

SUPPORTING IMMIGRANTS GRANTED TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

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

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of every immigrant who has been granted temporary protective status in my district and across the Nation. We have nearly 23,000 in Maryland, the sixth highest in the country, and 4,000 in my district, one of the top five districts in the country.

Many people with TPS fled countries such as Haiti, El Salvador, Somalia, and Syria, ravaged by armed conflict or environmental disasters. For over 20 years, they have raised their families here in the United States. They are our neighbors and our coworkers. Their kids attend our schools. TPS holders have been woven into the fabric of our communities.

Earlier this week, those from Nicaragua were told they will be deported. Those from Honduras are next. Deporting people and giving them mere months to pack their bags after 20 years in the United States is cruel and isn't who we are as Americans.

Mr. Speaker, as the Trump administration puts the lives of thousands in legal limbo, I urge my colleagues to ensure TPS holders can stay and pursue an earned path to citizenship.

WE NEED TO PUSH FORWARD ON TAX CUTS

(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, as the House contemplates the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, a lot of misinformation is getting around the country on that.

The intent here is to make the Tax Code simpler; the ability for Americans to spend instead of billions of hours and billions of dollars combined in dealing with their taxes, to get it down to a simple form, perhaps a postcard for many Americans, and the ability to weed through their taxes and get them done and put more money in their pockets.

What our plan does is put approximately \$1,200 into the average middle-income family's pocket, leaves it there instead of taking it out; also, restoring more opportunity on Main Street for small businesses, medium businesses, and the jobs that we want to come back home to this country, those trillions of dollars we can repatriate back to this country and help the middle class, help middle-income Americans, help everybody to have a stronger, more vibrant economy, which helps everybody, instead of a complicated Tax Code put together by lobbyists.

We need to push forward on this and have a success for the American people.

THE TRICK TRICK TRICK ACT

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, also known as the "Trick Trick Trick Act."

This bill, Mr. Speaker, includes a \$1.5 trillion cut to Medicare and Medicaid, raises taxes on middle-income families, and gives the biggest tax cuts to corporations and the wealthiest Americans.

This bill eliminates personal deductions for medical expenses, creating further hardship for people facing illnesses; eliminates deductions for State and local income taxes, resulting in higher taxes for people who can't afford it; and eliminates deductions for interest paid on student loans, making quality education less accessible.

Proponents of the bill, Mr. Speaker, will have you believe that these tax cuts will benefit working families, grow our economy, and decrease the Federal deficit. That is fake news. This bill does nothing more than destroy the hopes and dreams of middle Americans seeking a stable career, a fulfilled life, and a brighter future.

The American people deserve better. I remain willing and able to work across party lines to achieve responsible tax reform.

I say to my Republican colleagues: Do not pass this bill as a Republican bill. It must be bipartisan. If you do it, you will regret it.

HONORING L. STEPHEN GAITHER

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Mr. Stephen Gaither for his dedication and service to our Nation's veterans.

After over 40 years of service, Mr. Gaither is retiring as the public affairs officer at the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital in Columbia, Missouri.

Mr. Gaither has spent his entire life serving this great Nation. In addition to his numerous years serving our veterans at the Truman VA, Mr. Gaither served in the United States Air Force, the Utah Air National Guard, and the Army Reserves.

Since 1989, he has been an active volunteer for the Heart of Missouri United Way, a nonprofit organization that works to improve the economic and social conditions of those who reside in our local community. His passion for serving others will forever leave a mark on the Truman VA and the city of Columbia.

So, Mr. Gaither, this week, as we celebrate Veterans Day, I want to thank you for your devotion and your work on behalf of our Nation's veterans and our community, and I want to wish you the very best in your retirement.

COMMEMORATING VETERANS OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS AND THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my family and staff, I want to salute and commemorate the veterans of the U.S. Virgin Islands and throughout the United States on this Veterans Day.

The Virgin Islands along with the other territories send more men and women per capita to serve in the U.S. military than anywhere else in this Nation.

I would like to personally recognize Task Force Alpha on St. Croix, Task Force Bravo on St. Thomas, and St. John Responders.

On Veterans Day, we salute the men and women who have proudly worn the uniform and the families who have served alongside them. We affirm our sacred duty as citizens to express our enduring gratitude, both in words and actions, for their service.

As part of Veterans Day this year in the Virgin Islands, we will be honoring female veterans in the territory. Being honored as parade marshal and guest speaker on the island of St. Croix is Major Kathleen Parris; on St. Thomas, Sergeant First Class Laurel Maloon-Francis, serving as parade marshal; and serving as guest speaker on the island of St. Thomas will be former military spouse, Monique Y. Ferrell, director of the Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program.

Mr. Speaker, just as we vow to leave no soldier behind on the battlefield, we vow not to forget any veteran when they return home.

A MESSAGE FOR THE MEDIA

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have a message for the liberal so-called mainstream media.

You are essential to democracy. You have an almost sacred responsibility to inform the American people, but they don't believe you anymore.

Your coverage of the President and conservative Republicans is now obviously so slanted, so biased, that you have lost your credibility; in fact, polls show that it is at a record low.

In trying to destroy this President, you are destroying yourself. Is that what you want?

Remember the Chinese proverb: "When you set out on a journey of revenge, dig two graves."

Why not trust the American people with the facts and let them make up their own minds rather than telling them what to think? I don't know of

any other way you can restore your credibility.

NATIONAL DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, each November, communities across the country observe National Diabetes Awareness Month. We come together to educate our neighbors and to bring attention to the impact that diabetes has in the lives of millions of Americans.

As a diabetic, I know the challenges faced by people with this condition.

In 2015, diabetes was the seventh leading cause of death for Americans, and diagnosis rates continue to grow each year.

To live a long and prosperous life with this disease, it is imperative that people with diabetes receive proper nutrition and access to healthcare. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, preexisting conditions such as diabetes are covered by health insurance. Thanks to SNAP, the poorest in our communities have access to nutrition.

ACA and SNAP are under attack, and as a member of the Diabetes Caucus and as your Representative in Congress, I will continue to vigorously protect the ACA and fight to increase SNAP benefits for those in need.

My life is a living testament to the opportunities that exist when diabetes is properly treated. We must ensure these opportunities are available for the next generation.

NOVEMBER IS DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, November is Diabetes Awareness Month.

Over 30 million children and adults, including myself, suffer from diabetes. Another 84 million have prediabetes, and 90 percent of them don't even know it.

Diabetes can cause stroke, blindness, kidney disease, heart disease, loss of toes, feet, or even legs.

In addition to the personal toll this disease takes on the lives of those affected, healthcare costs for diabetic patients are 2.3 times greater than for those without diabetes. This awful disease costs the healthcare system an estimated \$322 billion.

Rates of diabetes have risen dramatically, unfortunately, in recent years. We must do something to stop it. The U.S. Congress is working towards that end.

I was proud to have worked on the 21st Century Cures Act, which invests in research for a cure. The bill streamlines the FDA approval process and provides more money for research to the NIH.

There is much more we can do, Mr. Speaker, to tackle this serious public health issue.

□ 0915

MICRO OFFERING SAFE HARBOR ACT

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 609, I call up the bill (H.R. 2201) to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to exempt certain micro-offerings from the registration requirements of such Act, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky). Pursuant to House Resolution 609, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2201

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Micro Offering Safe Harbor Act".

SEC. 2. EXEMPTIONS FOR MICRO-OFFERINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

"(8) transactions meeting the requirements of subsection (f)."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(f) CERTAIN MICRO-OFFERINGS.—The transactions referred to in subsection (a)(8) are transactions involving the sale of securities by an issuer (including all entities controlled by or under common control with the issuer) that meet all of the following requirements:

"(1) PRE-EXISTING RELATIONSHIP.—Each purchaser has a substantive pre-existing relationship with an officer of the issuer, a director of the issuer, or a shareholder holding 10 percent or more of the shares of the issuer.

"(2) 35 OR FEWER PURCHASERS.—There are no more than, or the issuer reasonably believes that there are no more than, 35 purchasers of securities from the issuer that are sold in reliance on the exemption provided under subsection (a)(8) during the 12-month period preceding such transaction.

"(3) SMALL OFFERING AMOUNT.—The aggregate amount of all securities sold by the issuer, including any amount sold in reliance on the exemption provided under subsection (a)(8), during the 12-month period preceding such transaction, does not exceed \$500,000."

(b) EXEMPTION UNDER STATE REGULATIONS.—Section 18(b)(4) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77r(b)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (F), by striking "or" at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period and inserting "; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(H) section 4(a)(8)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After 1 hour of debate on the bill, it shall be in order to consider the amendment printed in House Report 115-401, if offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) or his designee, which shall be considered read and shall be separately debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) and the gentlewoman from

California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we know that, unfortunately, after 8 years of bad economic policies from the Obama administration, working people did not receive a pay increase. We know that we had one of the lowest labor participation rates in modern history. We know that the economy was limping along at 1½ to 2 percent economic growth.

But, fortunately, Mr. Speaker, a new day has dawned and now, all of a sudden, we see that, with the policies of Republicans in Congress, with the policies of the Trump administration, we are seeing promising signs. What we are seeing all of a sudden now is 2 quarters, Mr. Speaker, of 3-plus percent economic growth. This means a difference to working families. They are finally seeing increases in their paychecks, increases in their take-home pay.

That is why one of the most exciting policies that are being worked upon today that we hope to see soon is fundamental, pro-growth tax reform for the entire American economy; one that would grow our economy and that makes a Tax Code fairer, flatter, simpler, more competitive; one that would lower rates for families and allow 90 percent of Americans to fill out their forms on something akin to a postcard; something that would help our small businesses and entrepreneurs.

I look forward, Mr. Speaker, to having that legislation on the floor soon. But we have legislation today that is also important to our small businesses and our entrepreneurs, H.R. 2201, by the gentleman from Minnesota.

What is so important about this legislation, Mr. Speaker, is that it would allow our entrepreneurs and our small businesses to more effectively be able to reach out to family and friends to get the needed capital to start their businesses.

A 2014 survey by the Kauffman Foundation found out that over 28 percent of startups raise their funding from their personal network. Mr. Speaker, we have a challenge, and that is the Securities Act does not clearly define what is a public offering or, conversely, a nonpublic offering. So this makes it very difficult for our early-stage entrepreneurial growth companies to go out and do any kind of private placement to raise funds from friends and family.

Now, we know that a private placement is already something that is established in law. But what isn't established is a bright line, safe harbor for these business enterprises to go out and raise these funds.

So what we also know, unfortunately, from our Securities and Exchange Commission is that a registered offering is simply not economically