

This is not about Democrats. This is about democracy. It is not about Republicans. It is about the Republic. And if we are going to save this Republic, we have got to remove this President from office.

I have filed Articles of Impeachment to do so. I stand on what I have done, and I stand on this: I will not allow this to continue without a challenge. I will challenge him again. I will challenge this House. I will challenge us because this is our country that is in jeopardy, and we are doing very little to stop it. And we have the power. The Framers gave us the means.

□ 1015

It is not a question of whether there is a way. The question is, do we have the will to stand up for justice and stand up for our country?

There is one solution. Article II, Section 4 speaks to it. There will be an impeachment of this President, or at least an attempt to get him out of office by way of impeachment. I stand on it.

RECOGNIZING 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF FULBRIGHT COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of the creation of the bilateral US-UK Fulbright Commission.

I would like to take this opportunity to honor the many exchange scholars who have crossed the Atlantic to strengthen the special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom. In doing so, these individuals have forged a bond between our two nations, rooted in Senator Fulbright's vision at the end of the Second World War.

I quote his vision: "The vital mortar to seal the bricks of world order is education across international boundaries, not with the expectation that knowledge would make us love each other, but in the hope that it would encourage empathy between nations, and foster the emergence of leaders whose sense of other nations and cultures would enable them to shape specific policies based on tolerance and rational restraint."

The Fulbright program stands out as a symbol of collaboration and friendship between nations. It enables students and scholars of all stages of their academic careers to garner a deeper understanding of and appreciation for a culture and nation different from their own.

While much has changed since the first US-UK Fulbright exchange nearly 70 years ago, much remains the same.

As chairman of the British-American Parliamentary Group, I am proud of the broad bipartisan and bicameral support for the US-UK Fulbright Commission. The special relationship we

have with the United Kingdom has undoubtedly been further cemented by the friendships forged as succeeding generations have come to a deeper understanding of each other through academic exchange.

Important scientific discoveries have been made and Nobel Prizes won. A Fulbright scholarship has been the catalyst for great novelists and playwrights, economists, scientists, entrepreneurs, and, yes, even politicians.

Today, I invite my colleagues to commemorate this 70th anniversary of the US-UK Fulbright program by celebrating the achievements of its alumni and pledging their continued support to ensure its enduring success.

LIMITING GI BILL TRANSFERABILITY BREAKS PROMISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, in June 1944, 2 weeks after the D-day landings in Normandy, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, more commonly known as the GI Bill. That landmark measure created both college tuition grants and a living stipend for returning servicemembers who, according to FDR, had "been compelled to make greater economic sacrifice and every other kind of sacrifice than the rest of us."

Even though World War II would rage on for another year, leaders in Washington at the time recognized that millions of drafted young soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen would soon be returning to civilian life, and, for their sake and for the sake of the postwar economy, creating an educational pathway to the middle class made tremendous sense.

It has been 74 years since the GI Bill was signed into law, and it is now recognized as one of the most successful pieces of domestic legislation ever enacted. The postwar economic boom of the 1950s and 1960s, and the blossoming of the American middle class, both have been attributed, in part, to the GI Bill.

Many renowned Americans, including Bob Dole, Johnny Carson, Harry Belafonte, Justice William Rehnquist, and even Clint Eastwood, to name just a few, were beneficiaries of the GI Bill.

Economic studies have concluded that for every dollar the U.S. Government spent on the GI Bill, our economy saw nearly \$7 in return in the form of additional economic output and tax revenues from income growth.

Despite its stellar performance, the relative strength of the GI Bill deteriorated over time. By 2008, it was clear that the tuition assistance and living stipends had not kept pace with the rising costs of college education.

As a freshman Congressman on the House Armed Services Committee, I heard from Iraq and Afghan veterans

that, because of the GI Bill erosion, they were forced to choose between dropping out of school and shouldering the burden of student loans.

To fix this inequity, the Post-9/11 GI Bill was passed by a Democratic Congress on a bipartisan basis and signed into law by a Republican President, George W. Bush. And I want to actually take a moment to publicly acknowledge that the late Senator John McCain was deeply involved in the final negotiations that made that passage and enactment successful.

The updated law increased benefits to match the cost of 4-year public university tuition in a servicemember's home State and increased the living stipend to keep faith with the law. Critically, it also allowed GI benefits to be transferred on a one-time basis to a spouse or dependent child, a groundbreaking change that transformed the value of military service.

After the bill signing, I flew to Iraq on a congressional visit and vividly recall being in Baghdad surrounded by hundreds of soldiers bursting with questions about when and how this feature would be implemented.

Over the last 10 years, it has been clear that the transferability of the GI Bill benefit has been an enormous morale booster and a valuable incentive to enlist and remain in service.

Despite the 10 years of success of the new law, however, the Trump Department of Defense announced a new policy this past July 12 that would bar servicemembers with more than 16 years of service from transferring their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to eligible family members.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say, as someone who represents a military district, in the August break when I was home visiting the submarine base in New London and talking to Guard and Reserve members, they were absolutely blindsided, stunned, and angry at this arbitrary change that many of them had built their career decisions about staying in the military to basically qualify for this educational benefit.

The Iraq and Afghan Veterans of America have started a national petition drive to reverse this policy change. Really, it is our duty, as Members of Congress, to make sure that that is successful.

Arbitrarily revoking transferability breaks our commitment to our most dedicated and highly trained servicemembers. Such a policy change sends exactly the wrong message to those who have chosen the military as their long-term career, and sets a damaging and dangerous precedent for the removal of other critical benefits to our all-volunteer force.

Two weeks after the Pentagon announced this policy, 83 of my colleagues joined me in a letter that we sent to Secretary of Defense James Mattis, objecting to this change and calling for its immediate reversal. So far, they have not given a single public explanation for this policy change, and

they are promising that that is coming.

But I will just say this: As someone who was involved when this bill was first passed, we will make sure there will be a legislative response if the Department of Defense does not keep faith with those who wear the uniform of this country and who have volunteered based on reliance of the fact that there would be a GI Bill benefit for them and their spouse and children.

To use FDR's words, protecting transferability "gives emphatic notice to the men and women in our Armed Forces that the American people do not intend to let them down."

SUPPORT OIL REGION NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, northwest Pennsylvania has a rich history and vibrant, diverse economy. Its winding trails, beautiful landscapes, recreational and educational opportunities, and thriving communities make Venango and Crawford Counties especially captivating places to live, to work, and to visit.

Many of these attractions are centered around one common theme, the world's first commercial oil well. Colonel Drake successfully drilled this well in 1859, triggering the first oil boom and establishing the oil region as "the valley that changed the world."

His efforts not only made northwestern Pennsylvania the energy powerhouse that it is today, but it also sparked a cultural revolution that came as a result of the booming economy.

We are tremendously proud of our history and heritage in northwest Pennsylvania. We still celebrate these communities that bloomed from Colonel Drake's innovative idea today, and Drake Well continues to have a tangible impact on the area's economy.

In 2004, Congress designated the region as a national heritage area. There are only 49 of these areas across the country that are designated as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape.

The Oil Region National Heritage Area was the Nation's 25th national heritage area, and it celebrates the birth of the petroleum industry.

The region is honored to have this important designation, but without action, it will sunset next year. That is why I introduced the Oil Region National Heritage Area Reauthorization Act.

The heritage area's coordinating entity, the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry, and Tourism, has taken a grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage, conservation, and economic development.

Through public-private partnerships, national heritage area entities support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects. These partnerships foster pride of place and an enduring stewardship ethic.

The Oil Region Alliance focuses on heritage development, economic development, and tourism destination marketing. All three of these areas have been successful, and, from 2005 to 2015, the ORA has been able to invest more than \$6.8 million in heritage development projects, invest more than \$6.7 million in economic development activities, and attract nearly 240,000 visitors annually. They have done an excellent job using innovative methods to stimulate the local economy, using a mixture of both Federal and private funds.

Last month, I was with my colleague Congressman MIKE KELLY at the home of the legendary investigative journalist Ida Tarbell. Born in Pennsylvania at the onset of the oil boom, Tarbell is best known for her 1904 book, "The History of the Standard Oil Company."

The ORA recently completed a full restoration of Ms. Tarbell's home, ensuring that it would be preserved for generations to come.

Congressman KELLY and I announced the Oil Region National Heritage Area Reauthorization Act at the Tarbell House as an example of why this designation is important. Our bill would extend Federal funding authorization of our heritage area through 2026.

Extending this funding is crucial for the ORA to continue its mission of preserving the Oil Region's history, stimulating the local economy, and allowing others to appreciate the beauty and the culture of Venango and Crawford Counties.

The ORA's efforts give us the ability to appreciate the rich history of northwestern Pennsylvania and understand the impact that our communities have had on American culture today. While the Tarbell home restoration is just one of the ORA's projects, they have completed countless other projects to support our communities, educate the public, and help local businesses grow and thrive.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation, which will directly impact northwestern Pennsylvanians and preserve our rich heritage for all Americans.

PAYING CONGRESSIONAL INTERNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the congressional interns who serve in our offices here in Washington, D.C., in my State of Oregon, and around the country, and to ask all my colleagues to make internship opportunities available to more qualified applicants by paying interns for their work.

Congressional internships are highly desirable. They provide students and recent graduates with valuable experience, learning firsthand how Congress and how our government works.

Many current staff members and, in fact, many Members of Congress started their careers as congressional interns and were able to use the skills they learned and the connections they made to leverage future opportunities.

The reality is, however, that most young people do not have the option of coming to work on Capitol Hill as an intern because most internships are still unpaid. Many bright and motivated people simply cannot afford to take an unpaid internship, no matter how prestigious it might be, because they need to earn money to continue paying for college or to support themselves or their families.

No one who is qualified who wants to intern on Capitol Hill should be precluded because of financial barriers.

I am proud that I offer paid internships in my office, so students and recent graduates have an opportunity to work and learn and gain experience.

But paying interns doesn't just help them. It helps us, too. My staff and I benefit greatly from having interns from all backgrounds and all walks of life working in our office. The diversity of perspectives is critical as I consider legislation and think about how to best serve my constituents who are also from diverse backgrounds and all walks of life.

Many of my colleagues understand the importance of equitable intern opportunities and, through the leadership of Representative TIM RYAN and others, are working to increase funding and cut red tape so that all our offices will be able to offer and support paid internships.

□ 1030

Capitol Hill is best served when our offices reflect the diversity of our districts and our country.

I will continue to work with my colleagues to make sure that all qualified applicants can apply for internships and serve as interns regardless of their financial situation. It helps our offices, it helps the interns, and it helps the country.

TAX REFORM 2.0

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, in the short time since we have passed historic tax relief for the American people, we have already seen tremendous results.

By putting in place pro-growth, free market policies, we have unleashed a booming economy with higher wages and more job opportunities. With over 6 million job openings, the unemployment rate at an 18-year low and small business optimism at a 34-year high, our country's economic future looks as bright as it has ever been.