

will close with your final statement: "Once a Ranger, always a Ranger."

INCLUDE SCHOOLS IN INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, recently, I went on a tour of a public elementary school in my district, a school I attended.

As I describe what I saw, I want everyone in this body to imagine having to send your child to a school with these conditions: mold-covered ceilings, exposed wires and pipes, and lead paint chipping down the walls.

These issues are felt across my city of Philadelphia. Three schools in my district have had to close this school year because of asbestos.

Schools should foster an environment that stimulates intellectual curiosity. Instead, our students and teachers are surrounded by health hazards. That is why I urge this House, later this year, when we consider a comprehensive infrastructure package, to ensure that we include rehabbing and rebuilding America's schools.

We cannot leave our Nation's kids and educators behind.

RECOGNIZING ATLANTIC/CAPE CASA

(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. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the various CASA branches throughout our region that have dedicated themselves to vulnerable children in southern New Jersey.

CASA stands for a court-appointed special advocate. They are selfless volunteers who act as the child's voice during legal proceedings. These volunteers specialize in understanding the physical and emotional needs of the child and work tirelessly until finding them a permanent home, preferably with family members or with an adopted family.

Because of organizations like CASA, abused or neglected children have present, trustworthy adults in their lives who sympathize with their struggles, who understand them, and who fight on their behalf.

Therefore, I thank all the CASA branches in our district for protecting the youth of south Jersey and ensuring that every child has a caring home. I thank them for their good work, for their love, and for the difference that they make in people's lives.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HUBERT LEROY REYNOLDS

(Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Brother Hubert Leroy Reynolds, an Air Force veteran who spent 35 years working for the Federal Aviation Administration after he got out of the military.

Hubert was a stellar member of our community, a mentor of young people, an active member of the Carey Tercentenary AME Church, and a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Although I sometimes wore different colors, black and gold, I am still proud to call him my brother.

Brother Hubert, may you rest in peace.

TRUMP DAMAGED IRAN'S ABILITY TO SOW UNREST

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, the United States has adopted an aggressive, proactive approach of gathering intelligence on our enemies and removing those individuals who seek to cause us harm in order to save American lives.

President Trump did just that. On January 3, our military, acting under the direction of our Commander in Chief, killed Iranian General Soleimani to protect the lives of Americans and to end his reign of terror in the Middle East.

The actions of our President and our military have damaged Iran's ability to sow unrest in the Middle East, and we have no doubt saved countless lives by removing a terrorist who intended to harm our Nation.

We must continue to support our troops serving abroad, and we must remain vigilant in our fight against terror and our ongoing efforts to bring lasting peace to the Middle East.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT TRUMP ON IRAN

(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, I rise tonight to commend President Trump for his actions in dealing with Iran.

The White House has shown restraint up to this point, since Iran has been a bad actor going all the way back to 1979, one of the largest sponsors of terror the world has ever seen.

The President has been patient, and, finally, with the actions recently at the embassy, took that step to eliminate General Soleimani, which was needed in order to not only send a message but stop a lot of the carnage.

Moving forward, we hope for and wish for true freedom for the people of Iran so that they would be able to live more like they did pre-1979, with the freedom, especially for women, to associate as they please.

This is not about regime change, and it is not about wanting to start a war.

It is about, indeed, helping our neighbors and our colleagues in the Middle East to have stability from the state sponsor of terror.

□ 1745

THE MATH IS ALWAYS THE MATH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUNNINGHAM). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I will cover two or three different subjects today, a little different than we typically come and we walk through some of the economic data and the concept of I believe the greatest threat to our society is not telling the truth about the scale of the unfunded liabilities, the promises we have made and the fact of the matter that there is no mathematical way we keep those promises.

I have the blessing of being here in Congress. I have been here 9 years, and I have grown to just this intense frustration that we do math through a partisan lens.

We have a family saying: The math always wins; the math always eventually wins. So why is it so hard in this place to actually tell the truth, to own a calculator and say: Here is what is going to happen; here are our demographics, but here are also the good things that are working?

Another thing I actually got from my father years ago is: Figure out what works, and do more of that; figure out what doesn't work, and do less of that.

So think about this.

Over the Christmas break, I did lots and lots of reading and was absolutely just furious and frustrated with a number of columns that I came across talking about the 2-year anniversary of tax reform where we rewrote much of the tax code to grow the U.S. economy, and we had some of the, I will call them, the smartest—at least, the most well-known—economist commentators on the left side trashing the tax reform.

Except, you will notice, if any of you pull up those articles—if you are willing to go back and look at the fact they use almost no math in them. There are no numbers: We just didn't like this. We thought they should have done this.

Having the blessing of being on the Committee on Ways and Means, having the blessing of having worked on the tax reform, I do understand much of what the corporate portion of tax reform was based on: the Obama administration's recommendations and modeling to make us competitive in the world again.

But, once again, we work in a place where, if I walk into the room and I am a conservative and I say the sky is blue, instantly, there is this knee-jerk reaction from my brothers and sisters

on the other side—and, please, understand, we are sinners, too—who say, no, it is not.

The math is the math.

So just for the fun of it, I pulled up a number of the headlines from 2 years ago when we were working on tax reform, when we had just finished tax reform. Liberal columnist after liberal columnist basically spoke of Armageddon, spoke that the world is going to fall apart, said this is going to crush and hurt people.

Mr. Speaker, understand, the last 2 years have been some of the most remarkable progress in modern U.S. history for the working poor.

We come behind these microphones and we pretend we care about the poor, particularly the working poor. Do you understand what is happening in the math? Because the math will always win, and the math is the truth.

When we did tax reform a couple years ago, did you think we would live in a country with more jobs than workers, where the bottom 10 percent of workers, income-wise—what we refer to as the working poor—would have wages growing more than two times the mean and, in some quarters, almost four times the mean in wages?

I know the math gets a little confusing, but it is important. You can't walk around here and say you care about the poor, particularly the working poor, and then not have some little joy in your heart about what has gone on the last 2 years, particularly this last year.

Remember, last year, a woman with no partner in the house had a 7.6 percent growth in wages. We are seeing remarkable growth in wages for the very folks who have been most dispossessed over the previous decade. And, yes, I will have a chart that actually shows that.

Why is the truth off your calculator seen through partisan lenses? Why can't we just take a breath and say, hey, something really is working. Was it tax reform? Was it some of the things done regulatory-wise?

Because, remember, if you go back just a couple years ago—and I have sat on the Joint Economic Committee now for a few years—we were being told, with the headwinds of our demographics, we were in for stagnation. Do you remember 4 years ago? 5 years ago? 3 years ago? That was the new normal.

Do we get an apology from the folks who wrote these headlines that had been so dramatically wrong?

Let's just walk through some of the tax reform data so we are actually living in the reality of the math, and there is a simple point I want to make.

2017 fiscal year, so the end of the fiscal year, and then during that time we were working on tax reform, do you know what the growth and receipts were for this country? They were 1 percent. They were 1 percent—functionally, not even at inflation. We were falling behind. And this is under the old tax code that the writers of those headlines were functionally defending.

Do you know what tax receipts—we don't call it revenues; we call it receipts—were at the end of last fiscal year, the one we ended at the end of September? We grew slightly more than 4 percent in our receipts.

Now, we still have a spending problem around here. We have a tremendous demographics problem. That is one of the other things we never tell the truth about is the substantial portion of our spending is actually driven by our demographics, which isn't Republican or Democratic.

We are getting older very quickly as a society. But, once again, are we able to get up in front of our groups at home or fellow Members of Congress and not see the math through partisan lenses, because the math is the math.

Our birthrates have collapsed as a society. Remember, we had only 12 States last year, in really good economic times, that actually had growth in their birthrates, and some of those were just by a couple hundred.

We need to tell the truth about the math.

And I have been coming behind this microphone almost every week we are here saying there is a unified theory of, if you do the things that are necessary in tax reform, as we are talking about right now, and do the things necessary in immigration, do the things in labor force participation, encouragement, if you do the things in adoption of technology that crashes the price of healthcare, if you do these things and bring them all together, we can make the math work where we do not get crushed, as a nation, by our debt.

But we can't even do simple things by agreeing upon it. We can't even agree when the math actually says it worked. We still have to spin it through partisan lenses.

So the chart next to me is just very, very, very simple. It is '17, '18, '19 receipts—not revenues, receipts. Do you notice something?

Remember, the columnists before, the economists, my brothers and sisters on the left were telling us revenues are going to crash, it is the Armageddon, this is the Apocalypse—except for one small problem: We have had some of the fastest growing revenues we have had in modern times.

The math is the math.

And, look, I have been there. I have been one of those who believe something. You get the data, and you have to swallow and say: I was wrong.

Except this place is incapable of stepping up and saying: Hey, something is working. Maybe we should figure out what is working and find a way to do more of it.

Because, once again, this has been some of the most remarkable wage growth for our brothers and sisters, particularly in the lower quartiles. I hate that terminology, but if you want to designate the working poor, we have had more movement.

And there are a couple modelers out there—I don't know if the numbers will

be real—looking at the 2019 fiscal year and saying that might be the first year where wage and equality actually stayed flat or didn't grow or maybe even shrank because those at the lower income spectrum have had the fastest growing wage movement. Why can't we take some joy in that and work on it?

The fact of the matter is the math is the math. So a simple point: 2017.

One more time, 2017, the fiscal year before tax reform, 1 percent growth in revenues, receipts; last fiscal year, over 4 percent growth under the new tax code.

How is that possible?

It turns out it is, and it was possible in a really joyous way because people were working.

If you take a step back and think of so many of the programs we have as the safety net to help our brothers and sisters when they are in hard times, there should have been dramatically less demand on those programs because so many people were working.

If you look at the BLS numbers, Bureau of Labor Statistics numbers, the numbers that have moved back into the labor force were now—what?—over 63 percent labor force participation. I can show you an economic paper from 3 or 4 years ago saying we were never going to get close to that again until we get through the baby boomers.

Something is working.

We are seeing numbers where hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of thousands of people are coming back into the labor force who were not even looking. Why isn't this joyful?

Look, let me relay a simple experience.

The Phoenix area, we have a homeless campus. I have been, on and off, involved with it for many, many years. I believe we do something very, very well. We do a concentration of services with many churches and charities: Over here, dental work; over here, you get your ID; over here, there is like 24-hour-a-day AA meetings and here are some bunk beds for those; over here, St. Joseph the Worker that will help individuals get work, the Catholic charity. And they have a situation where they have a stack of job opportunities because there is such a labor shortage in the Phoenix market.

I am very pleased we just worked out a deal, or they worked out a deal, with Lyft to help deal with the transition barrier of getting these individuals to work.

But shouldn't there be joy in this body and our society that there is such a labor shortage that businesses and organizations are taking chances on the folks we used to just completely write off?

□ 1800

Remember, it was only a couple of years ago, we would give speeches around here; if you hadn't finished high school, if you hadn't developed certain skills you were going to be part of the permanent underclass. We were writing

you off. We were walking away from you as a society.

And guess what happened?

Something happened, whether it be the Tax Code or other things that we have done that there is such a demand for their labor, for their work, and their wages are going up faster than any other quartile.

You can't come behind these microphones and give speeches about how you care, and then not actually take a step back and say, something is working. How do we do more of it?

So let's actually take a look at the reality of the math of the last couple of decades. The red line are the high-income earners. The blue line are those in the 25 percent or lower quartile. So let's call it the bottom-25-percent quartile.

And I know this geeks out, but let's go to about 2010 and over. And you see through 2010, 2015, about 2016, higher-income earners were winning the battle. Huge separation. They were making money, while that lower population that we were walking away from, that didn't have the high school education, didn't have the higher skill set, their wages were crashing.

And then something happened over here. That's about the time of tax reform. Do you notice the separation?

It turns out their labor became valuable, became something in demand, became something that employers had to pay more for. Isn't that what we were trying to accomplish? It is in the math.

So it frustrates me that you will come across these articles that completely demagogue tax reform; refuse to actually use the math; and then not embrace the fact that it has been one of the most remarkable couple of years in modern history in the United States of the working poor starting to see their wages move forward, move up, their labor having value in our society again.

Look, for many of us, we truly believe economic growth is moral. It helps families; it helps individuals; it helps self-worth. It produces opportunity.

Yet, we seem to completely turn the discussion of the things that create that economic growth into a partisan battle, a partisan malaise. And it breaks my heart, because the chart I just put up, this is the greatest threat not only to my 4-year-old daughter, but I believe to every American.

Do you understand what is coming at us?

This is a 30-year chart. It is not inflation-adjusted. But the math is true and honest because it is done by an outside group that is nonpartisan.

If I strip Social Security and Medicare out of the 30-year number—we have \$23 trillion in the bank. If you pull Social Security and mostly, it is mostly Medicare, back in, the promise, these are earned promises that we have a moral obligation to keep, we are \$103 trillion in debt. This is over the next 30 years.

Isn't that an incredible moral obligation for this body to tell the truth on? Because these sorts of numbers, you can take every dime of the rich and you don't get anywhere near it. You can cut the benefits, and you still don't get—you cannot deal with these numbers and not crash the U.S. economy and crash the world economy by doing so.

Our office, and a handful of others, we have been trying to make the argument: tax reform, grow the economy. Incentives to be in the labor force, grow the economy. Legalize technology that can crash the price of healthcare because so much of this Medicare here, that is the massive driver of the debt.

We can have disruptions. Do you realize almost 30 percent of that Medicare spending is just going to be diabetes? So investment in diabetes research is a smart investment.

But also, so are other technologies. The thing you can blow into that instantly tells you you have the flu, and allowing it, that technology, to be part of how you keep yourself healthy.

But the reality here is, there is no magic bullet. You have got to grow the economy. And we have demonstrated the growth in these 24 months since we did tax reform it is working. One of the pillars is working. How do we build off of it? Because you don't try to make major policy changes in a time of economic stress. Do it in a time when you actually have economic stability and build off of it, because this is the greatest threat to our society. It is demographics. It is not Republican or Democrat.

It is baby boomers. There are 74 million of us who were born in an 18-year period. We earned our benefits. The problem is—what is it? For the Medicare spending, we will put in, what? \$150,000. We are going to take out close to \$500,000. Now multiply that difference by 74 million. These are the issues that should be driving every bit of policy.

The simple way is to give this a thought experiment: the next 5 years, just the growth—next 5 years, just the growth of Social Security, Medicare, and the other healthcare entitlements, just the growth, equals the entire Defense Department spending.

So if you start to do that math, you could functionally get rid of every portion of discretionary spending except defense, and you buy yourself 5 years.

I know this is uncomfortable. It is very hard to go home and talk to constituents that, on the Republican side, we can take care of waste and fraud. On the Democrat side, we can tax rich people more. That math is completely fraudulent.

Why is it so hard to pull out a calculator?

I accept we work substantially in a math-free zone, but when we do math, don't see it through the lenses of partisanship. It is math.

So, look, I wanted to do a little cheerleading for my home. I am blessed

to be from Arizona. We have worked really hard to be friendly to those who are willing to come to our state and open up new businesses. We have worked really hard to limit the bureaucracy. We have worked really hard to make it easy, as a State, for you to file paperwork online, to do these things efficiently, and our State has benefited.

We are functioning at the very top of economic growth, population growth. There have actually even been quarters in the last couple of years where we have also had the fastest wage growth.

But it is a demonstration that many, many Americans are making economic decisions, packing up their lives in a lot of parts of the country and moving to places like Arizona. I think we are number three in total growth. And when you consider we are only a State of about 7.25 million people, when you add, you know, when you do the per population growth, we are at the very top.

Arizona, we should be very, very proud. We have been very disciplined. We have built good infrastructure. We have managed our water supplies. Power, electrical power is abundant. And we have been friendly to those willing to bring businesses because they create jobs, they create opportunities. They create growth in wages.

Now, it looks like the rest of the country is starting to see the headlines. So a community I grew up around, Scottsdale, I believe, just got rated number one for being able to find a job. Much of the rest of the community, incredibly well.

But think of some of the—I am trying to build an argument here that if economic growth is moral, then you see headlines like this, where when we do surveys about food insecurity, food insecurity is the lowest in a decade because of that economic growth, because of those folks that we were writing off just a couple of years ago who now, their labor is in demand, their wages are up, and we start to see headlines like "Food Insecurity At a Decade Low in Arizona."

Why is it so hard to understand doing smart tax policy, doing so many other smart economic policies truly are the path to helping our brothers and sisters who have less?

We always start and end with this chart. If we care about what is actually going on, if Congress intends to keep the promises to Americans for their Social Security and Medicare, if we believe it is a moral obligation of our society to keep that promise, then you need to deal with the reality that the unfunded liabilities are monstrous.

There is a path, but it is not a path of paying off the debt. It is basically a path of, I believe, in our model in our office, staying about 95 percent debt to GDP, so we don't blow up and get through the demographic bubble that is those of us who are baby boomers. But we have to do everything. You have to have that and legalize technology that crashes the price of so

many things, makes the environment cleaner, makes healthcare much more affordable and available. Employment, we have to do everything for those who are older, to encourage them to participate in the labor force. Add some “spiffs,” add some benefits.

How do we get millennial men that are still dramatically underperforming in showing up in the labor force?

About a year ago, we had an amazing breakthrough, mathematically-wise, millennial females entering the workforce.

Every policy that moves through here we should test; does this benefit economic growth?

When we work on immigration policy, are we doing a talent-based immigration system, where we don't care about your religion, your gender, or who you cuddle with or anything like that? We care about the economic vitality you bring to our society.

How do we encourage family formation?

Think of that. This one article here talks about only 12 States actually had positive birth rates over the previous year.

I know we get caught up in today's shiny object; you know, whether it is the we hate the President side of this room, or we feel we are stuck defending. And we are completely missing what is going to end up driving all public policy in the next couple of years, and that is the fact that we are going to be crushed by our debt.

There is a path. My fear is this current Congress, are we actually capable of doing complex policy, lots of complex policy on every issue, and seeing it as a unified theory to maximize economic vitality so we actually have the receipts, so we keep the promises that we go home and tell our constituents we are working for? But, yet, then we come here and we deny basic math.

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

□ 1815

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RICHARD GORDON HATCHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to come before the House this evening to celebrate the memory of a major trailblazer in our Nation, one who was a fierce crusader for justice and equality, an American who was a quiet man, with a quiet demeanor, but a giant in terms of his accomplishments, his courage, and the things he did not only for his local constituency, the city of Gary, Indiana, but the African American community and America at large.

Mr. Speaker, I am speaking of the one and only, the first Black mayor of

Gary, Indiana, Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher.

Sadly, Mayor Hatcher passed away at the age of 86 on the 13th of December, 2019. Although he is no longer with us, his legacy lives on. His legacy, his work, his love, his sacrifices continue to be felt in these very Halls of Congress, throughout the city hall of Gary, Indiana, and indeed, throughout these State legislative halls, these halls of municipal governments in cities all across this Nation.

Mayor Hatcher was one who carved and made a way for African Americans who are elected officials even to this very day. When Mayor Hatcher was first elected mayor of Gary, Indiana, there were but few elected officials of African American descent in the Nation, but there now exists over 10,000 African American elected officials. In some supernatural sense, because of the hard work, the insight, the courage, and the commitment of Mayor Hatcher, his sterling example, we all stand on the shoulders of Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher.

Mayor Hatcher's surprise victory over the political machine in Gary, Indiana, in 1967 was indeed a watershed moment for Black political participation in this Nation. Along with the election of Mayor Carl Stokes, the first African American mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, Mayor Hatcher became the first Black mayor of a major U.S. city, the city of Gary, Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, in his two decades of service as Gary's mayor, Mayor Hatcher fought valiantly in his beloved Gary and throughout his beloved Nation for fair political representation for those whose voices had been previously dismissed, disregarded, and downright ignored for most of American history.

When Mayor Hatcher was elected to lead a deeply segregated Gary, Indiana, only two of the city's department heads were African Americans, in a city that was actually over 50 percent African American. Within 10 years of Mayor Hatcher's tenure as mayor, 25 of Gary's 40 department heads were African Americans.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, those who worked for Gary's government began to look more like Gary's citizens, those who were supposed to be working on behalf of the citizens of Gary, Indiana.

As mayor of Gary, Mayor Hatcher worked very closely with his congressional delegation and the Democratic administration in the White House. He secured millions of dollars in Federal funding for job training programs for Gary's citizens and subsidized housing for Gary's citizens, building up a vibrant economy in his beloved city of Gary, similarly and singlehandedly, in some instances, ensuring that those communities that were previously underserved received their fair share of city services, Federal funding, and Federal dollars.

Mayor Hatcher's herculean efforts to ensure fair representation extended far beyond Gary. As a young man, I was in-

spired and intrigued by the electoral and political processes and systems because of the tenure, political career, and outstanding accomplishments of Mayor Richard Hatcher.

Mayor Hatcher was a visionary, a man who not only talked the talk, but he walked the walk. On the streets of Gary, he was highly visible.

With all of that, his vision even surpassed and transcended Gary. In 1972, he organized the inaugural and historic National Black Political Convention in Gary. I was there. I attended. I saw it in action. This National Black Political Convention convened with two goals: establishing an independent Black political agenda and electing more Black officials to public office. Never before, not at any time, had this been done.

Over 8,000 individual American citizens attended this historic occasion, including some who are icons even today in our Nation, including Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Coretta Scott King, Betty Shabazz, Bobby Seale, and my colleague from Chicago, Congressman DANNY K. DAVIS. Many, many others were involved, inspired, educated, and learned the value of the vote and heard for the first time that a voteless people is a hopeless people, all because of the single vision of this one American giant, Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and humbled to speak in this well about this giant of a man, telling all who have a listening ear and a seeing eye about the work of Mayor Hatcher and that historic National Black Political Convention. It was not just fighting the windmills, Don Quixote-like. It produced results.

At the time of this convention, there were just 14 African American Members of Congress, just 14. Today, there are 56 African American Members of Congress, 56 living and breathing, hard-working Members of this Congress who are a result of the vision of Mayor Hatcher and who were inspired by his life and what he had accomplished.

He was our inspiration. He gave all of us an exceedingly high standard that we live by even today.

□ 1830

Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher spurred a wave of Black civic participation that reverberated all throughout America. In 1973, just 1 year, 365 days, after the Gary convention, Detroit elected its first African American mayor, Mayor Coleman Young, Atlanta elected its first African American mayor, Mayor Maynard Jackson, and Los Angeles elected its first African American mayor, Mayor Tom Bradley. All across this Nation, major cities all across this Nation saw a witness, and participated and celebrated the election of mayors in major cities all across this Nation.

The legacy, the inspiration, the example, the instruction just didn't stop in 1973. Even some 10 years later,