



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019

No. 81

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. SHALALA).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 15, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DONNA E. SHALALA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES IS AT RISK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise because I love my country. And still I rise because there is a crisis that has to be addressed.

Madam Speaker, the system of checks and balances that we have instilled within our government, a system that the Framers of the Constitution devised such that there would not be a concentration of power in the

hands of the chief executive officer of the government, in fact, is to prevent a concentration of power in any aspect. There is power that is spread across the government.

There are three branches of the government. I want to focus this morning, if I may, on two—the executive and the legislative—because, Madam Speaker, this morning, as I stand before you, a proud American, I must inform all that the system of checks and balances is at risk.

It is at risk because we now have a President who does not believe that he can or will be impeached. We have a President who refuses to allow Congress to perform its constitutionally accorded oversight responsibilities.

When you have a President who does this, Madam Speaker, you lose the power of Congress. It becomes concentrated in the President. The Presidency becomes a place where power is concentrated because the President has no fear:

He doesn't believe that there are consequences for his going beyond what the Constitution allows;

He will engage in conduct that Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution would prohibit; and

He will engage in impeachable offenses because he knows that the Congress will not impeach him.

It is impeachment that is the ultimate guard against a reckless, ruthless, lawless President; and if we do not exert our authority, this President, knowing that we won't, is capable of doing things that we cannot imagine.

Madam Speaker, it is up to us, the Members of this Congress, to assure that this government continues to have the checks and balances that the Framers of the Constitution intended. If we do not, if Congress does not fulfill its responsibility, we won't have a Presidency. The power will be so concentrated that we will have a monarchy.

The Framers of the Constitution never intended for a President to just totally disregard the Congress. And notwithstanding all that might happen in the courts, notwithstanding all of the subpoenas that may be taken to court and have them litigated properly, the ultimate check on a President is Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution, and that is impeachment when he commits impeachable acts.

We have the Mueller report. It speaks for itself. And there are many constitutional scholars who have said there has been an obstruction to take place.

There are many lawyers who have worked in the Justice Department. They number hundreds now, the lawyers who have signed on, indicating that the President should be beneath the law just as everyone else is, or the law should apply to him. He shouldn't be above the law.

They are indicating that, if we don't act, we are showing the President that he is above the law. He then becomes a monarch, and we then become a weaker form of government.

So I call upon this Congress: Let us do what is expected of us. The Framers of the Constitution gave us the way. They have shown the way. We but only have to have the will, and it is worth it for us to do this because the country is at stake in the sense that the government is at risk.

Madam Speaker, I love my country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECOGNIZING LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H3795

about an organization that is near and dear to my heart: the Lions Clubs International.

I am a member of my hometown organization, the Howard Area Lions Club. The Howard Area Lions Club has consistently earned the recognition as the largest Lions Club in Pennsylvania.

There are probably many factors that have led them to this, but none more significant than their commitment to the Lions Club motto, "We Serve."

The members of my club served as the chartering organization for the Howard Boy Scout Troop 353; and, in the past, I was proud to serve as Scoutmaster of that unit.

Simply put, service is of the utmost importance to the Lions. The clubs are places where individuals can join together to give their valuable time and effort to improving their communities and the world.

Where there is a need, there is a Lion. There are 1.4 million Lions around the world, 47,000 Lions Clubs in more than 200 countries. For more than 100 years, Lions have been serving humanity.

The idea of the Lions Club began in 1917. A 38-year-old Chicago business leader named Melvin Jones told members of his local business club that they should reach beyond business issues and address the betterment of their communities and the world. They agreed.

Three years later, Lions Clubs became an international organization. Melvin Jones inspired generations of people to become civic-minded individuals, dedicated to using their talents and ambitions to improve their communities without financial reward.

Melvin Jones had a personal code: "You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else."

Madam Speaker, service to others is what makes the Lions Clubs International such a powerful force for good in the world.

There are nearly 70 Members of Congress who are involved in service organizations, and that is why I am proud to be working with my colleague Congressman JIMMY PANETTA to establish the Congressional Service Organization Caucus. We plan to launch the caucus soon.

It will support the many operations that are dedicated to giving back to their communities. I encourage my colleagues to join because there are few gifts greater than the gift of time and service to others.

Madam Speaker, Lions Clubs International is on Capitol Hill today to raise awareness about how helpful service organizations are to communities across the Nation.

I am grateful that Lions Clubs around the globe serve millions annually, and I am so proud to be a member of an organization that not only lives up to its remarkable ideals but exceeds them time and time again.

NEWBORN SCREENING SAVES LIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I recently introduced the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act, which will continue the important work of the original bill and expand its critical programs to improve infant health across the United States. Every year, thousands of babies are born with genetic, metabolic, hormonal, and functional conditions that severely affect their development.

Fifty years ago, these rare disorders in infants would have gone undetected until symptoms appeared, often too late to provide them with the essential treatment needed to prevent lifelong disability or even death. Today, we can give newborn babies a simple blood test that can identify such life-threatening genetic illnesses before symptoms appear.

In 2008, Congress passed my original bill, which was a major step toward establishing newborn screening guidelines across the United States. Until that time, only 10 States and the District of Columbia required newborn screening for a complete panel of recommended disorders, and there was no Federal repository of information on these diseases. Today, 49 States and the District of Columbia screen for at least 31 of the 35 currently recommended core conditions.

Each year, with newborn screening, healthcare professionals identify approximately 12,000 babies who test positive for one of these rare conditions. This invaluable early detection allows for timely treatment to prevent long-term damage and severe health complications, which gives babies the opportunity to live relatively normal and healthy lives.

For thousands of mothers and families, this early and simple intervention can also reduce the emotional stress of trying to identify their baby's correct diagnosis.

Investments in newborn screening can also save up to \$1 million over a child's lifetime. This is a significant savings for American families and our financially burdened healthcare system.

While it is true that since the original passage of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, significant advancements have been made in early detection and treatment, serious gaps in newborn screening remain. The Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act will build on the current newborn screening infrastructure and strengthen early detection of preventable disease.

To ensure the quality of laboratories involved in newborn screening, the bill reauthorizes the Centers for Disease Control grants, and it continues HRSA grants to empower parents and health professionals with education and resources to improve newborn screening.

The bill also renews the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children, which maintains and updates the recommended uniform screening panel that States adopt and implement.

The bill funds research to identify new screening technologies and treatments, and a new provision in the bill commissions the National Academy of Medicine to issue recommendations to modernize newborn screening systems into the 21st century.

The Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act will continue to ensure that parents and health providers are knowledgeable about the value of newborn screening, and it will help ensure that infants across the United States receive comprehensive and consistent testing.

A coalition of public health groups, including the March of Dimes, the Association of Public Health Laboratories, the American College of Medical Genetics, and the National Organization for Rare Disorders, support the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act. Their leadership has been critical to advance newborn screening across the United States.

Madam Speaker, newborn screening is one of the most important public health interventions of the 20th century. It is critical that, in the 21st century, we continue and strengthen the programs and research of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act.

I urge my colleagues to sponsor the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act to enhance the lives of hundreds of infants and families each year in the United States.

RECOGNIZING ZANE MOORE OF THE BUCKS COUNTY YMCA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual and organization in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, working to make our community a better place.

Earlier this month, Zane Moore, the president and CEO of the YMCA of Bucks County, walked across the entire county to raise awareness of the positive impact the YMCA has on our neighbors and funding for its programs.

Last Thursday, Zane began his trek at the YMCA in Quakertown, wrapping up at the YMCA in Doylestown. He picked up on Friday where he left off, completing his journey that same day, all the way to the YMCA in Lower Bucks County in Fairless Hills.

Madam Speaker, I applaud Zane and all the local leaders who joined him along the way on his journey. We appreciate the work of the YMCA and all of its efforts to promote education, physical well-being, and recovery programs for those in our community.