

FAIR Act, which would eliminate forced arbitration clauses in employment, consumer, and civil rights cases, restoring the rights of consumers, workers, and small businesses to go to court.

This is about respecting the Seventh Amendment, the constitutional right to a trial by jury, the right of every single American to get their day in court.

This is also about public accountability. This is about ending the ability of bad corporate actors to shield their wrongdoing and patterns of violation from public scrutiny.

Let me be perfectly clear: Forced arbitration clauses, which are often buried in the fine print in confusing legal jargon, put the interests of powerful corporations over American workers and consumers.

This impacts every single one of us. Every person in this room at some point has unknowingly ceded their rights away when entering into a contract to buy a new car, to start a new job, or sign up for a new credit card. This is hurting real Americans, from the elderly people who are mistreated in nursing homes, or employees working overtime but not getting paid, to servicemembers who are fired or not rehired after returning from Active Duty. Very few of them are actually getting justice.

In the last 5 years, the number of consumers who have won a monetary award from forced arbitration averages to 382 people a year. Let me put this into perspective: On average, more Americans get struck by lightning every year than win a monetary award from an arbitration.

When corporations know that they can get away with such bad behavior and shield that bad behavior from coming to light, there is absolutely nothing incentivizing them to follow the law and treat consumers well.

It should go without saying, but this legislation is overwhelmingly popular. Research shows that 84 percent of Americans oppose forced arbitration.

I urge every single one of my colleagues to vote "yes" for the FAIR Act and restore vital rights to American consumers, workers, and small businesses.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THIS COUNTRY

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the privilege of being recognized here to speak on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. I come to the floor this morning, Mr. Speaker, to address a topic, and most of the words that I say will be from an article written by Roger Scruton, who is an author from Great Britain. He is commenting on a new book by Douglas Murray, titled "The Madness of Crowds: Gender, Race and Identity."

Some of this hits home so much, and it has so much to do with America, that I thought it was important I address this here this morning.

He says: "In every period of history, therefore, there have been opinions and customs that are dangerous to question . . . but our situation in Western democracies today is a novel one. . . . The old customs have been torn asunder by a culture of repudiation, which encourages people to shape their lives according to an 'identity' of their own."

Socialization no longer means what it used to mean. It means now becoming who you are without regard to the framework that existed in the civilization and the culture prior. "The punishments for saying, thinking, or implying the wrong thing . . . are real, serious, and largely impossible to deflect."

That means that "the archive of your crimes is stored in cyberspace, and however much you may have confessed to them and sworn to change, they will pursue you for the rest of your life, just as long as someone has an interest in drawing attention to them. And when the mob turns on you, it is with a pitiless intensity that bears no relation to the objective seriousness of your fault. A word out of place, a hasty judgment, a slip of the tongue, whatever the fault might be, it is sufficient, once picked upon, to put you beyond the pale of human sympathy."

This is reflected in the book "The Madness of Crowds."

"The emerging world of censorship is a world without forgiveness . . . in which the real virtues and vices that govern our conduct are ignored altogether" or are decided to be irrelevant.

"The crimes for which we are judged are existential crimes. Through speaking in the wrong way, you display one of the phobias or isms," or they presume that is the case, "that show you to be beyond acceptable humanity. You are a homophobe, an Islamophobe, a white supremacist, or a racist, and no argument can refute these accusations once they have been made."

Even "your accusers are not interested in your deeds; they are interested in is "whether or not you are 'one of us,'" meaning actually one of them. "Your faults cannot be overcome by voluntary action, since they adhere to the kind of thing that you are, and you reveal what you are in the words that define you," as defined by your critics.

"These words may be taken out of context, even doctored to mean the opposite of what you said"—that is true with the author and certainly true with me—"but this will not affect the verdict, since there is no objective trial, no 'case for the defense,' no due process. You are accused by the mob, examined by the mob, and condemned by the mob, and if you have brought this on yourself, then," they say, "you have only yourself to blame. For the mob is by nature innocent. It washes

its own conscience in a flow of collective indignation, and by joining it, you make yourself safe," which is one of the reasons we see an epidemic of virtue signaling here in this Congress, Mr. Speaker.

"The spirit of the mob has entered not only the language of public debate but also the sources of information and the institutions of decisionmaking. Censorship begins in the media themselves."

Cyberspace is censored and is controlled by about four major companies. George Orwell predicted this, but I think it has eclipsed even his magnificent imagination and the reality that we are dealing with today.

"Murray gives riveting examples of the way in which"—I will use this example—"whiteness has become a moral fault in the eyes of identity warriors on the American campus." They now openly "condemn people for the color of their skin," provided that it is white. The art of taking offense, "whole sections of the university curriculum are devoted to explaining to students that words, arguments, comparisons, even questions," rhetorical or not, "are 'offensive,' regardless of the intention with which they are used," or, actually, the language, the precise definition of the language.

"Invariably, the offense is given by the old majority culture and is taken on behalf of some privileged minority."

Mr. Speaker, this is a shorthand version of what is going on in this country, what is going on in this Congress, what is going on in the media.

And I submit this, that we don't any longer have an objective news media. That center that used to be the truth has been completely, almost completely, vacated. Much of it has gone to the left. Some has gone to the right. And that peace of being able to pick up a newspaper and read it and believe that it is true today is no longer true today. And the American civilization must come to grips with this and go to original sources, come to our own conclusions, adjust our civilization and our culture. If we fail to do so, we will be pitted against each other for a long time to come.

STOP GUN VIOLENCE IN OUR NATION

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by saying I certainly and clearly disassociate myself from the remarks of the previous speaker. I absolutely, wholeheartedly disagree with him and do not concur with him.

Mr. Speaker, in 1999, my son Huey became a victim of gun violence when he was murdered in an aborted robbery attempt as he was bringing groceries into his apartment on the South Side of Chicago.

Tragically, Mr. Speaker, my son's death was not unique because literally

hundreds of men, women, boys, and girls are dying every day in our Nation due to gun violence.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, almost 40,000 Americans have died as a result of gun-related injuries in the year 2017, which is the most recent year for which complete data is available.

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Almost 40,000 Americans have died as a result of gun-related injuries in the year 2017. In the city I love, the city I live in, the city of Chicago, over 279 citizens of our Nation have been murdered within the last year due to gunfire.

Mr. Speaker, these statistics should be a clarion call to action by this Congress, by this Nation, by this administration. That is why, Mr. Speaker, the committee that I am proud to serve on, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health will finally meet in my district on October 3 to convene a hearing to examine gun violence as a national public health issue. This is a hearing that I have been consistently calling for ever since 2017.

This hearing will convene community members, national experts, victims, academia, and law enforcement. All these individuals will gather in my district in the city of Chicago for one purpose and one purpose only: to discuss how we can better protect our Nation, our people, our boys and girls, our schoolchildren, our church-going citizens, our mosque-going citizens, our citizens who worship in synagogues all across this Nation, our movie theater-going citizens, our citizens who are in malls across this Nation enjoying themselves and shopping.

We need to have protection for all of our citizens driving along the highways. All of our citizens need to be protected, and this hearing will have the purpose of discussing how we can better protect our citizens and our communities from this epidemic, this widespread epidemic of gunfire, gun violence. As with any epidemic that this Nation faces, we will have experts come and speak to us.

Mr. Speaker, we must stop the violence. Save the children. Save the families.

MEMORIAL TO THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS AT FORT VANCOUVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important chapter in my region's history that must be remembered, and it is significant to our whole Nation: the service of African American regiments known as buffalo soldiers.

Their service stations included Fort Vancouver; and afterward, some of them made our region their permanent

home, men like Willie "Bill" Morehouse, who served their Nation with courage and honor.

The buffalo soldiers' place in southwest Washington history began in April of 1899. That date marks the assignment of buffalo soldiers from Company B of the 24th Infantry to the barracks at Fort Vancouver. This was also the first time in history that a unit from one of the Army's four African American regiments was included in Fort Vancouver's regular garrison of troops.

The buffalo soldiers' contributions to our Nation continued throughout subsequent conflicts.

Two years ago, we lost a pillar within the greater Vancouver community, a member and president of the Moses Williams Pacific Northwest Chapter of the buffalo soldiers, "Bill" Morehouse.

Bill was a member of the United States Army and the National Guard early in his life, with his military service spanning World War II and the Fort Vancouver barracks as a POW guard.

His contributions to our community went beyond his military service. Bill led toy and food drives for underprivileged kids, and he provided honor guard at military ceremonies and parades.

In just a few days, on September 21, a ceremony will take place to dedicate a permanent memorial at Fort Vancouver to Bill and to the buffalo soldiers so he will be honorably remembered. This memorial will help mark their unwavering commitment to our country, a commitment they made in the face of racism, unfair treatment, and adversity, policies of the past.

I am proud that their legacy will live on in Vancouver, that their fight will live on, and I pledge to do whatever I can to ensure that the buffalo soldiers' stories of service and sacrifice are not forgotten.

OUR ESTUARIES: NATIONAL RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY TREASURES

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

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, today I join millions of my fellow Americans in recognizing National Estuaries Week, which extends from September 14 to September 21.

We know that estuaries are those places where freshwaters or rivers meet the seas. Estuaries are also places where biodiversity is often at its zenith. They are the ecologies of our coastal communities. Wherever a watershed empties into the sea, we find an estuary.

My home in Florida is part of an estuary called the Indian River Lagoon, where the fresh and salt waters mix behind barrier islands to form what experts recognize as the most biodiverse estuary in the United States of America. My community and district depend on the lagoon to support a broad array

of activities to meet our economic, environmental, and recreational needs.

My neighbors and I understand how much we depend on the lagoon. We strive to protect the sea turtles and the habitat of the manatees. When they are thriving, we know that fishermen, boaters, businesses, and, most importantly, our families will thrive.

For years, I have worked for the health of the Indian River Lagoon and tried to help other communities keep their estuaries healthy. The challenges of the Indian River Lagoon are the same challenges faced by all the other estuaries.

Last Congress, I joined with Congresswoman SUZANNE BONAMICI to found the Congressional Estuary Caucus to support the National Estuary Program, foster research in estuary restoration and protection, and bring other resources to bear on sustaining our estuaries.

National Estuaries Week is a special time for a national celebration of our estuary efforts and for local estuary programs within the national program to bring the importance of estuaries to their communities and involve other citizens in their work.

An important part of these goals is to communicate the value and importance of our estuaries and our coasts to key decisionmakers at the local, State, and Federal levels. That is what we are doing right now.

Our friends at Restore America's Estuaries tell us that last year's celebration was a tremendous success, as organizations and volunteers from across the country gathered at their local bays or riverfronts and classrooms to celebrate and learn about the importance of our estuaries and how they benefit our daily lives. More than 30,000 volunteers across 21 States, Canada, and Guam participated in over 105 different estuary events.

Many of this year's events are posted online, and they give us a stunning picture of how each estuary, while being a national asset, is also a unique treasure to its communities. For example, in Palm Bay in my district, the Marine Resources Council, the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, The Nature Conservancy of Florida, Act 2 Technologies, and the Tampa Bay Estuary Program held a rain barrel workshop and auction, heard from a distinguished panel of water quality experts, and dined on a fine barbecue meal. A speakers panel open forum focused on audience participation, facilitating questions and concerns, as well as the opportunity to present ideas and potential problems and solutions for our waterways.

We also celebrate National Estuaries Week as a time to recommit our effort in the caucus to achieve full funding for the National Estuary Program and to bring those resources to the communities that live on the estuaries' edge.

We can and we must work to assure that our estuaries and our environment are sustained.