

With the implementation of these new withholding tables, the Treasury Department has estimated that 90 percent of wage earners will experience an increase in their take-home pay. A married couple with two children, making \$75,000 a year, would see a \$1,350 wage increase per year.

I am thrilled to see what closing unfair loopholes, simplifying the Tax Code, and getting the Federal Government out of the way does to boost the financial stability of American families.

IMPENDING SHUTDOWN AND DACA

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

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the midst of yet another looming government shutdown and an impending nightmare for DREAMers created by those who run Washington.

Republicans control the House, the Senate, and elected the great negotiator in the White House, yet here we are again. It is time they come to the table in good faith to provide our Nation fiscal certainty and lay down their threats against DREAMers in this country, those who were brought here as children and live as upstanding members of communities across our Nation. Our priority should be strengthening American families, not ripping them apart.

Just this week, as we have all seen on the news, ICE officials forcefully deported Jorge Garcia, a 39-year-old man from Michigan with a wife and kids. He has lived in this country almost his entire life and made an honest living after being brought here as a child. He has hardly a parking ticket on his record.

I call on the President and my Republican colleagues to work across the aisle in good faith and lead for the good of our Nation rather than their political base.

CR IMPACTS THE MILITARY

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, last summer, the House passed all 12 appropriations bills before the fiscal year started on October 1.

We appropriated nearly \$650 billion to provide our servicemembers with the resources they need to defend this country in the face of threats from North Korea, China, Russia, al-Qaida, ISIS, and Iran. The House funded other Federal programs at nearly \$550 billion.

For the past 3½ months, however, our military and servicemembers have been operating under continuing resolutions, also known as CRs, which means they are stuck at the funding levels they had last year. That is be-

cause Senate Democrats are holding back the full funding of our defenses so they can add billions of dollars more in other Federal spending.

The defense of this country, Mr. Speaker, is not some bargaining chip, and preventing our servicemembers from getting the resources they need, especially after we have seen servicemember deaths resulting from the lack of training and proper equipment, is unconscionable.

As Secretary Mattis told us last year: "Long-term CRs impact the readiness of our forces and their equipment at a time when security threats are extraordinarily high. The longer the CR, the greater the consequences for our force."

It is way past time for Senate Democrats to end their filibustering of our Nation's defense and to start helping our servicemembers in harm's way.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DENISE BURDITUS

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Denise Burditus.

Denise was a mother of two and a grandmother of three. She was looking forward to the birth of her fourth grandchild. She had recently left her job, after 30 years of working at a bank, so she could return to school and spend more time with her grandchildren.

She went to the Route 91 Harvest music festival in Las Vegas with her high school sweetheart and husband of 32 years, Tony Burditus.

Denise is remembered by her friends and family for being full of life, for always being positive, and for her devotion to her family.

I extend my condolences to Denise Burditus' family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

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HONORING KATHLEEN JIMINO ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

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

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to recognize and celebrate the career of Mrs. Kathleen Jimino on the occasion of her retirement as Rensselaer County executive. Kathy has retired after 16 years of dedicated service to the people of Rensselaer County.

Throughout her tenure as county executive, Kathy was a driving force for economic growth and fiscal solvency in Rensselaer County, actively responding

to the needs of her constituency in an effective and resourceful manner.

In addition to the time as county executive, I am grateful for the many years Kathy spent loyally serving the people of New York State and the city of Troy.

Kathy has been an esteemed leader of the community, and I thank her for her commitment to New York's 19th Congressional District. I wish Kathy and her husband, Vince, every happiness as they embark upon this new chapter in their lives.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN VIETNAM

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, my grandfather spent 4 years in jail during Gandhi's independence movement standing for human rights. One of his crimes was expressing unpopular views in a political newspaper.

Similar human rights abuses are occurring today in Vietnam. I speak out, today, for those who have been silenced. In many cases, the victims are the brother, the sister, the friend, or acquaintance of someone living in my district.

Over 100 activists and religious leaders are currently imprisoned in Vietnam for expressing their opinions and beliefs. For example, social activist and blogger Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh was recently sentenced to 10 years in prison for highlighting social injustices on her blog.

In California's 17th District, I am proud of organizations like The Good Will Brother-Sister Group that stand in solidarity for their oppressed friends and family in Vietnam.

The Vietnamese Government must release every political prisoner, stop harassing religious groups, and have the confidence in allowing a free press. Until they do that, we must do no business deals with Vietnam and make it clear that we expect them to honor human rights.

REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN DOUG BARNARD

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a legend who represented the great people of Augusta, Georgia, for 16 years, in, yes, the United States House of Representatives.

Last week, former Congressman Doug Barnard, Jr., passed away at the age of 95 in his beloved hometown.

Although Congressman Barnard served at a very different time in our Nation's history, many of the issues discussed then are the same that we are talking about today, like tax reform, immigration reform, and financial regulatory reform.

A World War II veteran, a lawyer, and a banker, Congressman Barnard made his mark as a well-respected leader of the House Banking Committee. He was willing to work across the aisle to do what was best for the people of Augusta and all Americans.

I was very pleased that Doug introduced and offered his support to me when I made my announcement to run for Congress. Over the years, I have sought his advice, and I have always cherished his mentorship.

Doug Barnard was a great man of faith, a friend, and a statesman. He will always be remembered and will be sorely missed—not only by me, but the entire Augusta community.

RUSSIAN TRANSPARENCY

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, as many of you know, we have had a Russian narrative that has been going on because of an infamous dossier. While there has been much reported on it, I can tell you that the Intelligence Committee has been fast at work, and Chairman NUNES has been doing outstanding work to get to the truth for the American people.

Today, I had the opportunity to go into a confidential setting to make sure that what we can do is understand better what actually took place. I am here to tell all of America tonight that I am shocked to read exactly what has taken place. I would think that it would never happen in a country that loves freedom and democracy like this country.

It is time that we become transparent in all of this. I am calling on our leadership to make this available so that all Americans can judge for themselves.

CHINA'S STRATEGY TO ACCRUE GLOBAL POWER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) is recognized for 57 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I chair the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs. I have been in Congress for 5 years, and what I have noticed over the last, probably, 30 years is a growing China. China is a culture

that has been around for thousands of years. What we have seen is a growing China, but, more recently, in the last 25 years, a more aggressive China, in the policies and the different things that they do around the world.

Twenty-eight years ago, Deng Xiaoping announced that China's strategy to accrue global power would be to "hide one's strength and bide one's time." As I rise, today, in the House, this evening, it is clear that China is done biding its time.

I can remember seeing a documentary several years ago from 1986, where that leader, Deng Xiaoping, talked about that he could not compete with the U.S. or the Japanese in the intellectual property, computer manufacturing, or in IT.

What they said at that time was that they will compete by taking over the rare earth metals that are required in all of that. So, from that point forward, they led that charge to strategically set out a 100-year plan.

At China's 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China last October 2017, Xi Jinping announced a new era, in which China has started to overcome the humiliations of colonialism and that it has stood up, grown rich, and is becoming strong.

We talked about this. It came out in a meeting. Somebody brought up that, through their whole adult life, China was just kind of this big, stumbling child. But they had reached a point and grown through puberty, where the hormones had kicked in, and they found out how strong they were. Then they discovered how rich they were, and they started to flex both of those.

He explicitly offered the Chinese model as an alternative to liberal democracy. Liberal democracy, that is what the Western world and the United States rests on: allowing people to be self-determining, allowing people to be free-thinking, allowing people to be empowered. This is something that is to the antithesis of the Chinese doctrine, stating that "the banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics is now flying high and proud for all to see," offering "a new option for other countries and nations."

Mr. Speaker, as the new year begins, we must decide how we want to craft policy and legislation that will address not just Xi Jinping's so-called new era, and China's. I say that we should welcome China's effort to assume its rightful place on the world stage. But we must also reject China's efforts to undermine the values, institutions, and rules that generations of Americans have died for, along with other countries, to establish and uphold. We must never allow a socialist, authoritarian model of government, to supplant the primacy of democracy, no matter how rich and how strong the authoritarians become.

China is not choosing to rise through the global order that the United States and our allies have built with our blood and our sweat—a global order made up

of the international institutions that have held the peace since World War II; of the competitive and rules-based economic playing field; and of a free marketplace of ideas where people, not governments, decide what they will think.

Instead, China has grown to become a revisionist power—not rising within the current order, but seeking to change, subvert, or coerce it to suit China's end—not playing by the rules, but rewriting the rules to suit the needs of China.

China's foreign policy is rewriting the rules in three key areas:

First, China is replacing traditional soft power, which is based on a nation's attractiveness, with "sharp power," which leverages coerciveness. The scale is astounding. China has used sharp power to buy political influence in Australia, academic influence on American campuses, and even bought off Panama's diplomatic alliance with Taiwan. The National Endowment for Democracy, which coined the term "sharp power," has exhaustively documented China's efforts to turn Latin America elites into "de facto ambassadors of the Chinese cause"—right in our own backyard.

The world will not tolerate these coercive influence operations. Last month, Prime Minister Turnbull of Australia captured this indignation best when he used Mandarin to play on a classic Mao Zedong quote, "the Chinese people have stood up." Turnbull said that "the Australian people stand up." Congress must, likewise, ensure that the American people stand up to coercion in our politics, academia, and culture.

Second, China is rewriting the rules of engagement by using gray zone tactics that erode the distinction between peace and conflict. In the South China Sea, China has used what it has referred to as "salami slicing" to gradually attain its military objectives without provoking a confrontation, undermining the international mechanisms that are supposed to decide territorial disputes. It goes back to the saying of Deng Xiaoping: "Hide one's strength and bide one's time."

As I said, I chair the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, and at one of our hearings last year, one witness testified that "by slowly changing the situation on the ground, China hopes to transform 'Asia Mediterranean' into a Chinese lake."

We can't keep standing idly by while China does these things. Xi Jinping once stood next to President Obama at the White House and pledged that he would not militarize the South China Sea.

As an aside, I was at a hearing. We were there with one of the representatives of the Chinese Government. They were talking about how everything they have done in the South China Sea was for peaceful navigational purposes. I brought up that I wish I could feel the love, or I wish I could feel the sincerity