

thirds of the debt held by Americans under the age of 30 is student loan debt.

In 2007, a Democratic Congress cut the interest rate on student loans in half to 3.4 percent, but it is set to expire this summer, and allowing the interest rate to double would constitute a tax hike on students in middle America.

In my western New York district alone, this rate increase would affect 62,000 students and their families. I urge my colleagues to take immediate action on this issue because all Americans deserve a fair shot at a good education.

□ 1220

LET'S HELP THE STUDENTS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the House Republicans want to play politics on the issue of doubling the student loans. They say, well, the reduction in student loan interest rates was never supposed to be permanent. Guess what. The Bush tax cuts, which I voted against, for millionaires and billionaires were never supposed to be permanent either, but you're fighting to preserve them every step of the way.

We can do one simple thing here. If we raised the tax rate on income over \$350,000 only from 35 to 36 percent, we could give millions of students a more affordable education with lower interest rates. Those who have already made it would share a little bit of the burden to help those who want to be the next generation of business leaders and political leaders and scientists for our country.

Come on, guys. The millionaires and billionaires, they can take care of themselves. That wasn't supposed to be permanent. Let's help the students.

GIRL SCOUTS

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, a century ago Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Georgia for the first Girl Scout meeting. From "Daisy" Low's start, 50 million people have been counted among the ranks of the Girl Scouts of the USA, and today there is a membership of more than 3 million.

Today, Girl Scouts are involved in much more than cookies. I've had the privilege to see their wonderful community service projects, have attended award ceremonies, and I know about their work to introduce girls of all ages to math and science.

Recently, I had the opportunity to spend time with members of the Girl Scouts from West Windsor in Plainsboro, New Jersey. Their robotics team placed first in the Eastern Pennsylvania Division of the FIRST LEGO

League, and they're competing in the World Festival in St. Louis this week. I send them my best wishes.

I'm inspired by the Girl Scouts, and I rise to honor all the work that the Girl Scouts have done over 100 years, and I wish them success for the next 100 years.

STUDENT LOAN REFORM

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in a global economy, putting a college education within reach for every American has never been more important, but it has also never been more expensive.

Our Nation's young people have been hit particularly hard over the economic downturn in the last several years. In Texas and all across the country, students and recent college graduates are now facing the highest unemployment rate of any other group. Two-thirds of the class of 2010 graduated with an average of \$25,000 of student loan debt. Young Americans are rightly concerned about their future, and so am I.

Mr. Speaker, on July 1 of this year, Stafford loan interest rates are set to double unless Congress takes action. As we sit here as a Congress, we need to work together to prevent this increase. I, along with my Democratic colleagues in Congress and President Obama, have been working on a number of efforts to make college more affordable.

PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the best thing Members of Congress can do to represent their constituents well is to stay in touch.

Today we had another teletown hall in my district, and we listened to seniors be concerned about Social Security and Medicare. They wondered why the Ryan budget takes away from them and why would Social Security and Medicare, which are good for so many years to come and not the cause of the deficit, why their future health care expenses and their daily expenses are being threatened. Those are good questions, and I let them know that the Democrats in this Congress and in the Senate aren't going to allow that to be jeopardized. We are going to maintain Social Security and Medicare as we know it. It's so important.

For the young people—and I see one up there. The young people, Mr. Speaker, need to see that student loan rates stay at 3.4 percent and not the way the Republicans are going to do it and pay for it by taking away cervical cancer screenings and mammograms for women. That's wrong. We need to pro-

tect our future, the future generations, be statesmen and not worry about tomorrow's election.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the observance of the National Day of Prayer, which will take place next Thursday, May 3.

This tradition began under President Eisenhower and continued through peacetime and wartime, through times of prosperity and times of uncertainty, and demonstrates our commitment as a Nation to maintaining a foundation of prayer.

Through prayer, we acknowledge that God gives us peace in the midst of our circumstances, we seek the wisdom to know and act upon God's purpose for our lives, and we feel the power of God to protect and provide for those of us who call on His name. We know that the true source of power cannot be found here in the Halls of Congress or in the Oval Office in the West Wing or in the chambers of the Supreme Court, but only on our knees before the one who is the true source of power.

So may we pray not only next Thursday on the National Day of Prayer and join communities across this Nation which are joining in prayer for our country, but may we do so also in honor and in recognition of our national motto, "In God we trust." Indeed, may God bless this great Nation.

RESPECT AMERICA'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, we must hold the government accountable for the safekeeping of the sensitive information that we choose to share with it.

In response to a number of privacy concerns I have with the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act, I sought to encourage more government accountability by cosponsoring a bipartisan amendment with Congressman WOODALL that was offered to the Rules Committee yesterday addressing some of these concerns.

Under the current bill, the threshold for having a cause of action against the government for disclosing personal information is exceptionally hard to meet. Our amendment would have lowered this threshold, ensuring that the government treats highly sensitive and personal information it receives with the utmost care.

While this amendment was a great example of Democrats and Republicans coming together on an issue that all Americans care about deeply, unfortunately, the Rules Committee chose not to move it forward.

While I believe it is important to protect our country against impending

cyberattacks, it must be done in a manner that fully respects Americans' constitutional rights.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3523, CYBER INTELLIGENCE SHARING AND PROTECTION ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4628, INTEREST RATE REDUCTION ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 631 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 631

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3523) to provide for the sharing of certain cyber threat intelligence and cyber threat information between the intelligence community and cybersecurity entities, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 112-20. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. It shall be in order at any time through the legislative day of April 27, 2012,

for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules, as though under clause 1 of rule XV, relating to the following measures:

(a) The bill (H.R. 2096) to advance cybersecurity research, development, and technical standards, and for other purposes.

(b) The bill (H.R. 3834) to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to authorize activities for support of networking and information technology research, and for other purposes.

(c) The bill (H.R. 4257) to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to revise requirements relating to Federal information security, and for other purposes.

SEC. 3. Upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4628) to extend student loan interest rates for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 4. The Committee on Appropriations may, at any time before 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 2, 2012, file privileged reports to accompany measures making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013.

□ 1230

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this rule, House Resolution 631. The rule provides for consideration of multiple pieces of legislation meant to provide solutions to some of today's most pressing threats and concerns. House Resolution 631 ensures that we'll be able to have a robust debate on important issues facing our Nation's cybersecurity infrastructure while also providing the path forward for student loan legislation that reflects quick action we need to take on this pressing issue.

First, House Resolution 631 gives this House the opportunity to be a leader when it comes to our Nation's cybersecurity needs. The rule also sets up the opportunity for us to vote tomorrow on a measure that addresses our Nation's student loan programs. Without this legislation, Americans with Federal student loans will see their rate double starting in July.

These are issues that cannot wait. Our Nation's security cannot wait. At a time when our workforce is so bleak and President Obama's policies keep digging us deeper and deeper into a financial hole, we cannot wait on finding a solution for those young people with student loan debt who are still trying to find a place in our workforce.

We all know that the Internet has fundamentally changed the way we live our lives day-to-day. I think it's safe to say that even 20 years ago, many of us in this room couldn't have imagined that one day we would live in a world where we could do almost anything we wanted, be it buy groceries, run a business, or talk to a loved one serving our country overseas, through a computer. The Internet has made all this possible.

But for all the ways the Internet has made life, business, and even government, to some extent, faster, more responsive, and more transparent, it has also opened us up to new threats. U.S. companies report an onslaught of cyberintrusions that steal sensitive information. Even our own government has suffered from cyberattacks. This type of rampant Internet theft not only costs American companies valuable information, intellectual property, and research and development work, it also costs American workers their jobs. It's hard to say exactly how much cyberattacks cost our Nation's economy, but they could cost as much as \$400 billion a year, according to one report from the Computer Security Institute and the FBI.

Today, the House will begin consideration of a bill that will help protect our Nation from these kinds of threats. H.R. 3523, the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act, would allow private companies to voluntarily share information with each other and with the government in a sort of public-private Internet security partnership. The bill includes significant safeguards to protect personal and private information. It significantly limits the Federal Government's use of that information that the private companies voluntarily provide, including the government's ability to search data.

It requires that the independent inspector general for the intelligence community audit information shared with the government and report the results to Congress to ensure regular oversight. It also encourages the private sector to make the information it shares with others, including the government, as anonymous as possible.

This is a strongly bipartisan piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, that was passed out of the Intelligence Committee with an overwhelming vote of 17-1. In the Rules Committee yesterday, we heard testimony from both sides, speaking to the cooperative, bipartisan work that was done in this piece of legislation. I commend the work that the Intelligence Committee did with members on both sides of the aisle, as well as with private sector companies, trade groups, privacy and