

PUERTO RICO AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS ARE IN CRISIS

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

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, first, to the President: Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are in crisis. People are dying, and the time for action is now.

Send our ships. Send our planes. Send our soldiers and our personnel over. We need water and food and medicine. These are Americans, and we can't turn our backs on them.

To Mr. Speaker: We need a FEMA supplemental package without delay, and include not only Texas and Florida, but the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico with the same funding per capita as the States. They need resources just like our great State of Florida.

To the Governors in many States from whom folks from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands will seek refuge in the meantime: Be prepared—your schools, your hospitals, shelters. Families in these areas, open your homes to our friends and to your neighbors.

The United States Government must act with urgency beginning today.

PRESIDENT TAKES NEW DIRECTION

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the President is doing what he was elected to do—call it shaking up the system, putting the brakes on the bureaucracy, or creative deconstruction.

Our country simply cannot continue on the same course: where the government increases the debt by hundreds of billions of dollars every year; where hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants cross our border annually, insulting those who play by the rules and wait their turn in line; where political correctness limits freedom of speech, especially for conservatives.

The liberal media is trying to shut down this Presidency because they oppose everything President Trump is trying to do. Mr. Speaker, in this great conflict, the American people and our democracy could be the casualties.

OPPOSE GRAHAM-CASSIDY

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the millions of Americans whose health coverage is once again being threatened by efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

The American people have spoken. They do not want repeal. They certainly do not want the ACA replaced by Graham-Cassidy, the latest, cruelest version of TrumpCare.

Nearly every health organization in America, from the insurance providers to doctors, to hospitals, to patient advocacy groups, oppose Graham-Cassidy because it will result in skyrocketing premiums and copays and loss of coverage for millions of Americans, particularly older Americans who need the care most.

It is time to abandon the rhetoric of repeal and replace and to work together to stabilize our healthcare markets. Senators MURRAY and ALEXANDER were working together on a bipartisan bill to fix the ACA before the Republican majority abandoned their efforts for Graham-Cassidy.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we return to bipartisan efforts as soon as possible to stabilize markets and improve access to healthcare for all Americans.

PREPARE FOR FUTURE NATURAL DISASTERS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the first responders and utility workers, the linemen who have been vital in helping prepare for and recover from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

The road to full recovery will be a long one for many of us, our neighbors as well, who experienced catastrophic losses, and we must continue to support those in need.

I encourage my constituents to visit my Facebook page to learn more about FEMA resources. I also believe now is the time to encourage all Americans to be properly prepared for future natural disasters.

I have introduced the SHELTER Act, which would provide individuals and businesses with a tax credit for 25 percent of qualified hurricane and tornado mitigation property expenditures. It is \$5,000 a year. So again, this tax credit, this bill will incentivize Americans to take action now in preparation for future disasters.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage.

HELP THE DREAMERS

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

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, last week, when I was home in my district, I hosted an event called DREAMers Demand Answers. It was an opportunity for DREAMers in my community to come and have a conversation with me in the wake of the President's decision to rescind DACA, to let me know what questions and concerns they had so that I could come back here and pass those concerns along to my colleagues here in Congress.

Of all the questions, one really stood out to me: Can you help us? I was especially struck by this question because the answer is yes. Yes, I can help them;

and, yes, we in this body can help them.

By passing the bipartisan Dream Act, we can help these young people. We help them stay in their homes. We can help them keep their jobs. We can help them keep their families together. This is not a hard question to answer.

These are young people who grew up here that are as American as any one of us in this room, and they aren't asking for much. Mr. Speaker, I am on the floor today to ask my colleagues on the other side: Please help them. Join me in supporting the bipartisan Dream Act.

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HIGHLIGHTING EFFECTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, imagine if the entire State of Delaware burned. That is the scope of what has burned in Montana this year—1.25 million acres of our beautiful State.

I have been on the ground at five fires this summer and I have seen firsthand the result of failing to manage our forests—over 1 million acres have burned, livelihoods threatened, wildlife habitats destroyed, and dangerous air quality in our communities.

I have also seen effective forest management. Last week, I went into the field with BLM officials to see a forest they manage. When BLM treated a forest, an approaching fire dropped into the underbrush and was quickly extinguished. All trees in the treated forest lived, but trees in the untreated forest died and it won't recover in our lifetime.

We need to be proactive and start managing our forests again. Well-managed forests are healthier forests with more wildlife, more hunting, more good-paying jobs for Montanans, and, importantly, our wildfires are less severe.

On the heels of the catastrophic fires this summer, now is the time to enact real reform and start managing our forests again.

PUERTO RICO RELIEF

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I received a heartfelt letter from a constituent expressing her frustration with the dire crisis in Puerto Rico. She described the panic of not being able to reach her family on the island. She said: "It is becoming an island of chaos and sadness. I am helpless here in Chula Vista. I cannot contact my family. We need Congress to send more relief. We Puerto Ricans are American citizens, whether people remember it or not."