

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRESS MUST STOP THE SUFFERING

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as Americans celebrate Christmas, millions of families will have an empty chair at the table for a relative who is lost in our failed mental health system or one of the more than 80,000 mentally ill who died this year.

They suffer from a brain disease of serious mental illness, but they also suffer from Federal policies stopping them from getting treatment: Medicaid rules that say you can't see two doctors on the same day, you can't go to a psychiatric hospital with more than 16 beds, and perverse priorities of the right to be sick instead of the right to be well.

Mr. Speaker, this holiday season, let us give our families a gift of hope. Members should cosponsor H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, and let compassion dictate. We must stop the suffering, stop the congressional delays, and finally take action because where there is no help, there is no hope.

A YEAR OF ACTION AND PROGRESS

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have spent the past year working with Illinois families to see how we could make this year a year of action and progress for Second District families. Keeping that in mind, I wanted to end this year on a high note by providing a brief snapshot on the state of my district on the education and economic front.

This year, I donated over 1,000 books to Second District's school libraries, even as we faced a tough State budget crisis. Illinois students should have the best educational resources possible, and I am working with my community to ensure just that. I also kicked off my "Robin's Readers" reading challenge. More than 3,000 kids participated, reading over 20,000 books in a 10-week period.

On the economic front, I held my third annual job fair, where I connected 500 jobseekers with 70 businesses looking to hire. We also held our second job and resource fair for our youth, as well as a veterans event.

This is just a sample of the work we were able to accomplish, and I look forward to continuing our success in the new year.

Happy holidays.

OBAMACARE DESTROYS JOBS

(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, last Monday, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office confirmed what we have seen for the last 5 years: ObamaCare destroys jobs.

Over the next 10 years, ObamaCare is expected to significantly reduce American work hours, destroying nearly 2 million jobs. The impact will also reduce America's workforce by nearly 1 percent.

The cause is clear. Workers cannot afford the excessive mandates and changes in tax rates. ObamaCare not only hurts wallets by increasing premiums, but it also hurts workers by destroying jobs. Last month, we learned that major insurance companies, like UnitedHealthcare, may not remain in the exchanges because of high costs. Obamacare is unsustainable.

We have seen time and time again how ObamaCare has harmed jobs and families. Its architect, Jonathan Gruber, admitted that it was built on "the stupidity of the American voter." We must repeal it and replace this broken law with patient-centered solutions.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CONGRATULATING EAST NICOLAUS HIGH SCHOOL ON GOING TO THE STATE AA CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to your attention East Nicolaus High School. I suspect all of you are aware of this. I see my colleague from my bordering district, to the north of me, who went to Biggs High School, which was the rival of East Nicolaus High School.

East Nicolaus High School is going to the State AA championships in San Diego. Congratulations to them.

To all of you, be aware: there are less than 250 students in this school, and they are tough.

TAX RATE EXTENDERS HAVE POSITIVE ECONOMIC EFFECTS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Merry Christmas to the East Nicolaus Spartans from the Biggs Wolverines. Congratulations this year.

Mr. Speaker, the tax credit package we have passed will not only lower taxes for families across the Nation, it will spur more investment and growth by small businesses and farms, like in my northern California district.

For too long, Americans have had to wait until the last few days of each year to find out under which laws they will be taxed and at what rates. If the Senate will join us, this package will end that vicious cycle, and Americans can finally make financial decisions with greater stability to plan for the future.

We have supported education through tax credits for students and teachers, and we have increased protections to rein in the IRS.

Particularly important components for the First District are provisions that allow farmers, ranchers, as well as mining operations, timber operators, and construction contractors to make informed decisions about how they can buy new equipment for the coming years and how it will be taxed.

Families and businesses have been asking and begging for us to have the stability and predictability in what their tax rates are going to be. I am very happy that we were able to get this done, and I urge the Senate to also get that done so we can have predictability in tax rates and go about our business.

FUNDING FOR NEUROSCIENCE

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, over 50 million Americans suffer from a neurological disease or disorder, over 1 billion worldwide. I authored language that created an interagency working group that brought together dozens of federal agencies years ago, and we have laid out a map, a plan, over the last 4 years now including mapping the human brain with the BRAIN Initiative and funding a host of specific efforts.

I am so pleased that the bill that we will pass today will have a historic level of funding for neuroscience, over \$7 billion in efforts at the National Institutes of Health, a historic investment at the National Science Foundation, and now we have brought together our national labs to create a national brain observatory.

I want to thank my colleague from Oklahoma, TOM COLE, for working with me as the chair of our Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. And in my role on the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, there is so much more for us to do. But I am convinced that if we have the mind to work, we, indeed, can rebuild the walls.