

a restaurant simply because of who they are.

The current patchwork of State laws is not enough.

That is why I am proud to join with my colleagues to again introduce the Equality Act to ensure protections already extended to other protected classes are equally available to LGBTQ Americans.

It is time we prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in education, employment, housing, credit, Federal jury service, public accommodations, and the use of Federal funds.

Let's make full equality a reality for all of us.

#### CONGRATULATING CRANE SYSTEMS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, in honor of National Vending Day, it is appropriate to celebrate the millions of Americans who get beverages, snacks, and unlimited items from vending machines.

Crane Merchandising Systems of Williston, South Carolina, managed by Rich Tucker, is a leading full-service vending solutions provider and employs over 700 associates. Crane is one of the largest employers of the Barnwell County region, and I am grateful for their success creating jobs.

The automatic merchandising industry in America promotes an economic impact of nearly \$25 billion with 150,000 employees. Not only does the industry meet the needs of consumers around the world, it also contributes \$7.21 billion in wages to the economy and pays \$3.5 billion in taxes.

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

#### ROBOCALL TELEMARKETING AND SPOOFING

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to speak against robocall telemarketing and spoofing.

Our constituents, whether Republican, Democratic, or independent, are tired of being harassed by telemarketers and spoofers. People deserve to have their privacy and to be left alone. However, robocall scams are at an all-time high.

That is why I have introduced H.R. 1575, to crack down on abusive, annoying, and illegal robocalls.

Data shows that, in 2017, the FCC reported more than 4.5 million robocall complaints, an increase of more than 1 million from the previous year. More than 300,000 complaints were registered in the State of New Jersey alone.

This act helps protect consumers by ensuring that robocallers and scammers are prosecuted to the full extent of the law. That is why I ask for support of H.R. 1575.

#### NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

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

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise here today in recognition of National Agriculture Week.

Back home in Georgia's 12th District and across the Peach State as a whole, agriculture is the number one industry. This week is about recognizing farmers and ranchers nationwide who sacrifice their blood, sweat, and tears to secure the safest, most abundant food supply in the world.

I grew up on a farm, and since being elected to Congress, I have had the distinct honor of serving on the House Agriculture Committee. I could not be prouder of what we have accomplished, especially getting the 2018 farm bill over the finish line.

It is without a doubt that agriculture touches all our lives in one way or another.

Many farmers in my district and across Georgia are hurting from the recent devastation caused by Hurricane Michael. I am doing all I can to ensure that they receive necessary and adequate financial assistance ahead of the upcoming planting season. I know my Senate colleagues are working to get this done as well, but the urgency of this simply cannot be overstated. Rural America needs us to act now.

Madam Speaker, again, I thank all our farmers who work hard every day to feed and clothe this great Nation and the world.

#### AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE IS A RIGHT

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

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to tell the story of three very special young men from my district.

Edward Roman and his twin brother, Edwin, were diagnosed with a heart condition that has put them through multiple surgeries. Both worked at the Village Trattoria restaurant in Summit, New Jersey, where they met Quinn Butler, a senior at Summit High.

When Quinn learned of what they were going through, he set up a GoFundMe site that raised \$119,000 in 2 weeks.

It is a story of good people coming together to say they will not let a neighbor down, but it is also a story of how our healthcare system lets us all down.

A community should not have to raise \$100,000 to keep someone from

going into debt due to a medical condition. Two young men worried about staying alive should not have to worry about negotiating with hospitals and insurance companies to stay solvent.

Every American deserves the security of knowing that affordable healthcare is a right that will follow us wherever we go, wherever we live and work, whatever misfortune may befall us.

Madam Speaker, our friends and neighbors will always do what they can. Now it is up to the Congress to do what we must.

#### CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight a fatal disorder that has been impacting deer populations in 24 States, including Pennsylvania, chronic wasting disease.

Chronic wasting disease is progressive and always fatal. Deer, elk, mules, and moose are impacted by this disease. First, they have difficulty moving, and the most obvious and consistent sign is significant weight loss over time.

Madam Speaker, I made an amendment to the 2018 farm bill that gives priority status to chronic wasting disease under the research portion of the bill, and I will be introducing legislation to help identify and address the root causes of chronic wasting disease.

This past Saturday, my colleague and friend, Congressman JOHN JOYCE, and I were at the East Freedom Fire Hall with 300 hunters. At this event, chronic wasting disease was at the forefront.

While the science is developing, a cure is still years away and needs considerable funding to make it a reality. It is my hope that, through research, we can successfully cure chronic wasting disease.

#### TRUMP BUDGET AND GATEWAY

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I wonder if President Trump intended for his budget to be a joke. After all, he entitled it "Better America" but proposed massive cuts to education programs, the Special Olympics, Medicare, Medicaid, and AIDS programs.

Nothing about that will make America better. In fact, it will make life worse for millions of Americans.

Trump also likes to call himself the Builder President, but his budget includes not a single penny to fund the country's most critical infrastructure project, the Gateway project.

Gateway is a nationally significant project to replace the crumbling tunnels that run under the Hudson River

and connect New York and New Jersey. It is a critical project to truly build a better America. After all, Gateway is the linchpin of Amtrak's Northeast Corridor, which supports 30 percent of the Nation's jobs and produces 20 percent of our GDP.

The Gateway project isn't just about connecting New York and New Jersey. It is about ensuring the stability of the national economy and the free flow of workers from North Carolina to Maine.

Trump can't be the Builder President if he doesn't build anything.

□ 1215

#### THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE TO KNOW

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, last week, on the floor of this Chamber, I released a transcript of the interview of Bruce Ohr from our investigation into apparent wrongdoing at the FBI and DOJ. At that time I said I would make additional transcripts from the committee's investigation public, and I am here today to keep that promise.

As I stated then, our interview transcripts were pertinent to a congressional investigation, but the 115th Congress ended, the investigation was closed, and copies were shared with certain Members of Congress.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the link [www.dougcollins.house.gov/page](http://www.dougcollins.house.gov/page) so the American people can review the transcript of Lisa Page.

The American people deserve to know what transpired in the highest echelons of the FBI during that tumultuous time for the Bureau.

Out of an abundance of caution, the transcript has a limited number of narrowly tailored redactions, relating only to confidential sources and methods, nonpublic information about ongoing investigations, and nonmaterial personal information.

I will continue to work to release as many transcripts as possible. The American people deserve transparency.

#### VENEZUELA

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

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, last weekend, I traveled to the Colombia-Venezuela border to see firsthand the catastrophic humanitarian and public health crisis caused by the criminal Maduro regime.

I met with refugees at a hospital in Colombia and heard their harrowing stories of being on the verge of death due to malnutrition, treatable diseases, and a lack of medical care for high-risk pregnancies.

People with HIV cannot access antiretroviral drugs, as the govern-

ment supplies dwindle and the Maduro regime continues to reject humanitarian aid. And now this crisis is spreading.

I met with Colombian officials who are doing everything they can to support 1.5 million refugees crossing the border. They can't do it alone. We must increase aid to countries like Colombia for public health.

Madam Speaker, our response to the crisis must include supporting the Venezuelan community that has already contributed to the richness of south Florida and the United States. Thousands of Venezuelans claiming political asylum in this country are stuck in limbo because of unnecessary delays in the adjudication of their claims. Granting TPS is necessary and humane for those Venezuelans now here.

#### HONORING LOUISE WILLIAMS

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, March is Women's History Month, and I am proud to honor some remarkable women in my district this month.

Today, I would like to honor Judge Louise Williams, who was elected in 1973 as the first female district judge in Lancaster County. She served for 26 years, and also was the first female Black district judge in Pennsylvania. But she did so much more than that.

She was a member of the Lancaster City Council for three terms, served as council president during two of those terms, and she was also appointed to the State Board of Pardons, where she became the first victims advocate, serving 18 years there. She was involved in many other community organizations, including terms as president of the Lancaster NAACP, and of Girls, Inc. of Lancaster County.

Ms. Williams was a trailblazer for women in our community and always found ways to give back to our community and encourage others. She is one of the most respected civic figures in our district. It is an honor to recognize her today.

#### FREEDOM AND EQUALITY FOR ALL

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

Ms. HILL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Equality Act.

As the first LGBTQ woman in Congress from the State of California and the second openly bisexual woman to serve in Congress overall, I could not be prouder to support this landmark legislation.

Throughout my run, I got so many questions about why I chose to be honest about my sexuality. I am married to a man, I am from a purple, histori-

cally Republican, district, and everyone said it would be easier for me to hide who I am. But the reality is that representation matters, especially for the LGBTQ community, when so many of our basic rights are still at risk.

Through my work on the issue of homelessness, I have seen how disproportionately our community is affected by discrimination still. The Equality Act will provide basic protections in terms of employment, housing, education, and more. Everyone should have a fair chance to earn a living and provide a home for their families without fear of harassment or discrimination.

I could not be prouder to be part of a new generation of leaders who will be the ones to finally pass the Equality Act and fight for true freedom and equality for all.

#### AMERICA'S WORKFORCE

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, as we work to strengthen America's roads, bridges, and highways, it is important that our workforce keeps pace with our infrastructure improvements.

Seventy percent of the Nation's freight is carried by commercial trucks, yet, as our economy strengthens, motor carriers are having difficulty finding the drivers they need to handle the growing capacity.

While most States, including Indiana, allow drivers to obtain a commercial driver's license at 18, they are prohibited from driving in interstate commerce until they are 21 by Federal law.

To address this issue, I cosponsored legislation to alleviate the shortage of commercial drivers back home, helping our farmers, manufacturers, retailers, and small businesses to keep Hoosiers working, eating, building, selling, and growing.

The DRIVE-Safe Act will help Indiana's freight continue to move, while preserving the safety of our highway system.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to help fill these desperately needed jobs and provide young Hoosiers with the opportunity to enter the industry.

#### PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight the budget proposed by the President of the United States.

A budget is a statement of our values as a Nation—a moral document—what we prioritize and what we hope to accomplish. The President released his budget proposal yesterday and, while I