

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, all American families benefit when the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at a record high of nearly 26,000 last week. Students benefit as college endowments grow, reducing tuition costs. Retirees benefit as their retirement accounts appreciate. With increased liquidity, jobs are created for small businesses.

It is undeniable that the stock market, with the positive leadership of President Trump, has soared.

Rush Limbaugh was correct on his program today that the growth is unprecedented. One year after President Trump was elected, the stock market increased by 28.5 percent. Today, the Dow Jones hit another record high, up over 7,200 points since the 2016 election. Since the start of the year, the stock market has already reached six new record highs.

I am grateful for the leadership of President Trump, who has tweeted this achievement, with the leadership of Speaker PAUL RYAN and House Republicans. This has promoted economic growth through the anticipation and enactment of bills creating immediate jobs, reduced regulations to allow small businesses to begin hiring again, and reformed our Tax Code so that families will be able to keep more of their hard-earned paycheck.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

MEDIA DISDAIN FOR THE AMERICAN FAMILY

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we already knew, from their daily attacks, that the media disdained the President. What we didn't know with a certainty, until last week, was that the media also disdained the American family.

How else to explain their front-paging and televising, at all hours, a four-letter expletive that would be seen by children across America?

CNN reportedly used the word 195 times in one day. Sad.

There was a time when the media would show some respect for family values, but no more. Words that might have been omitted or not spelled out are now broadcast in their entirety. That is the media's decision to make, but it is a poor decision for the American family.

HONORING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on Religious Freedom Day to celebrate the numerous faiths that people hold across this great Nation.

Today, we commemorate the 232nd anniversary of the passing of a State law that has shaped and secured our important legacy on religious liberty.

On January 16, 1786, the Virginia General Assembly passed the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. The bill, written by Thomas Jefferson, states: "... all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of religion. . . ."

Just a few years later, this bill served as the inspiration for the First Amendment, which affirms our right to choose and exercise faith without government coercion or retaliation.

Today, Americans from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds remain committed to the values of faith, honesty, integrity, and patriotism.

Mr. Speaker, our Constitution and laws guarantee Americans the right not just to believe as they see fit, but to freely exercise their religion.

We observe this day in our homes and schools and houses of worship because we have the freedom and the right to do so.

LORI LOWERY SHOWS THE BEST IN TEXAS

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, the people of my hometown of Sugar Land, Texas, are amazing.

Last Thursday, something terrible happened on a road I drive on every day at home. On Interstate 69, an 18-wheeler jackknifed during heavy rain. It flew off an overpass, crashing down on a small Toyota Camry. Look. That Camry is about 3 feet tall.

The first miracle is that the driver, Karan Singh, is still alive. The second miracle that day is named Lori Lowery. Lori is training to be a nurse, most likely across the street at the University of Houston Sugar Land. The crash happened right in front of her. She jumped out of her car, crawled through metal and broken glass, and got Karan out.

Lori Lowery shows the best in Texas and my hometown of Sugar Land, and I am proud to call her my boss in Congress.

PUERTO RICO DESERVES BETTER

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, 4 months after Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, 40 percent of our people still lack electricity, with a system barely patched up. Of almost 80,000 homes approved to receive the temporary "blue roof," only half of them have been installed.

Those are only two examples. The hurricane season will be back in 5

months, and then we will be required to start all over again. The situation demands extreme urgency from all Federal agencies.

What is taking so long? Where is the sense of urgency?

This would never be tolerated in any State.

The provisions of the Stafford Act limit us to only patching things up. The supplemental disaster appropriations bill addressed this, but it is stalled in the Senate.

We expect better. We deserve better. We will work to lift ourselves up, but we need the tools to do so. We expect the Federal agencies to act urgently.

BENEFITS OF THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

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

Mrs. HANDEL. Mr. Speaker, last month, the House passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Already these pro-growth policies are having a positive impact. Businesses are making investments in operations and people.

Thane Brooks operates a resource center for children with special needs in Alpharetta, Georgia. Because businesses can now immediately expense new equipment purchases, Thane is able to open a second facility to serve even more special needs children.

Georgia-based Aflac announced that it will increase contributions to employee retirement plans. AT&T, with nearly 3,000 employees in the Sixth District, gave a \$1,000 bonus to non-management employees as a direct result of the tax cut bill.

Overall, more than 2 million workers across the country are feeling the benefits of this law through increased wages, bonuses, and more retirement dollars. And with paychecks for nearly every American set to increase in the coming weeks, there is even more good news on the horizon for American families.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 12, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Dear MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 12, 2018, at 11:15 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without an amendment H.R. 984.

That the Senate passed without an amendment H.R. 4641.

Appointment:

The United States Semiquincentennial Commission.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:15 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1617

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Iowa) at 4 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY ACT

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4258) to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate use of assistance under sections 8 and 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 with public and private resources, to enable eligible families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4258

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Family Self-Sufficiency Act".

SEC. 2. FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437u) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "public housing and"; and

(B) by striking "the certificate and voucher programs under section 8" and inserting "sections 8 and 9";

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) CONTINUATION OF PRIOR REQUIRED PROGRAMS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each public housing agency that was required to administer a local Family Self-Sufficiency program on the date of enactment of the Family Self-Sufficiency Act, shall operate such local program for, at a minimum, the number of families the agency was required to serve on the date of enactment of such Act, subject only to the availability under appropriations Acts

of sufficient amounts for housing assistance and the requirements of paragraph (2).

"(2) REDUCTION.—The number of families for which a public housing agency is required to operate such local program under paragraph (1) shall be decreased by one for each family from any supported rental housing program administered by such agency that, after October 21, 1998, fulfills its obligations under the contract of participation.

"(3) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary shall not require a public housing agency to carry out a mandatory program for a period of time upon the request of the public housing agency and upon a determination by the Secretary that implementation is not feasible because of local circumstances, which may include—

"(A) lack of supportive services accessible to eligible families, which shall include insufficient availability of resources for programs under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.);

"(B) lack of funding for reasonable administrative costs;

"(C) lack of cooperation by other units of State or local government; or

"(D) any other circumstances that the Secretary may consider appropriate.";

(3) by striking subsection (i);

(4) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) respectively;

(5) by inserting after subsection (b), as amended, the following:

"(c) ELIGIBILITY.—

"(1) ELIGIBLE FAMILIES.—A family is eligible to participate in a local Family Self-Sufficiency program under this section if—

"(A) at least 1 household member seeks to become and remain employed in suitable employment or to increase earnings; and

"(B) the household member receives direct assistance under section 8 or resides in a unit assisted under section 8 or 9.

"(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The following entities are eligible to administer a local Family Self-Sufficiency program under this section:

"(A) A public housing agency administering housing assistance to or on behalf of an eligible family under section 8 or 9.

"(B) The owner or sponsor of a multifamily property receiving project-based rental assistance under section 8, in accordance with the requirements under subsection (1).";

(6) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking "public housing agency" the first time it appears and inserting "eligible entity";

(ii) in the first sentence, by striking "each leaseholder receiving assistance under the certificate and voucher programs of the public housing agency under section 8 or residing in public housing administered by the agency" and inserting "a household member of an eligible family"; and

(iii) by striking the third sentence and inserting the following: "Housing assistance may not be terminated as a consequence of either successful completion of the contract of participation or failure to complete such contract. A contract of participation shall remain in effect until the participating family exits the Family Self-Sufficiency program upon successful graduation or expiration of the contract of participation, or for other good cause.";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the first sentence—

(aa) by striking "A local program under this section" and inserting "An eligible entity";

(bb) by striking "provide" and inserting "coordinate"; and

(cc) by striking "to" and inserting "for"; and

(II) in the second sentence—

(aa) by striking "provided during" and inserting "coordinated for";

(bb) by striking "under section 8 or residing in public housing" and inserting "pursuant to section 8 or 9 and for the duration of the contract of participation"; and

(cc) by inserting ", but are not limited to" after "may include";

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting "or attainment of a high school equivalency certificate" after "high school";

(iii) by striking subparagraph (G);

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (E), (F), and (J) as subparagraphs (F), (G), and (K) respectively;

(v) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

"(E) education in pursuit of a post-secondary degree or certification";

(vi) in subparagraph (H), by inserting "financial literacy, such as training in financial management, financial coaching, and asset building, and" after "training in";

(vii) in subparagraph (I), by striking "and" at the end; and

(viii) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the following:

"(J) homeownership education and assistance; and";

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the first sentence, by inserting "the first recertification of income after" after "not later than 5 years after"; and

(ii) in the second sentence—

(I) by striking "public housing agency" and inserting "eligible entity"; and

(II) by striking "of the agency";

(D) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

"(4) EMPLOYMENT.—The contract of participation shall require 1 household member of the participating family to seek and maintain suitable employment."; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) NONPARTICIPATION.—Assistance under section 8 or 9 for a family that elects not to participate in a Family Self-Sufficiency program shall not be delayed by reason of such election.";

(7) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "whose monthly adjusted income does not exceed 50 percent" and all that follows through the period at the end of the third sentence and inserting "shall be calculated under the rental provisions of section 3 or section 8(o), as applicable.";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: "For each participating family, an amount equal to any increase in the amount of rent paid by the family in accordance with the provisions of section 3 or 8(o), as applicable, that is attributable to increases in earned income by the participating family, shall be placed in an interest-bearing escrow account established by the eligible entity on behalf of the participating family. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an eligible entity may use funds it controls under section 8 or 9 for purposes of making the escrow deposit for participating families assisted under, or residing in units assisted under, section 8 or 9, respectively, provided such funds are offset by the increase in the amount of rent paid by the participating family.";

(ii) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: "All Family Self-Sufficiency programs administered under this section shall include an escrow account.";

(iii) in the fourth sentence, by striking "subsection (c)" and inserting "subsection (d)"; and

(iv) in the last sentence—