

windfall tax cuts today and also trade their health security and safety net, then you, Mr. Speaker, will give average Americans the empty promise of wage growth tomorrow and you will be able to file your taxes on a postcard.

I say “empty promises” because studies and our experience have shown that this unicorn of wage growth from tax cuts will never, in fact, happen. It is reminiscent, Mr. Speaker, of the gluttonous Wimpy in the “Popeye” cartoon: “I will gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today.”

Now, this is a great plan if you are rich. It is dollars for fool’s gold, but the American people are not fools, Mr. Speaker, and that is why the Republicans want to rush this through with minimum transparency.

This is madness. Trickle down has not worked, it does not work, and it will never work. We have got deficits under Reagan and under George W. Bush to prove it.

The tax cuts will not pay for themselves, Mr. Speaker. The tax cuts won’t magically produce increased salaries for workers. The tax plan will not lead to these claims of economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, we have all lived long enough to know that these are all lies. It is not even wishful thinking anymore, because we know better.

Congress should not be considering tax cuts for the rich and opening up even more tax loopholes. Mr. Speaker, we cannot spin gold out of straw, and that is what we have here.

This plan will make most Americans poorer and sicker, if not dead. I urge all my colleagues to reject this bill.

Instead, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to fortify our election system from Russian further interference; build new infrastructure, that is what creates jobs; fund the Child Health Insurance Program that Republicans let expire; ensure that all 3½ million American citizens in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands can have access to water, power, and healthcare this holiday season. That is what we should be doing.

MINNESOTA’S NEW HALL OF FAMER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader in our community who has received a great honor. Skip Dolan, the head boys basketball coach for the Annandale Cardinals, was inducted into the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in October. I am not going to go through all of his statistics, although they are quite impressive.

I think it is important that we note that a good coach can have a major impact on a kid’s life. Coaches don’t just teach a game to our kids, they ingrain important life skills in their minds. They teach our kids how to work with others and how to act as a team. They

teach our children the value of practice and perseverance, and they teach our kids how to compete with honor, dignity, and how to win with grace.

A good coach guides our kids along the road to success, which is why I am so happy that we have a coach like Skip Dolan in our community. We can never thank him enough for working with and teaching our kids, and we congratulate him on this incredible honor.

A RETIRING PUBLIC SERVANT

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Monticello Public Schools Superintendent Jim Johnson for his work and dedication to Minnesota’s children.

After 18 years serving Monticello, 12 of them spent as superintendent, Jim is heading into a well-deserved retirement.

Under Jim’s close supervision, schools within his district have produced outstanding test scores, increased graduation rates, and higher enrollment in AP classes. He also played an important role improving his district’s athletic facilities.

Not only did Jim help better academics at the schools under his careful watch, he also helped ensure that his district’s students had everything they needed to succeed in life.

Jim, we can’t thank you enough for the work you have done to educate our kids. Our kids are our future, and because of you, our future is very bright.

THE NEWEST SAUK RAPIDS AMBASSADORS

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate three young women in my district who have earned an exciting leadership role in the community.

Bethlehem Kobluk, Brooklyn Harren, and Madeline Bell have all been named 2017 Sauk Rapids Community Ambassadors.

As community ambassadors, Bethlehem, Brooklyn, and Madeline will participate in a 9-week program that will help them develop their leadership skills by participating in activities that engage the community.

The people who end up making the most difference in this world are the ones who show up for others.

We want to congratulate these young women on their new roles and thank them for their interest in making life better for those around them.

Thank you, Bethlehem, Brooklyn, and Madeline, for showing up for Sauk Rapids. I know you all have bright futures ahead, and we look forward to seeing what you will accomplish next.

RUTHIE AND CONNIE LGBT ELDER AMERICANS

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Ruthie and Connie LGBT Elder Americans Act, legislation I am introducing to support our country’s LGBT seniors.

The LGBT senior population is growing and is estimated to include nearly 6 million Americans by 2030. Unfortunately, the same generation of LGBT people who fought for rights in the workplace, equal marriage, and societal recognition are once again marginalized as they age.

LGBT seniors have fewer support services, higher poverty rates, more social isolation, and inadequate access to healthcare services compared to the rest of older Americans. One of the primary barriers to providing services to LGBT seniors is a basic lack of information.

The Older Americans Act, or OAA, already requires the Administration on Aging to collect data on the individuals receiving OAA services and the efficacy of OAA programs; but if we collected data on sexual orientation and gender identity, we could better understand this population and provide services that best fit their needs.

Unfortunately, the data we do have shows that the poverty rate is higher for LGBT seniors, which is likely because many have faced discrimination while working, they have historically been unable to legally marry, and they have experienced gender and racial inequalities. We also know that LGBT elders are less likely than their peers to have community support and caretakers to help them.

I know from speaking with LGBT seniors that many fear discrimination when receiving home healthcare services. They are twice as likely to be single and four times more likely to not have children. These are complex and important issues that require a personalized solution.

The bill I am introducing today with Colorado Senator MICHAEL BENNETT and Florida Representatives TED DEUTCH and CHARLIE CRIST would help bridge the gap between LGBT seniors and the services they need.

The bill is named for Ruthie Berman and Connie Kurtz, who sued the New York City Board of Education years ago for domestic partner benefits, and won their landmark case in 1994. In the decades since, Ruthie and Connie have continued their advocacy and fight as champions of LGBT rights.

Our bill would amend the Older Americans Act to improve services for LGBT seniors and require data collection on sexual orientation so better decisions can be made.

Additionally, the bill would permanently establish a National Resource Center on LGBT Aging and provide grants for organizations working to improve LGBT services, including access to healthcare and long-term care. The resource centers and the grants will help States and localities reach out to LGBT older adults and provide culturally competent support.

By requiring specific consideration for LGBT seniors in the Older Americans Act, we can provide needed support to a vulnerable yet overlooked population.