



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019

No. 82

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 16, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE 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.

COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH

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 recognize May as Community Action Month.

This year marks the 55th year since the Community Action Network was established to help American families and communities overcome obstacles to poverty. There are more than 1,000 Community Action Agencies across the country that reach children and fami-

lies in 99 percent of America's counties to help provide life-changing services that create pathways out of poverty.

Every year, these agencies help tens of thousands of children and youth with before- and after-school programs; more than 165,000 unemployed people get a job; almost 220,000 families find safe and affordable housing; and about 6.5 million people, including seniors, make their homes more energy efficient and lower their utility bills.

Earlier this spring, I was proud to introduce H.R. 1695, the Community Services Block Grant Reauthorization Act of 2019, with Congresswoman BETTY MCCOLLUM.

This bill renews our Nation's commitment to reducing poverty through locally driven, comprehensive approaches.

Madam Speaker, the Community Services Block Grant traces its roots back more than 50 years ago to the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. This act established local Community Action Agencies to help identify why people were in poverty and how to address it using public and private resources, a great public-private partnership.

These agencies act as a safety net for low-income individuals and families. Even more importantly, they help create opportunities for people to move from poverty to independence. That is the true measure of success as we look at these Community Action Agencies.

The Community Services Block Grant is the only Federal program with the explicit goal of reducing poverty, regardless of the cause. Unfortunately, this program has not been reauthorized in more than 20 years.

Our bill makes important updates that will strengthen the Community Services Block Grant and the network it supports, including:

A new federally administered Community Action Opioid Response Grant that will enable Community Action Agencies to fill service gaps and re-

spond to unmet needs of low-income individuals, families, and communities affected by the opioid or substance abuse crisis;

A provision requiring Federal approval of State applications and plans, with provisions to allow direct Federal funding of local agencies if a State plan fails to meet Federal requirements; and

A renewed commitment to streamlining the program's stated purpose to reduce poverty through support for Community Action Agencies that improve economic security for low-income individuals and families and create new opportunities in the communities where they live.

This bill will help more than 15 million low-income Americans and provide resources necessary to help lift individuals and families out of poverty.

Madam Speaker, it is time to reauthorize the Community Services Block Grant, and I urge all my colleagues to support this bill, especially during Community Action Month.

NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to be recognized by you for this 5 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I rise, and still I rise, because I love my country and because I believe that no one is above the law.

We say that quite religiously here in this institution: No one is above the law.

I have in my hand the "Report on the Investigation into Russian Interference in the 2016 Presidential Election." This document, known as the Mueller report, has been released to the public for some 29 days now.

Since its release, we have had many persons, many of whom are Members of

□ 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.



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