

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

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a monumental occasion for this Chamber. For the first time in decades, this body will take up major legislation to address the epidemic of gun violence in this country. I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 8, bipartisan legislation to require a background check on every gun sale or transfer.

I know the vast majority of my constituents support this step, including Renae Greg, a woman from Carlsbad, who was simply trying to enjoy a country concert when she was forced to dodge bullets at a Las Vegas shooting.

I know that Lonna Leghart, a constituent from Vista, supports this commonsense legislation. Her sister Kimberly, tragically, lost her life as a result of gun violence in my district.

It is on their behalf and on behalf of all Americans who are impacted by daily gun violence in this country that I will support H.R. 8, and I hope all of my colleagues will stand with us.

There is so much more that we need to do to fully address the epidemic of gun violence, but today it is a huge step for Renae, Lonna, and families across this country.

REVERSE PRESIDENT TRUMP'S EMERGENCY DECLARATION

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the President has set a dangerous precedent by crying wolf in the name of national emergency.

I represent parts of the southern Arizona border. My community knows the border. We know the further away from the border you live, the more fictional the border narrative.

Border crossings are down to one-fifth of what they were in 2000, and apprehensions are at their lowest level in more than four decades. Those are facts.

Instead of protecting our national security, the President's declaration makes America less safe. The President is stealing billions from high-priority military construction projects that ensure our troops have the essential training and resources they need to keep the American people safe.

We will not sit by when the President abuses his power. I am confident that my Republican colleagues will regret supporting this false national emergency when there is a Democrat in the White House.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 25, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAME SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that the Committee on Energy and Commerce has been served with a subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is not consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, JR.,
Chairman.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 46, TERMINATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY DE- CLARED BY THE PRESIDENT ON FEBRUARY 15, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 144 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 144

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 46) relating to a national emergency declared by the President on February 15, 2019. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. The provisions of section 202 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622) shall not apply during the remainder of the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress to a joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared by the President on February 15, 2019.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the Rules Com-

mittee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 144, providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 46, relating to a national emergency declared by the President on February 15, 2019.

The rule provides for consideration of the legislation under a closed rule. The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Additionally, the rule provides that the provisions of section 202 of the National Emergencies Act shall not apply during the remainder of the 116th Congress to a joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared by the President on February 15, 2019. This provision was included to avoid privileged legislative action on redundant resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, today we must stand up for democracy; we must stand up for the rule of law; and, most importantly, we must stand up for the United States Constitution, the Constitution that we took an oath to defend when we were sworn into office.

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution we swore to defend granted Congress the power of the purse. That means Congress decides how we spend the American people's hard-earned money.

Congress spoke when we passed, and President Trump signed, a spending bill that granted him \$1.4 billion for fencing along the border. Now President Trump is acting like a dictator by ignoring Congress and declaring a national emergency. As a result, billions of taxpayer dollars would be taken from high-priority military construction projects that ensure our troops have the essential training, readiness, and quality of life necessary to keep the American people safe.

Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I have visited countries where the rule of law takes a backseat to the whims of their Presidents. Just look at Venezuela, where Nicolas Maduro has removed every single obstacle to his power.

When he objected to the rulings of the judges, he ended their terms early and replaced them with his political allies. When the democratically elected congress didn't agree with him, he created a new congress filled with his supporters.

Last year, he even banned prominent opposition leaders from running into the Presidential election. He has demonized the press and even took CNN en Espanol off the air. Last night, he detained one of America's journalists, Jorge Ramos, of Univision.

Fighting with judges, manipulating elections, attacking the press. Mr. Speaker, does any of this sound familiar?

Now you have a situation where food is so scarce that the average Venezuelan has lost 24 pounds in the last year and more than 3 million have fled the country. The Maduro presidency, now that is a true national emergency for the people of Venezuela.