

Thompson (PA) Wagner
 Thornberry Walberg
 Tiberi Walden
 Tipton Walker
 Titus Walorski
 Torres Walters, Mimi
 Trott Walz
 Tsongas Wasserman
 Turner Schultz
 Upton Waters, Maxine
 Valadao Weber (TX)
 Veasey Webster (FL)
 Vela Wenstrup

Westerman
 Williams
 Wilson (FL)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yoder
 Yoho
 Young (AK)
 Young (IA)
 Zeldin

NAYS—70

Amash Gabbard Napolitano
 Barragán Garrett Pallone
 Bass Gomez Payne
 Blumenauer Griffith Polis
 Bonamici Gutiérrez Price (NC)
 Capuano Huffman Raskin
 Carson (IN) Jayapal Ruppertsberger
 Chu, Judy Jeffries Schakowsky
 Clark (MA) Johnson (GA) Schrader
 Clarke (NY) Jones Serrano
 Cleaver Kennedy Sires
 Cohen Khanna Slaughter
 Conyers Kildee Speier
 Crowley Labrador Swalwell (CA)
 Davis, Danny Lee Takano
 DeFazio Levin Thompson (CA)
 DeGette Lewis (GA) Tonko
 DeSaulnier Lofgren Vargas
 Doyle, Michael F. Lowenthal Velázquez
 Duncan (TN) Lynch Visclosky
 Ellison Matsui Watson Coleman
 Eshoo Moore Welch
 Espaillat Nadler Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—7

Bridenstine Johnson, Sam Pocan
 Dent McGovern
 Grijalva Pelosi

□ 1711

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote 631, I inadvertently pressed "nay" on the recording device. I intended to vote "yea" On Agreeing to the Conference Report to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Tuesday, November 14, 2017.

On rollcall Vote 626, the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule, H. Res. 616, had I been present I would have voted "no."

On rollcall Vote 627, passage of H. Res. 616, the rule for consideration of the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2810, had I been present I would have voted "no."

On rollcall Vote 629, the Motion to Recommit H.R. 2874, had I been present I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall Vote 630, final passage of H.R. 2874, the 21st Century Flood Reform Act, had I been present I would have voted "no."

On rollcall Vote 631, agreeing to the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, had I been present I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING BASEBALL PLAYER JOSH REDDICK

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World Series Champion Josh Reddick and all of his efforts to give back to his hometown in the First Congressional District of Georgia.

Baseball fans across America know Mr. Reddick as the Houston Astros' right fielder. But to Rincon, Georgia, Mr. Reddick is a friend and a volunteer who works to improve every corner of his community. Namely, he founded the Josh Reddick Foundation with its most recent project to build an artificial turf baseball field designed specifically for children with special needs.

He donated \$1 million for the project, which will have smooth fields for wheelchairs, a dugout designed for easy access, first class stadium seating, a 10-foot by 36-foot scoreboard, and more. Groundbreaking for the field will begin on November 18.

I am proud that World Series Champion Josh Reddick is from the First Congressional District of Georgia, but I am even more proud to see how this fine young man is giving back to his community.

□ 1715

SELL A TAX REFORM DREAM TO AMERICANS

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, each day the President and congressional Republicans are trying to sell the American people a dream that will not become a reality.

In addition to running up the deficit, lining the pockets of the very wealthy, and eliminating critical deductions that New Jerseyans rely on, this tax scheme dismantles the ladder of opportunity that allows Americans to grow and thrive.

Eliminating the medical expense deduction will devastate households nationwide struggling to recover from high healthcare costs. Removing the student loan interest deduction will cost recent college graduates hundreds of dollars a year, significant to young Americans trying to get on their feet.

Our tax system works best when it is fair, responsible, and supportive of the true drivers of our economy: families, workers, and small businesses.

I refuse to let congressional Republicans try to sell America a dream that never will be reality, and definitely not on the backs of the most vulnerable.

CONGRATULATING WAYZATA CROSS COUNTRY

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to the Wayzata

girls and boys cross country teams, who both won Minnesota State high school championships this season.

The Wayzata girls' team was led by sophomore Emma Atkinson, who finished in third place overall at State. Three of their runners placed in the top 10, which helped them beat second-place Edina by 19 points. Dave Emmans, who was the 2014 Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year, did an outstanding job leading the Trojan girls' team.

On the boys' side, Wayzata senior Khalid Hussein, led the boys' team to victory after coming in first place at State. Six of Wayzata's runners placed in the top 25. This was the Trojans' 10th State championship in 25 years, and Head Coach Mark Popp has now led the team to victory in two of the last three seasons coaching.

Mr. Speaker, cross country takes an immense amount of dedication, passion, and endurance, and it was evident that these Wayzata teams have worked so hard.

Congratulations to the runners, the coaches, and the families for their success this year of the Wayzata cross country boys and girls teams for becoming State champs.

HONORING EVELYN MALZBERG

(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, yesterday I rose to honor our Nation's public schools. Today I rise to honor Ms. Evelyn Malzberg, a lady who embodies the saying: "It is never too late to learn."

After graduating high school in 1943, Ms. Malzberg thought about going to college, but Ms. Malzberg's mom told her that no man would marry a woman smarter than he is. So Ms. Malzberg found success elsewhere. She married, raised a family, and had a career as a legal secretary.

Somewhere along the way, Ms. Malzberg concluded that she had made a mistake. She started taking college courses, one a semester. A few years ago, at the young age of 84, Ms. Malzberg graduated from New Jersey City University with a bachelor's degree in creative writing.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Ms. Malzberg, a lady whose remarkable story proves how valuable the Nation's public education system is to our people.

NDAA CONFERENCE REPORT PASSAGE

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the conference report on the National Defense Authorization Act, which passed the House of Representatives today.

In a great bipartisan moment, the NDAA received overwhelming support to authorize almost \$700 billion in defense spending and set priorities for our military, including the largest pay raise for our troops in 8 years. The conference report kept funding important to Georgia's 12th District, included in the earlier versions of the FY18 NDAA, such as \$8 billion in funding for cyber operations and over \$85 million in new military construction to prepare for our cyber warriors at Fort Gordon, like new family housing and a new gate.

Ensuring that our soldiers, sailors, and airmen are equipped with the facilities and resources they need to fight the battles of today and tomorrow is crucial to our Nation's safety and security.

Days after celebrating one of the most important days of the year honoring our veterans, I am happy to say that, with the passage of H.R. 2810, we have provided for the common defense, supported our servicemembers, and worked to close the critical readiness gap.

TAX PLAN AND EDUCATION

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues tell me that this tax plan will grow the economy and make American workers more competitive, but, in reality, the plan would bankrupt our future. It threatens provisions that directly support our schools and our students. By eliminating the State and local tax deductions, it penalizes States and school districts that have chosen to invest in our young people.

In my home State of California, that threatens over \$750 in State funding per public school student each and every year. For Americans with student loan debt, this plan eliminates the student loan interest deduction.

In my district, over 21,000 people claim this deduction each year. As a former college professor, I know the sacrifices that many of our students have to make to pursue an education. This tax plan asks them to pay even more.

These priorities are out of sync. This is not tax reform that puts middle class families first. We can do better.

NEED A TAX CODE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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

Mrs. HANDEL. Mr. Speaker, the last time we had real tax reform in this country was 1986.

To achieve economic growth in the 21st century, we need a Tax Code designed for the 21st century. The status quo is simply not getting it done. It is not good enough.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is a bold, transformative step that simplifies our Tax Code and reduces the tax burden on working Americans and middle-income families. This bill reduces the Federal tax rate for the majority of low- and middle-income Americans while doubling the standard deduction. More than 65 percent of filers in Georgia's Sixth Congressional District use that standard deduction.

What does it mean?

It means that a married couple will be able to pay not a dime of tax on their first \$24,000 of income every year.

The bill will also fuel economic growth and job creation. Small businesses will be at the lowest tax rate since World War II. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act contains real tangible benefits for the majority of American taxpayers. I support this bill enthusiastically and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

NOT A TAX BILL FOR OUR TIME

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this tax bill is not about the future. It is about our past. Millions of Americans, middle class families, will have increased taxes under this tax scam.

In fact, in the State of Texas, 230,000-plus Texans will pay an average of over \$6,000 more in taxes. That is a tax scam.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, this is not a futuristic tax bill. This is not a tax bill for our times. This is a tax bill that implodes higher education. For instance, it does not allow the deduction of student loans or interest payments on those loans or tuition or expenses, eliminating the opportunity for educational growth.

It eliminates the tax credit for research and innovation; again, stymieing the growth of the United States as it relates to research and innovation. Then to the large universities, the endowments that are used to help our students to build complexes to educate the best and the brightest are eliminated.

This is a tax scam. It is a tax scam on higher education. It is a tax scam on hardworking middle class Americans. It deserves a resounding "no" vote because we don't want to go back. We want to go toward the future.

PASSING TAX CUTS

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

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, the only time I hear some of my colleagues express their concern about the deficit is when this body is considering policies to let hardworking American families keep more of their hard-earned money.

This is not the government's money. It is the people's money. They earned

it. If tax revenues to the government are a concern, then certainly we should pass tax cuts.

After President Kennedy cut tax rates, revenues to the government increased from \$95 billion to \$280 billion. After President Reagan cut tax rates, revenues to the government increased from \$600 billion to \$1.35 trillion.

Furthermore, annual GDP growth rates increased into the 4 to 5 percent range following these tax cuts. We are going to witness this increase in economic growth again under President Trump with a tax bill this House will consider later this week.

As Ronald Reagan said: "We don't have a trillion-dollar debt because we haven't taxed enough. We have a trillion-dollar debt because we spend too much."

TAXES AND A BETTER DEAL

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Republican tax reform bill coming to the floor this week raises serious questions about the impact that this legislation will have on middle class families, our ability to invest in our transportation infrastructure, and students' ability to attend college.

My hometown, Dallas, Texas, and every municipality in the region has written objections to how they are affected. For one, the GOP tax plan eliminates many tax deductions that are favorable to middle class Americans, such as the medical expense deduction and State and local income and sales tax deductions. These important deductions help middle class families lower their tax liability and put more money in their pockets for everyday needs of hardworking Americans.

The plan also looks to an estimated \$2.6 trillion stockpiled overseas for U.S. corporations. The plan seeks to allow repatriation of these funds for as little as 5 percent tax on brick-and-mortar assets, or 12 percent on cash kept overseas.

This was one of the same methods being considered to fund the major infrastructure bill that we are still waiting for, which raises concerns about how we will pay for our crumbling infrastructure.

Finally, the GOP tax plan also seeks to eliminate the student loan tax deduction. This is a troubling change to existing law, as it places an even heavier burden on our future generations and others seeking a college education. Every college and university in my region has complained.

All of these changes are proposed to the tune of an added \$1.7 trillion dollars to our deficit.

Mr. Speaker, I share the view with many of my colleagues that we are due for a major reform of our tax code. However, we must not do so at the expense of millions of middle and lower class Americans are already struggling to get by.