

is still being used without their permission.

It is time for us to exercise our oversight, Mr. Speaker. Let's do it now.

CONGRATULATING THE GIRLS AND BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS OF GRANDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL ON THEIR 5A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate both the Grandview High School boys and girls basketball teams. These two teams from Grandview High School are now Colorado's 5A school basketball champions. The Grandview Wolves' boys team triumphed over George Washington High School from Denver by a score of 57 to 52. The girls team prevailed over Regis Jesuit High School by a score of 67 to 61.

The Grandview boys basketball team had a spectacular season, finishing the season with an impressive 24-4 record. And the culmination of its season was the first ever boys basketball State championship title. The Grandview girls basketball team also had a tremendous season, finishing with an equally impressive 23-3 record. And the culmination of its season was the second consecutive girls basketball State championship title.

The teams were led to their respective championship titles by their coaches: Josh Ulitzky for the girls team and Michael Rogers for the boys team. I also commend these two coaches, their coaching staffs, and their supporters at Grandview High School for all they have contributed to the success of the school's boys and girls basketball programs.

Again, congratulations to Grandview High School girls and boys basketball teams on this impressive victory in Colorado's 5A State championship.

MCCABE FIRING

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, our law enforcement and intelligence community—most notably, the FBI—is sustaining an unprecedented, coordinated attack led by the President of the United States. No one is above the law in our country, including the President.

FBI Director Andrew McCabe, a 20-year veteran of the FBI, is the latest to fall to this concentrated effort to undermine Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into the Trump campaign's entanglements with Russia during the 2016 Presidential election.

Incidentally, former FBI Director Mueller has served our Nation for 36 years: as a soldier in the U.S. Navy with a Purple Heart; as a U.S. attor-

ney; and also as FBI Director, including after 9/11 when he oversaw the transformation of the FBI from a domestic law enforcement agency into a global counterterrorism and counterintelligence agency. Wow.

This administration is making every effort to degrade our Federal law enforcement institutions and, even more insidiously, by a negative media campaign to erode public faith in these institutions. Let truth will out.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE LOUISE SLAUGHTER

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

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to stand with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, as well as those on our side, in recognition of a life well done; that is, the passing of our colleague LOUISE SLAUGHTER. To me, tonight, it is something we should take a moment to reflect upon and recognize: her life, her commitment to this body.

Having served with her on the Rules Committee, I can personally attest, being a fellow New Yorker, that we shared a commitment to our home areas; that we always brought the passion of our beliefs, both on the left and the right, into the room; but at the end of the day, LOUISE SLAUGHTER represented us well, in the sense of how she represented and carried herself in this Chamber as she represented her people, her folks back home in Rochester, New York.

And I am proud to call her and remember her this evening as a Member of this body and her service to all of us. She was a Southern lady at heart, had a good wit, and she will be missed by many Members, if not all Members, on both sides of the aisle.

HONORING JOCELYNE AND MONIQUE LAMOUREUX OF THE U.S. WOMEN'S OLYMPIC HOCKEY TEAM

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

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, as we observe Women's History Month and continue celebrating the historic Olympic Gold Medal won by the U.S. women's hockey team, I rise to recognize two remarkable sisters from Grand Forks.

Jocelyne and Monique Lamoureux grew up in one of North Dakota's premier hockey families. These sisters have played together since they were teenagers and were standouts at the University of North Dakota. The first set of twins to play women's ice hockey in the Olympics, they brought home silver medals in 2010 and 2014. In last

month's championship game against Canada, they helped make this win golden: Monique's goal tied the game, and Jocelyne flawlessly executed the game-winning shootout goal.

Since returning home, they have joined Team USA in appearances across the Nation, inspiring a new generation of women athletes. A cheering crowd filled the Engelstad Hockey Arena in Grand Forks, many of them young girls and women on area hockey teams who came to congratulate their hometown champions who brought the U.S. women's hockey team their first Olympic Gold Medal.

On behalf of all North Dakotans, I salute Jocelyne and Monique. You have set a high bar for women athletes across the Nation, and North Dakota honors your excellence.

RECOGNIZING FARMERS ON NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, this National Agriculture Week, I rise to recognize the hardworking farmers across this great Nation who get up every day and, by the sweat of their brow, grow the food we eat. The district I represent in west Texas is home to 14 million acres of farmland, making it one of the largest agriculture production regions in the world. Our farmers and ranchers feed and clothe the American people and help fuel the American economy.

Agriculture contributes to 20-plus million jobs, and it is our country's number one export. But, more importantly, it provides a safe, affordable, and abundant supply of food for our citizens, which has tremendous national security implications. We can never put ourselves in a position where we depend on other countries for our food. That is not a vision for a safe, strong, and free America.

When we sit down with our families to eat dinner this week, let's remember to thank God for our food and for the farmers he uses to help make it. Mr. Speaker, these folks work hard and take enormous risks so this country can maintain its greatness so that America can continue to be the most powerful, the most prosperous, and the most generous country in the history of the world.

God bless our farmers. God bless America.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 115-103)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

and the Committee on Financial Services and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), I hereby report that I have signed an Executive Order with respect to Venezuela that takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13808 of August 24, 2017. The Executive Order prohibits, as of its effective date, all transactions related to, provision of financing for, and other dealings in, by a United States person or within the United States, any digital currency, digital coin, or digital token, that was issued by, for, or on behalf of the Government of Venezuela on or after January 9, 2018.

I have authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to take such actions, including promulgating rules and regulations and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Executive Order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 19, 2018.

POSITIVE IMPACTS OF TAX REFORM

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

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share how the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is helping folks around the United States and throughout the Third District of Georgia.

In fact, over 400 major companies across our great Nation have announced bonuses, pay raises, and new investments in their businesses and communities that will offer benefits to over 4 million Americans. I am thrilled that a number of great Georgia companies are included in this; such as, Columbus, Georgia-based, Aflac and Total Systems Services; as well as companies like Home Depot, Carl Black, Yancey Bros., Cox Enterprises, SunTrust, and United Parcel Service, just to name a few. These are all major companies in my home State of Georgia that are making investments in their people and their industries so that they can better serve their customers, and it is paying big dividends.

It is always exciting to hear about these announcements from major employers around the State, but the benefits of tax reform are not just felt by employees at major corporations, they are being felt by the job creators here on Main Street and right here in Georgia's Third District. Two that I will highlight at some point tonight will be Shred-X in Griffin, Georgia, and Cus-

tom Truck and Body Works in Woodbury. Both of these businesses are expanding and hiring more workers, and this is a great story for the State of Georgia and the Third District. We are awfully proud of them.

The positive impacts of tax reform have been felt by millions more Americans just this month as the updated withholding tables took effect. As employers implemented these tables, Americans across the country have seen these tax cuts reflected in bigger paychecks. This means keeping more of your hard-earned money to spend as you see fit. I have long said that Americans know how to spend their hard-earned money far better than the bureaucrats here in Washington. I look forward to seeing how our economy continues to improve.

Mr. Speaker, our next speaker is my good friend PAUL MITCHELL. Representative MITCHELL has become a dear friend and does a wonderful job of representing Michigan's 10th District. I want to thank him for setting up these Special Orders to tell the truth about tax reform and how it is helping Americans.

In Mr. MITCHELL's district, people who are making the median household income will see a tax cut of just over \$1,500.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL).

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from West Point, Georgia, and I want to also thank the Georgia and Alabama delegations' Members who, as part of the Tax Truth Squad, have come here tonight to share examples of the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on their districts.

The last major tax reform was conducted 31 years ago. I believe many people, many businesspeople and workers, had simply given up on the idea that we would actually achieve what we achieved at the end of last year. In less than three months since the tax reform bill passed, as my colleague said, more than 440 companies have given a pay raise, bonuses, increased 401(k) contributions, or, in the case of utility companies, lowered their rates dramatically. In Michigan, rates will be lowered this year by \$400 million.

This number of 440 doesn't even include small mom-and-pop businesses on Main Street. At least 4 million Americans are receiving special tax reform bonuses, announced already this year, in 3 months. The direct bonus announcements have already passed \$4 billion. Small-business owners are showing unparalleled confidence in the economy as the optimism index reached record high numbers in February according to the NFIB Small Business Economic Trend Survey. Let me say that again: record high numbers, all as a result of what we achieved at the end of the year.

This optimism in economic strength is reflected in data recently released. Last month, the United States economy created 313,000 new jobs.

□ 1945

More importantly, 800 million people reentered the labor force who weren't trying to go to work. The unemployment rate remained the same at 4.1 percent, what most people call full employment. Equally important, wage growth over last year increased 2.6 percent; 2.6 percent already in terms of wage growth.

These are good things for Americans, for wage earners; and, as my colleague said, even more importantly, a good thing because they keep money in the pockets of workers and families to make decisions on what to do with their hard-earned money rather than depend on those of us here, frankly, in Congress or, worse, bureaucrats, to spend it for them.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the Members of Georgia and Alabama as part of the Tax Truth Squad to put their stories forward tonight.

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned before, one of the most important and recognizable companies in the Third District of Georgia is Aflac.

Aflac was one of the first companies to announce benefits to its employees. Shortly after Christmas, Aflac announced that they would increase their investments by \$250 million in the U.S., increase the company's 401(k) match for employees, and make a one-time contribution of \$500 to each employee's account. This is a long-term investment in Aflac's employees and into the United States economy. Our new Tax Code helps companies like Aflac to reinvest in their workers and their communities.

Mr. Speaker, my next speaker is Mr. PALMER, who represents the Sixth District of Alabama. Households earning the district's median income would see a tax break of \$1,534.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER).

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for setting this up, and I thank the gentleman from Georgia for leading it.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the impact that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is having in Alabama's Sixth Congressional District.

Millions of Americans across the country are now reaping the benefits of tax reform in the form of higher paychecks, and my district is no exception. I would like to give just a few examples of how my constituents are using the additional money to benefit their families.

One woman from Mountain Brook noted that her employer was paying out bonuses of \$1,000 as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and that she will deposit that money in her health savings account.

Another woman from Trussville talked about how the savings would help with tuition payments for her two college-age daughters. The ability to help with tuition payments was a common theme among my constituents.