

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, almost a quarter of the United States' energy-related greenhouse gas emissions are from fossil fuels that are produced from our Federal lands and waters. However, recent Government Accountability Office reports show that we don't have very good data on much of these emissions, including the methane gas that is released that is leaked, vented, and flared.

The first step on the path to reducing carbon pollution is simply to know what we are dealing with: What are the greenhouse gas emissions, and where are they coming from? That is why I am pleased to introduce a common-sense, bipartisan bill with my friends in the Climate Solutions Caucus and the congressional Safe Climate Caucus, which would simply require the Department of the Interior to calculate and publish, online, the amount of climate-damaging greenhouse gas pollution from oil, gas, and coal extracted from our Federal lands and waters.

I urge the chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources to move swiftly to hold a hearing on this bipartisan bill and provide the American people with the transparency around energy production that they deserve.

PHYSICIAN SHORTAGES

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

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, a recent study in the American Medical Association found that, in the next 10 years, we could be facing a shortage of over 100,000 physicians. To help combat this extreme doctor shortage, I have introduced the GO MED Act.

My bill would implement a program to reallocate unused medical residency slots paid for by Medicare on a rolling basis to States feeling the worst effects of the physician shortage. It is widely accepted that where medical residents learn, they stay and practice.

But in 2014, Medicare only paid for 137 residency slots in my State; whereas, the top 25 States average over 3,000 positions. That is because of an outdated system. We don't have opportunities for students to stay in Nevada.

Nevada isn't the only State getting shortchanged. The top five States receiving funds through this program account for nearly half of what is spent annually.

If we are serious about addressing access to care, my bill is a step in the right direction.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Moultrie, Georgia, May 15, 2016:

Jordan Croft, 22 years old;
Reid Williams, 21;
Jones Pidcock, 21;

Jonathan Edwards, 21;
Alicia Norman, 20.
Vallejo, California, February 11, 2013:
Oscar Garcia, 22 years old.
Jackson, Mississippi, March 7, 2013:
Ronald Williams, 33 years old;
Kendra Hill, 28.
New Port Richey, Florida, February 9, 2015:

Louis Wayne Lunceford, 44 years old;
Shane Newland, 42;
Justin Huckeby, 25.
Fremont, Ohio, March 9, 2014:
Ramiro Sanchez, 28 years old;
Police Officer Jose Andy Chavez, 26;
Daniel Ramirez, 25.
Douglasville, Georgia, February 7, 2015:
Latoya Andrews, 33 years old;
Joseph Terry Brown, 33;
Jeremiah Andrews, 9;
London Andrews, 7.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HOWARD AREA LIONS CLUB

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Howard Area Lions Club located in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District.

The Howard Area Lions Club recently celebrated their 40th anniversary. The club has consistently earned the recognition as the largest Lions Club in Pennsylvania. There are probably many factors that have led them to this title, but none more significant than their commitment to the Lions Club motto, "We serve."

The members of this club have served as the chartering organization for Howard Scout Troop 353. I have been honored to serve as a Scoutmaster of their troop since they first assumed this responsibility.

The Howard Area Lions operates a food bank that provides access to food for those struggling to make ends meet, including driving food to those individuals that have limited transportation. Very few community needs are addressed in the local community where the Lions are not a part of the solution.

Mr. Speaker, as a fellow Lion, I am honored to offer my congratulations to the members of the Howard Area Lions Club. I am confident they will continue to serve the needs of their neighbors and communities.

WE ARE UNWAVERING IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL

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

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I stand in support of the bilateral military aid package agreed upon by our Nation and the State of Israel this week.

Israel, our greatest ally in the Middle East, faces threats from all sides:

shells from Syria are landing in the Golan Heights; Hamas terrorists are stockpiling weapons in Gaza; Hezbollah fighters are gathering in Lebanon; and ISIL is fighting for control of the Sinai.

Yet, surrounded by this chaos and terror, Israel is still dedicated to democracy, liberty, and justice—the same ideals we live by as Americans. This is why our relationship is so strong and why we must continue to support Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state.

This aid agreement makes it crystal clear to our enemies and allies that we are unwavering in our support for Israel and will help defend them against all who threaten their sovereignty.

ZIKA REGISTRY PROGRAM FOR WOMEN AND INFANTS

(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, yesterday I introduced the pregnancy and infant Zika registry. This bill will establish a CDC registry program for pregnant women and will track infants up to the age of 5 so that researchers can get a better understanding of the Zika impact.

This registry will collect information on pregnancy and infant outcomes following laboratory evidence of Zika virus infection during pregnancy. The data collected will be used to update recommendations for clinical care, to plan for services for pregnant women and families affected by the Zika virus, and to improve prevention of Zika virus infection during pregnancy.

I invite all my Floridian colleagues and fellow Members to cosponsor this bill. It is a responsible tool to increase our knowledge of Zika and help increase the quality and standard of care for patients.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as we recognize September as Hunger Action Month, I rise to draw attention to the widespread problem of hunger among teenagers.

While our Nation's recovery is progressing, 7 million teens remain food insecure, and we know they often face additional hardships. Today the Urban Institute is briefing Members of Congress and their staff on two new reports that highlight these circumstances and explore how teens cope with hunger.

Among a number of troubling conclusions, the report finds that teens fear the stigma of being hungry and often refuse to accept food or assistance. They skip meals and sometimes turn to dangerous behaviors just so their parents or siblings can eat. They often feel

the need to bear the responsibility for feeding their families.

Teenagers deserve a normal childhood. They should be focused on school and developing their passions, not worrying about where their next meal is coming from. I encourage all of my colleagues to read these reports and join me in working to end hunger now.

□ 0915

PROHIBITING THE TRANSFER OF ANY DETAINEE AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 863, I call up the bill (H.R. 5351) to prohibit the transfer of any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 863, the amendment printed in part A of House Report 114-744 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5351

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON ANY TRANSFER OF ANY INDIVIDUAL DETAINED AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

(a) PROHIBITION.—No amounts authorized to be appropriated or otherwise available for any department or agency of the United States Government may be used during the period specified in subsection (b) to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release to or within the United States, its territories, or possessions, or to any foreign country or entity, of any individual detained at Guantanamo.

(b) SPECIFIED PERIOD.—The period specified in this subsection is the period that—

(1) begins on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) ends on the earlier of—

(A) the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing appropriations for military activities of the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2017; or

(B) January 21, 2017.

(c) INDIVIDUAL DETAINED AT GUANTANAMO DEFINED.—In this section, the term “individual detained at Guantanamo” means an individual located at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as of October 1, 2009, who—

(1) is not a national of the United States (as defined in section 101(a)(22) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22)) or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) and the gentleman from Wash-

ington (Mr. SMITH) will each control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5351.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 5351 offered by Mrs. WALORSKI of Indiana.

H.R. 5351 would temporarily suspend the transfer of detainees held at the detention facility at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. Under this bill, the suspension would last until either the National Defense Authorization Act for the next fiscal year becomes law or until the new President takes office on January 21, 2017.

Mr. Speaker, the circumstances of the last several months have brought the need for such legislation to light.

In 2009, a special panel convened by the Obama administration evaluated every detainee then at GTMO. The Obama administration made it clear at the time that it was lawful for some detainees to be held, without charges, pursuant to the laws of war. Such detainees, the Obama administration believed, included those who had a “significant organizational role with al Qaeda, the Taliban, or associated forces.” Other detainees, the Obama administration believed, should continue to be lawfully held in 2009 included those who had “advanced training or experience,” a “history of associations with extremist activity,” or had “expressed recidivist intent.”

In other cases, the Obama administration has recommended that certain detainees be prosecuted and some sent to other countries. But even for those GTMO detainees to be sent elsewhere, the Obama administration noted that the United States had the legal authority to hold these detainees, and the detainees could still be threatening.

The Obama administration argued then and since that a few selected detainees could be transferred to other countries from GTMO only if “feasible” and “appropriate” security measures could be instituted to mitigate the dangers posed by these very threatening individuals.

Mr. Speaker, this is precisely why this legislation is needed.

Since January, the Obama administration has sent 46 detainees from GTMO to other countries. In August alone, 15 detainees were transferred. I worry that whatever arrangements might exist in the receiving countries will be woefully insufficient to keep the danger at bay. I am concerned that these detainees will again threaten the

United States or our partners, just as other detainees have done. I fear detainees are being hurriedly moved from GTMO in order to fulfill an 8-year-old campaign promise to close GTMO.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a sensible and sound response.

Today, there are 61 detainees in GTMO. The Obama administration has made it clear that at least 20 of these detainees should be sent elsewhere.

H.R. 5351 prevents any GTMO detainee transfers for the next several months. The bill prohibits GTMO transfers to the United States or to other countries until the National Defense Authorization Act for this fiscal year takes effect or until the new administration assumes office, whichever happens first. This means the new President will be able to consider anew the grave risks which GTMO transfers pose. It will also mean that the new administration will know how the provisions of a bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act will govern its actions.

The United States military notes that it is “committed to ensuring detainees are kept in a safe, secure, humane environment” at GTMO. It also reports that “intelligence gained at GTMO has prevented terrorist attacks and saved lives.” A pause in GTMO transfers prevents rash and sudden actions to empty GTMO on an arbitrary and self-imposed deadline.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I strongly support H.R. 5351, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

The gentleman from Virginia described very well the process that the Obama administration put in place in 2009. It was a significant improvement.

The real problem that we had with Guantanamo was, when it was originally conceived as a place to hold detainees under the law of war, there were, at one point, nearly 800 detainees there.

A lot of them were brought there without much in the way of vetting or assurances that they were, in fact, threats. In fact, under the Bush administration, well over 500 of those detainees were released, and there really wasn't much of a process. Somewhere in the neighborhood of over 20 percent of those detainees did return to the battlefield and did present a threat to the country. There simply wasn't a process.

So, as Mr. FORBES described quite well, in 2009, the Obama administration put in place a process. At the time, there were 242 detainees remaining in Guantanamo Bay. The process they put in place was to go through every single one of them and say: Who are these people? What is their threat level? They evaluated all of them and put them into different categories. They determined that some were not a threat and could be released.