

America is a divided nation, and we are fighting for the values that this great country was founded upon. More than anything else we need unity.

Mark 3:24 says: If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. But to find unity, we must put our faith before our politics. We must do what is right for the American people. Why? Because our faith unites us in Christ.

Jesus prayed for us, in John 21:17, that: All of them may be one, Father, just as You are in me and I am in You. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe that You have sent me.

I encourage all Americans to join me in celebrating the National Day of Prayer and humbly come before God to seek his guidance on how we may become one America.

A FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE FUTURE OF CLIMATE ACTION

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it was an honor to preside over the House during the debate on H.R. 9 yesterday to uphold our commitment to the Paris climate accord, our first real piece of climate legislation in over 9 years. It may have been an honor, but it was jarring to listen to my Republican colleagues in denial.

For decades, Americans have seen with their own eyes rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and temperature increases, all terrifying prospects for our children and grandchildren, yet Republicans are defending the Trump administration's action to undercut and isolate the United States as the only country to withdraw from the climate accord, placing us firmly on the wrong side of history.

In contrast, I am thankful that today's action demonstrates that Democrats are on the side of protecting our children's future. H.R. 9 is a first step towards a future of climate action and climate justice, a Green New Deal for clean energy jobs, rebuilding and renewing our infrastructure, sustainable agriculture, and environmental justice.

We can't afford to wait, and neither can the planet.

HONORING BEN REIFEL

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, in 1961, South Dakota's Ben Reifel became our Nation's first Lakota Indian in Congress.

He grew up dirt poor in a log cabin in rural Todd County. He dropped out after eighth grade but later graduated from South Dakota State and from Harvard.

Ben Reifel was respected in this Chamber. That gentleman was re-

spected in Indian Country. You see, throughout his career at the Bureau of Indian Affairs and for a decade here in Congress, he worked tirelessly to further economic opportunity for American Indians. Ben Reifel celebrated education, hard work, and self-determination.

Yesterday, I filed a bill asking that Ben Reifel's name be placed on the Mission Post Office. It is my hope that young American Indian boys and girls will see that name and realize that great American leaders have come, and will come again, from that place.

ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act, to ensure that the U.S. remains part of the Paris climate agreement.

Report after scientific report has told us that, when it comes to climate change, we are on a precipice. The status quo leads us over the cliff. The only way back is with immediate and earnest action. That is all of us together.

The Paris Agreement was meant to be a collective first step toward beginning to address climate change. We have a duty to ourselves, to our children, and to the rest of the world to not only join in that step forward, but to lead it.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting H.R. 9.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as National Foster Care Month. This is a time to recognize more than 400,000 foster youth in America. During this month, we renew our commitment to ensuring that every child has a safe and loving home.

Mr. Speaker, I am a member of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, and to this day, I have a foster brother as part of my family. I know firsthand how a loving, supportive home can make all of the difference in a young person's life.

More than 200,000 children enter the foster care system every year, which translates to a child entering care every 2 minutes.

All children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent home. We have a responsibility to continue to create policies that will improve outcomes in the overall well-being of foster youth and their families.

I thank every foster parent, volunteer, and mentor who works to make sure that the needs of our children are

not only being met, but giving them the opportunity to thrive in a loving home.

LEAD ON THE CRISIS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the opportunity we have today to lead on the crisis of climate change.

The climate change crisis is unlike any other that we have faced. It cannot be defeated on the battlefield; it cannot be cured; it cannot be wished away; and it, certainly, can no longer be denied.

What we can do is what we have always done and lead the community of nations to address a problem that would leave our children and their grandchildren with an unbelievable crisis and possibly a planet that they can no longer inhabit.

The Paris climate agreement was a set of targets that we developed that are not mandatory. The Paris climate agreement is about making a statement that this is a problem and a crisis, and that America will lead.

Today, this Chamber has an opportunity to say, yes, we will lead. We will not hide from the problem. We will not let this crisis distract us. We will lead.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 9 today and to send a statement to the world that, as we have always done, we will lead on this global crisis.

RECOGNIZING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join our friends in Israel and in the Jewish communities around the world in recognizing Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day.

President Trump took the unprecedented step of proclaiming this week Holocaust Remembrance Week, and solidarity is one of our strongest allies in the entire Jewish community.

With the recent rise in anti-Semitic rhetoric amongst some, even in this House, it is important that we remember just how horrific and dangerous these ideas truly are.

More than 6 million Jewish people died at the hands of the Nazis during the Holocaust. Many who survived will never be able to escape the horrors of their experience. They emerged into a world that has changed them forever.

But the world has changed since then, too. No longer is that sort of hatred and bigotry to be accepted, and that is what we must affirm on this National Day of Prayer, via prayer, via our actions, for Jewish people as well

as Christians being massacred around the world.

I thank the President for once again reaffirming America's commitment to supporting Israel and the Jewish people. This week, today, and always, we are with you.

□ 0915

HEALTHCARE

(Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss our work in the House to advance innovative solutions to improve access to affordable healthcare for people in my district in New Hampshire and across the country.

Over the past 2 weeks I have had the opportunity to visit with hospitals and providers throughout my district to discuss the challenges facing healthcare in my State. I have heard consistently that the efforts of the Trump administration to sabotage the Affordable Care Act are causing serious anxiety for patients and healthcare providers.

The American people have made clear they want Democrats and Republicans to work together to improve access to affordable healthcare and to abandon the partisanship that has seen protections for individuals with pre-existing conditions threatened and access to healthcare restricted.

I am excited that next week the House will pass innovative legislation that will have a real impact on the lives of hardworking families, including my bill to protect people with pre-existing conditions. We are advancing pragmatic solutions and stabilizing and strengthening the Affordable Care Act.

CELEBRATING OUR NATIONAL LIBRARIES

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, recently we celebrated our national libraries. I rise today to discuss the important role they play across many Kansas communities.

I have visited libraries throughout The Big First, stopping in Manhattan, Salina, Dodge City, Quinter, Great Bend, and Scott City. I recently visited the Marion City Library that was awarded the 2019 five-star honor for its welcoming facility with well-targeted programs.

Communities from Colby to Abilene have partnered with organizations such as the Library of Congress, National Archives, and Smithsonian Institution to shine a spotlight on the great qualities and rich history that is unique to Kansas. These programs, run by our local libraries, are vitally important to our small communities and reached more than 27,000 Kansans in 2018.

I am so proud of our Kansas libraries that are constantly going above and beyond.

CLIMATE ACTION NOW ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 9.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 329 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 9.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN) kindly take the chair.

□ 0917

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 9) to direct the President to develop a plan for the United States to meet its nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement, and for other purposes, with Mr. CASTEN of Illinois (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, amendment No. 20 printed in House Report 116-42 offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MR. KIM

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 21 printed in House Report 116-42.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, line 25, strike “; and” and insert a semicolon.

Page 8, line 5, strike “Agreement.” and insert “Agreement; and”.

Page 8, after line 5, insert the following paragraph:

(3) how the Paris Agreement's loss and damage provisions would affect infrastructure resiliency in the United States.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 329, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise to offer my amendment to H.R. 9.

My amendment is straightforward. This bill requires the President to sub-

mit a plan to Congress to meet our obligations under the Paris accord. This amendment ensures that we do not forget the impact of our infrastructure when addressing the threat of climate change.

We know that climate change is real. We know that we are already feeling its effects and that it will only intensify. Strong scientific research tells us that storms are getting stronger and more frequent. Sea levels are rising, and this poses a direct threat to our coastal communities.

While this bill and the Paris accord take significant steps to address the root causes of climate change, we must be prepared to address the significant impact it is having on our Nation's infrastructure today.

My district in New Jersey was among the hardest hit by Superstorm Sandy. Toms River alone saw \$2.25 billion in property damages, the highest out of any township in New Jersey, and we are still recovering from that storm that hit our State years ago.

In 2017 we saw three of the five costliest storms in our history in Harvey, Maria, and Irma. Rising sea levels are increasing the severity and frequency of flooding and are contributing to beach erosion, posing a major threat to our coastal tourism economy.

Climate change isn't just measured by rising tides and rising temperatures. It is measured by the rising costs that will incur on our communities and the investment needed in infrastructure to keep our communities resilient in the face of that threat.

In the coming months, as we hopefully take up and pass a bold infrastructure package, this amendment will provide guidance towards achieving the infrastructure resiliency our communities need. We know that infrastructure improvements don't only need to come in the form of potholes fixed and bridges rebuilt, they need to lessen the impact of rising storm surges from the next big storm and make sure communities like mine in Ocean County can remain a place for people to raise a family, create jobs, and achieve the American Dream.

The Paris Agreement's loss and damage provision recognizes the importance of updating our infrastructure to help communities deal with the adverse impacts of climate change. I urge that we include this amendment because it is crucial that there is an understanding from top to bottom of the threat that climate change poses and the impact that it will have toward infrastructure resiliency across our country.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and ensure we are not only protecting our climate but the infrastructure we need to support our communities, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.