

always have a great time watching the girls choose pumpkins, enjoy cider donuts, and take in all the fun fall activities.

I am proud to represent Louisburg resident Joe Steffy of Poppin' Joe's Gourmet Kettle Korn, started in 2005. As a young man with Down syndrome and autism, Joe has testified before Congress as a small-business leader, and I had the pleasure of meeting him on Capitol Hill.

Mr. Speaker, these small businesses are just two examples of what makes Louisburg great. Congratulations to Louisburg, and I look forward to another great 150 years.

TAX PLAN GOOD FOR OUR ECONOMY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, we heard last week about \$1,000 being crumbs and how the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act doesn't really mean anything for normal people.

Where I come from, this means a lot to people. \$100 bills and \$50 bills adding up to \$1,000 is real money to real people, maybe not in San Francisco, but in my district and a lot of places in this country.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is working. These dollars are coming home. I just read today that Apple is going to repatriate billions of dollars and pay \$38 billion of new taxes because they see a fair tax rate, and they want to come back and reinvest in America once again. That is \$38 billion for the good of the economy that may not have come back home, but now will, because now we have a tax rate that is friendly to the people who provide jobs and make the economy happen in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know anybody who would step over a dollar instead of stopping to pick it up. These aren't crumbs on the ground. These are the things that make America strong again and our economy good again. They are not just merely crumbs that elitists in San Francisco or coastal counties in California think don't mean anything. We are on the right track with this. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will mean more for Americans and their pocketbooks, lower taxes, and a better economy.

DACA

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to re-

visé and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I speak tonight on the issue of the DACA program.

In 2012, President Obama issued an executive action to allow 800,000 young people, known as DACA kids, to remain in the United States. These are young immigrants who were brought here at an early age by their parents, people who had no choice in whether to come to the United States, but, for many, this is the only home and only Nation they have ever known.

These young people now face the threat of deportation if Congress does not act as soon as possible. And certainly, by March 5, 800,000 young people will become subject to deportation. Already, there has been a cost to Congress' inaction. Every day, 122 of these folks become subject to deportation.

We all understand in this body the long history of immigration to the United States and the incredible contributions that immigrants from around the world have made to our Nation. These are people from Germany, Ireland, Latin America, Africa, and Asia. From literally every corner of the globe, people have come here lending their talents, their energy, their creativity, and their passion to making sure that the United States remains the greatest Nation on Earth. That is the case with the DACA kids.

Today, I am joined by several of my colleagues who are going to share some stories about DACA recipients, their lives, and the contributions they are making in our American communities and in American life.

But before I yield to my first colleague, I want to run through, for a minute, the requirements for somebody to be a DACA recipient. This has sometimes been, obviously, a very passionate, sometimes heated debate about what should happen with the DACA recipients and whether the Congress should even commit itself to coming up with a DACA solution. Whether it is people making comments on television or sometimes comments you read online, it is clear that there is a lot of misinformation out there—sometimes, willful misinformation—about who these people are.

So I want to read real quickly the requirements for somebody to be a DACA recipient.

□ 1815

First, they were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012.

Second, they came to the United States before reaching their 16th birthday.

Third, they have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time.

Fourth, they were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012,

and at the time of making the request for consideration of deferred action with USCIS.

Fifth, they had no lawful status on June 15, 2012.

Sixth, they are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general equivalency development—GED—certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States.

And, seventh, they have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more misdemeanors, and did not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

This addresses two of the common questions or, sometimes, criticisms that you hear about the DACA program, which, first, is the idea that some of these folks are criminals. Well, it makes very clear in these requirements that that cannot be the case.

And then, second, this idea that, hey, these folks, if they wanted to, they could have just become citizens. Again, number five was: had no lawful status on June 15, 2012, when the program commenced.

These are energetic, hardworking folks that we can be very proud of who are making significant contributions to American society.

Congress must act—and we should act this week—to come up with a DACA solution, to make sure that no more of these kids are subject to deportation, that their lives are no longer left in the balance, and that their futures are secure. These are folks who are in college, who have graduated and have gone into different fields, different professions, teachers and many other different professions that are represented by the DACA students now. Congress must act to make sure that they can stay in the country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN).

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the DREAMers issue, DACA recipients, is very personal for me. My district is 70 percent Latino, and I have an estimated 8,000 DACA recipients. I also have a cousin who is a recipient of DACA.

It is heartbreaking to hear the stories of recipients who are living in uncertainty, living in fear, and who tell you firsthand of the sense of urgency that they feel. It is a sense of urgency that, frankly, I don't feel is happening here in Congress.

Now, I will talk to my colleagues across the aisle, and they will tell me: "I support a solution. I want to do something to help DACA recipients." But we can't get a vote. The leadership will not give us a vote on the Dream Act. They won't give us a vote on any legislation that involves DACA.

Just today, we had White House Chief of Staff Kelly come in to meet

with members of the Hispanic Caucus to talk about this issue. We continue to hear that the President is committed to finding a fix, yet he is using DACA recipients as a political pawn, a political pawn to get a wall that he said Mexico would pay for.

Frankly, as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I know that putting money into a wall is not the best use of our dollars.

This issue is urgent; it is real. These are people's lives. They are doctors, they are nurses, and they are teachers.

In my very district, I have a DACA recipient named Roque Pech. He was my guest for the State of the Union last year, somebody who is now teaching our children, somebody who is giving back to our community.

DACA recipients are good folks. They are our neighbors. They are our friends. They are our family members. There is overwhelming support, on a bipartisan basis, to give them the protections that they need and deserve. Members of our military who are serving are also DACA recipients.

I urge us all to come together to find a solution, so that we can deliver on providing the protections that DACA recipients so urgently need and so urgently want, and stop making this a political football so that we can also move on to other issues.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, before I bring up my next colleague, Congresswoman BARRAGÁN talked about the incredible DREAMers, DACA recipients that are in her district, and I have many in my district. I represent a very large city in Texas, the city of San Antonio—I have the main San Antonio district—and you can imagine that we have our fair share of DACA recipients in San Antonio.

I want to read, really quickly, the story of just one of them. Her name is Lisa.

Lisa is a first-generation American who immigrated to the United States from Canada in October 1996 at the age of 6. Lisa learned she had, unknowingly, overstayed her visa on December 19, 2010, just a day after the DREAM Act stalled in the Senate, when she received, in the mail, a notice to appear in immigration court, which is the first step in deportation proceedings.

She went to elementary, middle, and high school in San Antonio. During that time, she was a Girl Scout, logged more than 700 hours of community service during her high school years, and spearheaded a fundraiser that raised \$10,000 to help pay for the bone marrow transplant of a young leukemia patient whom she had never met.

In 2008, she graduated from a San Antonio high school with summa cum laude honors, ranking in the top 6 percent of her class. She spent the summer working as a congressional intern for the United States House of Representatives, right here—for my predecessor, Charlie Gonzalez—before heading to Northwestern University to

study journalism and political science. Lisa was sitting at her college graduation ceremony on the day that President Obama announced the DACA program, June 15, 2012.

Her work permit has enabled her to take out a mortgage, buy a car, get a job, pay taxes, renew her driver's license, and repay six figures—about \$114,000—of student loans used to fund her Northwestern University degree.

Today, Lisa is a communications associate at a nonprofit. As a reporter, Lisa's work has been published in *The Washington Post*, *Huffington Post*, *San Antonio Express-News*, *Boulder Daily Camera*, *The Denver Post*, and several other places. Her story is just one story of the incredible folks who are part of the DACA program that are contributing to the greatness of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mrs. TORRES).

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, we have waited too long to protect the DREAMers. This is unacceptable to me and to the vast majority of Americans.

My Republican colleagues say that we have until March to fix this issue, but that is simply not true. 16,287 DREAMers have lost their protection since September. For those DREAMers, the deadline has already passed.

This is not a partisan issue. I would like to remind my colleagues that the Dream Act is a bipartisan bill. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership and the White House have not acted in good faith. They have politicized this issue. They have backed themselves to the wall. They are holding the fate of DREAMers hostage.

They say that they want to help DREAMers, but then they say they will only help DREAMers in exchange for border security, demanding that we give up on our commitment to keeping families together, ending the Diversity Visa program, knowing that these are poison pills.

If Republicans truly want to help DREAMers, Democrats stand ready. If Republicans want to compromise on a comprehensive immigration reform bill, we are ready to do that, too.

We can talk about all of the changes to our immigration system that Republicans want at the same time that we talk about how we bring 11 million people, undocumented people, out of the shadows and on a pathway to citizenship. But the issue of DREAMers and comprehensive immigration reform should simply be kept separate.

Show some leadership. President Trump says he wants a “bill of love.” So do I and so do my colleagues.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Congresswoman was talking about the support for DACA, and it is true that surveys consistently show that the American people support the DACA kids at about 83 percent or so. That is an incredible, overwhelming majority support for this program.

She mentioned the possible tradeoff. There has been this argument that we should pass a clean Dream Act, for ex-

ample, which is a DACA fix, and whether it should be paired with anything else, like, if we are going to pass a DACA bill, what is the price to pay for that? That is the common debate. What is the President, or what is the majority, going to demand for that?

But as Congresswoman TORRES mentioned, I would just point out that that 83 percent support among the American people is not 83 percent only if you build a wall. The American people don't say: We support the DACA kids, but only if you build a wall across the United States of America. They say: We support the DACA kids, and we want to make sure that those kids can stay and continue to live in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand with the DREAMers, both those living throughout the great San Joaquin Valley whom I have the honor and the privilege to represent, as well as those across the entire United States. We in the valley—as we like to say—and throughout our Nation are, let us remember, a nation of immigrants, past and present.

So we know the integral role, both historically and today, that immigrants have played throughout the great history of our Nation in terms of the development of our economy and our communities. The contributions that have been made are the story of America. And our DREAMers, these young immigrants, also make immense contributions, and their story is a part of America's story.

It is estimated that roughly 685,000 of our Nation's workers, our DREAMers, with protections through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program, that if we, in fact, remove them as some are maybe suggesting, it would impact over \$460 billion to our Nation's economy, to our GDP. Think about that.

In my home State of California, it is estimated that there are over 193,000 DREAMers who are currently legal, who are working and contributing with these DACA protections, and that removing them from the workforce in California would cost an estimated \$11.6 billion to the GDP of California.

Does this make any sense? No.

But the DREAMers also serve in our military, protecting our Nation both at home and abroad, in harm's way. They are our friends. They are our neighbors. They are deacons in our local churches, and many of them are students, hoping to contribute to the betterment of America. They, too, want to be a part—and they are, in fact—of the American Dream.

In my district alone, we have over 600 DREAMers at the University of California, Merced, and more than that at my alma mater, Fresno State University.

But these DREAMers are young men and women. They are not just numbers.

These are people. They are people, many of whom we have trusted to be a part of our country, to uphold its word, when they basically enrolled to be a part of the DACA program.

Just today, I spoke to two DREAMers in my office. One of them is a remarkable young person, currently getting her Ph.D. in physics—she is 27 years old—at the University of California, Merced, focusing her research on solar energy.

□ 1830

Just think about this: helping America with the next generation of our energy development.

Her name is Bo. She hopes to work in renewable energy when she gets her Ph.D., but now with the possible removal of DACA, her future is uncertain. She came here when she was 3 years old. Her DACA protections expire in less than 1 year.

Another DREAMer I spoke to today was a student body president while working on his bachelor's degree at Fresno State, my alma mater. His name is Pedro. He has graduated now. He has earned his master's degree in public policy and urban affairs and is contributing to the economy of our valley and to our State. His DACA protections expire within months.

Think about that. Think about the gravity of these two students, Bo and Pedro. In less than a year, they don't know if they are going to be here. This is their country, as far as they are concerned.

Our DREAMers have shared stories time and time again of uncertainty and fear that is gripping their families and our communities as they are forced to wait and see if the only home that they have ever known, this country, will keep its word when they enrolled in the DACA program and create the protections that allow them to stay here and ultimately become citizens.

That is the question. That is what we are trying to achieve.

So I stand here today to say to my colleagues, as Members of the Congress, we all take an oath every 2 years. We swear to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States from all enemies, foreign and domestic, and to promote, guess what, the general welfare for the good of our country.

Well, that is what this is all about, promoting the most positive things that can be a part of our country. These DREAMers are a part of that. So this has to be a part of our permanent solution.

Eighty-six percent of the people in this country support providing legal designation for these DREAMers, and it is imperative that we do the right thing. This is America. I will continue to work with my colleagues on the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and other Members of Congress in a bipartisan fashion to ensure that we do the right thing. This is the American way.

More than just protecting these young people, America needs a stable,

just, and commonsense immigration policy. Let's face it, our immigration system is broken. I will continue to work on a bipartisan basis for comprehensive immigration reform more broadly so that we don't end up back right where we are here today in bickering and in partisan, piecemeal, and often contradictory fashion that does nothing to fix our broken immigration system.

We must improve the dialogue and the debate. This problem is very solvable. It really is. Let's get past the political posturing, let's fix DACA and provide support for our DREAMers, let's move on in the second phase, which the President has suggested, and let's work on the other elements. We are for border security. It is important. We all support border security. Let's do the other things that are a part of fixing this broken immigration system.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for recognizing me.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, Congressman COSTA, for his remarks. He made several very important points. One of them was the economic benefits of the DREAMer population, the DACA population, on their communities and how not only for California and his district, but for so many other parts of the country where you do have DACA recipients, it would be a real economic blow to deport these folks, to uproot them from the communities and simply get them out of here. It would be an economic blow to the economies of those cities and towns and States and, of course, to our Nation.

The second thing that I thought was very important is really the human element that right now, as you can imagine, these 800,000 young people are watching the United States Congress. Their parents, their brothers, their sisters, everybody who loves them realizes that their future hangs in the balance. They are living in fear and incredible anxiety wondering whether they are going to be allowed to stay in what is for most of them the only place they have ever known as home.

It would be like deciding that I am going to go live in Egypt or live in Uruguay or anywhere else. I simply have no connection to those places as home.

That is what these young people are facing if this Congress refuses to act. That is what they are facing now.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is absolutely correct. That is why this debate is so important and that is why we must come together not just on behalf of Bo and Pedro, as I cited their examples, but for the 800,000-plus DREAMers across this country and their families.

This is just good common sense. It is the right thing to do and it is the thing that we must do to move our Nation on a positive track.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for all his hard work. I am honored to be a part of this Special Order.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for being a champion on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO).

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CASTRO for his great leadership on this issue.

I want to take a moment to talk about the story of Mariana Castro. Mariana is going to be interning for us this year, and she is an ambitious young DREAMer from Florida.

In 2005, Mariana left Lima, Peru, at the age of 10 with her mother, leaving her father and brothers behind for a safer life.

She was in the high school IB program. Not until the 10th grade did she realize that regardless of her excellent grades and involvement in hundreds of hours of community service, her undocumented status would be a hurdle to pursuing higher education.

A few months before graduation, DACA—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—was a miracle. She would now be able to provide for her family, drive, and no longer live in the shadows.

Mariana enrolled in the University of Florida, but faced severe financial difficulties due to her status. As her only way to higher education, she temporarily paused her education and fought for tuition equity in the State of Florida. I had the honor of having a role in that, having been in the Florida Senate at the time when we passed instate tuition along with a bill that I had that admitted DREAMers into The Florida Bar. This would spark her passion for social justice.

Throughout her time at UF, she utilized her voice to speak for immigrant rights and human rights by taking several leadership positions within Chispas, the only student-led immigrant advocacy organization at UF.

She has helped start programs that provide training for professional staff under student affairs about relevant immigration laws that affect students as well.

She has helped raise thousands of dollars for Out of the Shadows, a scholarship specifically for undocumented students in Florida that she oversaw for 3 years.

She spent a semester working for the Florida Senate and has also worked as a Know Your Rights trainer for the Florida Immigrant Coalition, where she was able to educate the immigrant community about their rights in the United States through mobile consulates.

Due to her status, she is unable to qualify for loans and only qualifies to be eligible for a very limited amount of scholarships. Mariana has been paying for her education out of pocket, working 20 to 30 hours during school and 50-plus hours during school breaks.

Her only close relative in the States, her mother, has been undergoing difficult medical procedures, including treatment for human papillomavirus

and, most recently, severe glaucoma, making her unable to support her daughter.

After graduation, she hopes to attend law school to continue her fight for immigrant families across the Nation. But if the DACA program doesn't exist, if DREAMers aren't given their rights, then she will never be able to practice law under Florida law.

I am proud to announce that Mariana will be completing a congressional internship in my office this semester.

In Florida, we have 92,000 individuals who would be eligible for DACA, 92,000 DREAMers, and I have met so many of them. They are ambitious. They are attending college. They are starting small businesses. They are joining our military. They are the very best of what this Nation has to offer. Their struggles have shaped them. Their obstacles have made them better, sharper, and hungrier for it.

We need to encourage these new American DREAMers, much like so many generations before them, in fact, the generations of ancestors of so many who occupy the seats in this Chamber. The time for action is now.

We want to have a clean Dream Act. That is our priority. But at the very least, rather than talk about shutdowns, let's talk about solutions.

There is a bill in the Senate. It is not perfect. There are things in there that I really don't like at all and that I know a lot of the members on the Congressional Hispanic Caucus don't like—in the Graham bill, along with Senator DURBIN—but it is a compromise and it is a start.

I challenge for them to put it on the floor, have a vote, and send it over to the House. And then I challenge Speaker RYAN to put this bill, whatever comes over from the Senate, on the floor. Let's put together amendments. Let's take the very best of our debate, of our ideas in this august Chamber, and let's put forward a product that deals with DREAMers, that deals with TPS, that deals with border security, and let's put it on the desk of the President. Let's dare the President not to sign something that could be the embodiment of a generational opportunity to resolve so many issues that are so important to both parties.

Mr. Speaker, let us not talk about shutdowns. Let us talk about solutions. I am honored to be here today with Congressman CASTRO to do just that.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman SOTO for his wonderful words. He also brought up a few important things that I think we need to remember.

The first is this issue of DREAMers, or undocumented immigrants, is often in the American debate reduced to the idea that all of these folks are Mexican or from Mexico, when, in fact, it is actually a very diverse group of folks who are in the category of DREAMers or who are part of the DACA program.

So I would like to ask Mr. SOTO to describe the community that he rep-

resents around Orlando and some of the different groups that are represented in the DACA program.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for giving me that opportunity.

Florida has every color in the rainbow, every religion, every background. Where you have Mickey Mouse, you tend to have a lot of folks around the world who are familiar with Orlando. So we have Haitians who are DREAMers. We have Peruvians who are DREAMers. We have folks from Vietnam and from Laos who are DREAMers. We have folks from every continent other than Antarctica.

I want to make this point: the law makes all the difference in these statuses.

I am of Puerto Rican descent. My father was born on the island, so, therefore, he is a citizen by a statute. We have a large Puerto Rican population, where most of my constituents who are from the island are only citizens because of an act passed over 100 years ago.

We also have a huge amount of Cuban Americans. Because of wet foot, dry foot policy, and because they were escaping tyranny, they are citizens.

So a law makes all the difference, and we know that for a fact and we live it every day in Florida, and that is what these kids need. The law needs to be on their side because it is the right thing to do. A law makes all the difference in these families' stories and these kids' opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman again for giving me this opportunity.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are people of European descent, of Asian descent, certainly of Latin American descent, and of African descent who are part of the DACA program. So I am glad that the gentleman went through the variety, the diversity of the people in his area who are part of this program.

Now, bear in mind, my grandmother was from Mexico. My grandmother came here around 1922 as a 6-year-old orphan. I remember a few years back, this professional genealogist for a publication looked at my family's history because we had never formally looked it up, and she found the documents of when my grandmother came to the country. I remember there was a box in the form that said, "Purpose." In other words, the purpose for why she was coming. And it said, "To live."

I mean, that is how easy it was back then around 1922 to come to the United States, to live in this Nation.

□ 1845

It obviously has become much tougher since then. It just speaks to the wonderful, incredible diversity of people who have come here from different places around the world.

And then Congressman SOTO mentioned one other important thing, which is the historical context by which we find ourselves in this place.

When you think about it, there is this intense debate going on right now and this incredible push to do a DACA fix by the end of the week, hopefully; and a lot of people, I think, who may not have followed the volleying and the back and forth for a while are wondering why this is such a crisis now.

We know the immediate answer, which is, if we get to March 5, there are 800,000 of these young people who will be deportable, subject to deportation, who are part of the DACA program. Already, every day that passes, 122 more become deportable.

There was an opportunity a few years ago to deal not only with this part of the immigration issue, but to achieve what is called comprehensive immigration reform. And by "comprehensive," that just means that you are dealing not just with one part of immigration, but you are dealing with all of the different issues associated with immigration.

So it was DACA, but it was also issues with visas, like tech visas and agricultural workers. It was dealing with the parents of the DREAMers, for example.

And that bill that passed through the Senate with 68 votes, a wide majority in the Senate in 2014, it came over to the House and, based on public reports and what the Members of Congress had stated their support would be for or against that bill, there was a majority, over 218 Members—again, based on public reports; we never took the vote, but based on public reports—who said that they basically would have supported a bill like that.

At the time, Speaker Boehner refused to put that bill on the floor for a vote because of something called a Hastert rule. The Hastert rule is basically an informal rule that says that the Speaker of the House won't put a piece of legislation on the floor for a vote unless that piece of legislation already has the support of a majority of the majority. And at that time, the piece of legislation, even though it probably had 225 or 230 supporters in Congress, a clear majority to pass, didn't have over 50 percent support of the Republican Conference, which represented the majority party.

Now, my last point on this, and I know you know this, but when a Speaker governs with the Hastert rule, oftentimes the will of the majority is ignored in this House of Representatives, but it also does something very insidious. It allows about 25 percent of this body to control 100 percent of the legislation that comes through here.

So I thank the gentleman for bringing up the history and the context because this Congress and this country missed an incredible opportunity in 2014 to deal not only with the DACA issue, but also with the many other issues associated with immigration. So I thank Congressman SOTO.

Now I yield to Congressman CORREA, a wonderful new Member from California, and welcome him.

Mr. CORREA. I thank my colleague from Texas.

I represent Orange County, California. I would like to say that California is now the sixth largest economy in the world. My home county of Orange County, if it were a country today, would be the 32nd largest economy in the world.

My district is exploding with jobs, unemployment at a record low. We have biotech, high-tech, tourism, home to Disney land, the Angels. We also have recycling, manufacturing. You name it, it is there.

It is about Americans working hard; former immigrants, now Americans, also working hard; and new immigrants, like DACA students, DACA members of my community, also holding hands with all of us, working hard to enrich our communities, our neighborhoods, our county, our State, and our Nation.

Today, DACA recipients, model immigrants. Nobody in this body would ever debate the fact that we want immigrants who come to work hard, follow the laws, pay taxes, learn English, and study hard. Those are model citizens that any nation in the world would want, and we have them here in this country.

Just a few weeks ago, my daughter came home, 17 years old, from high school. Two of her best friends came with her, and they said: We want help, Mr. Congressman. You are a Congressman. We want some help.

And I said: What is the issue?

They said: We are both DACA students, and we are afraid. We are concerned. We want to go to college. We don't know what is going to happen.

I didn't have any answers for those two young ladies, but, really, the answer I gave them was the same answer I give all the DACA individuals, students I meet in my district, which is: Let me fight the fight for you in Washington, D.C. What you have got to do is continue to study hard, continue to follow the law, and don't give up praying.

I am convinced that, in this body, there are enough people to vote for DACA students, to vote to change the laws. Why? Because it is the right thing to do.

This is a country of immigrants, and nobody, again, can debate the fact that these are good immigrants. These are good, hardworking folks who want a shot. They don't want a gift, but they want the opportunity to earn American citizenship.

These folks have taken an oath, the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag and our country to defend it against foreign and local enemies. These folks are Americans in the true sense of the word. Let's give them a shot, a true shot, at being Americans.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. I thank Congressman CORREA. He is right. The DACA kids are going to school with our kids, are going to college with our kids, are in our workplaces. They are people who are contributing and whose

futures hang in the balance, depending on what this Congress does or does not do.

Mr. CORREA. If the gentleman will yield.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Certainly.

Mr. CORREA. I would like to say, they serve in our military. They are police officers, teachers, doctors, nurses. They are part of our fabric.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. He is right. And they are part of a long legacy of immigrants to this country.

The United States has this paradoxical history when it comes to immigration. We are, of course, very proudly a nation of immigrants, but each wave of immigrants has also faced its own bouts with discrimination.

When the Germans came here in the 1800s, they were said by some to be too dirty to be considered Americans. The Irish were greeted in cities like Boston and New York with signs that read "NINA," no Irish need apply, for the jobs that were available. The Chinese were excluded from our country for decades.

During World War II and the frenzy that ensued, Japanese Americans, but also Italian Americans and German Americans, were interned, including in my home State of Texas.

In every generation Americans have also stood up and changed course and become more welcoming for each of those groups, and I believe that, in this generation, in this time, this is part of that shift, for Congress to finally address this issue head-on and fully welcome these DACA kids as Americans and pass legislation to do that.

I thank Congressman CORREA for his words.

I yield to Congressman SUOZZI, from the other side of the country, the wonderful State of New York, a freshman Congressman.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman so much for having us here tonight. Based upon what he was just talking about, I am going to talk about my father first. I am a first-generation American.

My father was brought to the United States by his mother when he was 4 years old. His father was already here. He came from Italy. His father was already here working. He had joined the U.S. Army during World War I and got his citizenship because of that, and my father was naturalized as a citizen because of that. He was the first one in the neighborhood to go to college, and he then fought in World War II and got the Distinguished Flying Cross with three oak leaf clusters as a navigator on a B-24.

He came back after the war, and he went to Harvard Law School on the GI Bill. Imagine that, an Italian immigrant going to Harvard Law School on the GI Bill in the 1940s.

He was discriminated against as an Italian American at the time—the gentleman was just talking about that—and he couldn't get a job at a big law firm. So he went back to our hometown

of Glen Cove, Long Island. He teamed up with another Italian guy. He started a law practice. He ended up running for city court judge, and he became the youngest judge in the history of New York State, at 28 years old.

My father really lived a great American success story. He was a man who would proudly say "what a country" all the time.

My father died 2 weeks before my election in 2016. As I went through his papers, I saw his yearbook from St. Dominic High School, when he was 18 years old. They asked all the students: What's your goal in life? Most people would talk about I want to become a lawyer or a doctor or an engineer, or I want to do some sort of exotic travel. My father wrote: "My goal is to be a real American."

Now, I had seen that when I was a kid, and I thought: Boy, I can't believe how patriotic my father was as an 18-year-old.

But he died in 2016, in the middle of the Presidential campaign. A lot of the rhetoric that we are hearing now was really hot then as well. I realize that my father was 18 years old in 1939 and Mussolini had teamed up with Hitler, and Italian Americans here in the United States of America were viewed as fascists or mafioso, and that discrimination was rife.

But the good people of this country and people in this body and people like my father held on to the basic, fundamental concepts of what makes America work. What makes America great are these basic, fundamental ideas.

So, in dealing with the question of DACA and with immigration, we have to look at some basic, fundamental American concepts. Let's first remember that all immigrants, whether they are documented or undocumented, are human beings and are entitled to be treated with human respect and dignity.

The most fundamental concept in America is that all men and women are created equal—not all men and women with a green card are created equal, not all men and women who are citizens are created equal, not all men and women from a particular country are created equal. All human beings are equal and should be treated with human respect and dignity.

I am concerned that the rhetoric that we are facing right now, that the negativity that we are facing right now, that the uncertainty that we are facing right now, that the outright assaults that we are facing in some cases right now are causing so much anxiety in our country, and it is diminishing our status as a beacon of hope to the world.

That is the great thing about America. That is what makes America great is that we are a beacon of hope to the world. That beacon is being diminished by the rhetoric and by our failure to address this immigration crisis.

This is not a new phenomenon. This started in the 1980s when death squads and civil wars and abject poverty

forced people to flee from El Salvador over the border into the United States by the tens of thousands. Starting with President Reagan, through President Bush and President Clinton and on, we haven't enforced our borders for that entire time, and now 11 million people in this country are suffering with this uncertainty because we failed to enforce our borders.

I am all for securing our borders, but let's return to being a beacon of hope to the rest of the world, and let's stop the suffering and the anxiety as we push people underground and we treat them as nonhuman beings, entitled to human respect and human dignity.

I believe that this is the greatest country on Earth, and I believe that my dad knew that. He also knew that a central part of our being the greatest country on Earth is being that beacon of hope to so many people, that said to the tired and the poor yearning to breathe free: Come to our shores.

If we really want to make America great again, we have to reclaim that mantle of being that beacon of hope.

I agree with all the wise comments that have been made by my colleagues here today that the votes do exist in this House to resolve this issue if we could get a bill put on the floor. There are so many groups, so many Democrats, so many Republicans meeting throughout this town on a regular basis to try to find a compromise to solve this problem—Democrats and Republicans—but because there is nothing on the floor, we can't get the votes presented in a public way. If it was put on the floor, it would pass. We would have DACA. We would have the Dream Act. We would have solutions to border security.

We need to recognize that we are all in this together, and we need to rise up to the challenge to be the beacon of hope that we once were and still should be to the world.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CASTRO for giving me the opportunity to speak.

□ 1900

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman for sharing his dad's life story and what this country meant to him and the importance of coming up with a solution, a fix, as soon as possible.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I want bring up one thing I forgot to mention.

I was the young mayor of the city of Glen Cove in 1994, and we had day workers from Central and South America gathering on the street corners seeking work. The community was divided. This was 1994. Just think how long ago this is now, 23 years ago.

One group saying: Get those people out of here. And other people saying: These poor guys are trying to live the American Dream the same as your family did.

I ended up setting up the first day-worker gathering spot anywhere on the East Coast of the United States of America in 1994. It was one of the first

things I did as mayor. We ended up bringing them indoors. If you didn't get hired for the day, you could learn a skill, you could learn to speak English, you could learn about the cultural norms of our community. We said: If you play by the rules, we are going to help you. If you break the rules, you are going to get in trouble.

The same guys that were on the street corners now have their own businesses, they own their own homes, and their children go to school with my children. That is the American Dream.

We have so much potential in this country if we could unleash it for people who want to work 6 days a week and go to church on Sunday, if only we could remove this anxiety and this threat that we are pushing people underground and forcing them into an underground economy and underground communities. If only we could lift this back up again, we could accomplish so much.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for reminding us of something that is often lost in this conversation and debate, which is the fundamental humanity of the people that we are talking about. Whether they have a green card, whether they are documented or undocumented, the fact that we are talking about the lives of human beings, too often that is lost in what is sometimes a contentious debate.

Mr. SUOZZI. Think about it. You are a kid going to school, you are worried about taking tests. You are working every day, you are worried about your job. You are worried somebody is sick in your family. You are worried you don't have enough money to pay your bills. The normal concerns of life. Heap on top of that a national debate that is treating you as a pariah and creating such anxiety to rip families apart. Think about how challenging that must be for those individuals, those families that are facing that type of threat.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. There is no question that for a lot of them, as you talk to them, you can see what a soul-crushing experience it is, and, as your dad wrote in his yearbook, I think many of these kids have the same feeling. They want to be fully accepted as real Americans, which they obviously feel part of this country, feel like it is home, but are not sure whether America accepts them.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just to make some closing remarks before I yield back the balance of my time, Congress has to take action now. We can't wait any longer for another 122 DREAMers every day, DACA recipients, to become subject to deportation, and certainly can't get to March where 800,000 of the DACA kids will lose their futures in America and become subject to deportation.

The issue of immigration and border security, all of these things are among

the thorniest issues in American life no matter where you go in the country.

But we are a nation of immigrants, and this is one way that we will gauge the soul of this Congress and of this Nation and determine whether we are going to continue to live up to the Nation that we strive to be, which is a nation of immigrants, of people from different countries who have made such a beautiful, incredible, strong and powerful nation, have crafted that Nation together.

And I would just remind those who are against the DACA kids, who would argue for inaction, who argue that they should get the hell out of here, that this country has been blessed throughout the generations that people from every corner on Earth have wanted to come to the United States of America. Fifty years ago, if you asked somebody who was living in Europe or Asia or Latin America or anywhere else around the world where on Earth they would want to go if they were going to leave their home country, the answer 50 years ago was very clearly the United States of America.

There is a scarier day in this country than the day when everybody wants to come here. That is the day when nobody wants to come here. The challenge for all of us as legislators and basically as Americans is to make sure that when you ask that same question of somebody 50 years from now who is living abroad where on Earth they would want to go if they were going to leave their home country, that they still feel comfortable believing it is the United States of America.

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

THE MARCH FOR LIFE

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honor, as we approach the March for Life on Friday, to remember the infamous Supreme Court decision that has resulted in the loss of some 60 million unborn babies and tens of millions of women who have been harmed. Sixty million have been killed, a number that equates with the entire population of England, as a result of that very misguided and sad and tragic decision.

It is my honor, as we open up this Special Order, to yield to Congresswoman JACKIE WALORSKI from Indiana, a distinguished Member of this body who serves on the Ways and Means Committee.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate life, to stand for the idea that every human life is a gift from God, and to join my colleagues in renewing our commitment to defend the inherent dignity of every person born or unborn.