

the few ways that you can manage that debt is being able to deduct it off of your taxes. That is being eliminated under the House Republican plan.

Now, if I sound a little worked up, it is because, literally, within minutes, the House Ways and Means Committee is going to start marking up this bill. Not one hearing is being held for outside voices to sort of at least crunch through the numbers of this proposal. The plan is for Speaker RYAN to force a vote next week. We are talking less than 10 days for rewriting the U.S. Tax Code, which has not been rewritten since 1986.

When it was done under President Reagan, it took a year for the process to unfold, and that was the right way to do it, to allow the subcommittees to take a look at their provisions of the Tax Code on the Ways and Means Committee, to hold hearings, to actually have an intelligent, thoughtful exchange of ideas before you mark it up, rather than jamming it to the floor, when you are taking away people's qualified medical expenses. Again, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

The deduction that people get for dependent care assistance programs—if you have a kid who is developmentally disabled and needs a personal care attendant in your home right now, you can deduct that—that is being taken away.

This is a bad plan. We need to slow down; we need to give the American people a chance to understand this better. Again, I call on the Ways and Means Committee to, again, slow down and cancel the markups that are scheduled this week.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COMER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Bless the Members of this assembly as they set upon the work of these hours, of these days. Help them to make wise decisions in a good manner and to carry their responsibilities steadily, with high hopes for a better future for our great Nation.

As legislation on taxes continues to be debated this week and next, may all Members be mindful that the institutions and structures of our great Nation guarantee the opportunities that have allowed some to achieve great success, while others continue to strug-

gle. May their efforts these days guarantee that there are not winners and losers under new tax laws, but benefits balanced and shared by all Americans.

May Your blessing, O God, be with them and with us all this day and every day to come, and may all we do be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. NORTON 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.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Gabrielle Cuccia, one of his secretaries.

ISRAELI-AMERICAN COUNCIL

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with all those who are grieving at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

This morning, I was grateful to join the Israeli-American Council at their fourth National Council Conference to celebrate our ally, Israel, and the special relationship we have formed over many years with the people of Israel. It was meaningful to be greeted by National Chairman Adam Milstein, and to discuss issues with Dr. Miriam and Sheldon Adelson.

The Israeli-American Council is the fastest growing Jewish-American organization in the United States, and

works every day to foster a strong and positive relationship between the United States and the Israeli people.

I am grateful for their many accomplishments, and I wish them continued success in strengthening the American-Israeli relationship in the years to come through mutual economic success, creating jobs while promoting peace through strength with military cooperation.

South Carolina has always appreciated its Jewish heritage as home of the largest Jewish population of any State at the time of the American Revolution.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

MASS DEPORTATION WOULD DISRUPT OUR COUNTRY

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, mass deportation of Temporary Protected Status recipients today would disrupt our country and theirs.

More than 32,000 Salvadorans live in the District of Columbia metro area; and Salvadorans, at 200,000, are the largest group of TPS holders in the country today.

TPS designation requires the Attorney General to find "extraordinary and temporary conditions preventing returning to the state in safety."

The most recent influx of Salvadorans, one-third of them unaccompanied minors, shows that these conditions have been met for TPS holders and others. With the breakdown of civil society in Central America today, forced return of anyone now would be inhumane.

RECOGNIZING DEANE BOZEMAN SCHOOL FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Deane Bozeman School, a title I school, located in Bay County, Florida. Deane Bozeman School prides itself on developing boys and girls of character and as well-educated American citizens. The school's administration, faculty, staff, and parents join in investing and educating over 1,300 students, prekindergarten through 12th grade. The result is that Deane Bozeman School continues a tradition of academic excellence.

This year, Deane Bozeman School reaches yet another milestone in excellence by adding a fully chartered Army Junior ROTC program to its curriculum. As cadets, the ROTC program will develop middle and high school students into leaders whose characters are based on the fundamental values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, integrity, and personal courage.

Under the leadership of Chief Warrent Officer Retired Jeff Adkins, these students will certainly thrive.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Deane Bozeman School for taking such a bold step and enriching the lives of the students in this inaugural year of its Army ROTC program.

A MASSIVE WINDFALL FOR INVESTORS

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, slashing the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent means one thing: a massive windfall for investors. While the champagne flows at the Trump Hotel after-party, middle class Americans would get nothing from this plan other than their deductions taken away for medical expenses, housing, and college loan interest payments. People won't even be able to deduct for most State and local income taxes paid, while large corporations would continue to do so.

Here is the real shocker: fully 35 percent of the windfall, between \$500 billion and \$700 billion this decade, will go to foreign investors who own 35 percent of American stock. That money will be lost to us forever. It won't be there for Medicare or Medicaid or anything else.

Blowing up our deficit by \$1.5 trillion while transferring that much wealth to big corporations is a terrible idea. It is atrocious when you realize that we won't just be spoiling superrich Americans with billions of dollars, we will be spoiling superrich foreigners, too.

Let's stop this speeding train and come up with a bipartisan tax plan that works for all Americans.

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER TRAGEDY HERE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, another day, another tragedy here in America. These are difficult times in this country, and it seems that we have spent the last several months careening from one tragedy to the next: from the congressional baseball shooting to Charlottesville, from Charlottesville to Las Vegas, from Las Vegas to the terrorist attack in New York, from the terrorist attack in New York to a mass shooting at a Baptist Church in south Texas.

Something is wrong here in America, yet all we seem to do is to come to Congress, have a respectful moment of silence, and then move on as if everything is okay. It is not okay.

It is time for this "do-nothing Congress" to do something, do anything to help stop the carnage that is taking place in our great country.

PENALTIES IMPOSED ON MORTGAGE LENDERS

(Mr. SESSIONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I first want to say, ladies and gentlemen who are here, thank you for being here. I am from Dallas, Texas, and I stand in sorrow for my fellow Texans and the country, for those from Sutherland Springs, Texas, outside of San Antonio, who suffered the mass shooting of this weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today also to highlight an issue that is impacting first-time home buyers in America. Over the past 8 years, the Department of Justice has penalized many mortgage lenders who participated in the Federal Housing Administration's mortgage insurance program, a program that provides access to mortgages for some of America's first-time home buyers.

Unfortunately, the Department of Justice still continues, even today, to use the False Claims Act to impose penalties on mortgage lenders, many of whom were guilty of only material deficiencies in the loan applications, minor issues that, years later, people came back and tried to find a mistake so that they could pin the tail, pin a fine on some mortgage lender.

My colleagues and I have objected to these actions by the Department of Justice because many of the shortcomings in these loan applications were never intended as efforts to defraud anyone, but merely technical oversights, perhaps facts that might have not been completely known at the time of the loan application.

Many long-time mortgage lenders have exited this program because they cannot risk opening themselves to the penalties that have been imposed, I think, unwisely, by the Department of Justice for mere technical shortcomings of these loans.

So I have been a part of Members who are asking the Department of Justice to impose a moratorium to review what they are doing on the use of the False Claims Act to pursue such violations until the FHA can complete its own taxonomy, which is a set of standards that would impose penalties commensurate with the severity of the offense.

Mr. Speaker, I, once again, would ask the American people for their express blessings upon those who gave their life this weekend in Texas.

EDUCATION IS THE NUMBER ONE EQUALIZER

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I think education is the number one equalizer. It is the door to opportunity, yet the GOP tax plan will make it harder to afford to be able to go to college.

When I was a kid, my parents—both immigrants from Mexico, where mom

only had a third grade education—told me that I had to become a doctor or a lawyer. That was the only way to get out of the poverty that we lived in.

As a result, I went to college. I was saddled in student loan debt when I came out. As a matter of fact, I still have over \$50,000 of student loan debt. It shouldn't be this way.

Congress should be working to make it easier to go to college so that there is debt-free college, or at least make it more affordable. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

Instead, Congress is considering a terrible GOP tax plan that proposes to eliminate the student loan interest deduction and lifetime learning credits. Under current rules, borrowers paying off education loans can deduct up to \$2,500 of interest paid on student loans.

Deductions lower your taxable income. About 12.4 million people claimed it for the year 2015. You can claim the student loan break for several years after college while paying off the loans.

The GOP tax plan would destroy this key deduction for young graduates and workers getting the job training they need to succeed in the 21st century economy.

Millennials and young workers, if you disagree, rise and have your voice heard today. Just say no to the GOP tax plan that only makes it harder to afford college.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT DIRECTOR, HONORABLE HANK JOHNSON, JR., MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Kathy Register, District Director, the Honorable HANK JOHNSON, Jr., Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 1, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony, issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

KATHY REGISTER,
District Director.

□ 1415

COMMUNICATION FROM CONSTITUENT SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE, HONORABLE HANK JOHNSON, JR., MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Tishyra Johnson Armstrong, Constituent Services Representative, the Honorable HANK JOHNSON, Jr., Member of Congress: