

alive the free spirit of Poland during foreign occupation and tyranny for a century-and-a-quarter. Then, in 1918, with the help of President Woodrow Wilson following World War I, they triumphed in bringing their nation back onto the map of Europe in the form of a republic.

Today, American and Polish military cooperation through NATO is critical to defending the spirit of liberty. Let this resolution serve to reaffirm the close bonds between our two great nations.

ENCOURAGE CONSTITUENTS TO SIGN UP FOR A HEALTH PLAN

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

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, in Burien, Washington, tomorrow, we will be holding an event to provide constituents information on signing up for healthcare coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

With open enrollment season beginning last week, I want to make sure that residents of our district know that they have until December 15 to sign up. And while the Republican majority has been undermining the ACA at every turn, the numbers that are coming in tell a completely different story about how important this act is for thousands of Americans across the country.

More than 200,000 Americans chose a plan on the first day of open enrollment, which is more than double last year. This is all on top of the more than 1 million people who visited healthcare.gov, the official Federal website; a one-third increase in traffic from 2016.

Mr. Speaker, our State exchange in Washington State has reported a 19 percent increase in visits from last year. The surge in enrollment is promising and it is a clear repudiation of the Republican's efforts to strip healthcare from millions across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to spread the word about how their constituents can get covered.

PROVIDE MORE FOR FEMALE VETERANS

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, female veterans represent the military's fastest-growing population with an estimated 2.2 million women, including 14,000 in my home State of Hawaii, who have served our country. Yet, when these women come home or transition to civilian life, they are still facing a VA that was created by and for men and is ill-equipped to understand and serve their unique needs.

Women veterans have lower rates of access to the VA than men, but face higher rates of post-traumatic stress

disorder, military sexual assaults, unemployment, and homelessness. We have a responsibility to take care of all of our veterans when they return home, and to make sure that they are getting the best care and benefits that they have earned and deserve.

In recognition of Veterans Day, we must fix this and pass the Deborah Sampson Act to eliminate barriers and improve quality of care and services, and empower our female veterans alongside our male veterans.

I urge all of my colleagues to pass this legislation to address the glaring gender disparities at the VA and to ensure that our women veterans receive the services that they have earned and deserve.

BILLIONAIRES-FIRST TAX BILL

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I am here to speak about the Republican's billionaires-first tax bill.

Mr. Speaker, the Tax Policy Center determined they will raise taxes for approximately 38 million middle class households. Americans agree that we need more jobs, higher wages, and lower taxes. But the Republican bill rewards billionaires, prioritizes corporate profits, and hurts working families.

It is welfare for the wealthy paid for by the hardworking middle class American. It fails the President's own Trump test, which says their tax plan would not benefit the wealthiest of us. Guess what. It does.

Worst of all, New Jersey families suffer the most. The bill guts the critical State and local tax deduction. That means one-fourth of all New Jerseyans will be paying more taxes.

Why should billionaires receive tax relief instead of New Jersey's middle class families?

Americans must reject this billionaires-first, bloated, backwards bill. It will do nothing to raise wages or bring real relief for working families.

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PUBLIC HOUSING IMPERATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to shed light and to

put a face on an imperative issue, the imperative issue of affordable housing. I am here representing neighborhoods like Marble Hill, Inwood, Washington Heights, Hamilton Heights, Morningside Heights, Harlem and east Harlem, and the northwest Bronx.

Public housing and public housing capital funding is imperative for many of my constituents. Just to shed some light on the magnitude of this problem, Mr. Speaker, in the 13th Congressional District, there are 62 housing developments—62 public housing developments.

There are a total of 340 buildings, and, within those buildings, there are 34,609 apartments where families live; so 62 housing developments out of 326 for the entire city of New York, 340 buildings out of 2,462 buildings in the city of New York, and 34,609 apartments out of 176,692 apartments across the city of New York.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, public housing houses over 400,000 residents. It is larger than many cities in many States across the Nation, and public housing capital funding is imperative and necessary for my constituents.

Not only do these residents rely on stable, affordable housing to stay close to their families and be near their jobs and schools, but our city relies on these residents who are also teachers, home healthcare workers, caregivers, and taxi drivers. They run our city. In fact, they are an integral part of the economic engine of the city. They are part of our local economy. They fuel our economy on a daily basis. Mr. Speaker, these folks really represent the economic engine of New York City.

As you will hear from my colleagues, affordable housing—public housing—and its residents are under threat. After a decade of funding reductions, the President's administration made one thing clear: they plan to drastically accelerate funding reductions for HUD. This turns that housing agency, essentially, into an absentee landlord, into a slumlord, if you will, administering public housing developments across the country that are in decrepit and seriously embarrassing conditions.

The administration's fiscal year 2018 budget proposal revealed a \$7.6 billion cut, almost a 20 percent cut to HUD, and a two-thirds cut to public housing capital needs.

Now, New York City has a need of \$17 billion to do point work, roof work, boiler work, and elevator work to improve the quality of life of the residents of these housing developments. Yet the administration has proposed a \$7.6 billion cut. This is a national crisis, an affordable housing national crisis.

We have Members from California to Texas to New York who all believe that affordable housing should be at the forefront of our progressive priority. It is a fundamental cornerstone of the American Dream that we cannot afford to let slip away.