

I encourage my colleagues to imagine how many babies' lives we can save by simply investing in the right programs to prevent their deaths. Please join me in cosponsoring this bill and supporting its swift enactment into law.

DAYCARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of working families across the country who are trying to make ends meet.

As a mother, a grandmother, and someone who has employed moms and dads, I know that raising a family is a great joy, but it can also be a great source of anxiety. Children are a blessing, but raising a family introduces serious challenges and costs.

In Missouri, the average annual cost of center-based infant care is estimated to be \$8,632. That is \$719 a month. Infant care in Missouri costs \$634 more per year than in-state tuition at a 4-year public college, and it is unaffordable for so very many families.

According to a study published by the Economic Policy Institute, a daycare center for two children—an infant and, say, a 4-year-old—costs \$17,940. That is 102 percent more than the average rent in Missouri. A typical family in Missouri has to spend a shocking 30 percent of their income on daycare for their two children.

In fact, it is estimated that the cost of childcare for two children exceeds annual median rent payments in every State. Paying for childcare is just plain hard for every working family I have spoken with in the State of Missouri.

In the 1970s, Congress heard America's families loud and clear and created the dependent care flexible spending accounts. These accounts allow parents to contribute pretax dollars to pay for qualified out-of-pocket dependent care expenses.

They are not only for children. These accounts can also be used to pay for adult dependents who use adult daycare, eldercare or similar services.

It is a great program, but it has not kept up with the needs of today's families. Despite rising childcare costs, Congress has not raised the FSA contribution cap since 1986. That is why, this week, I am introducing the Child and Dependent Care Modernization Act.

This bill will modernize the maximum amount a family can contribute to dependent care flexible spending accounts to track with the real costs of dependent care today. It will also index the maximum contribution limit so that the value of an FSA will increase in the future as dependent care costs increase.

Another challenge that many families enrolled in an FSA experience is the "use-it-or-lose-it" rule. If parents don't use the full balance in their FSA

before the year ends, they forfeit their unused money, limiting the ability of parents to save for ongoing costs of care. My bill will allow unused funds to roll over into the next plan year and return a little more freedom and flexibility to America's families.

This bill is part of my legislative work to make the lives of Missouri's families just a little easier. I look forward to introducing this legislation and working with my colleagues to make it law.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Dr. Brad Jurkovich, First Bossier, Bossier City, Louisiana, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, we come before You today fully aware that we face tremendous challenges and tremendous opportunities as a nation. Your word says in Proverbs 2:6, "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."

As we prepare to debate, discuss, and discern the right solutions and strategies for this great Nation, we ask You, God, to give us Your wisdom, Your knowledge, and Your understanding.

I pray for every leader here today that they know the power and presence of God is real and that there are millions of Americans praying for them to be men and women of courage, character, and conviction.

I pray the decisions that come from this place be those that honor You, Lord, and bless the people of this land. Help us, O God, to be a nation that stands strong for freedom for our generation and the generations to come.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROUZER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING DR. BRAD JURKOVICH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to introduce my pastor and friend, Dr. Brad Jurkovich, as our guest chaplain. He has led us in prayer this morning, and we are so grateful to have him.

Pastor Brad is the senior pastor of the First Baptist Church of Bossier City, Louisiana. First Bossier is a multigenerational church dedicated to reaching families throughout north Louisiana, America, and the world. Our motto is: Every person, every family, experiencing Christ in every way.

Pastor Brad received his bachelor of arts in biblical studies and his master of divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. He received his doctor of ministry degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He and his lovely wife, Stephanie, have four awesome children: Cassidy, Carter, Caroline, and Catherine.

Pastor Brad is a gifted speaker and a leader with a true servant's heart who loves Jesus and seeks to share the message of salvation with everyone he meets. He is a man committed to reaching this generation with the hope of Christ.

It is an honor to have him here today to ask God's blessings over us, our work, and our Nation at this historic time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to help me in welcoming my friend and pastor, Dr. Brad Jurkovich.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALBERG). The Chair will entertain up

to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SOMETHING MIRACULOUS IS HAPPENING IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about something miraculously happening in California.

For the first time in decades, we are on the verge of building new infrastructure for our water. We have been waiting since 1979 to actually build something new.

Last Friday, with the signing, Shasta, a big improvement raising the spillway 630,000 new acre feet of water, and now, next week, passing the WRDA bill, which is actually the New WATER Act financing for Los Vaqueros, Sites, and Temperance Flat, it is time to build things in California and save our number one industry, agriculture.

These are real solutions and real dollars. We are going to get it built.

AFTERMATH OF HURRICANES IRMA AND MARIA

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about an important forum my colleagues and I will be hosting tomorrow.

While this month of September marks the 1 year anniversary of Hurricanes Irma and Maria making landfall in the Virgin Islands as a Category 5 storm, the aftermath of the storm is still an everyday reality. According to the Hurricane Recovery and Resiliency Task Force report summary, total damage is estimated at \$10.8 billion.

Earlier this month, I visited local schools as they opened for the new school year, and the conditions are troubling. The Virgin Islands Board of Education reported a drop of almost 40 percent in student enrollment, and Puerto Rico's Department of Education closed 265 schools last summer in the aftermath of the hurricanes.

Only 19 of the 33 public schools throughout the territory reopened on time, and many of those are in no shape for learning: a lack of school supplies and classroom resources for students; students resorting to either standing or sitting on crates, floors, and desks; libraries with few or no books; and unfinished construction.

Let's not be fooled, however. The level of damage to the schools in the Virgin Islands is due, in part, to the continual cuts over the years to the children of the Virgin Islands' education by funding from this body, the U.S. Congress.

On Thursday, September 27, I and other congressional Democrats will host a forum to discuss the state of public education and related recovery

efforts in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The forum's most important mission will be to discuss new ideas and plans to speed up the recovery process to place our schools in a better economic state. We must do better.

AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE FLORENCE

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

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, as everyone knows, southeastern North Carolina has experienced one of the most devastating hurricanes to hit our State in recent memory.

The eye of Hurricane Florence made landfall in Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, and then proceeded to slow walk down the coast before turning inland, resulting in historic flooding, massive power outages, and devastating destruction to homes, businesses, and farms. Sadly, this storm has taken the lives of at least 35 North Carolinians to date.

What has transpired in my district is truly heartbreaking. But in the face of diversity, we have come together stronger than ever.

I want to make special mention and thank all the first responders; linemen; emergency, military, and medical personnel; as well as the elected officials at all levels, local business leaders, the news media, and all the countless numbers of citizens who are volunteering to help our communities by opening their hearts and wallets to those who need it.

I also thank President Trump and his administration for their rapid response and commitment to helping all those who have been affected. Working together, we will build our communities back stronger than ever, make no mistake about it.

TARIFF CONSEQUENCES

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I have spoken before about how businesses in my district, large and small, are suffering under the President's tariffs that are raising costs and increasing uncertainty.

But the damage of the Trump administration's trade policy goes beyond the business community. Here is one example. This week, I learned a public middle school in my district has to dip into its contingency funds to cover the \$2 million in unbudgeted cost increases for its new addition and remodeling project, caused by President Trump's tariffs.

Let me repeat that. This school or, more precisely, local taxpayers now face \$2 million in additional costs, not for new classrooms, but rather to cover the extra costs of the President's trade war.

I have also heard from seniors in my district worried about tariffs accelerating the cost of prescription drugs, including insulin, antidepressants, MRI machines, artificial joints, and pacemakers, to name just a few.

Put simply, President Trump's tariffs are not working for the American people. It is time to instead end the misguided trade war and enact sensible, enforceable trade policies that support American workers, American businesses, American intellectual property, and our environment.

HONORING A KOREAN AND AMERICAN HERO

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the passing of Major General Sun-Ha Lim, who passed away on July 22.

Throughout his life, he defended the Republic of Korea and the free world from communism. As a second lieutenant, he helped form the U.S. Korean Constabulary, a Korean government loyal to the United States.

He then continued his service in the Republic of Korea's Army. His exceptional battlefield leadership led him to be promoted to the rank of major general during the Korean conflict. He commanded the Republic of Korea's 3rd Infantry Division, playing an instrumental role in pushing the North Korean forces back and restoring the 38th parallel.

After coming to the U.S. with his family later in life, General Lim advocated for the recognition of the U.S. Korean Constabulary.

General Lim was recognized on numerous occasions for his inspiring leadership. President Eisenhower honored him with the Legion of Merit in the Commander degree, the highest U.S. military honor given to foreign combatants. He was awarded with the Republic of Korea's Order of Military Merit in the 1st Grade, which is their highest decoration for military valor.

General Lim was a beloved member of the South Korean community here in Omaha, renowned by U.S. Korean war veterans in the metro area, and he was my friend.

SOUL OF OUR COUNTRY IS IN JEOPARDY

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the soul of our country is in jeopardy and in question. It couldn't be more directly seen than in the Senate on Thursday with the hearings for Judge Kavanaugh.

The two most pressing issues that will be heard are the #MeToo movement and respect for women and their safety from sexual assault, and the