

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.