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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, November 6, 2017, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Almighty God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this people's House for the leadership of our Nation.

With the inception of debates and consideration of a tax bill, send Your spirit of honesty, clarity, and respect upon the Members of the people's House. The issue at hand is monumental, and the differences that are apparent will need addressing so that a bill that benefits the Nation might be produced.

May all Members, with Your grace, rise to the importance of this great challenge with integrity and professional excellence.

May all their efforts in the days and weeks to come redound to the benefit of all Americans, and inspire all to proclaim Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote

on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. HARTZLER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF GIVING BACK TO McHENRY COUNTY

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate 50 years of community service rendered by the United Way of Greater McHenry County.

Members of the community came together in the fall of 1966, with the primary purpose of raising funds in order to help deserving organizations achieve their goals.

In that first year alone, United Way raised more than \$21,000. This money went to funding organizations such as the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross, which remain faithful partners today.

By 1977, the United Way's importance was rapidly increasing throughout the community, as they created new partnerships with several agencies.

In fact, the United Way of Greater McHenry County became the fastest growing United Way of its size in the country. During their 25th anniversary year, they delivered more than \$1.1 million to local organizations and have continued that record over the years.

I am grateful to celebrate this 50-year milestone with the people of United Way of Greater McHenry County as they continue to help our neighbors help each other.

TAX PLAN

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, yesterday, the Republicans unveiled their tax cuts that they purport to benefit the middle class. Nothing could be further from the truth. Then again, I

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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guess it depends upon your definition of middle class.

Eighty percent of the benefits flow to those who earn over \$400,000 a year. Perhaps that is middle class to that side of the aisle.

They repealed the alternative minimum tax. We have only seen one Trump tax return: \$31 million. Eighty percent of his taxes were a result of the alternative minimum tax. That is a middle class tax cut?

Oh, then slashing permanently the corporate rate to 43 percent, that is going to really benefit the middle class. They pretend somehow that is going to raise salaries. Give me a break.

Then, under the guise of family farms and small businesses, small businesses and family farms, between \$11 million and \$22 million will no longer pay an inheritance tax. That is middle class?

All of these things are going to drive up the debt by \$2 trillion, which raises interest rates for everybody who has to borrow money to go to college, buy a car, or buy a house.

Oh, and if you want to go to college, you can't deduct your student loan interest anymore.

Adopt a kid? No, we did away with that deduction, too.

This is a ruse by the public. We have to kill this turkey before Thanksgiving.

HONORING WAYNESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN MENTOR COUNCIL

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize some outstanding high school students from my district in Missouri, who have displayed a deep appreciation and respect for our Armed Forces.

Before the last regular season varsity football home game, members of the Waynesville High School Freshman Mentor Council presented pocket flags to the 763rd Ordnance Company, who will soon be deploying. The students also presented the pocket flags to Waynesville High School's Partners in Education, the 787th Military Police Battalion and 3rd Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment, to share with deploying soldiers.

The flags are part of the Pocket Flag Project, which provides military personnel on the front lines with personal pocket flags. Waynesville High School freshmen folded the flags and wrote personalized messages to accompany each flag on Patriot Day.

I applaud these students for taking the initiative to honor our men and women in uniform. With young people like these walking down the halls of schools, I am certain America has a bright future.

PROTECT WIND ENERGY INVESTMENT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as time goes on, people are going to have a chance to look at the details of the Republican tax plan. It is clear that the benefits are concentrated to those who need help the least, ignoring those who need help the most, and producing an unaffordable deficit in the future.

But one of the most disturbing elements of this is that the Republican plan would gut the agreement that we negotiated in good faith with the wind energy industry to be able to wean them off tax subsidies. It was phased down in exchange for that certainty. The industry has up to \$50 billion that is at risk by having the Federal Government pull the rug out from underneath them.

We were well on the path towards sustainability with a clean American bill—low carbon energy. It puts at risk 50,000 jobs as a result of the reversal in course, and it raises questions for American business whether or not they can trust the American Congress to keep a deal.

This is an element that must be changed. We must respect the agreement that we made and protect the massive investment in manufacturing and employment.

TAX REFORM ISN'T ABOUT PERCENTAGES, IT IS ABOUT PEOPLE

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because, when we talk about the Tax Code, it is easy to get bogged down in numbers. But tax reform isn't about percentages, it is about people.

It is about small-business owners like Sean Register, in Georgia's First Congressional District, who wants to grow his business that has been his passion for much of his life.

Mr. Register is the sole owner of Register International, a shipping business in Bryan County, Georgia: a type of business very important to the Coastal Empire's economy.

Mr. Register worked hard to guide his business through the 2008 financial crisis, but, in the economic downturn, was forced to lay off employees, leaving himself as the only one remaining. Now, he would like to hire employees but needs a little push to be able to afford the extra help.

With our tax reform plan, Mr. Register will have the ability to grow his business and provide much-needed jobs to citizens in the First District.

Tax reform has many faces, more than 300 million, and every single one of them inspires our work in Congress as progrowth tax reform. We will get this done for them.

REPUBLICAN VISION FOR TAX REFORM NOT PRETTY

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Republicans unveiled their vision for tax reform, and it is not pretty.

The proposal raises taxes on the middle class and showers the wealthiest 1 percent of our country with 80 percent of the benefits, at a total cost of \$1.5 trillion charged to our Nation's credit card.

The plan should be called "Hurt the Middle Class Act."

It eliminates personal deductions for medical expenses; it eliminates the deductibility of interest paid on student loans; it eliminates the deductibility of State and local income taxes, again, raising taxes on the middle class; and to add insult to injury, the proposal eliminates the deduction for personal property losses from one natural disaster fire.

Now, in California, we just experienced the worst fires in California's history. Over 14,000 people lost their homes, at a cost of at least \$3 billion. The heck with them.

When policies weaken the middle class, the backbone of our country, they weaken our entire country. The President said tax reform will be the best Christmas present of all, but, for the middle class, this bill will be one lump of coal.

SUPPORTING HEALTHY KIDS

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the CHAMPIONING HEALTHY KIDS Act.

This important legislation continues much-needed funding for programs like the Children's Health Insurance Program, community health centers, and our rural hospitals.

Community health centers are a critical access point to care, and I have seen firsthand how they bless each person they serve.

In addition to community health centers, my district includes many rural hospitals, which are truly a lifeline for my constituents.

That is why I join my colleagues in letters urging to delay the cuts for the proposed disproportionate share of hospital and community health centers for at least 2 years. And I am happy to see this legislation doing just that.

I won't let Washington forget about the rural communities at the heart of my district. They deserve better.

And guess what? This bill is fully paid for.

While delaying these cuts is a step in the right direction, I will continue to fight for a permanent solution.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Energy and Commerce Committee for their work,