

and I believe this reform will lower the cost of care while enhancing competition.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AAA BOND RATING

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to celebrate the District of Columbia, one of only eight big cities with a AAA bond rating. Indeed, only 22 of the States have a AAA bond rating.

This outsized performance should encourage Congress to recognize the D.C. budget autonomy law, which would improve D.C.'s credit profile even more.

Fully respecting D.C.'s budget autonomy also would mean lower taxes and less Federal funds the District needs from the Federal Government. I have already gotten the rating agencies to count as a positive to D.C.'s credit rating my annual provision in the D.C. appropriation exempting D.C. from the threat of shutdowns when the Federal Government shuts down.

Seven-hundred thousand D.C. residents pay the highest Federal taxes per capita in the United States. The rating agencies have awarded D.C. for "exemplary fiscal governance."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to do the same by recognizing D.C.'s budget autonomy over its own 100 percent local budget.

REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE HOUSE FOR ONE MINUTE

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GALLAGHER). The Chair will not entertain more than one 1-minute request per Member per day.

COMMONSENSE GUN LEGISLATION

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

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, on August 14, it will be 6 months since the Parkland shootings. It has been 5 years since the Sandy Hook shootings. It has been 25 years since the Long Island Railroad massacre. And it has been 37 years since President Reagan was shot.

We need commonsense gun legislation in this country, legislation that the vast majority of Americans support, legislation to plug some of the holes in our commercial background checks.

The good news is that high school students and college students in my district are calling attention to this very important issue. I have been meeting with them throughout the year. They come to me and tell me what it is like when there is a fire alarm in their district.

When I was a kid and there was a fire alarm at school, we would be excited to go outside and see our friends and talk to people. Instead, when they hear a fire alarm, they figure out: Where can I hide? Where can I go if this turns out to be a catastrophe?

These students deserve our attention from this body, Democrats and Republicans working together to try to address this very real problem in our country. I am committed to doing it. I hope my colleagues will as well.

□ 1845

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow will be a great day. We will introduce the reauthorization of the historic Violence Against Women Act. We are excited about this introduction because so many women had an opportunity for almost a year and a half, close to 2 years, to discuss, to invest, to make suggestions, and to bring together this collaboration endorsed by the national task force, a bipartisan group of 35 organizations, from religious organizations, to Native American organizations, to organizations that have been on the front lines of protecting women or seeking to stop the violence against women.

We have expanded the rape prevention section, for the rising need for that section as it relates to the #MeToo movement, sexual assault, and sexual harassment.

We are excited by the confidentiality provisions that indicate that Federal and State agencies that are receiving grants must maintain the confidentiality of those who have been victims.

Mr. Speaker, we invite the entire House of Representatives to join us on this historic occasion and support the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which will be introduced in the very near future, tomorrow.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF GOV- ERNING BY CONTINUING RESO- LUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the body and my colleagues for joining me today in highlighting the negative impact that continuing resolutions have on our Nation's military, on our national security, and on how this Nation addresses the challenges in our military.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I would argue that, if you were to come up with a way not to run a government, if you were to come up with a way not to run a business, you would come up with a continuing resolution.

We know how problematic those continuing resolutions are for this Nation. They damage our military readiness. They damage us being able to make long-term decisions. They put our sailors, our marines, our soldiers, and our airmen at risk.

This is not the way for this Nation to do business. Yet, year after year after year, we find ourselves without appropriations bills being done on time. We find ourselves facing government shutdowns. We find ourselves passing continuing resolutions in order to continue government operations.

This is not the way for us to conduct this Nation's business. It is not what our military needs. It is not what we must do to make sure there is certainty in the future for what this Nation must do under Article I, Section 8 of our Constitution.

I have been asked by a number of folks why we need to spend these dollars on our Nation's military, especially to you, ROB WITTMAN, because you are a fiscal hawk. Tell us why the spending is necessary.

Well, I can say this: We have been through, now, almost 8 years of the continuing resolution facade that is brought to us under the guise of sequestration. The Budget Control Act of 2011 was supposed to be the avenue to make the tough decisions on spending in this body. Yet, that didn't happen. And here we are, facing these automatic budgets cuts every year for our Nation's military.

Instead of making those tough decisions or setting the sequester aside, we find ourselves in a situation where, each year, it is another continuing resolution.

I would argue that this is absolutely avoidable. It is avoidable by this body making decisions on time to get appropriations bills passed out of the House, get all those done prior to this body going home for August recess. I want to make sure that those things get done.

I have come to the realization, too, that this body has a variety of choices. It can make the choice to properly fund our Nation's military. It can make the choice to get appropriations bills done on time. It can make the choice to avoid this.

I would argue that, in order to become a more effective and efficient government, these choices have to be made. I would argue that it is actually Members of Congress who should suffer