

of this continent to the other from this time forward forevermore.”

Following the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was asked what sort of government the delegates had created. Without hesitation, he responded, “A republic, if you can keep it.”

President Reagan aptly stated that freedom isn’t something passed to our children in the bloodstream.

Preserving our freedom is certainly a responsibility of this generation as any past.

Madam Speaker, I commend those who continue to make these freedoms possible, and I look forward to a future where these freedoms will be defended for generations to come.

DEFEND AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO OVERTURN ACA PROTECTIONS

(Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, currently, 20 Republican-led States are suing to overturn the Affordable Care Act and the protections that it provides.

Rather than defend the law, the Trump administration is siding with these States and arguing the entire law should be overturned. This is an attack on every single American with a pre-existing condition, including 300,000 people in Illinois’ 14th Congressional District.

If the ACA is overturned, insurers will, once again, have the power to refuse coverage to people with pre-existing conditions, like cancer, asthma, heart conditions, and diabetes.

This is a fear for many of my constituents, including Mike DeBow of Shorewood, Illinois, who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at a young age. Mike wrote to me because he is “deathly afraid”—his words—of losing his insurance.

Under the ACA, Mike doesn’t have to worry about being denied coverage for his preexisting condition. He can even stay on his parents’ plan until he turns 26. But if the Republicans’ lawsuit succeeds, 130 million Americans with pre-existing conditions, including Mike, won’t have that peace of mind.

I am proud that my first vote in Congress was to protect the ACA by defending it in court so that Americans like Mike can focus on leading fulfilling lives, not whether their healthcare needs are covered.

TRIBUTE TO ROSS PEROT

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, this week, Texas lost a son and America lost one of our finest patriots. Ross Perot was a leader, risk-taker, and a businessman who embodied the meaning of the American Dream.

Growing up in east Texas in what could be described as extreme poverty, Perot sought to make a difference in the lives of many, and he did just that. He was a leading example of the great things that can happen in this great country.

He left his home to serve our country in the U.S. Navy and later returned to grow his family and build his business empire. He was a self-made man who always remembered his humble beginnings, graciously giving time and resources to causes in both our Texas community and around the world.

He especially loved our men and women in uniform and was one of the first to speak out and do something about the treatment of our POWs.

Perot also long warned us about the dangers of our growing national debt and sought to make politics and the economy less complicated.

Remember that he would say, “It’s just that simple.”

Throughout his life, he prioritized love of his family and his country. We will all remember his service to our Nation and his fun and feisty spirit.

May we all say a prayer for his wife, children, and grandchildren and celebrate the life of this amazing man.

God bless Ross Perot. God bless his family. And God bless our country.

INVESTING IN NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Just this week, I returned from a bipartisan congressional mission to the Middle East that underscored the importance of investing in our national security and, of course, in our men and women in uniform.

This year’s bill is the most robust military authorization in the history of our country and includes a much-needed pay raise for our troops.

I was also proud to add support for the Rock Island Arsenal, which is in my district and has supported our men and women in the military going all the way back to the days of the Civil War.

My amendment would allow Army arsenals to approve leases for underused space and would require the Army to study how they can better market available space on military installations.

The House also approved my amendment to expand important leasing protections for Gold Star spouses and injured servicemembers.

Finally, I amended this bill to recognize cadet nurses as honorary veterans for their patriotic service in World War II.

That is why today I will proudly cast a “yes” vote for this National Defense Authorization Act.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARIAN SPENCER

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

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of a Cincinnati legend and civil rights icon, Marian Spencer.

Ms. Spencer passed away Tuesday at the age of 99. She dedicated her life to shaping the community that she loved, Cincinnati, for the better.

Among her many accomplishments, in 1961, she successfully led the effort to integrate Coney Island, Cincinnati’s premier amusement park at the time. She was also a pioneer in Cincinnati politics, becoming the first woman to lead the local NAACP and the first African American woman elected to the Cincinnati City Council.

Over the years, I had the good fortune to get to know Marian Spencer and learn from her experiences. We both served on the city council back in the 1980s, and she was never shy about sharing her opinions with me. I grew to respect her toughness, her honesty, and her conviction.

Madam Speaker, Cincinnati lost an exceptional leader on Tuesday, but Marian Spencer’s legacy will endure for generations to come.

SUPPORT DEMOCRATS’ AGENDA TO LOWER HEALTHCARE COSTS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, this week, the Trump administration is in court, arguing before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to strike down the Affordable Care Act, including taking away coverage for people with pre-existing health conditions. If the President gets his way, tens of millions of Americans lose their health insurance, including a lot of people I represent in Michigan.

For the 130 million Americans with preexisting conditions, insurance companies would then again be able to discriminate against them and deny them coverage.

That is what happens if the Trump administration prevails. If they gut the ACA, caps on annual and lifetime coverage could come back again, and 800,000 Michiganders will lose coverage.

While the President and his followers seek to roll back to those days when people could be denied coverage because they are sick—think about that, denied coverage because you are sick—we are fighting to continue to bring down the cost of healthcare. We have an agenda that is for the people to reduce the cost of healthcare and make sure no American has that fear.

□ 0915

CONCERN ABOUT NDAA

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express grave concern with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.

Every year, Congress is tasked with funding our military. These funds do everything from feeding our troops to equipping them for combat, to giving them and their families medical care.

Because this funding is of such vital importance for our troops and our national security, these bills normally pass through Congress with wide bipartisan support.

However, despite the President, senior military officials, and a bipartisan Senate all agreeing on a funding level, House leadership has proposed a bill \$15 billion less than what experts say is required.

This bill represents one of the worst political games I have seen in this House. It puts our servicemembers at risk and leaves our entire Nation vulnerable by underfunding personnel accounts, vital modernization initiatives, and deterrence against foreign aggression.

I call upon this House to follow us in this lead to set aside our differences and authorize these programs at the levels needed to protect our troops and our Nation.

EQUAL PAY FOR THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM

(Ms. HAALAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAALAND. Madam Speaker, I stand in support of equal pay for equal work and in celebration of the women's national soccer team.

The team's World Cup victory highlighted a stark reality: There is still work to be done to ensure equal pay for the same work.

Last week, my colleagues and I in the Democratic Women's Caucus wrote to the U.S. Soccer Federation with a simple argument: Our most successful U.S. soccer team in history deserves equal pay.

The work of the women soccer players, coaches, and staff should not be worth less simply because they are women.

The women's soccer team is inspiring young girls everywhere to dream big. We must make sure those girls don't have to worry about equal pay. You shouldn't have to be a record-breaking world champion to get the same pay as your male counterparts.

As Megan Rapinoe said at the victory parade on Wednesday, "We have to be better."

IN REMEMBRANCE OF TIMOTHY McDONALD AND DEB SCHOTT

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

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Timothy

McDonald and Deb Schott, who both tragically perished in a helicopter crash at the Brainerd airport last month.

Both Timothy and Deb dedicated their lives to helping others. Timothy was a medical pilot for North Memorial's Air Care Unit and had previously served in the United States Army. He did two tours in Iraq. Deb was an emergency flight nurse for North Memorial's Air Care Unit. She had worked in the medical field since she was 19 years old.

Timothy and Deb both had outstanding reputations in their respective fields and were both beloved by their coworkers. My thoughts and prayers are with their loved ones.

Madam Speaker, our first responders are often the first on the scene, ready to help in times of crisis. We must never take the work they do or the sacrifices they make for granted.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 2500.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KILLDEE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 476 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. 2500.

Will the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) kindly take the chair.

□ 0919

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. 2500) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with Ms. MCCOLLUM (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose on Thursday, July 11, 2019, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 430 printed in part B of House Report 116-143 offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 437 OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF MISSISSIPPI

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 437 printed in part B of House Report 116-143.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. PROHIBITION ON USE OF DOD EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL, AND FACILITIES FOR ICE DETENTION.

No facilities, equipment, or personnel of the Department of Defense may be used to house or construct any housing for any foreign nationals who are in the custody of and detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 476, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment, Madam Chair, would prohibit any Department of Defense resources from being used to allow Immigration and Customs Enforcement to expand its detention capacity.

The fiscal year 2019 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security allows for 40,520 detention beds for ICE, which is the highest amount Congress has ever provided. Despite this historic capacity, ICE continues to exceed this detention capacity and currently has more than 52,000 migrants in detention—a record high. In fact, ICE has exceeded its detention bed capacity for multiple fiscal years in a row.

To pay for this excess, ICE has, in the past, turned to Congress for more funding or siphoned off funds from other components in DHS. In 2018, when ICE went beyond its detention bed limit, it took almost \$200 million from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Coast Guard, TSA, FEMA, and ICE criminal investigations.

ICE continually expands beyond its means and then expects to be bailed out. This cannot go on.

ICE needs to operate within its appropriated limits and make more strategic decisions about whom to detain. ICE should prioritize detaining migrants who pose a serious threat to our society as well as those who will not be deported unless they are detained.

ICE cannot be given a blank check. Madam Chair, my amendment restricts defense resources from being used for ICE detention.

We have already seen President Trump defy the will of Congress on border wall funding. When Congress refused to fund this ineffective and wasteful border wall, he decided to take money away from other departments to build his wall, and his prime funder was the Department of Defense.

Madam Chair, I hope you will join me in preventing the Department of Defense's funding from being used as President Trump's personal piggy bank to circumvent the will of Congress. I urge my House colleagues to support