

We now come to find out that the President's attorney has been investigated for a long period of time. We found out a surprise: one of his clients was Sean Hannity, who was already being investigated.

This is an insurance that the President will not fire the special counsel and allow his work to continue. That is an Article I responsibility, a constitutional responsibility, and I encourage my colleagues to join us to provide that insurance.

#### SAVE A MAJESTIC SHIP FROM SINKING INTO THE DEPTHS OF HISTORY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the first board of her keel landed on the dockyard with a loud thump.

It was 107 years ago today, April 17, 1911. One year later, she sailed smoothly into Newport News, Virginia, harbor, christened the USS *Texas*, BB-35. She was commissioned and saw immediate action in World War I. The *Texas* made numerous voyages to the North Sea, serving the country and our State of Texas.

Upon formal entry into World War II, the battleship *Texas* escorted war convoys across the Atlantic, was the flagship on D-day, and saw action in the Pacific as well. She was decommissioned in 1948.

Texas schoolchildren saved their nickels to bring the ship home to Texas. She is now moored in La Porte, Texas. But now after serving our great Nation, *Texas* is in danger of being scrapped for parts, a fate unfitting for the majestic ship that served our country.

To prevent this, the State of Texas and Congress must band together and work to save the battleship *Texas* from sinking into the depths of history.

And that is just the way it is.

#### OPPOSE THE FARM BILL

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

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the recently released farm bill for 2018.

Congressional Republicans and the Trump administration want to unravel the social safety net, and according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, this farm bill cuts total Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits—that is the Food Stamp program—by more than \$23 billion.

Its stricter work requirements could affect 5 million Americans who receive food stamps in this country—children, seniors, the disabled, and, yes, veterans—even though most recipients who can work already do.

All told, 2 million would lose some or all of their benefits. To my colleagues

I say, these are not just numbers on a page; these are people who are in need.

At the same time, Republicans want to expand the ill-targeted commodity programs. They will maintain crop insurance subsidies that have no eligibility requirements or limits.

This farm bill is not reform; it is hypocrisy. No one in this Chamber goes hungry. They have three squares or more. I urge my colleagues to defend the Food Stamp program and oppose this farm bill.

#### MARKET DATA PROTECTION

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, the Consolidated Audit Trail stands as the largest financial database in the world and ranks second in size only to the NSA's database.

The value of the sensitive information housed within this database includes Social Security numbers, broker numbers, account numbers. In fact, it is comparable to nine times the wealth that is in Fort Knox—far more sensitive than the Equifax data, whose breach affects 143 million Americans.

Despite the enormity of wealth within this database, the unfortunate reality is that its cybersecurity is not yet adequate. The Government Accountability Office report found the SEC's systems “at unnecessary risk of compromise.” The CAT operator recently delayed the issuing of technical specifications, which means that industry will have just 1 month to transmit all of this market data.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced the Market Data Protection Act, which passed this House with unanimous support, to guarantee the private information of hundreds of millions of Americans transmits securely and without risk. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues in the Senate to send this bill to the President's desk.

#### TAX BILL BENEFITS THE WEALTHY

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today is tax day, the day that hardworking Americans finish preparing their taxes; and it is already clear, looking at the new tax bill, that it will overwhelmingly benefit CEOs, shareholders, and the wealthiest Americans.

Since the passage of this Republican tax bill, corporations have already funneled \$250 billion to CEOs and shareholders through stock buybacks, money that is not going to workers. Stock buybacks overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Americans and corporate executives. In fact, the richest 10 percent of American households hold 84 percent of stocks.

The CBO just released information showing that this tax bill will increase the deficit by \$1.9 trillion.

So let's get this straight. The Federal Government borrows almost \$2 trillion from our children and our grandchildren so that we can funnel hundreds of billions of dollars to the wealthiest Americans. Is that what we should be doing here?

I think not.

#### SYRIAN CHEMICAL ATTACKS

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, President Trump and our British and French allies made it known that the heinous actions of dictator Bashar al-Assad will not be tolerated.

Over the past 3 years, Assad, aided by Iran and Russia, has continued to carry out chemical warfare against his own people. Not only is this in direct violation of Syria's previous agreement to destroy their chemical weapons stockpile, but it also violates every tenet of basic human decency and violates our Geneva Conventions standards.

Through pictures and images, the world quickly saw the aftermath of Assad's most recent attack on his own people: scores of people dead or dying while foaming at the mouth, including women and innocent children.

By aiding Assad's murder of his own people and then working to prevent a response by the United Nations, Russia and Iran deserve equal blame and scrutiny when it comes to these attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the administration to follow through with the sanctions on Russian companies that was announced by Ambassador Nikki Haley and to continue sending a clear message that these horrific criminal actions by the dictator, Assad, will not be tolerated.

#### BRING THE DREAM ACT TO THE FLOOR

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Speaker RYAN do the following: before he retires, do the right thing and bring the Dream Act to the floor.

Already 46 of his Republican colleagues and more than 170 Democrats—that is 218 bipartisan supporters—have, as of today, cosponsored H. Res. 774. This will force debate on competing DACA bills in the House and use a procedure known as Queen of the Hill. This will include four amendments, including Representative ROYBAL-ALLARD's clean Dream Act and an amendment, H.R. 4796, the USA Act. Mr. Speaker, this will force a debate on this issue.

The Dreamers have the support of the American people and Members of Congress. Bring the Dream Act to the floor.

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CELEBRATING TAX REFORM ON  
TAX 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, today is tax day. Typically, Americans dread this day—the deadline for filing Federal income tax returns—thanks to a cumbersome, complex, and confusing Tax Code.

But fear not. Thanks to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, this is the last time Americans will file under the old system.

Next year, taxpayers will be able to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. Approximately two-thirds of all households will see a lower marginal income tax rate in 2018, according to a recent analysis by the Tax Policy Center.

Thanks to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, American families can look forward to lower individual tax rates; a nearly double standard deduction, from \$6,500 to \$12,000 for individuals, and from \$13,000 to \$24,000 for married couples; and a doubled child tax credit increase from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per child.

Mr. Speaker, these are just some of the benefits. The average American should be able to file their taxes without an army of accountants. I look forward to next year when the majority of American families will see a much easier tax process.

It is pro-growth, pro-family tax reform; fair and simple.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF LOTTIE ALBERT

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of my dear friend, Lottie Albert.

Lottie was born on December 25, 1915, to Eva and Louis Wernick in New York City. Twenty-one years later, Lottie married Sol Albert. The two enjoyed 55 years of marriage and have two lovely daughters, my friends, Harriet and Doreen. Lottie was the loving grandmother to Eric, Glenn, and Lowell, as well as the great-grandmother to Kyle, Samantha, Heather, and Seth.

Lottie was a resident and community leader of Broward County for over 40 years. It has been my honor to see Lottie's commitment and passion for serving her community. She was an amazing individual who dedicated herself to helping so many throughout south Florida.

In 1988, she was inducted into the Area Agency on Aging's Dr. Nan S. Hutchinson Broward Senior Hall of Fame. Additionally, Broward County honored her by declaring November 12 as Lottie Albert Appreciation Day.

In 2012, Lottie was inducted into the Broward County Women's Hall of Fame for her work with the Ann Storek Children's Center.

Mr. Speaker, Lottie was an extraordinary friend of mine. She helped me at every stage of my career, never wavering, never faltering. On good days and bad days, I knew Lottie would be there for me, as she was for so many of us. Her advice, wisdom, humor, and vast knowledge of life will be sorely missed.

## THE REPUBLICAN TAX SCAM

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as the corporations, the wealthy, and the well-connected enjoy lavish tax cuts, while retaining the ability to avoid paying any taxes whatsoever because of the many tax loopholes still in the Tax Code, millions of low- and middle-income Americans work diligently to complete their tax returns today.

The Republican tax scam has made the rich even richer, while economic inequality in America has gotten a whole lot worse. Sadly, most Americans say they have seen no change in their withholding taxes.

While the wealthy are reaping massive windfalls from the giveaways in the GOP tax scam, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that this tax scam will cause the annual deficit to soar to over \$1 trillion in 2020, and an additional \$3.4 trillion will be added to the national debt over the next 10 years.

Ending deficit spending and reducing the Federal debt is what Republicans have always claimed they were about, but we see now, with Republicans in total control, that they have misled us.

It is time to put this scam to bed, Mr. Speaker, and bring new order to this House. Shame on the Republicans.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 5192, PROTECTING CHILDREN  
FROM IDENTITY THEFT ACT

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 830 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

## H. RES. 830

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5192) to authorize the Commissioner of Social Security to provide confirmation of fraud protection data to certain permitted entities, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115-68 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amend-

ment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIDSON). The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 830 provides for consideration of H.R. 5192, the Protecting Children From Identity Theft Act. The resolution calls for a closed rule, as no amendments to the bill were submitted.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan legislation is designed to reduce identity fraud by allowing financial institutions to verify the accuracy of a name, Social Security number, and date of birth before passing that information to credit bureaus.

This legislation is designed to target something known as synthetic identity fraud. This begins when a criminal combines a real Social Security number with fictitious information, such as a name and date of birth, to apply for credit with a financial institution that passes information to credit bureaus for a credit check.

Credit bureaus create a record based on the fraudulent credentials. Over time, this creates a synthetic identity based on the valid Social Security number but a false name.

Currently, children and other vulnerable individuals are more likely to be victims of synthetic identity theft because they do not drive, work, or establish credit. This makes it easier for an identity thief to misuse the Social Security number of a child without being detected.

Reports indicate that over 1 million children have their identity stolen each year. Studies show that children are 50 times more likely than adults to be a victim of identity theft.

This is a real and serious issue that is only becoming more and more common. According to TransUnion, a record \$355 million in outstanding credit card balances was owed by people who it suspects didn't exist in 2017. That is up more than eightfold from 2012.

This type of fraud can saddle children with unintended debt and a flawed