

going to be done anytime soon. But I know this: we are going to be really, really short of money. It has been estimated that in this current budget year, the deficit will reach \$1 trillion.

I know that we are just weeks away from the return of the deficit hawks on this floor who are going to say: "Oh, my goodness, the money is gone. We are going to have to make cuts. We can't have these kinds of deficits."

I can hear them already. I hear the voices of the past and I hear the voices of the future. I know they are going to come back. They are going to go after programs that are absolutely essential.

We have got work to do. We have got things we need to do in America.

The American Society of Civil Engineers points out where we need work.

Aviation. We got a D for how good our aviation system is.

Bridges, C; dams, D; drinking water, D.

Is anybody here from Michigan?

Is anybody here from the Central Valley of California?

Shall we talk about water supplies?

I remember when I was in college, you would never go outside the United States and drink the water from the tap. Now you don't go to the United States and drink water from a tap, because there is a high probability that it is contaminated. We have seen this story. We have seen this story in Flint, Michigan. We have seen this up and down the Central Valley of California.

So what are we spending our money on?

Not on drinking water, not on energy systems, hazardous waste, or inland waterways.

Oh, this is a good one. If you are on the Mississippi and the Ohio River and you have got your tugboat and a fleet of barges, you depend upon the Federal Government lock system so that you can travel up and down the river.

□ 1700

If you are out there in the maritime and you are an international shipper and you want to go into one of the harbors on the East Coast, where is the money for dredging?

Well, it disappeared with the tax cuts. It is not there.

So is your ship going to run aground?

No, you won't let that happen. What you do is you will go to some other port.

Cuba. We love to talk about Cuba, so let's talk about Cuba. At Mariel, they are building an international port for the purpose of taking the new ships that are able to go through the Panama Canal, bring them to Cuba, offload them, and put them on a smaller ship so they can get into American harbors. Now, there is an American success story. We don't have the money to dredge our harbors, but we have the money for a new Mercedes for the superwealthy.

Parks and recreation. Ports. Rail systems.

Rails are doing pretty good, but not Amtrak. The President's budget pro-

poses to cut Amtrak—to basically defund Amtrak. If you want to go on the East corridor here, if you want to go from Washington to Boston, if you want to take a plane, well, we know we have an aviation problem. If you want to take the train, I guess you are going to hop a freight train, because Amtrak isn't going to be around to run. That is the President's budget proposal.

Schools, D-plus.

Solid waste. Transit. Wastewater.

The American Society of Civil Engineers rate America in the D range. We should be so proud of the most advanced Nation in the world. No, I think not. I certainly wouldn't take pride in our infrastructure. But it takes money.

Where did the money go?

Well, it just happens I like charts.

The Trump infrastructure scam cuts more than \$168 billion from existing transportation and infrastructure programs.

I haven't talked about this one.

Do you remember I told you about the flip—80 percent Federal, 20 percent local flipped to 20 percent Federal, 80 percent local, unless you happen to be a private investor. Do you want to buy Dulles International Airport or maybe Reagan National—excuse me, I promise not to do that. Whatever the name of that airport here is. Okay, I will say Reagan. The Reagan National Airport. Do you want to buy it? It is up for sale, according to the Trump administration. And, by the way, the Federal Government will come up with 80 percent of the money. Not a bad deal.

Slashes Federal investments and passes the buck back to the local governments. We just talked about that.

We haven't talked about the environmental programs, the environmental protection programs that are significantly harmed, reduced, gutted in the proposal. The Senate is going to speed up projects. Hello? Does anybody around here know that over the last two transportation programs this Congress, with Democrat and Republican support, significantly reduced the time for an infrastructure program to be done? It is not 14 years.

The laws that have been in place now for the last almost decade significantly reduced the processing time for infrastructure projects in which the Federal Government is involved in, without harming the vital environmental protections that are out there: clean water, clean air, all of those things. Anyway, they are gone.

We have a task before us. I see my Republican colleagues anxious to get up and engage me in a debate. If they want to, I could yield to them, and we could debate the wisdom of what has happened here, but that is not happening.

What is happening is there is an alternative, an alternative that we put forth from our side that, unfortunately, was not considered in the tax legislation.

We are going to be working on the infrastructure bill. I dare say that the

President's infrastructure program is going nowhere in Congress. At least it shouldn't.

We are going to have to find the money as best we can. And I have an idea. Over the next 15 years, we are going to spend \$1 trillion rebuilding our entire nuclear armaments. All of the delivery system, all of the bombs, all of the satellites, all rebuilt. So will Russia and so will China, and we are in the midst of a nuclear arms race—well into the second quarter of a new nuclear arms race, exceedingly expensive and exceedingly dangerous, because the delivery systems are stealthy, designed not to be observed. That is a problem because that increases the risk.

Maybe we can use some of that money to build the infrastructure to educate our kids, to provide for seniors who have Alzheimer's, to care for the caregivers that are taking care of their parents, to build an infrastructure program that really gives America a solid foundation for economic growth, one in which the research facilities are the most modern and in which the most advantageous research is conducted. Maybe we could find, amongst our choices here, money to build a highway system that is worthy of this Nation, one in which there are not potholes every 100 yards, one in which bridges don't collapse; that we can build water systems in which you can take tap water from every fountain in this Nation and drink it, without a concern about contamination of lead or something else. We could do that. We could make some choices.

We can go back and revisit the tax scam in which there are specific inducements for offshoring American jobs. Maybe we can do that.

Maybe we can look at some of the military spending and say: Why does it cost \$1 billion to launch a satellite with one system and \$90 million with another system to do the same thing? There are things we can do.

And, most of all, it is time for a better deal for America: a better deal for the working men and women, a better deal for the elderly, and a better deal for the children. That is what we need to do.

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

#### TAX REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, this is the second week of the tax truth squad effort to share the facts, the real facts about the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and the impact it has already had on the American economy and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here with my fellow colleagues representing Michigan and Illinois. These two States include diverse industries and diverse people, from farmers, to bankers, to manufacturers.

I am humbled to represent the hard-working people of the 10th Congressional District and the Midwest. This is exactly what the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has done: helped our constituents work every day supporting their family and helped their local economy.

My colleague before me proceeded to speak about we should pay attention to the needs of those close to and living in poverty. Well, I wish he had stayed. I grew up in poverty.

Like many in Michigan, I grew up in a large family. I have six brothers and sisters. My dad had a good job building trucks in a line at General Motors. My mom often had a full-time job to help make ends meet. That is why I committed to supporting policies that create real economic growth and economic opportunity for families like the one in which I grew up.

I was but a young pup in 1986, the last time our Tax Code was modernized. Since then, the Tax Code grew to 74,000 pages of rules and regulations that have only confused people. You would need to be a wizard to understand what is in the Tax Code as it stood at the end of the year. That is why I promised my constituents, when I came to office, when I ran for office, I would work hard to achieve meaningful tax cuts and reforms for the American people.

I believe Americans can, and should, make independent decisions about the use of their own money, the money they work for, not the government. The government shouldn't come first. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act allowed hardworking individuals and business owners to do just that.

Across the Nation and back home, we have already seen the direct impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. More than 400 companies have already announced pay raises, bonuses, and increased 401(k) contributions and benefits, or, in the case of utility companies, lowered rates.

Direct bonus announcements have already reached over \$3 billion across this Nation. Let me repeat that: \$3 billion. Companies in Michigan have already committed more than \$180 million in bonuses to employees.

A couple of examples: Fiat Chrysler, one of the State's largest employers, is reinvesting its tax savings to its employees in our community, in addition to giving a \$2,000 bonus to 60,000 employees. And that is in addition to profit sharing as part of their contract.

Fiat Chrysler announced it will move heavy-duty Ram truck production from Mexico to Macomb County: a \$1 billion investment that will create 2,500 jobs.

In my district, Michigan's 10th, Lakestone Bank & Trust, a small community bank, operating in Lake Lapeer, St. Clair, and Macomb Counties, gave hourly employees \$1 an hour raise. I know some consider that to be crumbs. Where I grew up, \$1 an hour more is real money. They gave all of their salaried employees a \$1,000 bonus saying: "We are very appreciative of all Lakestone Bank & Trust employees and certainly what they have accomplished over the years. . . . This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and we know we want to reinvest much of the savings"—in the tax bill—"back into our bank, and the first place we are going to put it is into the hands of our employees. Employees are our most important asset."

Stories like this are not unique. From CVS to Chipotle, and AT&T to Wells Fargo, they are reinvesting tax reform savings in our hardworking employees in our communities throughout the country.

This is the second week of the tax reform truth squad—we are calling it—an initiative where Members from States across the Nation are invited to tell their stories about the benefits of tax reform. There are countless stories they are anxious to express.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), one of those Members, my colleague, serving on the Energy and Commerce Committee, a defender of a strong rural economy and a good friend, representing the Seventh Congressional District.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate the opportunity to talk about the truth.

We heard so much dismissal of the tax cut plan before we passed it. Now that we passed it, not only did we read it beforehand, but rereading it again we are seeing the truth is working out.

As I travel around, Mr. Speaker, the Seventh District of Michigan, optimism about the new tax cuts is hard to miss.

I have people coming up to me at the grocery store, at gas stations, even in church, saying: You know, Congressman, we heard a lot of reports that this wasn't for middle class people, but I saw my paycheck in February and, it is true, I got a raise because the government is taking less out of it.

I have heard from a number of workers excited about their bonuses and pay raises and from businesses that are looking to expand their operations.

Just last week, I toured Lowe's home center in Adrian, Michigan, to visit with their team. Because of the new tax law, their employees are receiving \$1,000 bonuses and expanded maternity and parental leave.

I toured Cintas' Lansing operations. The tax cut afforded their employees

\$1,000 bonuses, and they reported to me that day that they jumped now on a plan that they were holding off, but now they are going to build a \$17 million facility to add on to their operations.

We already heard about Fiat Chrysler giving out \$2,000 bonuses to all of their workers. They are also moving production of the Ram heavy-duty truck plant back from Mexico to Michigan—I wanted to reiterate that—that is coming home and creating 2,500 new good-paying jobs.

We have also seen announcements from DTE Energy and Consumers Energy, utilities in Michigan and in other States, that their customers can expect to see lower utility bills, thanks to the tax cuts. In fact, they have submitted a request to the PSC for almost \$400 million in rate reductions. That is real money.

As Vice President PENCE said last week when we welcomed him to the Motor City, tax reform is working for Michigan.

Here is even more good news: the benefits are just beginning to kick in.

This tax season is the last time taxpayers will have to file under the old and broken Tax Code.

Under the updated Code, individuals and families at every income level will see tax relief.

The standard deduction is nearly doubled to protect more of people's hard-earned income from taxation.

□ 1715

The child tax credit is expanded from \$1,000 to \$2,000 to help with the cost of raising kids.

With these new reforms, the typical middle-income family of four will receive a tax cut of more than \$2,000.

On top of that, the law will help small businesses thrive, boost job creation here at home, and make our economy stronger and more competitive, like it ought to be, in the United States and in Michigan.

For families across Michigan, the new tax cut law means bigger paychecks and more money in their pockets, not in the Federal Government's pockets. And that is where it belongs.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity at any time to put forward truth, but, more importantly, truth that is optimistic, that builds on our people, that builds on letting them do for themselves with the resources they have earned.

Mr. Speaker, I express appreciation to my colleague for holding this "truth squad" opportunity again tonight because people need more of that. They need more optimism that comes from truth that impacts them in a growing and positive way, and I am glad to be part of it.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WALBERG for his comments. I failed to recognize that I serve with Mr. WALBERG on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, on which he is a subcommittee chair. So I thank him for joining us.

I made a notation that I want to share with everyone tonight as we move forward. With the changing of the standard deduction, with the nearly doubling of the standard deduction, about 90 percent of taxpayers will be able to file their taxes on a form about this size. They will be able to file their taxes like this, rather than the pile of paperwork they have dealt with for years. Here it is on a larger scale.

Most are going to be able to simply file their wage and compensation income and use the standard deduction. They will be done except for a few other tax credits we will talk about, the tax credit they can get, for example, on investment tax credit or family child credit. We will talk about that. But most Americans can file like this. That is one of the things we wanted to achieve, one of the great achievements of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Mr. Speaker, next I yield to Congressman FRED UPTON, who represents Michigan's Sixth Congressional District, the former chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, another colleague of mine from Michigan, the senior member of our delegation, experientially only, not age, with decades of experience in Congress focusing on job creation and economic opportunity for our State and for our Nation.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and my good friend for yielding and for hosting this hour tonight. I look forward to the comments by all my colleagues from Michigan and Illinois.

Let me just start out by saying a couple of things. I had a great ninth grade teacher, Mr. Denekas. We learned about how the government worked. You pass a bill in the House and you pass a bill in the Senate. I learned later on that the House bill is always better than the Senate. But in this case, JOHN SHIMKUS and I—and he is going to be a speaker from Illinois a little bit later on this evening—were two conferees on this bill.

I have got to say that, as we debated this bill, there were some elements that were not so good. But at the end of the day, as this bill meshed together, we took the best elements of both the House and the Senate bill and we got a bill that the President was able to sign.

I can remember being trashed left and right back in November and December about what this bill was going to do or not going to do: it wasn't going to provide real tax relief to the working class; companies weren't really going to give bonuses; this was all just going to be bogus arguments.

Now, at the end of the day, 2-plus months since the bill was signed and became enacted, my constituents are finding out good things about the bill. Yes, they are getting real take-home pay increases from the jobs that they do. Yes, they are getting bonuses.

I was at a small, little almost farmers market, multigenerational market

down in Niles, Michigan, just north of Notre Dame, Shelton's Farm Market. They have 83 employees. The owners gave every employee there a bonus. I talked to one of them who literally stocks the shelves. He got \$600.

He said: You know, Mr. UPTON . . .

I said: Call me FRED.

He said: This wasn't just crumbs. This made a real difference.

I said: What are you going to do with that \$600?

He said: You know, my wife has cancer, and I bought her a new dress.

He was so excited that that increase in the take-home pay was actually going to do some real benefit for him and his family.

I was at a groundbreaking at Pfizer, my largest employer, in Portage, Michigan. Not only did they announce that they are going to, in the next couple of years, invest \$6 billion—that is B as in “big”—in new facilities here in North America, they also announced that they are going to give \$100 million in bonuses for all of their nonexecutive employees. That is real money, and that is thanks to tax reform.

Mr. WALBERG talked a little bit about some of the utilities in Michigan. A little bit earlier today, I was with the chair of Consumers Energy, a very important player; and the chair of DTE Energy as well. Yes, because of the reduction in the corporate tax rates, they are going to pass on those savings, as they want to, to the consumers. In the case of Consumers Energy, they are going to give back \$200 million in rate relief to virtually every one of their customers that they serve across the board. That is good news. It has to be approved by the Public Service Commission, but, in fact, that money is going to be there.

So whether it is a small business who is now going to get a lower rate in that passthrough rate, which means a lot, keeping your deductions on healthcare, seeing the highest corporate rate being reduced to 21 percent—and I remember well that debate that we had between Mitt Romney and Barack Obama back in 2012. In September of 2012, the question was on tax reform, and even Barack Obama said that he would support lowering that corporate tax rate to 25 percent, because we were already at the highest corporate tax rate in the world. That is what this bill did, and thank goodness.

The last point I would make is I was tired of economic growth being at .7 percent or 1 percent. We can do better than that. This bill is now starting to lead the way to see that happen. In fact, the report even this week, I think, is predicting a 3.5 percent growth rate for calendar year 2018.

That is a far cry from where we were just a few years ago. I dare say, in large part, it is due because workers are, in fact, getting more money from their paychecks. We have reduced the corporate rates so companies, instead of having an incentive to go overseas, as they did with my largest employer

in one of my counties a few years ago, they now have a reason to come home and invest that money here.

So, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman for hosting this hour. I look forward to the other folks' comments tonight.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. UPTON for joining us. I appreciate him taking time out of his busy schedule to talk about how the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has impacted his district and the State of Michigan.

Let me state, as we get our next speaker to come forward, that in my district alone, the average savings for the average filer in my district is \$2,700 a year.

Now, I know that some of the colleagues on the other side of the aisle refer to that as crumbs, as meaningless, but that is real money that allows people to make a difference in their lives, to move forward, make decisions about fixing their houses, go on vacation, put a downpayment on a new car, all things that wouldn't be possible.

More importantly, that is money they worked for. That is not money somebody gave them. That is their money to begin with, and they get to keep it. That is what is so important about it.

Mr. Speaker, our next speaker who wants to come forward and talk about his district is Representative SHIMKUS, who, as Mr. UPTON said, was a conferee on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to Congressman JOHN SHIMKUS, who represents the 15th Congressional District, a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, a conferee on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and who has been an advocate for smaller government for years.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding. It is great to be here with my friends from the State of Michigan.

As a Republican, sometimes people ask: What is the difference?

I always say: Well, Republicans, we believe in less government, individual responsibility, lower taxes, more personal freedoms and liberties.

From my time here in Washington, I have always wanted a fairer, flatter, simpler Tax Code. We shouldn't have to fear filing our income taxes. We shouldn't have to fear whether we have the receipts.

I think the other thing that was always frustrating about the Tax Code is you never know if you have done enough of the itemizing that you are actually going to get anything or not. And then, have you forgotten something that you are not recouping?

So having said that, that is why—and I am glad Congressman MITCHELL raised this issue, the fairer, flatter, simpler Tax Code.

Before we passed the bill, 80 percent of my constituents did not itemize. Under this tax reform, 90 percent of all of my filers—90 percent—will be able to do it on this simple postcard. And it is easy to find. People can pull it up at [fairandsimple.gov](http://fairandsimple.gov) to check it out.

Congressman UPTON was correct: this process worked. We had a House bill and we had a Senate bill, and then the two sides merged to keep some of the deductions that people really thought were important, and a great compromise that was working.

So the question is: Is the proof in the pudding?

In other words, is it operating as advertised for either side?

I think we are down here to say it is operating as advertised and we can proudly stand down here and tell some of these stories.

What we did is we posted a question on our newsletter to ask people to respond, and I want to share some of these responses. These are on the individual side. I will talk about the corporate side in a minute.

Ken and Pam from St. Joseph—we call it St. Joe—they say: “Personally we have seen an increase in our net wages each week. With our business, we seem to have an increase in other companies starting new things.”

Gregg from Charleston says: “More money in my take-home check.”

A pretty simple statement.

James from Marine says: “My retirement check just went up. Thanks.”

Jeff from Carlyle says: “Positive results only so far, just as expected with a commonsense tax cut.”

Carl from Collinsville, which is my hometown. I am glad Carl is happy. He says: “I am seeing more on my paycheck each week. Keep up the good work.”

So that is just on the individual side.

Then we briefly want to talk about what is going on from business. You know, these are great announcements. I had the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, my good friend, KEVIN BRADY, tell me 50 percent of all manufacturers in this country are planning expansion. Not 50 percent of the manufacturers in Illinois or Michigan; across the country. That is pretty awesome.

So what is going on in my district?

Griffith Trucking, Broadway Express, Heartland Peterbilt, and Heartland Classics—which are in Effingham and Newton—gave \$1,000 bonuses to 65 full-time employees.

FedEx has a big distribution hub in my district, same place, in Effingham. FedEx has committed to more than \$3 billion in wage increases, bonuses, pension funding, and expanded U.S. capital investment.

Charter Communications is raising their minimum wage to \$15 an hour as a result of this tax cut plan.

It is great to see Congressman ROSKAM on the floor. He will get a chance to speak later. He was a major architect of this. I am very proud that he comes from Illinois. These stories are attributed to Peter's great work.

The other one I wanted to mention—of course, I live in the metro St. Louis area. Boeing has a big presence in St. Louis, but a lot of their great workers, probably their best workers, live on the

Illinois side. Boeing has announced employee-related and charitable investments of \$300 million as a result of the tax law.

So great things are happening.

I want to follow what FRED UPTON said, in that we as a body were tired of being in a malaise.

Is this all we can hope for?

We wanted an economy that would grow and create jobs and be vibrant, that people would be excited about going back to the workforce, working hard, taking home more of their pay, investing it into the market or in their retirement savings; and that is just what we are having.

Mr. Speaker, I have a lot of my colleagues here on the floor, so I could talk a long time on the benefits of the bill. I am very, very excited about it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MITCHELL for organizing this tonight.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SHIMKUS for the enthusiasm, the detail on the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to continue on this conversation and talk a little bit about the trade States, because it has had a great impact not only on Illinois, but also on Michigan.

Joining us at this point is Congressman MIKE BISHOP, a neighbor of the 10th Congressional District, a member of the Committee on Ways and Means that had a direct impact on this bill. He has been a leading advocate for a fair and simple Tax Code. He represents the Eighth Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to Congressman MIKE BISHOP.

□ 1730

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for leading in this effort.

It is very exciting back in the great State of Michigan, the comeback State of Michigan, our home State. After years of stagnant economic growth, our workforce is finally experiencing the benefits of a modernized Tax Code. So far, more than 4 million hard-working Michiganders have received bonuses, notices of increases in their take-home pay, and have benefited from higher wages.

Across Michigan, I have had the opportunity to travel not only in my district, but across this great State, and I have seen firsthand great things, so many great stories to tell, sitting down with folks, hearing about the new tax law and how it is impacting their community and how it is impacting their businesses. I take away from this a number of really excited testimonials from everyone that I sat down with.

For example, Dan, a small-business owner from Rochester Hills, Michigan, shared with me that, as a result of tax reform, he was able to invest in his new car wash by buying new equipment.

Erwin, a constituent from Oxford, Michigan, is seeing extra money in his monthly take-home pay.

I stopped by the Fiat Chrysler truck assembly plant to talk with workers

about the new Ram truck production line that is relocating from Mexico all the way back to Michigan, where it belongs, bringing with it 2,500 new jobs. As you can imagine, there is extreme excitement within the four walls of that beautiful plant.

Michigan is the auto capital of the world. We produce more than 2.2 million cars and trucks. We produce more cars and trucks than any other State in the Union, and we are excited and proud to be the auto capital of the world, the State that put the world on wheels.

The Fiat Chrysler decision will provide more than \$1 billion in U.S. investment and \$2,000 bonuses, \$2,000 for each employee, all as a result of tax reform.

In Lake Orion, Michigan, Complete Automation, they employ about 250 employees. I visited their operation to talk with the employees about the new benefits they will soon be seeing. As a result of tax reform, employees will see in their 401(k) contribution a match of 50 percent, up to 4 percent of their investment in their 401(k).

That is a big deal for a lot of people. It is a great deal for their family. It is a great deal for them individually, but it is a great deal for their family.

And I also say this. With the average tax cut in my district of about \$2,500 per family, average family, that is not crumbs. That is real, real relief for families that could really use it right now.

The takeaway from all these conversations that I have had across my district is that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is working. America's optimism is rising, and the workforce is taking notice. We are finally creating an environment that fosters economic growth and brings jobs back to the United States and back to my home State and the comeback State of Michigan. And this is just the beginning.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his feedback on the impact of the Tax Cuts bill, and I thank him for taking time out of his schedule.

Next, I have the privilege of recognizing a key player in the effort to reform our Tax Code and cut taxes, the chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Tax Policy. I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this and, hopefully, continued success on our tax laws.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Sixth District of Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM).

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding.

You know, I think it is so interesting. We are all coming together, various States, to celebrate these accomplishments and to take a step back: how far we have come in the past year or the past several months where you look back and, basically, there was a national consensus that had developed, and the consensus was nobody

liked our Tax Code—I mean nobody. Nobody could defend it because it was absurd. It was so complicated.

Those of us who are from the Chicago area, we know that the last time the Tax Code was updated was when the Bears won the Super Bowl, so that is 30 years ago. And yet we have got this Tax Code that had been a complete throwback. The Tax Code was such a throwback that the last time it was updated, 1986, the internet didn't exist, basically, as a commercial enterprise.

There was no shared economy, per se. Airbnb, Uber, Lyft, all those things, they didn't exist. Global supply chains were nowhere nearly as connected as they are today, which all begged the question that we needed a Tax Code to update things.

Now, here is what was interesting: The hyperbole that surrounded the debate on the tax reform bill as H.R. 1 kept moving in and, ultimately, came to a crescendo, passed through the House, passed through the Senate, and was signed into law, it was described by, God bless them, our friends on the other side of the aisle as the worst bill ever. Armageddon, and, obviously, now, the famous line that the result of these things were crumbs. Well, none of that turned out to be true. This was a terrific bill.

Let me just give you a couple of examples, Mr. Speaker, of people in my constituency who have written publicly or they have written to me privately about this bill.

Here is Mary from Wheaton, Illinois, my hometown. She said: "Our family is already feeling the positive impact of the changes made in the Tax Code. Our daughter and her husband just had their first baby and will be able to take advantage of the doubled child tax credit next year. Throughout our extended family, those who work for big and small businesses alike are witnessing immediate effects. Companies are investing the anticipated benefits of the new tax law in the form of bonuses, pay raises, capital improvements, and new hires. And that's just the beginning. The true value of this Tax Code will become even more evident in the months and years ahead."

Mary is absolutely right.

Or another person, Nicole, from Elgin. She says: "Thanks to the new tax bill, my family will be saving an estimated \$4,000 on our taxes next year. Not only that, but I'm getting a \$1,000 bonus and an extra \$1,500 in my employee pension account from my employer as a result of the changes."

Or how about an enrolled agent, Stephen, from Wayne. He prepares people's taxes. He says: "As an enrolled agent entering my 35th tax season, I am anxiously awaiting the smiles I will be getting from my clients when I inform them how much they will be saving on their 2018 tax return . . . the clear majority of my clients will be paying lower tax rates in 2018 due to the recently passed Tax Cuts and Jobs Act."

And then I will go to the end of his note. He says: "I haven't been able to

say this very often over the past 35 years, but I am actually looking forward to this tax season."

So we know that these things are true. We know that they are manifesting themselves.

I have got a constituency where there are about 30,000 people who get hit hard by the alternative minimum tax, and they are not going to be hit by the alternative minimum tax. They are going to be spared that tax.

There are many other examples in the State of Illinois where you see real progress being made.

Up by me in Chicagoland, MK Incorporation, a fleet management company, is giving \$1,000 bonuses to 150 employees.

Ameren Illinois, the customers are using both electricity and natural gas. They will see a combined savings of lower utility rates.

We have talked about AT&T already today: \$1,000 bonuses to 10,000 Illinois-based employees and, nationwide, over \$1 billion increase in capital expenditures.

There is example after example after example after example.

Look, if all the critics can do is basically say, well, this isn't enough or this is crumbs, they have not been to my constituency. To tell a family that I represent, Mr. Speaker, that \$1,000 is crumbs is just patently obtuse. \$1,000 is real money: \$1,000 is getting ahead on a car payment; \$1,000 is the ability to move forward and say we are going to go on a little extra special vacation, we are going to put a little bit more money toward our college fund, we are going to put a little bit more money toward our retirement. And that is just one particular example.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for organizing this, and I very much appreciate his bringing us together to celebrate these things.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I will ask the gentleman to stay for just a moment for a real quick question.

First, I would say that the Bears is his example—and my example is Steve Yzerman was a rookie in the NHL and captain of the Detroit Red Wings. If you ask a young hockey fan now who Steve Yzerman is, they would look at you blankly. That is how long ago tax was tackled.

I have a question for the gentleman. Ninety percent of our taxpayers, we believe, are going to file a standard deduction, but we kept—we talked about it a great deal. We kept some key tax cuts in the Tax Code to actually help families.

Can the gentleman briefly talk about, maybe, the family and child tax credit and what we did with that and why we think that is important.

Mr. ROSKAM. What we did with it is we doubled it so that the family tax credit is now doubled. So, you know, when folks say, "Well, I don't like this tax plan," really? You don't like doubling the child tax credit?

So there was very much an intentionality, as you know, to say we

value family, we value children, we value domestic life, and, toward that end, we are going to support it through the Tax Code. So there was a very specific design not just to keep it, but to enhance it.

Mr. MITCHELL. I want to be clear with folks. There is a child and family tax cut, the earned income credit, and the higher education credit, and those are all credits against your tax liability. This is not simply a deduction. After taxes are determined, those are credits back, not a tax deduction.

Mr. ROSKAM. Right.

Mr. MITCHELL. People don't understand the difference some days.

Mr. ROSKAM. That is right.

So, to the gentleman's point, a deduction is a decrease in a taxable liability; a credit is a credit. Once the tax is calculated, the credit is an amount that comes off of that tax liability, so it is a very significant thing. Said another way, credits are more valuable than deductions.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for clarifying that, and I certainly hope people listen to the difference because some people don't understand that. I appreciate the gentleman taking time to join us tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman representing the 12th District of Illinois (Mr. BOST), a small family business owner himself.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for holding this Special Order tonight. And I also say, just because we are following a theme, if we put in perspective how long ago it was that we did tax reform in this Nation, I was running for my first political office for county board. I had a mullet, and it looked good—at least my wife told me it did.

But let me tell you that, after we passed this tax reform—I come from deep southern Illinois, nowhere near Chicago, a very rural district, a little bit of metropolitan—a typical family of four will receive a break of over \$2,000 per year.

Now, folks, I don't know how it would be in your district or in your hometown if you are listening to this tonight, but that is not crumbs where I come from. Some of the folks here in Washington may think that that is the case, but that is not.

Let me tell you that I have been around my district talking to people; and you go to barber shops and coffee shops, and my wife and I own a beauty salon, and you hear from the people how much they are saving, so much so that we actually asked for people to start replying on our Facebook and to tell us what their story was.

I am just going to give you a few of these. I know that we are on limited time, but I am going to tell you that Bobby from Makanda, here is what he writes:

I am a police officer and my wife is a high school teacher. Combined, the new tax rates save us over \$300 a month. We have two teenage children. The additional income will help us save for upcoming college expenses.

Terry from Royalton writes:

My wife is an educator and I am in healthcare. Since these changes have affected my pay about the same as hers, we know how much it changes our monthly income. About \$300.

His statement is:

Hey, Nancy, if that is crumbs in your world, it's not in mine.

Tracy from Wood River writes:

Tax reform allows more money for college, more money to be put towards paying off our home, provides more activities for our children, and allows us to save more money for the future.

These are just three stories of countless that we have heard. Countless have come in not only from individuals on the individual tax rate, but the business tax rate as well: expansion of business, growing of business, using it to expand the 401(k)s of their employees, giving increases in pay to their employees.

The bottom line is this: The tax reform allows people to keep more money of their paycheck. It allows them the opportunity to use that money in the way they see fit, not how the government wants to use it. They earned that money. It is theirs. They should be able to keep more of it to spend and save as they please. This new tax reform does just that.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for joining us this evening.

Next is Congressman ADAM KINZINGER, who serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee as well as on the Foreign Affairs Committee. Like many Members around here, he is a very busy man.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman representing the 16th District of Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) to talk about tax cuts in his district.

□ 1745

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. This was a great thing we did. It had been—I was 8 years old the last time the Tax Code was reformed, and I think this is something we, frankly, ought to do every decade; at the worst case, every two decades; definitely not every 30 years. So it is about time to get it done.

I wish this could have been bipartisan. I think there are a lot of fantastic things in here, and I think it is quite obvious that the economy is showing some really big benefit as a result. I think it is hard to hide that. It is hard to pretend that that is not the case, even though some of our friends try to do that, but it is quite obvious it has worked.

I just want to tell a few stories of my district, the 16th District of Illinois. I was at a tax reform roundtable last month at the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce, and I heard from my local business community about how this bill affects them and what they would like to see moving forward. One gentleman from Walnut, Illinois, in

Bureau County, was really excited about the tax cuts his small business would receive. He plans to increase hourly wages and hire 7 to 10 new employees over the next 2 years. That, my friends, is not crumbs. That is important.

The tax relief for businesses, large and small, is being shared with employees all over. Over the last few months, more than 300 companies, and counting, have announced plans to add people, add bonuses, add to retirement benefits, and give back to the U.S. economy.

Employees at UPS in my district, Home Depot, Bank of America, Ryder, AT&T, U-Haul, and many others with Illinois locations will receive these bonuses and benefits.

A few weeks ago, I went to the Fiat Chrysler plant in Belvidere, Illinois, and I met with employees who were excited and encouraged by the \$2,000 bonus they will receive in the second quarter of this year.

According to the nonpartisan Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, 85 percent of Illinoisans will see a tax cut next year, and the nonpartisan Tax Foundation has estimated that the State of Illinois stands to gain tens of thousands of jobs from this reform.

This is great news. By bringing the Tax Code into the 21st century to reflect current day is real and tangible in terms of the benefits it will put into our economy.

Our future is bright, our economy is growing stronger, and, with tax relief, the American Dream is once again on the horizon for folks in my district and across the country. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. KINZINGER for joining us this evening. I appreciate the detail in his district.

We are going to continue with Illinois for a bit here. I guess it is Illinois' night for awhile.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the Representative from the 14th District of Illinois, Congressman RANDY HULTGREN, who has consistently been a voice of business owners across America through his work on the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MITCHELL for yielding.

Illinois is a high-tax State. We have seen Illinois State taxes continue to go up, so it is a welcome relief that Congress has brought Federal tax relief to the people of Illinois, and especially I am grateful for the residents of the 14th Congressional District, the suburbs of Chicago, who are seeing great relief and especially the benefits that come to small businesses, truly the energy and the engine behind Illinois' economy.

They are going to receive immediate benefits from a reduced tax burden and more flexible accounting rules. I am also pleased that the final version of the legislation included this portion of

my bill, which was to lower taxes on Illinois' largest employers, which is small businesses, and it is called the Bring Small Businesses Back Tax Reform Act.

Further, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reduced corporate tax rates to 21 percent and includes provisions to deter U.S. companies from moving their headquarters and investments abroad and encouraging them to bring income and jobs back home again. Again, this is welcome news for Illinois residents.

Numerous companies who employ residents of the 14th Congressional District have announced new investments and new hiring and giving more money to their employees, wages, bonuses, trainings, and more. Just a sampling of these are: AbbVie, American Community Bank, First Midwest Bank, EMKAY, Boeing, U.S. Bank, Wells Fargo, Wintrust Financial, Home Depot, Walmart, CVS, and Starbucks.

American manufacturers are hiring more workers. In my district, a Geneva manufacturer has already brought on two new employees to manage the equipment the company invested in under the new expensing rules. A Will County food distributor plans to hire two new employees in 2018, with the money the company saved through tax reform, and the list goes on and on.

Mr. Speaker, it is time Americans were given the truth about the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Eighty percent of U.S. households will see a tax cut in 2018, according to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center, but only 17 percent of Americans actually think they will.

In fact, the bill lowers individual rates for low-and middle-income Americans across the board and doubles the standard deduction for both individuals and families. If you are one of the 70 percent of Americans who currently take the standard deduction, getting an immediate rate cut and a doubling of the earnings you can keep tax free will make a big difference to you and to your family.

This bill does not cut Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security, period. This bill does not get rid of the medical expense deduction or the charitable deduction. Those are protected and expanded. The bill did not take away healthcare from Americans. Eighty percent of the people who pay for the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate tax are families making less than \$50,000 a year. This bill gets rid of the individual mandate penalty so struggling families aren't burdened by yet another tax.

It is clear: the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is already delivering positive results to Illinois individuals, families, and small businesses; and to Americans everywhere. It is good news, and more good news is coming.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HULTGREN for joining us. I appreciate him taking the time to explain the importance of this in his district.



My next speaker has extensive experience on economic development and creating a better business climate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to Congressman DARIN LAHOOD, representing the 18th District of Illinois, a member to both the Joint Economic Committee and Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MITCHELL for yielding. I thank him and Congresswoman MIMI WALTERS for putting together and organizing this Special Order in order to highlight the effects of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on families in Illinois and across the country.

Thirty-one years is way too long. That is what it took before we passed comprehensive tax reform at the end of last year. And in my 2½ years here, I couldn't be more proud to support the bill. And when I went in to looking at the legislation in the bill, I really looked at two things as we looked at comprehensive tax reform. One is, how do we help middle class and lower middle class people across this country and in my district? And secondly, how do we get the economy roaring again?

We, for almost 9 years, had a very sluggish economy and stagnant wages. How do we get the economy healthy, robust, vibrant again? We succeeded on both those counts with this bill, and I am very proud to support it.

This historic tax reform law is making a real difference for our families and our workers. But you don't have to take my word for it. Take it from the hardworking people I have spoken with across Illinois' 18th District. The workers I have spoken with are already seeing the results of the new withholding tables, which is no surprise.

In fact, the median family of four in my district will save \$2,593—again, let me repeat that, \$2,593 every year from this new law. This figure is certainly not crumbs, as some people would describe it.

When half of Americans say they are living paycheck to paycheck, this is real money for them. The benefits have already gone beyond lowering the rates, with more bonuses and pay raises being announced every single day.

One example from my district is the Five Senses Spa in Peoria, Illinois. This is a small business. And for over a decade, the owner, Paola Hinton, has provided clients with relief from the stresses of their life at her spa. With the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Five Senses Spa is now providing tax relief to their employees. After calculating the savings from her business that she saw through the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Paola handed out \$500 bonuses to all of her employees as a "thank you" for their hard work. This is real money that the employees can put towards expenses, new purchases, or even saving up for things like education or a home or a new car.

But tax reform also has positive effects beyond larger paychecks. Last month, I spoke with a constituent

named Chris, who is a small-business owner, and also the fire marshal for Springfield and Sangamon Counties. Chris attended a roundtable discussion I hosted in Springfield and talked about how the new depreciation rules, as a part of the tax reform law, have already incentivized building owners to upgrade their sprinkler and safety equipment, which has benefitted his small business. Safer buildings and up-to-date fire prevention are a win-win for everyone.

I was glad to hear that even our local fire marshal was seeing the real effects of commonsense tax reform and reforming our Tax Code. Stories like these are coming from every district across this great country, and the benefits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act show no sign of slowing down, and that is good news for all Americans.

It should be clear by now that letting workers keep more of their hard-earned paychecks is a recipe for a healthy economy, and I am excited to see how this bill continues to improve the lives and security of all American families.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, could the Congressman stay one moment for a quick question?

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, sure.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, he was talking a little bit about the depreciation allowance and what that depreciation means for small business—especially small business.

One of the important things we did was to change how the taxes are structured for a path we call pass-through to small businesses. Maybe he could explain that briefly, what was done to help small business be viable and grow in this country.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I think we acknowledge that small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy. They create the most jobs in our economy. So when we looked at comprehensive tax reform, we obviously talked to those small businesses, those independent folks, and said: What can we do to help you in terms of lowering the rates, depreciation, expensing?

We took that into account, and now you are seeing the results of that. So when you talk to small businesses on the real effect, what does that mean? What do they do with those savings?

Well, they are hiring more people, they are investing in higher wages, they are investing back into their companies, which has a downstream effect throughout this country, and those are real results; and, again, that is a positive nature, which will continue into the future, and we are awful proud of those provisions.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LAHOOD for detailing that, and I appreciate him taking time this evening.

We now will rotate back to Michigan, a fellow freshman, good friend of mine, also a proud Yooper. I am proud to introduce my fellow colleague in the freshman class from the northern regions of Michigan, who, throughout

this process, served on the Budget Committee and had input into what this bill is.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to Congressman JACK BERGMAN from the First District of Michigan.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, what a great opportunity to really stand up here and smile and talk to the American public with the words of constituents from Michigan's First District, because these are not my words. These are their words over the last 2½ months or so since we passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

You know, in November 2016, the great people of Michigan's First District sent me to Washington with a direct, yet simple, mandate: Get Washington, D.C., out of our pockets and off our backs. For a marine, that is a pretty simple mission-oriented instruction.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was the first major step to accomplishing that goal. Since we passed tax reform, I have travelled throughout many of the First District's 32 counties talking with constituents, business owners, and hearing their individual stories. Farmers, businesses, both large and small, and families are already seeing the benefits that tax reform brings, and we are just getting started.

Many of these small companies said: Well, I don't know yet, but I have got to meet with my accountant around the middle of April, and then we will really see.

But now they are starting to see wage increases and bonuses, and business expansions are all beginning to roll in and take effect, and it is long overdue in our neck of the woods. And when I say, "our neck of the woods," that is not a figurative statement. That is a literal statement.

You know, many families in our district live paycheck to paycheck, and even a small crisis could send them into a tailspin. An extra \$100 or \$150 in a paycheck in my district is not crumbs. It is not Armageddon. It is a big plus. It gives that family flexibility to live their life and to raise their kids and be a proud community—wage-earning members of that community.

That \$1,000 a year may mean a new set of snow tires. And by the way, we only have, roughly, a little over 2 weeks of winter left, but we use our snow tires up there through about mid-May. That is just the way it works.

That money might go for the kids to play on a sports team. Hockey is not a cheap sport to put your son or daughter in. Or it could be, possibly, just saving up in that family rainy day fund for an emergency.

We hear of businesses from Boyne City to Marquette expanding, growing their staff, raising wages, all a result of a fairer and simpler Tax Code.

You know, when I talk to some folks, they say: You know what, I don't mind working. I am proud to work. The dignity of work is what makes me strong as an individual, what makes me strong as a mother or a father.

They just think, in some ways, it is just not fair if you don't earn your wage. So there is a certain sense of pride that goes along with that.

□ 1800

We all know that if you are looking for thanks, running for office probably isn't the field of work you should get into. Yet everywhere I go in the district these last couple of months, constituents have been coming up to me saying: Thank you.

They don't know who I am. We get to talking, and they say: You are the guy on TV. Yeah. Well, thank you for what you did. Thank you for passing tax reform.

Just a few weeks ago, I was at the Home Depot in Petoskey, and a gentleman who was working there pulled me aside and thanked me for getting tax reform done. That allowed him to keep more of his check plus a sizable bonus that was paid by Home Depot.

In the Upper Peninsula, U.S. Special Delivery gave all 200 employees \$1,000 bonuses after tax reform passed because of the money that they will save as a company on their taxes this year.

A couple of weeks back, when I was in Traverse City, Traverse City State Bank announced that they are giving out new bonuses.

So many more businesses in the First District are raising wages, adding workers, giving bonuses, and expanding.

We know that this is just the beginning, and Americans can expect much more in the days ahead because of the energy that we have put into the growth of our American economy.

Mr. Speaker, this confirms the very core beliefs that I have and conservatives all throughout the country believe in. If we get the Federal Government off our back, where it is not supposed to be, and out of our pockets, we will unleash unprecedented economic potential for the citizens of our great country.

I would just close with one note, and that is I am Scandinavian, and there is a wonderful delicacy that you can only afford at the holidays, and I think more people are able to afford it now, and it is called a crumb cake, and it is great.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BERGMAN, and we are wishing for spring in northern Michigan sooner than mid-May.

Mr. Speaker, I want to wrap up this evening by talking a little bit about what all my colleagues spoke about: our principles.

Our principles were that people who worked hard should keep more of their money, that their families and their pocketbooks should come first and not government come first. We have achieved that with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

How did we achieve that?

We almost doubled the standard deduction. For a married couple, the standard deduction is \$24,000 this tax year—\$24,000, and you pay no taxes.

We lowered the individual tax rates for all tax brackets.

We simplified the Tax Code so that taxpayers can file their taxes, 90 percent of them, on a form about this size. No, you don't have to mail a postcard. You put it in an envelope. But the good news is you don't need multiple pages. You don't have to hope that you have got a wizard to help you. Ninety percent of Americans can fill out a few items on here, include the W-2, and send it on in.

We expanded, as was discussed earlier, the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for single filers and married couples to help parents with the cost of raising their children. We made that fully refundable up to \$1,400. That is, even if your taxes are zero, you get a refund from the government for \$1,400 to help you with childcare and taking care of your dependents.

For taxpayers that the standard deduction did not work as well, we kept a number of important deductions, the three most popular ones: Charitable deduction, kept that; the home interest deduction, we kept that; and State and local taxes.

What that means is, for 95, 98 percent of my tax filers in the 10th Congressional District, even if they fill out their deductions rather than do the standard deduction, they are much better off.

Since the tax reform bill passed, as I stated earlier, 400 companies, in about 70 days, have given a pay raise or a bonus or both, increased benefits, 401(k) contributions.

In the case of utilities, you heard in Michigan, almost \$400 million a year in rate cuts, something we hadn't thought about, hadn't anticipated—real money saved by our consumers.

Four million people have received a special tax bonus, resulting in about \$3 billion injected into the economy. In Michigan, it is \$180 million already.

That is real money. It is not economic Armageddon. I am proud to have been part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. We will continue with the Tax Truth Squad every week through the summer to send a message to the American people that we are looking out for their paychecks and the well-being of their family.

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

#### THE DREAM WILL SURVIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, tonight, I rise for the 92,000 Dreamers in the State of Florida. Tonight, I rise for the 3.6 million Dreamers across this Nation.

President Trump may have terminated the DACA program this week, but the dream will survive.

These Dreamers are serving in our military. They are our teachers. They are students and businessowners, lawyers, doctors, and engineers. They are an ambitious group of young people who are renewing our democracy and who are some of the very best of what the next generation has to offer.

I have no doubt, despite this termination this week, these young people will continue to fight, and we in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus will stand with them. We in the Democratic Caucus will continue to stand with them.

I hope some of my colleagues who have signed on to this bill in the Republican Conference will continue, but we need a vote on the floor.

Seventy percent of Americans already stand with our Dreamers.

It is true that the Federal courts this week have continued with their injunction enjoining the termination of the DACA program. This will help those who are already in the program, but that is a small fraction of the Dreamers in this country.

It is a sad state of affairs that Dreamers could only find justice in our courts. This is the people's House, and the people's business needs to be done. It is time to have a vote on the floor in a bipartisan fashion—a clean Dream Act now, or in November the voters will have their own vote regarding Dreamers.

HONORING SERETHA TINSLEY DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I would like to honor Seretha Tinsley.

Seretha Tinsley is a Winter Haven resident, trailblazer, and overachiever. She was the first African-American female to attend and graduate from Wesleyan College, in 1971.

In the early 1980s, Seretha became one of the first Black female general managers in radio.

In 2008, she became the first African-American president of the Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

She is an entrepreneur, civic leader, mother, and wife.

Desiring to become a missionary, she took a trip to West Africa, visited six countries, and studied with educators. Consequently, she became an educator so that she could have a greater impact empowering young lives with knowledge.

Tinsley served as executive director and cofounded Chain of Lakes Achievers, an achievement center devoted to empowering youth through tutoring, leadership, and life skills training. She maintains her passion for teaching by mentoring on a daily basis.

She is a businesswoman who takes pride in assisting others in reaching their phenomenal potential. Tinsley is the CFO/owner of several family businesses, KFC, Tinsley Family Concessions, where she oversees administrative and fiduciary responsibilities.

Seretha's community service and progressive leadership have earned her