

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.J. Res. 19

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.J. Res. 19, a measure originally introduced by Representative Emerson of Missouri, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

STOP THE SEQUESTER

(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, it's been almost 300 days since the House first acted to replace sequestration with targeted reforms that achieve the same level of deficit reduction without harming the economy, yet the Senate has failed to act.

The administration states that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is set to feel the impact of sequestration more than most States yet has offered no constructive plan forward.

The House has put forward two concrete proposals for a commonsense path to deficit reduction that will not harm our national security and will not harm our fragile economic recovery.

We all must make sacrifices in order to reduce the debt and fix Washington, for we can no longer spend \$1 trillion more than we take in each year. Raising taxes to chase after trillion dollar deficits, as the President suggests, is a recipe for economic decline. Spending is the problem.

It's time for the President to stop campaigning and call on the Democratized Senate to act. No more 11th-hour negotiations; no more unnecessary harm to families and small businesses. It's time for us to come together and work on serious solutions.

PROTECTING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FROM THE SEQUESTER

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

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, last week I visited the Salk Institute, a cutting-edge biological research facility whose work has contributed to San Diego's status as the number two life science cluster in the United States. At Salk, I met Dr. Geoff Wahl, a professor who leads a groundbreaking cancer research lab,

and Bianca Kennedy, a breast cancer advocate and survivor.

In fiscal year 2012, San Diego firms received more than \$130 million from the National Science Foundation and \$850 million from the National Institutes of Health. It's these types of investments that have created hundreds of thousands of jobs and bolstered our economy, contributing also to the quality of life for people around the world.

The sequester threatens to undo this progress. The immediate cuts to NIH from sequestration are 8.2 percent, which is equivalent to a cut of \$2.5 billion. This could result in the loss of 33,000 research-related jobs in 2013 and a \$4.5 billion decrease in economic activity.

Let's work together to avert the sequester so we can continue to improve the lives of patients and lead the world in science and technology.

WAYZATA GIRLS NORDIC SKI TEAM

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Wayzata High School girls Nordic ski team.

For the first time in 33 years, the Wayzata girls Nordic skiing program claimed the very top prize at the State competition earlier this month in northern Minnesota.

Wayzata head coach Larry Myers lauded his team's attitude and morale as key to their success this season and at the State competition, but special congratulations also should go out to junior Alayna Sonnesyn and sophomore Anna French, who earned all-State honors at the meet.

Six students from Wayzata's State championship Nordic ski team also were members of the State championship cross-country running squad that captured a State championship title last fall. Each of these student athletes, their parents, and their coaches deserve praise for their dedication and determination.

It's an honor to be able to represent and recognize such great student athletes and the Wayzata School District. Congratulations.

STOP THE SEQUESTER

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, on this coming Friday, March 1, we are going to see budget cuts that will devastate Federal workers, programs, agencies, and private sector contractors. This pending \$85 billion in cuts for this fiscal year alone was intended to be so bad, just so horrible, and cause such widespread damage that they were never intended to take effect in the first place. Yet here we are with an-

other self-inflicted wound as House Republicans continue to ignore Democrats' requests to find a sensible alternative.

In Maryland alone, sequestration will hurt families, including 800 children who will lose access to school readiness programs; 2,100 fewer children receiving lifesaving vaccinations; 12,000 mothers and young children cut from Women, Infants, and Children programs; and 46,000 civilian private sector workers are going to be furloughed. And the list goes on in Maryland and across the country.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake, the GOP, the Republicans rule the roost here in the House, and they can stop these senseless cuts today. It's in their power and the power of the GOP to stop the cuts that are going to cost 900,000 jobs and threaten economic recession. The American people deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I also ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 699, a balanced bill to replace the sequester with spending cuts and revenues.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers as recorded on page 752 of the House Rules Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the gentlewoman's request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

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THE INABILITY TO GOVERN

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, sequestration is a bad idea. I voted "no."

The idea for the sequester came from White House advisers. The President quickly signed the sequester and made it the law of the land. Now he has buyer's remorse. The House, in seeing the error of its ways, repented, and two times replaced the sequestration with rational cuts. The President's siesta Senate, however, ignored the House legislation and went missing in action.

Rather than administer with a smidge less taxpayer money, the President blames others for his fate. This is in spite of his power to determine priorities in spending, so he says the sky is falling because his government cannot operate without more money. He does not have the ability to produce a balanced budget or cut back waste, duplication, inefficiency, or fluff.

As the sequester is upon us, it is time for the President to lead America and govern with less money, but the President only knows one way to rule—tax more, spend more, and scare the people more. This is the inability to govern. And that's just the way it is.

WE MUST AVOID THE SEQUESTER

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, we now have only a matter of days to prevent serious damage to the U.S. economy by the so-called "sequester."

These mindless, across-the-board cuts will hurt the country and my home State of Nevada. There has been a lot of talk that these cuts won't be that bad, but let me tell you about just one school in my district that I visited last week, the Matt Kelly Elementary Empowerment School.

In terms of funding, over 50 percent of its school allocation is title I funding. It is a high-achieving, five-star school, where teachers are doing the best that they can with the little money that they receive, but the sequester would hit them hard. They would have to cut back on full-day kindergarten, fire teachers' aides, eliminate reading and math intervention programs for struggling students, reduce meals to hungry kids, and defund their family community center.

This is a model school that is working hard to improve our students' academic achievement. Now, as their reward, because some in this body can't come to agreement, Congress will take a sledgehammer to their budget.

The sequester is not fair to the children and families in my district. It is not about trimming fat. It is about the children, and that's who we should focus on today in this House.

#### THE SEQUESTER LOOMS

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

Mr. ENGEL. The sequester looms. Programs are going to be cut, and people are going to suffer—and what has this House done today under the Republican leadership? We've passed three bills. We've brought up three bills, one of which is a motion to adjourn, and the other one is a vote on the Journal. What a shame and what a disgrace.

I didn't vote for the sequester law. I thought it was not a good idea—but we have it. The only way we're going to get away from it is if we have a combination of cutting spending and raising revenues.

The President has been fair. He wants to sit down with Republicans and have a balanced bill and close the tax loopholes for Big Oil and other people who have these loopholes but who don't need them. Let the people who can afford to pay more pay a little more. It has got to be a combination.

The American people want us to reach out and meet in the middle. Unfortunately, the Republicans have refused to budge. This is not good for the American people. This is not something that we should be doing. Close the tax loopholes on Big Oil. The American people want to see a compromise.

I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 699, a balanced bill to replace the

sequester with spending cuts and revenues.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

#### SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, we are just days away from an \$85 billion sequester that will result in arbitrary, devastating cuts to our Federal Government.

Despite the looming deadline, this House has not debated any alternative to protect programs that benefit this country's most vulnerable populations—our seniors, our students, and our middle class. Our fiscal house may be in disarray, but targeted decisions, not wholesale cuts, are needed.

This is the opportunity to come together—for both sides to roll up their sleeves and find a way forward. This is the moment to take a balanced, measured approach to deficit reduction that reduces spending thoughtfully and increases revenue responsibly. I know there is common ground between the sides; but it won't be found unless, together, Democrats and Republicans get to the table and prevent these across-the-board, irresponsible cuts. No two programs are the same, and no difficult decision should be made without thoughtful deliberation. There is no excuse for not sitting down and bridging the gap. Hardworking families everywhere are counting on it.

I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 699, a balanced bill to replace the sequester with spending cuts and revenues.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

#### SEQUESTRATION

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Here we go again. Our Nation is on the brink of disaster because Congress has created another manmade disaster. Let me repeat—not Congress. House Republicans have created another manmade disaster. I haven't talked with anyone—from business leaders, to children's advocates, to AARP and senior citizen groups—who think Congress is doing a good job.

Just last year, the Republicans took \$115 billion and handed it over to 6,000 of the wealthiest Americans in the form of tax cuts. At the same time, they cut health care funding for needy children and their families. I have a list of cuts and how they're going to affect children, senior citizens, and the FAA.

Do you know what? You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time.

In closing, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 699, a balanced bill to replace this cutting and spending disaster.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

#### SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. GALLEG0 asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GALLEG0. I rise today to speak out against this manufactured monster that we know as sequestration—across-the-board cuts that hurt our economy and jeopardize our families.

In small-town west Texas, when there is a fire, everyone works together to put the fire out, and no one focuses on how the fire started or who started the fire until after the fire is out. Here and now in Washington, many folks are more focused on who is to blame for the sequester than in trying to do anything about it or, worse, they use inflammatory rhetoric to add fuel to the fire.

Meanwhile, here is what Texas is facing: 159,000 jobs lost; more than 16,000 Air Force personnel furloughed, hurting Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio and Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio; 11,000 civilian employees at Fort Bliss, who could be furloughed in El Paso—and the biggest single threat to border security, that would be sequestration.

I represent the district with the largest border—Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Presidio, Fabens. Here, Border Patrol overtime is canceled, and workers are being furloughed. If you thought the lines of the border were long before, just wait.

Mr. Speaker, not having a vote this week is a decision by some in Congress for decreased border security, job loss and furloughs; and it devastates local communities and the State of Texas.

#### ELECTING CERTAIN MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 82

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE—Mr. Fincher, to rank immediately after Mr. Denham.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS—Mr. Harris.