

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly urge President Trump to nominate a Social Security Commissioner without further delay.

The Social Security Administration has been without a Senate-confirmed Commissioner for over 1,700 days. That is almost 5 years. This is totally unacceptable. The American people need a Commissioner, and they need one now.

Without a Commissioner, Social Security is just spinning its wheels. Important decisions are being put off and service has deteriorated.

I ask the President to act now to nominate a Commissioner so that Social Security can provide the service Americans want, need, and deserve.

COMMEMORATING FORMER PERRIS MAYOR DARYL BUSCH

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Daryl Busch, the former mayor of Perris, California, who passed away earlier this month.

As a U.S. Navy veteran, a small-business owner, and a pillar of the Perris community, Mayor Busch's commitment to public service was never in doubt. His professionalism, class, and compassion are just a few of the many reasons he was elected mayor of Perris for six consecutive terms.

During his tenure, the city emerged from serious financial challenges to become a stable and growing community, and his leadership was critical to completing the Metrolink extension, which now connects Perris to neighboring communities. The foundation he built during his 17 years of public service will benefit the city and its residents for years to come.

My thoughts are with Kay, his wife of 57 years, their son, Barry, and the rest of the Busch family.

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN INSURED

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of helping children who, through no fault of their own, have no health insurance. These are children who are ineligible for Medicaid, and their family cannot afford private insurance. CHIP, or Children's Health Insurance Program, helps these children receive coverage.

In Kansas, more than 79,000 vulnerable children are enrolled in CHIP. That is why I have worked to preserve and strengthen it during my time in Congress.

Last month, I voted for reauthorizing CHIP for 5 more years, through 2022. This invaluable benefit to kids in Kansas and across the country was included as part of a bipartisan bill

called the CHAMPIONING HEALTHY KIDS Act, which passed the House last month and now awaits further action in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the Senate will act quickly to pass this bill and reauthorize the important CHIP program to ensure that families and children who rely on this program remain covered.

GOP TAX BILL INCENTIVES: AUTOMATION OVER JOB CREATION

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address my concerns with the GOP tax bill.

Calling this bill the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is simply wrong.

Adding \$1.5 trillion to our deficit and assuming—and basically hoping—corporations will create jobs is irresponsible. There is no guarantee jobs will be created and no incentive for job training. This is wrong.

In America, we have a skilled trade crisis. We cannot continue to operate our economy and jobs without skilled trades. We must give incentives to invest in new technology and equipment for our corporations, but we must do that while demanding that they also invest in skilled trade training and investment.

Tax reform was a real chance to close the skills gap, reinvest in our workers, and create a 21st century job training program.

IMPORTANCE OF TAX REFORM

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the importance of the reductions and reforms reflected in H.R. 1, which the conference committee will work on today.

People in my district and across America await meaningful tax reform. Most Americans paid too much in taxes. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported last year that Americans paid more money in taxes than they spent on food and clothing. It is no wonder that nearly 60 percent of Americans believe our current Tax Code is unfair—it is.

America's Tax Code is currently chock full of special interest deals, while families living paycheck to paycheck and job creators need lower and simpler taxes now.

Throughout this process, my approach has been to evaluate this tax legislation from one question: Will this improve the lives of the vast majority of the people in my district?

That answer is, absolutely, yes.

The Tax Foundation projects that the House plan will save the average family in Michigan about \$2,200 a year. That is real money.

Americans deserve to keep more of what they earn. I look forward to reviewing the conference report and finalizing the tax reduction package that will provide relief to all Americans.

LET'S VOTE NOW

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge House Republicans to put aside partisan politics and pass the Dream Act.

This fall, I have shared story after story from the House floor of young Oregonians who have benefited from DACA. Sitting at this desk behind me is a discharge petition which will bring a vote on the Dream Act now.

Unfortunately, this will require 24 of my Republican colleagues to join us in support. As of today, we only have two. This is despite the fact, if leadership put that bill on the floor, it would have overwhelming bipartisan support. We must act on this.

It is clear that the administration is, at best, problematic. When asked about the status of DACA, this President said: They shouldn't be very worried; I have got a big heart. But it was only a few short months later that he announced an end to the DACA program.

The Dream Act must be passed by Christmas. We should do it today. Continuing to delay a vote on the Dream Act basically puts 800,000 recipients at risk, is irresponsible, and puts those lives in limbo.

These young folks are doctors and teachers. The path forward is foggy, at best, right now. They deserve a better future. Let's vote now.

RECOGNIZING 2017 CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE WINNERS

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three high school students from Kennewick, Washington, as the winners of Washington's Fourth District 2017 Congressional App Challenge.

Seth Florman, Damon Fuller, and Kyler Zimmerman spent many hours creating and refining an app they named Powerhouse, which enables the user to take on the role of businessowner of an energy company. These students designed the app to illustrate an energy company's responsibilities to the community and to draw attention to the challenges energy providers face.

Thank you to our panel of judges and to the engineers at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory who will be providing the winners with a tour of their great facility.

The Congressional App Challenge highlights the value of computer

science and coding, and I am proud to represent central Washington, where schools and teachers are dedicated to encouraging students to excel in STEM education.

This year, the Fourth Congressional District's App Challenge had the highest number of entries since my office began participating in the contest, which is a testament to the creativity of our young people.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Seth, Damon, and Kyler on their wining app, Powerhouse, and I look forward to their continued educational and professional success.

RECOGNIZING ORANGE COUNTY CIF CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize not one, not two, but three championship high school football teams in my district.

Anaheim's own Katella High School varsity football team won their first ever CIF Division 11 championship victory. On December 1, the Katella Knights varsity football team brought a championship title to their school for the first time in the school's history.

On December 2, Orange High School, another public school in my district, brought home the Division 13 CIF title.

Also on December 2, Mater Dei High School's varsity football team won their first CIF Southern Section Division 1 title since 1999.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating these fine athletes, their coaches, and their outstanding football programs.

I must say congratulations to the Knights, Panthers, and Monarchs. All three teams will be playing for their State titles in their respective divisions this Saturday.

RECOGNIZING NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S NEW OUTPATIENT CENTER IN PINECREST

(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 today to recognize Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Miami on the opening of its new Sports Health and Urgent Care Center.

With this new center, Nicklaus continues its proud tradition as one of the leading pediatric institutions in the Nation. Located in my congressional district, just down the street from my home in Pinecrest, this center will provide injury prevention and performance training programs, as well as rapid care, to our young athletes through the cutting-edge therapy services found at Nicklaus Children's Hospital. It will also serve as a resource to families to take their young children, sadly, in times of medical emergencies.

For decades, Nicklaus Children's Hospital has inspired hope and promoted lifelong health in south Florida by providing the best care to kids in our community. It prides itself in bettering south Florida one patient at a time.

So I invite everyone to come out and meet the staff of the new Nicklaus Sports Health and Urgent Care Center this Friday, December 15, at the Suniland Shopping Center in Pinecrest from 9 to 11 a.m.

HONORING MAYOR VI LYLES

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Vi Lyles, who recently made history as the first African-American woman elected mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina.

A selfless and devoted public servant, Lyles' journey began in a deeply segregated South, requiring her to overcome numerous obstacles. After more than three decades in public service, she retired from the city of Charlotte and was then elected to serve two consecutive terms as a member of the Charlotte City Council, rising to mayor pro tem. Her leadership helped mold our city into one of the fastest growing cities in America and a beacon of the South.

Mayor Lyles, mother and grandmother, is one of my heroes and a role model to many. Like strong African-American leaders who came before her, like Shirley Chisholm and Fannie Lou Hamer, Lyles' election shattered yet another glass ceiling.

As the 59th mayor of Charlotte, the story of Vi Lyles will be an inspiration to young girls and boys and women throughout North Carolina and the Nation for generations to come.

Join me in welcoming and congratulating our new mayor, Mayor Vi Lyles. I look forward to our continued partnership to move Charlotte forward.

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STOP THE BLEED

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to help raise awareness for the Stop the Bleed training course.

Recently, I had the opportunity to take this course, offered by the American College of Surgeons. This simple training teaches you how to treat bleeding injuries and help save a life. The most common preventable cause of death after an accident is losing too much blood after trained responders arrive.

This past June, I saw the difference having these lifesaving skills can make when several of my colleagues and friends were shot while we were prac-

ticing for the Congressional Baseball Game.

We were fortunate to have the skills of former Army medic, my colleague, Congressman BRAD WENSTRUP, who was able to apply a tourniquet to Majority Whip STEVE SCALISE and help save STEVE's life.

Each year, more than 180,000 people die from injuries sustained from car crashes, falls, industrial and farm accidents, shootings, and natural disasters. Every American could potentially save a life by learning these very simple skills.

I commend this campaign and I hope by raising awareness we will equip more Americans to do just that.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about something truly heartbreaking. Three years ago, 20 children and 6 adults were ruthlessly gunned down at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

Since then, no meaningful gun legislation has been passed in this Congress, in spite of widespread public support for commonsense gun reform.

And guess what. We had another fatal shooting in Las Vegas, where almost 60 people were gunned down. And there was another one in Texas, where churchgoers were shot down while praying.

In the last 4 years, two Members have been shot. Talk about hitting close to home.

According to the CDC, on average, 93 Americans are killed with guns every day in our country. This is simply unacceptable. Our Nation also has the highest homicide by firearm rate among the world's most developed nations.

In October 2017, there were over 232 homicides in Philadelphia, meaning that the homicide rate was 8 percent higher than during the same time last year. The city of Philadelphia knows all too well the lives lost at the hands of gun violence.

Promoting public safety and making our neighborhoods stronger and safer block by block is something I will continue to fight for.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are tired of excuses and inactions. This is truly a matter of life and death. We need to look out for our Nation's future and we need to stop this block by block.

QUESTIONS SURROUNDING OCTOBER AMBUSH IN NIGER

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind Congress and the Nation that there are still many questions surrounding the October ambush