

Mr. Speaker, this morning, as thousands of small business owners rise at the crack of dawn once again to build on the American Dream, we say thank you. It's their hard work and determination, and it's the tireless effort of every working American that has built the most prosperous Nation the world has ever seen.

INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. The International AIDS Conference could not be returning to America at a better time. This year's conference could mark the turning point in the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Advances in research are finally allowing us to picture the possibility of a generation that is free from this disease.

Despite great promise, there is still much to do. Now more than ever, America must remain committed to leading the fight against HIV/AIDS, combating the crisis right here at home and abroad. Our continued support is absolutely vital to developing new treatments and prevention techniques, including microbicides, as well as to finding a cure.

The United States must continue to do everything we can to increase access to treatment for infected individuals around the globe, including the availability of life-saving drugs. Let this conference serve as a reminder of America's contribution to combating this epidemic and a rallying cry for why we can't turn back now.

CALLING FOR A VOTE ON THE FARM BILL

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

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House Ag Committee reported out of committee a version of the House bill. I rise today to call for this important measure to be brought to the floor for a vote as soon as possible.

Agriculture is the backbone of North Dakota's economy. Our great State leads the Nation in nine different commodities. This farm bill takes into consideration unique things within our State and within many other States as it relates to agriculture and those commodities. Specifically, it implements a strong crop insurance program that would be so beneficial in times like these where we're facing severe drought in much of our Nation. North Dakota's farmers and ranchers need the stability that this farm bill can bring, and it needs to be a long-term authorization.

Now is the time for the House to act. For farmers and ranchers across this country, now is the time to ensure that we act on this important piece of legis-

lation and get it reauthorized for the long term. The time for the farm bill is now.

STUNT

(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 to recognize STUNT, a new competitive team sport which focuses on the technical and athletic components of cheerleading, including stunts, basket tosses, and tumbling.

With more than 800,000 cheerleaders in the United States, USA Cheer created this NCAA emerging sport to provide new opportunities for female athletes to compete at the high school and collegiate level, while still allowing traditional cheerleading to remain a vital and important part of the schools' spirit program.

There are 22 colleges that have already participated in the national championships, with this number poised to expand significantly by next year. As cochairman of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, it is my distinct pleasure to highlight the success of STUNT and to commend the inaugural players of this sport. Your pioneering efforts will inspire and generate excitement amongst the next generation of potential STUNT athletes. May God bless you for your efforts to involve more young female athletes in healthy physical activities and sports.

VETERANS JOBS ACT

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the President to sign the Veterans Jobs Act.

This body has a duty to make sure that every veteran, our brave men and women who are returning home—at 200,000 leaving Active Duty every year—actually have jobs available to them and that they're actually certified to be able to accept those jobs.

We invest billions of dollars every year to give the best training in the world to our young men and women who are serving our country. Yet when they leave Active Duty, most times they're not certified for the very jobs that they're trying to get. Our brave men and women deserve the opportunity to jump right into these fields. Why should they have to get 2 or 3 extra years of training to duplicate the training they already have that is oftentimes much better training that they had on Active Duty.

We have a duty to pass this bill, to have it signed into law, and to not let a day go by that these veterans return home and make sure that they've got the certifications to immediately enter our workforce.

I urge the President once again to sign this important legislation that both bodies have passed now on a bipartisan level.

□ 1240

RETURN OF THE INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in more than two decades, the United States will host the 19th International AIDS Conference, drawing over 20,000 people from around the world to our Nation's Capital.

Having participated in every conference since I was first elected to Congress in 1998, I knew we could not bring the conference back to the United States until the discriminatory immigration ban on people living with HIV was lifted.

In 2007, I introduced a bill to repeal the ban. Few believed it could be done, but through bipartisan support we achieved this goal, and I want to thank Members who are still here for their support in that effort.

This week, the return of the conference is an important opportunity to shine a global spotlight on the fight against AIDS in the African American community and communities of color, and a national spotlight on the ongoing global epidemic. Yesterday I introduced new legislation to do just that.

Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic Act articulates a policy and financing framework to achieve an AIDS-free generation in the United States and abroad. I urge all my colleagues to support it so that we can begin to bring an end to AIDS here at home and around the world.

TRICKING THE PUBLIC IS OBSCENE

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, funding the military is imperative, and supporting our troops at home and abroad is fundamental. But overfunding it at the expense of vital domestic programs is irresponsible.

The Defense appropriations bill is \$8 billion more than the agreed-upon level set by the Budget Control Act. This means that real programs in our home districts, which many of our constituents rely on, will be cut or go unfunded.

Every family in this Nation knows what it is to make a budget and the reasons behind needing it. This bill blatantly ignores the need and purpose of a budget. Certain aspects of this bill are hundreds of millions of dollars above requested levels. If a family tried to live like that, they would be in dire straits.

Designating money when it is above and beyond what is needed is nothing more than a gratuitous earmark. Now, I am in favor of earmarks; I'm just not in favor of trying to trick the public. I believe that earmarks are right. It is our constitutional responsibility as Members of the House. But tricking the public by adding \$8 billion more is obscene.

PROPOSED SNAP PROGRAM CUTS

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the Republican majority has, in another wasted effort, repealed health care reform for the 33rd time, at a time when we will not see on this floor a vote to extend tax cuts for the middle class, now the Republican majority is planning to literally take food out of the mouths of families and children by cutting \$16.5 billion from the SNAP program in the farm bill.

This represents 45 percent of all the cuts, immediately cuts 3 million families and children from the program, and this is at a time when one in seven American families depend on some supplemental food assistance.

But as the Republican majority fiddles away, we know that there is a crisis. Fifty-eight percent of all food bank clients currently receiving SNAP benefits need assistance from them. The resulting demand to food banks will put additional pressure on our communities and on families.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

H.R. 1627. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements for the placement of monuments in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. 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 further consideration of H.R. 5856, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 717 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5856.

Will the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) kindly take the chair.

□ 1245

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5856) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes, with Mr. DENHAM (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, July 18, 2012, the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) had been disposed of, and the bill had been read through page 153, line 15.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 7 of title 1, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, this is the DOMA limitation amendment. We've seen this last year where it passed out of the House of Representatives with a substantial vote. And it says, as it reads, that none of the funds made available by this act may be used in contravention of the Defense of Marriage Act, which passed here in this Congress in 1996.

What we've seen since the passage of the Defense of Marriage Act is an effort on the part of the executive branch to undermine, I believe, marriage between one man and one woman within our military ranks.

We saw the President of the United States make some statements along the way that his position was evolving on marriage that seemed to be a signal to the Department of Defense, which issued two memoranda, one of them on September 21, the Secretary of Defense memorandum that identified facilities, and it says that the facilities, our military facilities should be made, the use of them should be made on a sexual orientation-neutral basis. That's a signal that says same-sex marriages on U.S. military bases and U.S. facilities.

The second memorandum came 9 days later to our military chaplains, and it says a military chaplain may officiate any private ceremony, on or off a military installation. That's not just permission, that's implied encouragement to conduct same-sex marriages on our military bases, conducted by our chaplains who are, presumably, all under the payroll of the United States Government.

This same-sex marriage that has been taking place on our military bases, where otherwise legal around

the world, contravenes the Defense of Marriage Act. The Defense of Marriage Act means this, actually says specifically this: marriage means only a legal union between one man and one woman, as husband and wife, and the word spouse refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife. Pretty simple statute being contravened by the directives of the President of the United States as exercised through the Secretary of Defense.

And I would point out that the President has demonstrated disrespect for the Constitution and the rule of law on multiple occasions. I just came from the Judiciary Committee, where I reminded Secretary Napolitano of the same thing.

Congress directs and acts within the authority of article I of the Constitution, our legislative authority, and the President of the United States, or his executives who are empowered by him, seek to undermine the law of the United States, instead of coming here to this Congress and asking for the law to be changed, or simply accepting the idea that they've taken an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the rule of law, and to take care, under article II, section 3, that the laws be faithfully executed.

That's not happening, Mr. Chairman, and this amendment prohibits the use of military facilities, or the pay of military chaplains, from being used to contravene the Defense of Marriage Act. The President has now stepped out and said that he supports same-sex marriage in the United States. That is, apparently, the most recent evolution of his position.

□ 1250

But an evolving position of the President of the United States cannot be allowed to contravene the will of the people of the United States, as expressed through the statutes of the United States and as signed by previous President Bill Clinton in September of 1996.

So I urge the adoption of this amendment. It prohibits the utilization of any of these funds that are in the Defense appropriations bill to be used to contravene the Defense of Marriage Act.

I yield back the balance of my time.

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
Washington, DC, September 30, 2011.

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF
THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS—
CHIEFS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES
SUBJECT: Military Chaplains

In connection with the repeal of Section 654 of Title 10 of the United States Code, I write to provide the following guidance, which hereby supersedes any Department regulation or policy to the contrary:

A military chaplain may participate in or officiate any private ceremony, whether on or off a military installation, provided that the ceremony is not prohibited by applicable state and local law. Further, a chaplain is not required to participate in or officiate a private ceremony if doing so would be in variance with the tenets of his or her religion or personal beliefs. Finally, a military