

2019, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 265) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 266) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 267) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

WALL WON'T SOLVE DRUG PROBLEM

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, the President's demand for \$5 billion for a wall won't stop the drug trade, and here is why: The drugs will keep flowing in here, due to NAFTA and CAFTA's exploding continental trade resulting from U.S. jobs being shipped south of our border and the goods they produce down there being transshipped back here with an endless flow of trucks, planes, ships, and railcars. Colombian drug cartels figured this out when NAFTA came along.

Madam Speaker, I have a story from last Friday's Wall Street Journal, entitled: "'El Chapo' Jury Told of Cartel's Tricks, From Submarines to Laundry Carts." Two characters among the most significant drug traffickers ever extradited to our country are undergoing trial.

They explain how massive amounts of cocaine and methamphetamines were ferried from Colombia through Mexico into major U.S. cities and how the cartel hired families from the United States to drive down through El Paso into Mexico and bring back contraband material hidden in compartments in their cars. This is a shot of Laredo, Texas, just one of hundreds of portals into our country.

Madam Speaker, the trucks go for miles from the control point all the way back. This is how the majority of contraband material comes into this country, through those portals of entry. A wall will not solve the major reason these materials end up in this country.

2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA TOUR

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I hosted press conferences for a 2019 agenda in the Midlands, Aiken, and Barnwell with my wife, Roxanne.

I am grateful for the 2018 successes of serving as Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee chairman to rebuild the military, leading the House delegation to open the Embassy in Jerusalem, and tax cuts creating jobs with record-high middle-class income.

In 2019, I will work to create jobs and economic growth, support conservative alternatives, achieve foreign affairs opportunities, and promote our military and veterans. Building on bipartisan successes, I am confident this year we can be productive for American families.

Congratulations to the Clemson Tigers for their victory for the national championship. Coach Dabo Swinney and Quarterback Trevor Lawrence are an inspiration for the youth of America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

WE NEED TO OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I met with a group of Federal workers in Tacoma to discuss the impacts of the government shutdown. One of the folks there was a prison guard. She told me that, without her paycheck, she didn't know if she could pay for childcare or for the prescriptions she needs after successfully fighting cancer just last year.

Because of this shutdown, that is the conversation that is unfolding across 800,000 kitchen tables as Federal workers try to figure out how to scrape together mortgage payments and rent payments, trying to make due without a paycheck.

This crisis doesn't just impact Federal workers. It hurts entire communities. It hurts the economy around Olympic National Park, such as hotel owners and restaurateurs, when people cancel their visit to the park because of the shutdown. It affects college students, prospective home buyers, and small business owners who won't have access to Federal loans because of this shutdown.

Madam Speaker, while we can have a legitimate discussion about immigration reform, America doesn't need a wall. It doesn't need a 5th century answer to a 21st century challenge. America needs an open government. The Senate and the President can and should make this happen right now.

EMERGENCY DECLARATION: BUILD THE WALL

(Mr. PALAZZO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, the American people are sick and tired of our porous borders and of the inability of Washington to get things done.

Every day that we fail to secure these borders, more drug runners, human traffickers, and violent criminals enter our communities. It is time we quit playing politics and give the American people what they want and what they voted for.

Although President Trump has certainly pushed the topic into the spotlight, the idea of a wall is nothing new. We have been talking about a wall for decades. This is not a work in progress. This is a failure of leadership.

Presidents, Republican and Democratic alike, have failed to secure our border. It is time for the President to take emergency action. And make no mistake: Our border security absolutely constitutes a national emergency.

Every day, our brave soldiers are breaking their backs to support our national security across the globe, yet we can't secure our own country here at home. If you were to ask any of them what the priority in this Nation is, I think you would receive resounding support for a border wall and border security.

We simply cannot continue to operate as we have. The time has come for our President to take decisive action, and I urge him to do everything in his power to build this wall.

HELP SOLVE THE GUN CRISIS

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Madam Speaker, on November 7, 12 lives were stolen from us during the shooting at the Borderline Bar & Grill in my district. As our community began to reckon with this tragedy, I said: "Today we mourn. Tomorrow we work to end the senseless gun violence ravaging our Nation."

But we didn't even have time to recover from our shock before wildfires raged through our community. Our trauma was made unthinkable worse, but we were also united by these dual tragedies, united in reflection and healing.

My community knows that there is no single solution to ending mass shootings, but we also know that to do nothing, to not even try, would be unimaginable. We cannot bring back those lives lost, but we can take sensible action to find solutions that will make the lives of our constituents better and safer.

One very obvious, commonsense solution that more than 90 percent of this country supports is universal background checks. H.R. 8 will not solve all of the gun violence that is ripping our Nation apart, but it will help. That is