

Again, my amendment, which was part of the bill that passed last Friday night, would restore the full intent of the Congress in 2008 and reverse the Trump administration's decision to cut off that transferability, which was issued last July.

Again, we still have work to do. We have a conference to build with the Senate, and we, obviously, have to get it to the President for signature. We have done it for 57 straight years, and we should make it 58 this year by passing the 2020 NDAA bill.

PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, there are also things happening over at the U.S. Department of Education regarding higher education which are of great concern.

On Thursday, the American Federation of Teachers filed a lawsuit in the District Court of Washington, D.C., basically asking the court to rule that the Department's foot-dragging in terms of discharging student loan debt through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program has got to come to an end.

In 2007, we passed the College Class Reduction Act which set up a mechanism for those who serve in critical public service occupations, such as teaching, nurses, doctors, police, prosecutors, social workers, veterinarians, and people who work in nonprofit organizations. If they make their student loan payments consistently over a 10-year period, under the College Class Reduction Act, they could apply for a discharge of the balance of their student loan, recognizing that these are people who are going into occupations for which the payment of student loan debt can be too onerous.

□ 1215

So, 2007 was the year that this program was supposed to kick into effect. As the Government Accountability Office determined, since that period—and these are our figures from 2019—7,555 borrowers have submitted applications to have their loans discharged. Only 864 have been approved, and only 516 borrowers, less than 1 percent, have had their loans forgiven.

Again, the loan servicers working for the Department of Education, as determined by GAO, are giving bad information and are not crediting the monthly loan payments that teachers and nurses and others have been faithfully making, relying on this program. They built their employment history around the opportunity, knowing that that student loan debt could be discharged.

Again, what we are seeing are shocking figures from the Department of Education that have not followed through and implemented this law.

Not a great surprise to those of us on the Committee on Education and Labor because the Trump administration, for the last 3 years, has submitted budgets that would eliminate the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

We have to change this administration's policies toward higher education.

We did it on Friday, and we have to do it with public service loan forgiveness to reward the good guys, the people who are out there doing critical work for our Nation.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. GARCIA of Texas) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Armenian Apostolic Church of America, New York, New York, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, Your children gathered here, in this sanctuary of democracy and freedom, thank Thee for Your providential care full of visible and invisible blessings.

Lead this august assembly in Your spirit to accomplish the mission vested upon her.

Grant Your wisdom and love upon the Members of this assembly to follow Thy will and fulfill their awesome responsibility toward the "land of the free" and the world at large.

May justice and peace be forthcoming from their decisions, as well as prosperity and joy to prevail among mankind.

Let this and every day be marked as a masterpiece in the lives of all those who serve the people for Your glory, so that they may be worthy of hearing Your calling: "Come you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. BRINDISI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BRINDISI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IN CELEBRATION OF 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLGATE UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. BRINDISI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join our community in celebrating the 200th anniversary of Colgate University's founding. Located in Madison County in upstate New York, Colgate was officially established by New York State in 1819.

For 200 years, the university has exemplified all the best American higher education has to offer. It has produced many graduates of national acclaim, including business professionals, community leaders, Members of Congress—including two current Members of Congress—and other government officials.

Colgate has taught some of the brightest minds in our country and now educates more than 2,900 students each year in 56 different majors. I am proud to represent this excellent institution in Congress, and I join the Colgate community in celebrating their bicentennial.

LET'S END THE WIDOW'S TAX

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last week, House Democrats had the chance to bring the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act on the floor to repeal the widow's tax.

Roll Call described, today, the bill as a "broadly supported bipartisan bill" with 365 cosponsors. This was the first legislation to achieve the Consensus Calendar and would have received a standalone vote, having 86 percent cosponsorship.

Roll Call said: "Wilson's bill, the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act, would end a disparity between government payments made to surviving spouses of servicemembers who die on Active Duty."

"The 'widow's tax' . . . requires the surviving spouses to forfeit much of their DOD Survivor Benefit Plan annuity when they receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from the VA."

"The Rules Committee did not give Wilson a heads-up that they were going to put language in the NDAA rules to remove his bill from the Consensus Calendar."

This was a partisan political gimmick. It is not too late to bring it back up as a standalone bill to help the spouses.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.