that it holds that number, because based on what we see, that tax cut will only work for the top 1 percent, so we feel that it is appropriate that it was designated H.R. 1.

Mr. Speaker, this tax bill, cut tax scam will devastate over a period of time the working class, people trying to move into the middle class, and middle class families. Eventually, some people might see a bit of a cut, but for most people, there will be an increase.

I do not understand why we continue to think that trickle-down economics is going to work in this country. It has failed time and time again. To give breaks to the most wealthy, somehow we feel that that is going to overflow and trickle and drip down to the middle class. Sometimes a drip is very slow. We continue to wait for this economic equation to work one time in the country’s history because, up to this point, it has not worked.

Why would we not allow families to continue to deduct their interest on student loans? Why?

Most of these families are fighting to get their children into college and have to take out loans.

What is it about the country that we need to tax those people?

Tell me why it is that they cannot deduct this interest.

Two of my sisters are teachers, both in education—one in alternative high school work and one a kindergarten teacher for 25 or 30 years. In kindergarten, you are looking to help a youngster become creative, find their gift. On many occasions, with the school not being able to supply things, they would go to the educational stores and buy flashcards and buy other items to enhance the children’s education, out of their pockets, out of their personal moneys.

Now you are going to say that they cannot deduct those expenses that they are using to educate our children, our next leaders? Why?

Yet, if you go from a 75-foot yacht to a 100-foot yacht, you are allowed to deduct the difference. Why?

It absolutely makes no sense what we are doing with H.R. 1. It is a billion-

aire’s tax scam, and we need to make sure the American people understand that.

Secretary Mnuchin was on the talk shows on Sunday. He said: Well, we can’t promise everybody is going to get a tax break.

So they are even, finally, being honest about it.

Mr. Speaker, everybody might not benefit from this tax cut, but all of the people that they are interested in will benefit from this tax cut.

We need to be honest with the American people. We need true tax reform. My colleagues on this side of the aisle are ready to do that, but the majority continues to stifle any bipartisanship that we can have on this issue.

We need to move forward in a positive way for the American people. We need to come together in this body to help the American people. We do not need another tax cut for the rich.

In New Jersey—a State that only gets 77 cents back on the money that it pays to the Federal Government—for every dollar, we get 77 cents back in services. So we are subsidizing other States.

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I heard today that West Virginia, for every dollar it sends, gets over \$4 back.

Not to allow New Jersey’s citizens and other subsidizing States—Connecticut, Maryland, New York—to have the tax break on State and local exemptions is almost like double taxing people.

I just am here to say that this is an issue that is very important to the American people. They do need relief and they do need help, but we need to do it in a bipartisan manner that makes sense for the entire country—not just the top 1 percent, but the entire Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. VEASEY for his leadership on these Special Order hours. He has demonstrated a gift in bringing issues to the American people and to the country in a manner that is very even-tempered. Some of us get a little excited, but Mr. VEASEY seems to be able to keep his composure and still be strong in his message, and I applaud him for that.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative PAYNE very much for speaking this evening on the importance of this tax bill and that we debate this and really, again, just keep or constituents informed. Mr. PAYNE takes every one seriously, and I know he has tried to participate in as many of these as he can, and I thank him for that—again, the importance of talking about this tax bill, talking about the Republicans’ past attempts at failed trickle-down policies and trying to bring those same policies and put them in this tax reform bill and trying to rush us into a floor vote this week.

We should all be working together to try to come up with some sort of bipartisan solution, some sort of bipartisan policy position that will be good for everyone, because I can tell you, Mr.