

Mr. FERGUSON. 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 pro tempore. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. BRINDISI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BRINDISI 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.

DEMOCRACY REFORM

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I started in this business as a college student. Inspired by what was happening with the civil rights movement, I worked on the campaign to lower the voting age to 18 in my home State of Oregon and on the national campaign.

After that, I had the privilege to work on a series of nonpartisan efforts to expand the franchise, to improve voting rights, to streamline access—bipartisan, not particularly controversial.

It has been one of the biggest disappointments of my life to find that the issues that I worked on as a college student continue to vex us. But I am pleased today that we are in the process of advancing H.R. 1, the most significant democratic reform package in a generation.

H.R. 1 will make it easier to vote, regardless of income, ability, geography, or race. It fights to end the dominance of big money in our politics and enacts tougher ethics standards to ensure public officials actually work for the public.

I am particularly proud of three provisions that I helped incorporate into the bill from our Oregon experience.

Oregon is a pioneer of vote by mail, and bringing that model nationwide paves the way for all States to be able to offer vote by mail and early voting that is secure and verifiable. It even saves money for State and local governments.

We have a provision that has automatic voter registration for individuals interacting with State agencies. They are automatically registered to vote.

And it mandates that paper ballots ensure election integrity and the ability to audit.

I look forward to our moving forward, Mr. Speaker, to be able to deal

with this significant conversation to make sure that we meet our responsibility for the democratic process to function.

HERITAGE MISSION FOR SOUTHEASTERN KANSAS

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

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to encourage the President to sign into law S. 47, the bipartisan lands package, which includes my legislation protecting the Fort Scott National Historic Site in Kansas.

My first piece of legislation, the Fort Scott National Historic Site Boundary Modification Act preserves the legacy of the fort's role in the American frontier. This legislation solidifies the community's contribution to supporting the Union during the Civil War.

Known locally as Lunette Blair, this antique structure is the sole remaining blockhouse that helped repel the Confederate invasion into eastern Kansas. It is only through the stewardship of the Fort Scott community that this blockhouse still stands.

I thank my colleagues in the Kansas delegation for joining me in this heritage mission for southeast Kansas.

BETTER OVERSIGHT OF CABLE AND INTERNET PROVIDERS

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

Mr. BRINDISI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the need for better oversight of cable and internet providers.

Between price increases, slow internet speeds, and baffling fees, customers in all regions of the country, and in my district in New York State, are overcharged by their cable company and don't always get what they have paid for.

For customers on fixed incomes, a sudden jump in the cable bill can put a painful squeeze on other parts of the family budget. Customers in rural areas often find their broadband speeds are not nearly as fast as advertised, if they are lucky enough to have broadband at all. That is why I am introducing the Transparency for Cable Consumers Act.

Under this bill, if a cable or internet company is fined by the State public service commission, the company would be required to report to the FCC what they are charging customers and what they are delivering in return.

By bringing more transparency into the market, we can help increase competition and improve services for consumers across the country.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 5, 2019.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 5, 2019, at 9:31 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 252.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-19)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, with respect to the situation in Venezuela, is to continue in effect beyond March 8, 2019.

The situation in Venezuela continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 with respect to the situation in Venezuela.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 5, 2019.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RICHMOND) at 4 p.m.