

was the purpose of the Census, not only for redistricting, but so that we could see how America is growing, in what ways America is growing.

And, by the way, we are establishing immigration policy here in the United States Congress by an enumerated power in our Constitution, I might add, and we are doing that with people on that side of the aisle saying: We don't want to know any more than how many homo sapiens we can count within the shores of the United States of America. But they want to know a lot of other minutia if it helps them politically.

So I brought this legislation forward, and we know that there was a case before the United States Supreme Court. The Supreme Court looked at that case.

I looked back at the short form Census in 2010 when Barack Obama was President. And here is what it asked. It wants to know: What is your name? What is your phone number?

I mean, how detailed do you have to get?

We are only asking are you a citizen or are you not a citizen is what the Commerce Department has decided to ask. I think there should be more details.

But the Obama Census short form said:

What is your name?

What is your phone number?

What is your birthday?

What sex are you?

I point out they didn't ask your gender. They ask sex because that is actually definitive.

And what is your ethnicity? What is your race?

Do you have an unmarried partner?

And if you have children, they ask this question:

Are they biological or adopted sons or daughters?

So they want to know, are they boys or girls and were they born into the family or were they adopted into the family. By what means are they part of your dependents?

But you can't ask a question: Are you a citizen of the United States?

All of these questions and many more, and we can't ask the question: Are you a citizen of the United States?

The Supreme Court found that the executive branch was granted the authority by the United States Congress—and that is the Commerce Secretary himself—to form the questions on the Census. This is a constitutional authority that was specifically granted to the executive branch of government by the United States Congress. But the Court says: You have the authority to ask the question, but we think you have the wrong reason to ask the question. So now we are remanded back to the lower court to come up with a better reason.

Here is my reason: We want to know how many citizens are in America. That is all you need to ask. It is simple as it can be.

And they are well within the law; they are well within the Constitution. It is just that the Obama-appointed judges don't seem to be reading the Constitution and the law, and they seem to have political motives.

REPEALING THE 40 PERCENT EXCISE TAX

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the working men and women in our country who have well-deserved, hard-earned quality healthcare benefits to urge House leadership to bring to the floor H.R. 748, the Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act. This bill would finally fully repeal the 40 percent excise tax on certain employer-sponsored healthcare plans. For too long, the tax has been a looming threat.

Make no mistake, this tax falls on everyday working families, including laborers, operating engineers, carpenters, pipefitters, painters, plumbers, ironworkers, transportation workers, firefighters, police, and many others, many who have fought for and won healthcare benefits in collective bargaining agreements.

Among its many unintended effects, this excise tax has helped encourage the recent large increases in insurance plan deductibles, which especially hurt those with chronic illnesses.

This repeal bill has been proposed for years. It is well past time to give it a vote on the House floor.

The 40 percent excise tax on high-quality healthcare plans was enacted in the 2010 Affordable Care Act. The ACA has had many good effects, but it also had many flaws as enacted. We need to make the ACA work better for more Americans. And one provision that needs to be fixed is this tax.

The tax was supposed to begin in 2018, but has been repeatedly delayed, reflecting the awareness of its negative impact. Right now, it is scheduled to take effect in 2022. It is time to just end it.

Regardless of the intent behind the original ACA provisions, the truth is that health insurance premiums have continued to grow faster than inflation, putting even plans with modern benefits at risk of getting taxed.

As Families USA recently pointed out, without a permanent solution, as many as one out of every four workers with job-based health plan coverage could be affected by this tax by 2025. That is just 6 short years from now.

Furthermore, responsible employers plan ahead and are already gearing up to plan their budgets for health insurance in the next few years. This is especially concerning in the case of workers who have successfully used their right to organize to reach collective bargaining agreements with their employers.

Good union jobs provide workers with a better opportunity to negotiate

benefits that fairly reflect the important contributions they make to the American economy. Union jobs and union contracts mean workers are fairly compensated in the private sector without relying on taxpayers and the Federal Government.

But collective bargaining agreements often span years, and the looming threat of the excise tax puts these hard-fought contracts at risk. Temporary delays in the excise tax only create more fear and uncertainty for families as they wonder whether their benefits will be severely cut back due to heavy government taxes.

Delays also crimp employer budgets, as businesses are forced to account for the risk of getting hit with hefty charges. By undermining long-term collective bargaining agreements, these delays also undermine the bedrock of the American economy: fairly negotiated private contracts that all parties know they can rely on.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have shown us that they don't want repeal of the ACA and they don't want important protections to be ripped out from under them. They want the ACA fixed. So let's show them we are listening.

So, let's show them we are listening. Let's show them that workers with good, job-based health coverage will not have to fear it eroding simply due to government taxes. Let's bring the Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act to the floor.

□ 1030

HONORING WILLIAM HENRY WARD AND RICHARD LEON WATSON

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroism of two Louisianians who served valiantly during World War II: William Henry Ward and Richard Leon Watson.

William, who recently celebrated his 95th birthday, grew up in New Orleans and shipped off to Europe in 1943 to join a heavy bombardment squadron that participated in Operation Market Garden and the Battle of the Bulge.

During the Battle of the Bulge, his B-24 Liberator got shot down, took heavy fire, and he was forced into an emergency landing near Brussels. He hitchhiked back to England and, as soon as possible, rejoined the fight.

On January 10, 1945, he completed his 35th mission over Germany and finally telegraphed his mother, Maude Ward, saying, "Duties completed. Returning home soon."

Sadly, Richard Watson came home to Morehouse Parish in a more tragic way. He died defending our country while aboard the USS *Oklahoma*, which sank from a torpedo strike when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He was one of 429 crewmen killed in that attack.

After 77 years, his body was identified and finally sent back home to Louisiana earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, our World War II veterans truly are America's Greatest Generation. It is because of the courageous acts of soldiers like William Ward and the sacrifices of sailors like Richard Watson that we are the country we are today.

We owe a tremendous debt to our World War II veterans.

I encourage everyone to thank these wonderful people when you see them and let them know that a grateful Nation has not forgotten what they did for us.

LET'S PUT SOME JUSTICE IN TRADE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, America's workers do not support the Trump-negotiated NAFTA-2 trade deal.

Just like the original NAFTA, the new NAFTA is half-baked, repackaged, and broken. It was not written to improve the lives of our working families in Ohio or in Mexico or in Central America. It was written to advance transnational corporate interests and the schemes of very wealthy elites.

In a country whose public and private sectors too often serve the interests of the rich and powerful and not the average person, this is the last thing the working people of Ohio and North America need, regardless of whether they work in the mills or toil in the fields.

The President's promise of higher wages and returning jobs is not to be believed. NAFTA cannot deliver for the working people unless it ensures the dignity of labor, of labor rights, and labor enforcement on this continent.

Our leaders must wake up to the human suffering these trade deals create, not only for our own citizens as their jobs are outsourced but, also, people who are exploited in Mexico and the Americas.

When transnational corporations crash together the economies of first- and third-world countries, without a second thought about the consequences, it is the working people who get crushed.

The ravages of NAFTA inflicted on the Americas and their workers are etched across America's communities. Far too many have been devastated by the outsourcing of factories, many left in economic ruin.

NAFTA was sold as the model of the modern integration of first-world and emerging-world economies. It was then replicated in Central America with the so-called CAFTA sweatshop deal, covering nations from which millions are now fleeing to our border.

When multinational corporate interests dominate negotiations and place a heavy thumb on the scales of economic justice for labor across the Americas,

trade with our closest neighbors is never a zero-sum game because too few control the levers of negotiating power.

It is no surprise that nearly a half a million migrants have been taken into custody at our southern border this year alone—half a million.

In the past, undocumented immigrants were overwhelmingly single men from Mexico, but that flow has changed. First, we experienced immigration from Mexico post NAFTA. There was a hemorrhage.

That has gone down in recent years, but now CAFTA, the gift of CAFTA, sees Central American families having become the new face of undocumented immigration.

These landless people, jobless people from the Americas live in fear.

As America exports our transnational-driven trade models, we knowingly rely upon the human suffering our economic policies inflict on the poor.

NAFTA and NAFTA-2 were always about cheap labor and bringing down the benefits of health and pension benefits for American workers.

Undocumented migrants arrive brutalized through trafficking channels. Indeed, one can easily see, in agriculture alone in the Americas, the exploitative model of slavery has simply morphed into a new serfdom under the present system.

Once in the United States, many become undocumented farm workers, and the Department of Agriculture estimates that about half of our Nation's farm workers are unauthorized, undocumented.

These workers face great hostility and black-market labor conditions repugnant to our values. This undocumented status makes workers especially vulnerable to abuse.

Is the answer to expand our migrant visa worker programs, the H-2A or H-2B visas? Absolutely not.

Take the tragedy of Santiago Cruz, a Mexican labor recruiter brutally murdered in a legal labor recruitment office in Monterrey, Mexico.

Santiago was communicating to his fellow Mexican workers who sought economic opportunity in America that they did not have to pay a coyote \$8,000 to get across the border—a crooked, lone coyote.

Twelve years after his death near the Mexican-U.S. border, Mexico has not prosecuted his murderer and our country has not raised a voice to get justice in his murder.

But the greatest injustice is the new NAFTA deal that fails to address the cancer of undocumented labor in the Americas, especially in the agriculture industry.

The current migrant worker system is widely abused by employers seeking a captive workforce. NAFTA-2 must include a comprehensive strategy to address continental labor, and agricultural immigration must be a part and central to it, not absent.

The continental enforcement of healthy working conditions and inte-

gration of enforceable labor laws must be central to NAFTA-2. It is not in it.

That is the ugly exploitation of America's industrialized and farm workers that we allow to continue.

How morally reprehensible is this?

I ask my colleagues to please take a look at our bill and include a labor secretariat in the new NAFTA deal. Let's put some justice in trade.

CONGRATULATING THE EDWARDSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Edwardsville High School's baseball team on their Class 4A State championship.

Edwardsville played Saint Charles North for the title last week, going into extra innings before the Tigers won it all 3-2, claiming their third State championship in school history and their first since 1998.

With a 37 win and 5 loss season record, Edwardsville came to the championship game ready to win. At the bottom of the seventh inning, Saint Charles had a 2-1 lead with the bases loaded and no outs.

Thanks to a double play, the Tigers tied the game 2-2 and sent the game into extra innings. In the top of the eighth inning, the Tigers stole second base and later laid down a bunt, which led to a close play at the plate, allowing the Tigers to score the winning run.

When the Tigers took the field that morning, Coach Tim Funkhouser had 699 career wins. After the game, he came home with number 700 and a State championship.

What a way to hit 700 wins in your career. I congratulate Coach Funkhouser and the entire Edwardsville Tiger baseball team on a fantastic season and a well-deserved win.

RECOGNIZING ADOPTION LAWYER ELLYN BULLOCK

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ellyn Bullock, a lawyer from Champaign, Illinois, who specializes in adoption. She has been nominated to be an Angels in Adoption honoree by the 2019 Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

Since 1999, Ellyn has finalized the adoptions of more than 1,800 children. More than half were in the Illinois foster care system and ultimately found permanent homes.

She has won the Catholic Charities Friend of Adoption award and has been recognized multiple times by associations for her advocacy of family values and adoptions outside the office.

Ellyn and her husband, David, are proud parents of three children: Kyle, Imy, and Charlie. They adopted Kyle