

will not be available when they cut \$1 billion from Medicaid and \$500 million from Medicare in their tax proposal, when they put 23 million people off of healthcare, the Affordable Care Act, which is what they tried to do but couldn't accomplish.

It is difficult to sit here and watch what is happening to our country. Having the Trump administration tell the middle class they are going to get a tax cut on the one hand, but on the other hand, they are creating over a trillion dollars in debt, where is that debt going to come from? It is going to come from programs that the middle class will have to give up, so they will be net losers.

One of the main thrusts of their tax proposal is to eliminate the State tax, originally to do it immediately. Now they are talking about maybe phasing it out over 5 or 6 years. That will cost the Federal budget \$290 billion. That will come from Pell grants that give people the opportunity to go to college and not have a terrible debt over their heads when they leave; from SNAP payments that give nutritional benefits to people that otherwise would go without, the families that would go without food and proper nutritional benefits; and even LIHEAP, which gives help with heating bills to people who can't afford it in difficult winter conditions.

What they are proposing is not a middle class tax cut. It is a cut for the wealthiest in our country, and that is who will get the benefits. That is who they are about.

Their whole program is KISS: Keep it simple, stupid. That is the only way they can try to sell their wealthy tax break, their aims to prevent women from getting proper healthcare, and their attacks on women in general.

It is unfortunate what we see, what we saw earlier this week in the indictments handed out to Mr. Manafort, Mr. Gates, and the guilty plea of Mr. Papadopoulos. Individuals involved with the campaign and the administration have not been the best, as they were supposed to be. In fact, they are suspected of criminal behavior, and one has admitted to it.

Our democracy is at risk, and I fear what could happen to it. That is why I introduced an amendment to the Constitution to limit the President's pardon power so he couldn't pardon himself, members of his family, members of his administration, or paid members of his campaign staff.

He has already pardoned Joe Arpaio, and he has threatened to use that power in furtherance as he discussed the possibility of pardoning himself. If he does so, any of these pardons, it will be a test of our democracy, and it will be a test of my colleagues on the other side.

We must protect democracy and protect America from unlawful activity.

God bless America.

NEW YORK CITY TERRORIST ATTACK

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, earlier this week a driver whom law enforcement has identified as Sayfullo Saipov, violently rammed his pickup truck into a crowd in Manhattan, killing 8 people and injuring 11. Local officials called it the deadliest attack since September 11, 2001, in that city.

My heart breaks for those who have lost their lives—for their families, for their friends, and for their colleagues—due to this violent act. Two Americans and six of whom were tourists visiting our Nation and New York City to experience the wonders of America's largest metropolis met the crass act, the murderous act of a terrorist.

Our Nation's deep gratitude goes out to the first responders. Imagine these heroic Americans who intervened under very chaotic circumstances to bring down this criminal. Imagine yourself in that position.

This attack raises many questions about how this individual came to America and how he was allowed to stay. The President's tweets obliquely blame this person or that person, some in Congress, some not in Congress, but he misses the larger point: our Federal Government, the legislative branch—the first defined in our Constitution—the executive branch, and the judicial branch, need to work together to tackle our flawed immigration system.

□ 1030

How can we make it more secure while upholding our values as a nation of immigrants? The Bible reminds us: At one point, you and your predecessors and your family were aliens, too.

These are the questions to which we should be dedicating ourselves. We have security systems we must perfect, but it requires working together. We are supposed to be the adults in the Republic. A true leader would convene a working group of both parties, along with other experts, to tackle these security challenges brought to light again by this tragedy. Wouldn't that be constructive? Instead, there is more division. That is not a recipe for success.

Let's not forget a comprehensive bill passed in the Senate in 2013, on a vote of 68-32 and a bipartisan House companion bill that had 201 cosponsors, but the Republican-controlled House here refused to bring that bill to the floor for a vote. That bipartisan reform bill on immigration eliminated the diversity visa lottery by which the murderer got into this country. Imagine if that bill had been passed. We would be in a different position.

We can work together, but we must move past the fear-mongering, the talking points, the cheap political stunts to appeal to a media that runs 24/7 and just looks for more fodder. Our job in Congress is to defend our Con-

stitution and, in so doing, defend liberty. This includes our primary responsibility to work together to assure that our people feel safe and secure. We defend the Constitution by defending and protecting them.

The goal must not be division. The goal cannot be shallow attention and tweets on social media and cable news. Our people have a higher calling that our Constitution defines. The recent terrible tragedy in New York City reminds us that unity is always powerful, and it surmounts division.

It is time for that unity in this Capitol, and I look for the leadership in the Presidency, in this Chamber, and in the judicial branch to achieve it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 32 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS) at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Kenneth Codner, Grace Baptist Church, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, I am humbled to be able to stand before You on behalf of this assembly here today.

Lord, we are sinners, deserving none of Your favor. But, Father, I come to You on the merit of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who washed me from my sins in His shed blood.

Father, we are aware, more than any, of the bitter divisiveness throughout this room and across this Nation of ours. I know that this grieves Your heart, Father. I pray that we would repent of our sins, that You might forgive them and heal this land of ours.

Father, I pray that You will work in the hearts of the Members of Congress, that they be willing to put aside their political expedience and partisan politics and personal agendas, that they would strive to do what is best for our Nation as a whole and uphold the Constitution which they avowed to uphold, that they would seek to do what is pleasing in Your sight, that they would seek Your will and wisdom for the decisions of this day and each and every day.

I ask these things in the precious name of Jesus Christ, my Savior.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the