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And I don't know what those terrorists have planned when they come across the border, or when those people storm the gates. But I do know we have a responsibility—that I can't get everything I want—a responsibility that we find security, and that we protect our own border security at the same time.

I think there is a window that we can do this. I don't want to do it alone. So my plan was to do it with the gentleman. If he is saying to me he can't, then I am going to have to change my plan, just as we had to do when it came to the children's health insurance. We were not going to let that lapse. Just as it happened when you were going to shut the government down over DACA; we weren't going to let that happen.

We believe the government should stay open. So that is my plan. Will you join with us? Will you make sure that we don't shut down? Will you make sure that we make America stronger and safer for the future?

I don't want to leave work for the gentleman to get done. He is excited about his majority. I want him to be successful. I may smile for the challenge that he is going to have with some people I see coming in, and I will be right over here to debate where we disagree; but when we agree, I will be right there with him, and I will find compromise in every part I can.

I think this is a window to show—even to all those new freshmen, even to those who are leaving and these could be some of their last votes—that we did the very best with the moments that we had for the future of this country.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, what I hear is that the majority leader's plan is that we give up. Ninety-nine percent of the Homeland Security bill, I presume and believe, is directed at securing our borders. We have agreed with 99 percent of it, probably 99.9 percent of it. That is probably not true in dollar value.

But the plan is for us to give up because 99 percent is not good enough for us to agree with. It has got to be 100 percent. If that is the plan, it is not going to work.

The bill has not been brought to this floor, ever, this year. It is worthy of debate as to how we keep our borders most secure. As I have said, many Republicans, including, very frankly, the second ranking member of the Senate on the Republican side, have questions about the wall. He is from Texas. A lot of Texans think the wall doesn't make sense, Republicans and Democrats. Maybe not all, but some. But if the plan is we just give up after agreeing to 99 percent, that is no plan at all.

Unless the gentleman wants to say more, I am going to yield back.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of the season, I have a little gift for the gentleman from Maryland. It

comes from a little shop in my hometown, family-owned. They are excited about what we have been able to do this Congress. It is a little candy that might sweeten his spirit, and he might even be more likely to work with us to solve the problem.

Merry Christmas.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority leader.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, I have a serious suspicion—I trust the majority leader, but I believe that gift was probably purchased by Judy, his wonderful, beautiful wife.

I yield back the balance of my time.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

S. 3749. An act to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, review, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment, and for other purposes.

FINAL FLOOR REMARKS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is going to be my last time up here. You all are great, and it is a pleasure to talk to you.

Someone once told me that being at the House of Representatives was a different kind of hell. So, when I was sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives 27 years ago, I said that I had survived hell on Earth at the infamous Hanoi Hilton and the Texas House of Representatives, and that I guess I had gone from hell to hell to hell.

While there have been some hellish long nights here—and days—what I will remember is how thankful I am to have had the opportunity to serve America and defend freedom from the Halls of Congress.

I thank all of the constituents of my Third District of Texas, thank all of my colleagues and friends in this room, and thank my country. Serving in the Congress has been one of the highest honors of my life.

We live in the greatest country in the world, and don't forget it. If I leave any legacy behind, I hope that it is one of service above self.

God bless you. God bless America. I salute you and this great Nation.

PUERTO RICO STATEHOOD

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to stand today in solidarity with my sister, "mi hermana," ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, in calling for what is long overdue: statehood for Puerto Rico.

The residents of Puerto Rico, more than 3 million strong, have been U.S. citizens for more than 100 years, yet they continue to be denied equal rights, including voting representation in this body.

This inequality has consequences. As we saw so vividly in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico has faced injustices that no U.S. State would have to endure.

The Puerto Rican people have demonstrated their preference for statehood repeatedly, and they should be given a chance to cast a straightforward vote whose results will be respected: yes or no on statehood.

My departing colleague from south Florida will be greatly missed in this cause, and in so many others, but I know she will continue the fight as a private citizen. I will fight twice as hard in her absence to ensure equality for Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans once and for all.

I will miss you, friend. "Te voy a extranar, amiga."

SUPPORTING PUERTO RICO STATEHOOD

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague and good friend DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ's Spanish was perfect, "perfecto."

As she has pointed out, I have long supported the cause of statehood for Puerto Rico, but the lack of action on our part has kept Puerto Rico from having a voice and a vote on this very floor, which is imperative for our great democracy.

For over 100 years, the people of Puerto Rico have been proud American citizens. Plebiscite after plebiscite, Puerto Ricans have voted that they will no longer accept the territory status.

Statehood will promote economic development and jobs on the island so that these American citizens can have a better life and stop losing its people to the mainland after the devastating impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Congresswoman JENNIFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN—that is her proper title, that is what it should be—whom I am proud to call my friend, has made statehood for Puerto Rico her priority, urging Republicans and Democrats alike, as you have heard, to act. We must listen and we must do what is right.

As chairman emeritus of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I recognize that statehood will enhance our national security, serving as our Nation's third border in the Caribbean.