Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, September 23, 2019, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God of all creation, thank You for giving us another day. At the end of a very busy week, we ask Your blessing upon the Members of this people’s House. As they face a rare short weekend, may they be refreshed so as to return for a busy week to address the salient issues of these days.

We ask Your blessing today for the people in and around Houston, who again find themselves dealing with serious damages due to flooding. May they and those many first responders be safe as they begin the recovery of their community.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CHABOT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING RICHARD SWANN

(Mrs. MURPHY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and enduring legacy of Richard Swann, a constituent of mine who recently passed away.

Richard’s life was overflowing with action and accomplishment, trial and triumph, and above all, family and friendship. Richard lost his childhood sweetheart and beloved wife, Doris, too young, but he poured his energy into his work, into his 4 children and 12 grandchildren, and into his large and loyal network of friends.

Richard was a wise lawyer, a far-sighted businessman, a real estate developer, and an influential player at the highest levels of American and Florida politics. Richard was a proud Orlando native and foresaw the city’s potential before nearly anybody else. Richard did as much as any man to transform Orlando into the wonderful place it is today.

Richard was best known as a champion of the political causes and candidates he cared about. He was committed to the concept of responsible and engaged citizenship.

At the service celebrating Richard’s life, his granddaughter Caroline read an excerpt from Teddy Roosevelt’s speech, “The Man in the Arena.” Richard never sat on the sidelines. He was always in the arena, striving valiantly and daring greatly.

Richard was a pillar of our central Florida community. He will be deeply missed by all of us who had the honor to call him a friend.

CONGRATULATING CINCINNATI STATE TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)
Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Cincinnati State Technical and Community College for 50 years of service to the greater Cincinnati community.

I have been privileged to visit Cincinnati State many times, most recently the Evendale campus to see firsthand the opportunities they provide to so many students. With four campuses, small class sizes, and over 100 associate degree programs, Cincinnati State is truly an excellent college.

Perhaps most notably, Cincinnati State plays a critical role in developing our region’s workforce. Through extensive co-op programs and relationships with the University of Cincinnati and 600 industry partners, Cincinnati State paves many career paths, especially for nontraditional students.

Finally, I thank Dr. Monica Posey for her dedication to making Cincinnati State an even greater asset to our community.

Congratulations to Cincinnati State on its 50th anniversary. We look forward to many more.

STAND UP FOR CONSUMERS BY SUPPORTING FAIR ACT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, every day, thousands of Americans unwittingly sign contracts for nursing homes, credit cards, and employment contracts that surrender their rights to their day in court before an impartial judge and jury.

Instead, buried in the fine print of the contract, they agree to rely on an arbiter who doesn’t have to follow the law or facts and will have every incentive to favor the special interests that could give them repeat business.

This is our chance to stand up for consumers, justice, and fairness. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1423, the FAIR Act.

ENSURE FREE AND FAIR TRADE

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

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, every day that Speaker Pelosi delays a vote on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, American workers and their families are hurt. Right now, farmers, ranchers, and businesses in Georgia and across the country face unnecessary uncertainty.

This trade deal is vital to our economy, and passing USMCA would be a huge win for the American people. Canada and Mexico both serve as top markets for a number of our U.S. agricultural products.

In Georgia, 22,558 jobs depend on manufacturing exports to Canada and Mexico.

Passing this trade agreement would also support our agrarian economy. The USMCA can add another 176,000 new jobs and add $68.2 billion to GDP growth.

Let’s ensure free and fair trade while granting our farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers the protections they deserve.

I urge my Democratic colleagues to end these partisan politics and pass USMCA or, at the very least, put the bill on the House floor for a vote.

CONGRATULATING DR. NEIL SHARKEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. THOMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a friend and educational leader, Dr. Neil Sharkey, vice president for research at Penn State University, upon his retirement.

For the last 22 years, Dr. Sharkey has managed, facilitated, and advanced the university’s entire research portfolio to dig deeper and discover innovative solutions to society’s most challenging questions.

Under Dr. Sharkey’s leadership, Penn State’s research expenditures reached an all-time high in 2017 and 2018, totaling $927 million. This investment in the university’s research has helped fund important research projects in life sciences, cyber science, social science, cancer research, energy and the environment, and a variety of other interdisciplinary fields.

Before his position as vice president of research, Dr. Sharkey served as the associate dean for research and graduate education in the College of Health and Human Development, as well as a professor of kinesiology.

I always say we cannot make good decisions without good data. Dr. Sharkey has been a leader in this field, and I wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors.

ALLOW AMERICANS TO PURCHASE VEHICLES THAT FIT THEIR NEEDS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the efforts of U.S. EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao with regard to the unreasonable automobile fuel mileage standards put upon consumers by a 2015 Obama-era rule.

In only 5 model years from now, all U.S. cars would have to average 55 miles per gallon under this current standard. Most people drive cars these days that are somewhere around 25 to 33 miles per gallon. They would be forced into very small cars that don’t fit their family’s needs.

What the administration is seeking to do is freeze this timeline at 37 miles per gallon until technology can catch up, et cetera, so people can choose to buy cars that fit their lives. Under the old rule and what the California Air Resources Board is trying to foist upon all 50 States in meeting the Obama rule, they will not have that choice anymore.

Unfortunately, a few scared automakers have sat down with CARB to try to cut a deal to fix the one they agreed to a few years ago with no real idea of how they would meet 55 miles per gallon with current technology and physics at the time. At this point, there are very few 55-mile-per-gallon vehicles to even choose from. Most people don’t want to buy those cars because it doesn’t fit their family, their life, what they want, and what they desire.

CARB is trying to foist that on all 50 States, and auto manufacturers will be herded toward it by desiring to make the same car type, not just California. This needs to be stopped, and we must draw the line here.

FORCED ARBITRATION INJUSTICE REPEAL ACT

GENEAL LEAVE

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members amend title 9 of the United States Code itself into the Committee of the Whole.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 558 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1423.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD) to preside over 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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 1423) to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration, with Ms. Underwood in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. The bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill. The time allotted for general debate shall be one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.
The gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) each will control 30 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Chair, I yield myself as I may consume. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1423, the Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act, or the FAIR Act.

Buried deep within the fine print of everyday contracts, forced arbitration deprives American consumers and workers of their day in court when they attempt to hold corporations accountable for breaking the law. This private system lacks the procedural safeguards of our justice system. It is not subject to oversight, has no judge or jury, and is not bound by laws passed by Congress or the States, but it has become a requirement of everyday life. Consumers and workers must surrender their rights to corporations through contracts that are unilateral—coerced by companies before disputes even arise.

When forced arbitration is combined with nondisclosure agreements, it effectively silences the victims of rampant corporate misconduct. This shameful, humiliating, and corrupt system has isolated and silenced people who are ultimately deprived of their right to hold wrongdoers accountable through their day in court.

Few instances of this silencing effect are as disturbing as the experiences of victims of sexual harassment and assault, who are routinely exploited by forced arbitration.

Forced arbitration has also eroded the fundamental rights of our Nation’s men and women in uniform, veterans, and their families. These brave Americans have sacrificed much in service to our country. They have fought to protect the fundamental idea that we are a Nation of laws and institutions that guarantee to every American and that every American should have the freedom to enforce these rights meaningfully.

But for too long, arbitration has eroded these fundamental protections by forcing servicemembers’ claims into a private system set up by corporations. The Military Coalition, which represents 5.5 million current and former servicemembers, The American Legion, and 29 other military service organizations noted that forced arbitration has funneled the claims of servicemembers, veterans, and their families into “a rigged, secretive system in which all the rules, including the choice of the arbitrator, are picked by the corporation.”

Let me give an example. Lieutenant Commander Kevin Ziober, who testified in support of the FAIR Act earlier this year, has served in the U.S. Navy Reserve since 2008, but in the fall of 2012, he was called into Active Duty for deployment to Afghanistan. Kevin notified his employer and conveyed his desire to resume work upon his return, but after over 2 years with the company, on the last day of work, right before his deployment to Afghanistan, following a farewell party with a big cake with a symbol of the United States flag on it, he was fired by his employer for serving his country.

When he tried to hold his employer accountable for violating his rights under USERRA, his company forced his claim into arbitration, citing an arbitration contract that he was required to sign 6 months into his employment waiving his constitutional right to a jury trial.

This outrageous practice is nothing short of a corporate takeover of our Nation’s system of laws, and the American people have had enough. The overwhelming majority of voters, including 83 percent of Democrats and 87 percent of Republicans, support ending forced arbitration. It is time to act.

H.R. 1423, the FAIR Act, does just that. This important legislation ends the use of forced arbitration in everyday consumer, employment, antitrust, and civil rights abuses. It is supported by a broad coalition of groups dedicated to protecting the rights of America’s women, servicemembers, veterans, consumers, and hardworking Americans.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in opposition to the bill and will speak to that. Arbitration—let’s go back to some basics here—provides consumers a simpler, cheaper, faster path to justice than does the judicial system. That is what the evidence showed the last time the Judiciary Committee performed oversight of the arbitration system during the 111th Congress, and that is what the evidence shows earlier this term when we renewed oversight in the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law.

In fact, the evidence in favor of preserving access to arbitration has only increased over time. Companies are continuing to improve the fairness of arbitration agreements and have long been following improved arbitration protocols to help assure due process is given to claimants against them. The market resolved problems in consumer credit arbitrations considered during the 110th and 111th Congresses. A string of new Supreme Court decisions has demonstrated the Court’s confidence in the arbitration system.

Even the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s 2015 study of arbitration highlighted problems consumers would face if they had no access to arbitration but, instead, had to rely on flawed judicial class actions. The study shows the rise of predispute, mandatory binding arbitration clauses in consumer settings did not come out of nowhere. It stems directly from the repeated abuses of class actions that have plagued the judicial system in recent decades.

That is not to say that the arbitration system is perfect, but the arbitration system is generally good and should be preserved. Unfortunately, that is not what the forced injustice repeal act would do. Rather than preserve and strengthen arbitration, it would wipe it out for enormous numbers of consumer and employment disputes, as well as many civil rights and antitrust disputes.

What that would do is not end injustice, but it would actually promote it. Because what happens when everyday consumers and employees are denied rights to arbitrate, rights their contracts guarantee them? In far too many cases, it means Americans will be shut out of the justice system entirely.

If their claims are small enough for small claims court, there may be an option. In 46 States and the District of Columbia, however, small claims courts only take claims worth $1,000 or less; 30 of those jurisdictions limit it to $500 or less.

Millions of claimants with cases worth amounts not much more than those court limits will be able to pay the courtroom lawyers enough to take their cases to ordinary trial courts.

Maybe if the claimants could qualify as plaintiffs in a class action, they could join those actions. Millions more would fall out of arbitration. And even those who do can expect to get nothing in return but a postcard telling them they have won a few dollars and cents on a coupon.

Meanwhile, class action plaintiffs’ trial lawyers will reap multimillion-dollar shares in fees from the recoveries they dole out to plaintiff class members at mere pennies on the dollar.

If you ask me, it would be better to call this bill the forced class action injustice guarantee act today.

Rather than wipe out arbitration, we should consider ways to make it better; and, while we do that, we should do everything we can to reform the abuse of the class action system.

Senator Judiciary Committee Chairman GRAHAM suggested that we ought to do just that at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on arbitration earlier this year, and he was exactly right. The worst result Congress could deliver to the American people would be to wipe out arbitration, while leaving them no alternative but an unformed judicial system.

Before I yield back, Madam Chair, this is something that is disturbing to me, because this is a bill that my gentleman friend just stated there is a list of headlines here, there is a list of horrible abuses of abuse, sexual abuse, military.

All of these could have been addressed if we had sat down, as a Congress should do, as I told the chairman during the markup: Mr. Chairman, if we would have just sat down and talked about the issues facing us, we wouldn’t be facing a veto threat from
anywhere, we wouldn’t be facing a Senate that is not going to take this up, and we could have found a bill that would not have had to have a rule. It could have been on suspension. Because we could have found the ways to fix the arbitration system, make sure that there is some protection, to make sure protecting without putting a partisan bill on the floor that simply will take people out of the system instead of including them, but be very profitable for those who do class action lawsuits.

Let’s be honest about what is happening here. We are taking people out of the system, not putting them in. We are not really protecting them; we are actually hurting them. And this is the issue that could have been fixed with a true working Congress, in a true working committee. We just don’t have that right now, and that is sad. That makes us all the worse in doing this.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Chair, I would just remind the gentleman that this is a bipartisan piece of legislation, and the most recent polling shows 67 percent support for this bill and 83 percent of Democrats support it. So it is broadly bipartisan all across the country. It is bipartisan in terms of its introduction and sponsorship. It is just not bipartisan in the Republican caucus, apparently.

Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Johnson). He is not only a distinguished Member; he is the lead sponsor and author of the FAIR Act.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Chair, it is strange, because my friends on the other side of the aisle are not interested in working on anything together. They are only interested in giving to the top 1 percent now, the big corporations, and they are interested in privatizing everything. And a privatized justice system is the ultimate injustice, and that is what forced arbitration clauses hidden in the fine print do and what Republicans don’t want to do. That is the problem we have right here. That is the problem, why we don’t have legislation that actually works and will actually get signed and put into law.

Instead, my gentle friend from Georgia just gets up and repeats trite statements about what Republicans want to do and what Republicans don’t want to do. That is the problem we have right here. That is the problem, why we don’t have legislation that actually works and will actually get signed and put into law.

Remember, a bill that only comes through one part and cannot get through to get a President’s signature is simply a political statement. That is what we are doing today.

Madam Chair, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG) so he may manage the end of the time.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. McBATH), who has been a fierce advocate for workers and consumers.

Mrs. McBATH. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the FAIR Act, a bipartisan bill introduced by my friend and fellow Georgian, Congressman Johnson.

I am proud to cosponsor this bill which will help small businesses by ending the use of forced arbitration. These tiny clauses hidden in the fine print are used to trick rising entrepreneurs in their dealings with sophisticated conglomerates.

Small businesses need to sign contracts for phone plans, credit cards, and rental cars, but too often, lurking in the fine print, a few words can cost a working entrepreneurial right to their day in court. With this bill, our entrepreneurs can focus on growing their businesses and investing in our communities.

Madam Chair, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Chair, I want to quote Justice Breyer in a Supreme Court opinion:

*[Quotes from Justice Breyer's Supreme Court opinion]*

The typical consumer who has only a small damage claim, who seeks, say, the value of only a defective refrigerator or television set would be left without any remedy but a court remedy, the costs and delays of which could eat up the value of an eventual small recovery.

Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), my friend.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Chair, this bill purports to assert a very important constitutional right: the right of every American to have a day in court in a court of law; but forced arbitration is all about that.

For too long, people have been tricked by complicated legal jargon hidden in take-it-or-leave-it contracts. People like Diana, from my home State of Georgia.

Diana, after 5 years at Kay Jewelers, learned she was making less than her more recently hired, less experienced male colleague but because of her forced arbitration clause, she was tricked into signing, she couldn’t get the backpay that she deserved. She is one of millions of victims who have been denied justice because they unwittingly signed away their right to take a wronged corporate head in court.

It is not fair and it is not right. If you believe in consumer rights, then you should support the FAIR Act.

The Chairman. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Chair, if you believe in consumer rights, then you should support the FAIR Act; if you believe in due process and the rule of law, then you should vote to pass the FAIR Act.

Madam Chair, I want to thank my colleagues who have worked so hard to support this bill—Congressman AXSOM (Mr. ARMSTRONG), Congressman RASKIN, Congresswoman JAYAPAL, and last but not least, Chairman NADLER—for their work in getting this bill to the brink of passage today.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Chair, yes, it is me, and I do speak truth here, and I will acknowledge there is one Republican cosponsor of this bill. It is bipartisan in that regard. However, it could have had 100 or more Republican cosponsors if we would have actually done legislation.

Instead, my gentle friend from Georgia just gets up and repeats trite statements about what Republicans want to do and what Republicans don’t want to do. That is the problem we have right here. That is the problem, why we don’t have legislation that actually works and will actually get signed and put into law.

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Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Chair, I want to quote Justice Breyer in a Supreme Court opinion:

*[Quotes from Justice Breyer's Supreme Court opinion]*

Now, of course, the exceses and expenses and uncertainties that have plagued our civil courts, many consumers and producers and many employees and employers find it mutually advantageous to waive their right to civil jury trials in any disputes between them in favor of simpler, cheaper, and faster arbitration.

Now, the proponents tell us that it is an uneven playing field and this represents the corporate interest in nonnegotiable, take-it-or-leave-it propositions. First of all, this isn’t exactly true. Every employee and every consumer, no matter how weak and vulnerable, has an absolute defense against a bad agreement: It is the word, “no.” No, the pay isn’t good enough; no, the price is too high; no, I don’t like the terms, and I am taking my business elsewhere.

Even when there aren’t good alternatives, the fact is that every provision in a contract is a take-it-or-leave-it proposition if one side or the other insists on it. The question for each side is whether the totality of the contract is beneficial to them or not. It is my right to make that decision for myself without having some government making it for me.

Now, remember, an arbitration provision binds both sides. For example, I am not a lawyer. I can’t afford to hire one to take a big company to court. For me, binding arbitration keeps up the take-it-or-leave-it proposition if one side or the other insists on it. The question for each side is whether the totality of the contract is beneficial to them or not. It is my right to make that decision for myself without having some government making it for me.

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According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, through arbitration, employees prevail three times more often, recover twice as much money, and resolve their claims more quickly than if they went through the civil courts in litigation; and, in most cases, the employer pays the entire cost of arbitration.

According to one study, in claims between $10,000 and $75,000, the consumer claimant was charged an average of $219. Now, you compare that to the cost of hiring a lawyer and taking a case all the way through an entire corporate legal department.

The net result of this bill will be higher prices for products and lower wages for workers as companies factor the higher cost of litigation into their business models, and, meanwhile, it denies consumers and employees the freedom to choose a much simpler and less expensive way to resolve their disputes.

Mr. DEUTCH, Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have argued that forced arbitration is cheaper or easier than litigation and that consumers and workers should have a choice.

The FAIR Act does not take away anybody’s choice. It restores choice. It restores choice that has been taken away from the American people by big corporations that don’t want to face liability or public scrutiny for their actions. This is a complete misrepresentation of what the bill does.

The FAIR Act does not ban arbitration. It eliminates forced arbitration that is imposed on everyday consumers and hardworking Americans before a dispute even arises.

And the notion that you have a choice, most consumers don’t even know it is happening. When you check that little box for a contract for your phone or your cable, you have given away your right to have your claims heard. It is very widespread in consumer employment contracts.

These clauses are hidden, very often, from consumers and workers. They appear inside of envelopes and delivery boxes in the fine print of privacy policies, which often span dozens of pages. In most cases, people aren’t even aware that they have signed away their right to have their claims heard. It is very widespread in consumer employment contracts.

Companies still have the option to use arbitration, but only on a voluntary basis after a dispute arises and not by unilaterally imposing it on people by big corporate entities.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), the distinguished senior member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Chair, I thank my friend from Rhode Island, a great champion for consumers, for yielding.

Madam Chair, I rise in support of the FAIR Act to protect Americans from forced arbitration agreements. These agreements, too often, are the result of power imbalances that block claims from judicial remedies in employment, consumer, antitrust, and civil rights disputes.

The FAIR Act is critical for protecting the rights of millions, in particular women who have faced gender discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace. We have all heard the disturbing reports of tens of thousands of women employed at one large company who alleged that they were paid less than male colleagues. They were passed over for promotions to management positions multiple times in favor of men with less experience. They faced unwanted sexual advances and attempted assault at company meetings. At least one Floridian was fired after she reported one of her superiors tried to kiss and touch her against her will.

Employees who face mistreatment deserve justice and they deserve their day in court. A condition of employment takes away their day in court and it frustrates the pursuit of justice.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. DEUTCH. Forced arbitration provisions strip employees of their rights. They ensure that employees are no match for their employers when it comes to reporting discrimination and harassment.

Today, this House of Representatives has the opportunity to restore the rights of all workers to seek justice and public accountability.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support and pass the bipartisan FAIR Act.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I agree with my friend from Florida; sexual assault cases should never be a part of forced arbitration, ever, under any circumstances.

The problem is, when we are doing that and moving into this, we are also taking this huge swath of cases that don’t qualify at the high end, don’t have enough money for class action lawsuits, but yet are too big for small claims court.

The reality of those situations in any court system across the country, is they are overworked, they are behind, and they are delayed. But, most importantly, probably, if you are dealing with a contractual lawsuit that doesn’t have the ability to get treble or punitive damages, and it is a small enough claim like a refrigerator or a television, there is really no access because the cost of the lawyer will make it prohibitive to go to court.

And the argument that this only allows employers to really work because the same reason you write a contract at the beginning of a business relationship as opposed to when that relationship is dissolving, is because you want to put terms in place before problems arise. And the reason is when you go to arbitration in these types of cases, one side will be so disadvantaged by arbitration they would never agree to it.

But probably the most egregious part of this bill is the fact that we are retroactively applying it to hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of existing contracts. So things that were agreed to either by employee and vendor or vendor and vendor relationships, now will be null and void and we will be rewriting the rules of the game sometimes decades after it has occurred.

So it is important to recognize that—and I would just end with this—probably the most toxic area of law we have everywhere we have family law—and only in a place where you can be in absolute love can you learn to hate somebody that you love. Courts are towards an arbitration prior to dispute resolution in order to deal with it. If anybody has ever dealt with that or practiced in that area of law, there are reasons why this occurs, and it is so you can try to anger it.

I agree there are abuses. I agree with Ranking Member COLLINS that there are plenty of things we could look at to do, but we cannot throw the whole system out because you are going to have a broad swath of cases that no longer have any legal access.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Chair, I would point out the family law cases that my friend just referenced, of course, are voluntary arbitration proceedings post dispute. This bill has nothing to do with that. This is pre-dispute forced arbitration.

Madam Chair, I reserve my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chair, forced arbitration is one of the central ways that corporate America has rigged the system against middle class families and working people. It undermines our democracy.

With forced arbitration, employers can force an employee to waive their right to seek justice in court. They cannot accept arbitration, which is a private legal process, without a judge or a jury.

The Economic Policy Institute predicts that by 2024, 80 percent of non-union private sector workers will have lost their right to go to court.

With forced arbitration, working people lose the ability to file an individual class action lawsuit if their rights are violated. They lose the ability to hold bad acting employers to account in an open and impartial forum. And they often lose in their fight for justice.

Let’s level the playing field, restore justice for millions of working people,
Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Vir-

ginia (Mr. SCOTT), the distinguished chair of the Education and Labor Com-

mittee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Chair, I thank Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. 

CICILLINE, and Chairman NADLER for their leadership on this issue.

Madam Chair, I rise in support of the Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal 

Act, or the FAIR Act.

Companies are increasingly using forced arbitration clauses to shield 

themselves from accountability for many forms of wrongdoing, including 

civil rights violations, labor abuses, and unfair consumer practices. For ex-

ample, 60 million workers are now subject to forced arbitration clauses that 

deny them their day in court.

Forced arbitration is a rigged sys-

tem. That is because the arbitrators are essentially hired by the companies 

and consumers never have a chance. Workers and consumers should not 

to have to sign away their rights as a condi-

tion to their employment or as a con-

dition of a contract, and they should not have to give up their day in court. 

Often arbitration is a desirable al-

ternative to litigation. Under the FAIR 

Act, arbitration would now be a vol-

untary option, not the only option.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues 

to support this legislation.
Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Chair, I inquire how much time remains.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Chair. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to build a little bit again on what the real impact of forced arbitration is on consumers and workers.

According to data from the two biggest arbitration providers, the American Arbitration Association and JAMS, only 1,909 consumers won a monetary award in arbitration over a 5-year period. In all nursing home arbitrations, only four won a monetary reward over that 5-year period. Of the 11,114 employment claims that were filed, only 292 won a monetary award. That is 2.5 percent.

Of the 6,012 arbitration cases involving credit cards and banks, only 131 won monetary damages. That is barely 2 percent.

The numbers make it clear that you are more likely to be struck by lightning than win a monetary award in forced arbitration.

Furthermore, forced arbitration discourages consumers and workers from adjudicating disputes altogether while the lower probability of victory and the meager legal fees associated with forced arbitration discourage attorneys from representing individuals in arbitration proceedings.

Even when disputes go to arbitration, the system can wreak havoc on their lives, and we heard many examples, particularly in the context of sexual assault and harassment victims.

We heard during our hearing on forced arbitration from advocate and former FOX News commentator Gretchen Carlson who spoke forcefully about the horrifying effect that forced arbitration has on victims of sexual assault and harassment.

Again, forced arbitration is corporate immunity. It is rigged because corporations get to pick the arbitrators and the whole proceeding is entirely secret.

That is why, overwhelmingly, the American people want forced arbitration to end once and for all, and that is what the FAIR Act does.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Chair, I think we can’t talk about this bill and talk about arbitration without also talking about actions.

Mayer Brown did a study on class-action suits. Rather than simply relying on anecdotes, the study undertook an empirical analysis of neutrally selected sample sets of putative consumer and employee class-action lawsuits filed in Federal court over 20 years.

In the entire dataset, not one of the class actions ended in a final judgment on the merits for the plaintiff. None of the class actions went to trial, either before a judge or a jury.

The vast majority of cases produced no benefits to most members of the putative class, even though in a number of those cases, the lawyers who sought to represent the class often enriched themselves in the process, and the lawyers representing the defense as well.

Approximately 14 percent of all class-action cases remain pending 4 years after they were filed, without resolution of on contested issues, and whether the case could go forward on a class-wide basis. In these cases, class members have not yet received any benefits and likely will never receive any, based on the disposition of the other cases we have studied.

Over one-third, 35 percent, of the class actions that have been resolved were dismissed voluntarily by the plaintiff. Many of these cases settled on an individual basis, meaning a payout to the individual named plaintiff and the lawyers who brought the suit, even though the class members receive nothing.

Just under one-third, 31 percent, of class actions that have been resolved were dismissed by a court on the merits. Again, that means that the class received nothing.

One-third, 33 percent, of resolved cases were settled on a class basis.

The settlement rate is half the average for Federal court litigation, meaning that companies are far less likely to have even a chance of obtaining relief than the average party suing individually.

For those cases that do settle, there is often little or no benefit for class members.

I have been personally involved in this in a Barbi lawsuit for any member of the bar across the country. I have no idea how much my fellow lawyers made, but I know I got a check for $37 in the mail. Few class members ever even see those paltry benefits, particularly in consumer class actions.

Unfortunately, because information regarding the distribution of class-action settlements is rarely available, there is no way to learn what percentage of a settlement is actually paid to class members. But of the six cases in the dataset for which the settlement dispute was made public, five delivered funds to only minuscule percentages of the class, 0.000005, 0.33 percent, 1.5 percent, 0.6 percent, and 12 percent.

Those results are consistent with other available information about settlement distribution in consumer class actions.

Although some cases provide for automatic distribution of benefits to class members, automatic distribution is almost never used in consumer class actions. Only 1 of the 40 settled cases fell into that category.

The bottom line is, the hard evidence shows that class actions do not provide class members with anything close to the benefits claimed by their proponents, although they can and do enrich attorneys.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Chair. I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), the distinguished chair of the full committee.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Chairwoman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1423, the Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act, or the FAIR Act.

The critical legislation would restore access to justice for millions of Americans who are currently locked out of the court system and are forced to settle their disputes against companies in a private system of arbitration that is often skewed in the company’s favor over the individual.

Nearly a century ago, Congress enacted the Federal Arbitration Act to allow merchants to resolve run-of-the-mill contract disputes in a system of private arbitration that would be legally enforceable. The system that Congress envisioned was to be used voluntarily and only between merchants of equal bargaining power.

However, the Supreme Court, over the past 40 years, has issued a series of decisions that have transformed forced arbitration far beyond Congress’ original intent or a fair reading of the text of the Federal Arbitration Act, creating the unjust system that we see today.

Forced arbitration has been transformed from a voluntary forum for companies to resolve commercial disputes into a legal nightmare for millions of consumers, employees, and others who are forced into arbitration and unable to access the certain fundamental rights in court.

Many companies use forced arbitration as a tool to protect themselves from consumers and workers who seek to hold them accountable for wrongdoing. By burying a forced arbitration clause deep in the fine print of a take-it-or-leave-it consumer or employment contract, companies can evade the court system, where plaintiffs have far greater legal protections, and hide behind the secret, one-sided process that is tilted in their favor.

For example, arbitration generally limits discovery, does not adhere to the Rules of Civil Procedure, can prohibit class actions—which it almost always does—and denies the right of appeal.

Worse yet, arbitration allows the proceedings, and often even the results, to stay secret, thereby permitting companies to avoid public scrutiny of potential misconduct, thereby enabling companies to continue unsafe practices and settling with a take-it-or-leave-it contract.

We used to refer to these kinds of agreements as contracts of adhesion, where one party with all the power decides the terms to the other party in a take-it-or-leave-it contract.

The next time you apply for a credit card, try crossing out the term in the
fine print requiring you to agree to arbitration and see if you still get that credit card. You will be denied without a moment's hesitation.

These are classic contracts of adhesion, which were once clearly disfavored by law, but which now seem to have been blessed by the Supreme Court as standard operating procedures in the corporate world.

Madam Chair, the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to a jury trial for all controversies at law over $20. These agreements for arbitration nullify the Seventh Amendment. We have to respect the Constitution. The Constitution has more things in it than the Second Amendment. It has a few other amendments, like the Seventh Amendment, which we should respect.

These contracts of adhesion, these agreements, nullify any protections that Congress votes. If we vote or a State legislature votes on an employment contract, if they are a union protection, a consumer protection, its enforcement can be completely nullified by these arbitration agreements.

For individuals who have no choice but to agree to these contracts, that means abiding to enforce civil rights, consumer, labor, and anti-trust laws are subject to the whims of a private arbitrator, often selected by the companies themselves. These private arbitrators are not required to provide plaintiffs any of the fundamental protections guaranteed in the courts, and their further employment can depend on building a good reputation with the companies that hire them.

Unsurprisingly, then, arbitration has become a virtual get-out-of-jail-free card that many companies use to circumvent the basic rights of consumers and workers.

H.R. 1423, the FAIR Act, reverse this disastrous trend by prohibiting arbitration clauses in consumer, labor, anti-trust, and civil rights disputes.

Importantly, this legislation does not preclude parties from agreeing to arbitrate a claim after the dispute arises, which will ensure that arbitration agreements are truly voluntary and transparent. It does, however, prevent unsuspecting consumers and employees from being forced to give up their right to seek justice in court.

I urge my colleagues to support this vital legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, like the First Amendment, Fourth Amendment, and when you are from a small State, you are a big fan of the 10th Amendment as well. I like the Second Amendment, but I like the other ones, too.

We are talking about credit cards, and we are talking about those issues, and I think we are talking about consumer contracts. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau did a study in 2015, and it came up with a couple of things. Particularly, you cannot talk about getting rid of forced arbitration without talking about class actions again.

For example, the CFPB study found that the substantial majority of class actions are resolved with no benefits to the class members. The weighted-average claims were only 4 percent, i.e., the vast majority of class members do not file claims for payment from class action settlement funds. The average settlement payment to class members was just $32.35, while the average attorney's fees averaged $1 million per case. The average fee paid to class action plaintiffs' lawyers as a percentage of the very important settlement funds was 41 percent, with a median of 46 percent.

Class-action lawsuits produce class-wide settlements and took an average of nearly 2 years to resolve. Obviously, there are cases that go longer; there are cases that go shorter. But when you are dealing in a consumer protection area for a small amount of money, 2 years is an exceptionally long time to be dealing with that kind of litigation.

Arbitration is simpler. It is quicker. It is often more convenient for the parties. In many cases, it creates less hostility and gets finished quicker.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS).

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman NADLER for yielding, and I also thank Congressman JOHNSON for this very important bill. I thank him for his fight on behalf of so many people.

I rise today in strong support of the FAIR Act. This is a bill that would end this clandestine process. It would give the consumer the maximum choice to the consumer. As a result, you rarely have a conflict that gets out of hand.

One only needs to think of the Wells Fargo case where Wells Fargo was sued by several of its customers for using their personal information to open all these fake accounts; but, when they filed suit against Wells Fargo, they found out they had this mandatory forced arbitration clause buried in the customer agreement.

I encourage us to support this good bill.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1423, the FAIR Act.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand on the side of workers, on the side of fair, transparent, and accountable. We should not be doing what is right. I urge all of us to support this piece of legislation.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I have been speaking about the need to ban forced arbitration since I joined Congress. I am happy to finally have this bill, the FAIR Act, up for a vote in Congress, and I really want to thank Congressman JOHNSON.

I think what is so troubling about forced arbitration is that, when we finally got one law that we have become a victim of it, we feel helpless and taken advantage of. These forced arbitration clauses are buried in the fine print of everyday contracts, and before you know it, we are unknowingly giving up our legal rights.

But I come before you, Mr. Chairman, as a small business owner to say this is completely unnecessary. As a small business owner of 46 years, we are selling 4,000 and 5,000 cars a year, and we have never had to resort to mandatory binding arbitration. In fact, what we say is that, if you have a conflict, we would love to go to arbitration with you, and we will respect whatever the arbiter says; but, if you don’t like it, you can still sue us, giving the maximum choice to the consumer. As a result, you rarely have a conflict that gets out of hand.

As I continued working on this issue, I met with women from the tech industry who were黎明 as bigwig executives were given multimillion-dollar exit packages after facing credible allegations of misconduct. But none of these women were allowed to speak out. Why? Because they were forced into a secret arbitration process, losing their right to sue and ensuring their claims would never see the light of day. And, if they were to speak out publicly, they—they as the women who were victimized could be sued for breaking this nondisclosure agreement.

This is a practice that is so egregious that the attorneys general in all 50 of our States have come out against forced arbitration clauses that are used in cases of sexual misconduct.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand on the side of fair, transparent, and accountability, and on the side of doing what is right. I urge all of us to support this piece of legislation.
Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman and distinguished gentleman from Georgia for his tremendous leadership.

Women have a right not to be sexually harassed; people of color have a right not to be discriminated against; workers have a right not to be exploited; workers have a right not to be defrauded; and the American people have a right to liberty and justice for all. Unfortunately, the malignant practice of forced arbitration takes these rights away.

The 2004 survey of the American people shows employees are three times more likely to be made into arbitrators than are judges, arbitrators are paid by companies, and the average settlement was 41 percent, with a median of 46 percent.

So the answer to the question about this bill is simple: Consumers don’t win. Employees don’t win. Even class action plaintiffs don’t win. But the plaintiffs’ class action trial lawyers do win, and they make out like bandits.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this unjust bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, we have a bedrock principle in this country, and that is that all Americans deserve their day in court. We make a mockery of this principle, however, when individuals can be stripped of this fundamental right and forced into private arbitration proceedings without the safeguards our judicial system affords.

We make a mockery of this right not only when individuals can be stripped of this right, but when almost all Americans are stripped of this fundamental right and are forced into private arbitration proceedings without the safeguards our judicial system affords.

Now, we heard the statistics cited by the gentleman, which come from the Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Cicilline showed how wrong those statistics were.

But the real point is, of course, that, under this bill, if a plaintiff thinks he can get a better deal under arbitration, then arbitration is available voluntarily, as it should be.

What this bill seeks to ban is individuals—almost all Americans—involuntarily giving up their sacred constitutional right to a trial by jury, to their day in court, whether they like it or not. This bill will guarantee that people lose their rights. They can opt out of arbitration if they want to, but they don’t have to.

This bill supports liberty; it supports constitutional rights; and it supports the little guy against the giant corporation. H.R. 1423, the FAIR Act, as a percent surprise, makes the American people the arbitrator.

Mr. Chairman, I applaud the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Johnson) for his leadership on this legislation which has 222 cosponsors. This measure is also supported by a broad coalition of more than 70 public-interest, labor, and advocacy organizations, including Public Citizen, Consumer Reports, the Communications Workers of America, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and the American Association of Justice, not just by trial lawyers.

In addition, 86 percent of Americans agree the political process is broken, and 81 percent support ending forced arbitration in employment and consumer disputes, according to recent polling data.

Mr. Chairman, it is up to Congress to end this secretive and unfair practice. I urge your colleagues to support the FAIR Act and to restore access to justice for millions of Americans, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1423, the Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act or the FAIR Act.

I support the FAIR Act because it restores the rights of workers and consumers by making forced arbitration between individuals and corporations illegal.

This would allow individuals the choice as to how to pursue their rights against a corporation.

It also means that corporations will know that when they violate the law, they can be held publicly accountable.

I have been a champion of FAIR since 2006 when we were discussing the NFLPA arbitration process of the National Football League Players Association.

Mr. Arrington was an All-Pro linebacker for the Washington Redskins and the New York Giants in the NFL and the NFLPA agreed to represent LaVar Arrington in the matter and retained a major New York law firm.

I am advised that the law firm did not meet with LaVar Arrington until shortly before his non-injury grievance arbitration was scheduled to be heard.

LaVar Arrington was not impressed with the performance of his legal representatives, and after the hearing called NFLPA President Gene Upshaw to complain.

LaVar Arrington asked Mr. Upshaw, who had not been a major New York firm, how they could be his lawyers if they had not even bothered to meet with him, the client, until shortly before the arbitration.

LaVar Arrington told Gene Upshaw he was going to hire his own attorney who could give him an objective view and did so shortly thereafter.

After LaVar Arrington retained new counsel, the arbitration was adjourned for the purpose of pursuing settlement negotiations.

Through the efforts of new counsel, a settlement was reached and Mr. Carl Poston played an important role in achieving this settlement, including arranging a meeting with Redskins Coach Joe Gibbs to explain LaVar Arrington’s feelings concerning the situation.

Coach Gibbs helped prevail on the Redskins to reach an acceptable settlement with LaVar Arrington.

The settlement provided that no one did anything wrong or improper and provided for a new contract for LaVar Arrington under which he could obtain an additional $4.85 million under certain conditions and if they voided the contract if he made Pro Bowls in the next four years unless the Redskins paid LaVar Arrington an additional $3.25 million.

The settlement agreement provided:
As LaVar Arrington has put it, “[m]y grievance against the Redskins has been settled on no-fault, win-win resolution.

In 2006, when faced with the issues of the NFLPA’s arbitration procedures, I had the questions of:
(a) whether the arbitration procedures employed by the NFLPA are fair;
(b) whether they ensure a neutral arbitrator;
(c) whether adequate opportunity for judicial review exists; and
(d) whether the procedures comport with the intent underlying the Federal Arbitration Act and, if not, what might be a proper legislative response.

We cannot continue to allow corporations to bury forced arbitration clauses in employee handbooks and smart phone apps. Notably, the bill also applies to small businesses seeking to protect their rights under federal antitrust laws.

Andowah Newton has written that corporations write the clauses to be so rigged that most people give up pursuing their rights altogether.

Corporations choose the forced arbitration provider, the rules under which the forced arbitration will take place, the state in which the forced arbitration proceeding will occur, and the payment terms.

Most people do not know about forced arbitration but even those who are aware have no say in the process and, because these clauses apply to most jobs, products, and services, a person has no choice but to live with the total deprivation of their rights via forced arbitration or give up the job/product/service altogether.

I would like to acknowledge a victim of forced arbitration.

I have been told we are joined by Alexander Newton, the brother of Andowah Newton from New York.

Andowah Newton is Vice President, Legal Affairs at LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton Inc., a multinational luxury goods conglomerate.

For years, Ms. Newton was sexually harassed at work by a colleague. When she formally reported the harassment, the company demanded she apologize to the harasser for reporting him and the company promoted the harasser. It also began retaliating against her at work. Ms. Newton had been forced to sign a mandatory arbitration agreement as part of accepting her offer of employment.

Pursuant to New York’s 2018 law prohibiting employers from employing agreements that mandate arbitration of sexual harassment claims, in 2019, Ms. Newton filed her sexual harassment claims in New York state court.

The company has moved to compel arbitration, arguing that the New York law is preempted by federal law and that Ms. Newton should be required to file a mandatory confidential arbitration proceedings.

Ms. Newton continues to fight the motion to compel in court.

For Ms. Newton and for all of the victims of forced arbitration, we need to resolve this injustice.

Buried in the fine print of everything from nursing home admissions forms and credit card agreements,” to online click-through “terms and conditions” and employee handbooks, forced arbitration enables corporations to evade responsibility and avoid accountability.

Forced arbitration means that when a corporation violates the rights of their workers or consumers, they are forced to go to arbitration.

Forced arbitration lets corporations funnel aggrieved workers and consumers into a private and secret system which is designed by the corporation to be so rigged that most people are forced to give up their rights altogether.

We know that because corporations know that most individuals will simply give up when faced with a forced arbitration, there is virtually no incentive for corporations to follow the law, or to quickly and fairly handle consumer or worker claims.

The FAIR Act would restore the rights of workers and consumers by making forced arbitration between individuals and corporations illegal—meaning that individuals will be returned the choice as to how to pursue their rights against a corporation.

The FAIR Act also means that corporations will know that when they violate the law, they can be held publicly accountable, thereby turning to corporations the powerful incentive to follow the law in the first place and to treat people justly and fairly.

Forced arbitration is a private, secretive system without any enforceable standards or legal protections.

There is no public review of decisions to ensure the arbitrator got it right.

Federal law does not require that arbitrators have any legal training or even follow the law and the entire system is unaccountable to the public.

American heroes fought hard for fundamentally important laws—such as federal anti-discrimination laws and laws to protect servicemembers and their families—but these laws are now unenforceable.

It is time to close the forced arbitration loophole that gives corporations the power to ignore the laws Congress enacted.

The Supreme Court held that corporations are allowed to force individuals into arbitration because the Federal Arbitration Act, which was passed in 1925—wipes out all rights under all other laws unless and until Congress updates that law.

Thus, the FAIR Act simply amends the Federal Arbitration Act to make clear that workers and consumers cannot be forced into arbitration against their will.

This prohibition on forced arbitration would apply to all workers (no matter how they are classified by their employer), consumers, and small businesses seeking to enforce their rights under antitrust laws.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1423, the “Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act.”

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary, printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-32, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 116-210. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 1423

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ‘‘Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act’’ or the ‘‘FAIR Act’’.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are to—
(1) prohibit predispute arbitration agreements that force arbitration of employment, consumer, antitrust, or civil rights disputes, and
(2) prohibit agreements and practices that interfere with the right of individuals, workers, and small businesses to participate in a joint, class, or collective action related to an employment, consumer, antitrust, or civil rights dispute.

SEC. 3. ARBITRATION OF EMPLOYMENT, CONSUMER, ANTITRUST, AND CIVIL RIGHTS DISPUTES.

(a) In GENERAL.—Title 9 of the United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

“CHAPTER 4—ARBITRATION OF EMPLOYMENT, CONSUMER, ANTITRUST, AND CIVIL RIGHTS DISPUTES

Sec. 401. Definitions.

401. Definitions.

‘In this chapter—
(1) the term ‘anti-trust dispute’ means a dispute—
(A) arising from an alleged violation of the antitrust laws (as defined in subsection (a) of the first section of the Clayton Act) or State antitrust laws; and
(B) in which the plaintiffs seek certification as a class under rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or a comparable rule or provision of State law;”

‘(2) the term ‘civil rights dispute’ means a dispute—
(A) arising from an alleged violation of—
(i) the Constitution of the United States or the constitution of a State;”

‘(ii) any Federal, State, or local law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, national origin, or any legally protected status in education, employment, credit, housing, public accommodations and facilities, voting, veterans or servicemembers, health care, or a program funded or conducted by the Federal Government or State government, including any law referred to or described in section 52(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, including parts of such law not explicitly referenced in such section but that relate to protecting individuals on any such basis; and

‘(B) in which at least 1 party alleging a violation described in subparagraph (A) is one or more individuals (or their authorized representatives), including one or more individuals seeking certification as a class under rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or a comparable rule or provision of State law;”

‘(3) the term ‘consumer dispute’ means a dispute between—
(A) one or more individuals who seek or acquire real or personal property, services (including services related to digital technology), securities or other investments, money, or credit for personal, family, or household purposes including an individual or individuals who seek certification as a class under rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or a comparable rule or provision of State law; and
(B) the seller or a provider of such property, services, securities or other investments, money, or credit; or
"(1) A collective bargaining agreement means an agreement between one or more individuals or their authorized representatives and a person or entity that is the employer and that is not a Federal or State statute, or public policy arising therefrom."

"Nothing in this chapter shall apply to any arbitration that has not yet arisen at the time of the making of the agreement; and"

"The term 'predispute joint-action waiver' means an agreement, whether or not part of a predispute arbitration agreement, that would prohibit, or waive the right of, one of the parties to the agreement to participate in a joint, class, or collective action in a judicial, arbitral, administrative, or other forum, concerning a dispute that has not yet arisen at the time of the making of the agreement."

"§ 402. No validity or enforceability

"(a) In general.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, no predispute arbitration agreement or predispute joint-action waiver shall be valid or enforceable in any proceeding with respect to an employment dispute, consumer dispute, antitrust dispute, or civil rights dispute."

"(b) Applicability

"(1) In general.—An issue as to whether this chapter applies with respect to a dispute shall be determined under Federal law. The applicability of this chapter to an agreement to arbitrate or a predispute arbitration agreement is determined by a court, rather than an arbitrator, whether the parties involving arbitration challenges the arbitration agreement specifically or in conjunction with other terms of the contract containing such agreement, and irrespective of whether the agreement purports to delegate such determinations to an arbitrator.

"(2) Collective bargaining agreements.—Nothing in this chapter shall apply to any arbitration provision in a contract between an employer and a labor organization or between labor organizations, except that no such arbitration provision shall have the effect of waiving the right of a worker to seek judicial enforceability of a right arising under a provision of the Constitution of the United States, a State constitution, or a Federal or State statute, or public policy arising therefrom."

"(b) Technical and conforming amendments

"(1) In general.—Title 9 of the United States Code is amended—

"(A) in section 1 by striking "of seamen," and all that follows through "interstate commerce" and inserting in lieu thereof "of individuals, regardless of whether such individuals are designated as employees or independent contractors for other purposes";

"(B) in section 2 by inserting "or as otherwise provided in chapter 4" before the period at the end of the amendment; and

"(C) in section 208—

"(i) in the section heading by striking "CHAPTER 1; RESIDUAL APPLICATION" and inserting "APPLICATION"; and

"(ii) by adding at the end the following: "This chapter applies to the extent that this chapter is not in conflict with chapter 4."; and

"(2) Table of sections.—

"(A) Chapter 2.—The table of sections of chapter 2 is amended by striking the item relating to section 208 and inserting the following:

"(208. Application..."

"(B) Chapter 3.—The table of sections of chapter 3 of title 9, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 307 and inserting the following:

"(307. Application...

"(3) Table of chapters.—The table of chapters of title 9, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"4. Arbitration of Employment, Consumer, Antitrust, and Civil Rights Disputes

"Sec. 4. Effective date.

"This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to any dispute or claim that arises or accrues on or after such date.

"The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order, except those printed in part B of House Report 116–210. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

"Amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. Jordan

"The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 116–210. Mr. Jordan, as the proponent of the amendment, I have an amendment at the desk.

"The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

"The text of the amendment is as follows:

"Page 6, strike lines 16 through 25.

"The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Rule 9(d)(3) as a result of amendments offered from Ohio (Mr. Jordan) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

"The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

"Mr. Jordan. Mr. Chairman, the amendment addresses a glaring flaw in the legislation.

"The bill strips nonunion employees of any and all benefits they might gain by contracts they have signed to arbitrate their disputes. It says that contracts which force arbitration for employment disputes and contracts which open a faster, cheaper path of justice for employees—are no longer permitted even though research has shown that employees obtain more favorable judgments in arbitration than in court. In court, of course, the average employee stands to be seriously outgunned by an employer who has far more resources to hire costly courtroom counsel.

"While the bill takes those benefits out of the hands of nonunion employees, it doesn't do that for union employees. Predispute, mandatory bind- ing arbitration contracts negotiated by unions with employers or with other unions are left untouched by the bill.

"This bill is titled the Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act, but it should be titled the forced injustice guarantee because the bill enacts injustice between union and nonunion employees.

"Nonunion employees get handed over to the high-cost plaintiffs' trial lawyers and may never be able to afford their day in court. Union employees get all the benefits of forcing arbitration with their employers and don't have to make a sacrifice at all like the nonunion employees do.

"Mr. Chairman, this amendment fixes the hypocritical treatment in the legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

"Mr. Nadler. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

"The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

"Mr. Nadler. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

"There are more than 40 million workers who make up a majority of nonunion, private sector employees and who are subject to forced arbitration clauses. These employees are told that, if they want to get a job or keep the job they have, they must sign away their right to their day in court and submit to forced arbitration. These workers have absolutely no choice.

"When forced arbitration is allowed, the idea that they are subject to forced arbitration, and even if they are aware, there is nothing they can do about it; and, of course, it is not possible for them to know that they are going to be subjected to sexual assault, wage discrimination, or other illegal behavior before they begin employment.

"This is a serious power imbalance which allows companies to unilaterally impose unfair terms upon nonunion employees. The FAIR Act aims to put power back into the hands of these 60 million workers who have been forced by their employer to sign away their rights.

"But when real choice is part of the equation, arbitration can be a reasonable alternative to litigation. Collective bargaining, which involves meaningful negotiation between the company and the union, results in a much different arbitration process and can produce much different results.

"In a 2019 report, the Economic Policy Institute noted that "beyond the use of the FAIR Act and the arbitration system that organized labor and management have long been using to resolve disputes has almost nothing in common
The collective bargaining process provides protections that are simply unavailable to many nonunion workers, such as the ability to reject unfair employment terms. In collective bargaining, the company cannot just impose its will upon the union. There must be buy-in on both sides.

When arbitration is agreed to through collective bargaining, there is less likely to be an experience gap between the parties. In nonunion arbitration, the company continuously interacts with arbitrators, while the employee may only see the arbitrator once, if that. And in most cases, the company gives itself unilateral power to pick the arbitrator. This creates a conflict of interest in which the arbitrator has a strong incentive to prioritize the company's interest by finding in its favor rather than to fairly assess the claim at issue.

The collective bargaining process looks much different. Like the company, the union also has the benefit of being a repeat player in arbitration. The union understands how the process works, and it may even have experience practicing in front of the same arbitrator multiple times.

When the repeat player dynamic exists on both sides of the arbitration, the risk that one party will be systematically favored over the other is greatly reduced.

Furthermore, through collective bargaining, a union can secure a variety of important protections for workers, such as requiring truly neutral arbitrators, paid time off for employees to participate in the arbitration, and transparent decisionmaking.

Often, union employees are guaranteed a multilevel appeals process, lowering the risk that an arbitrator will ignore relevant laws or that there will be an unjust result.

The concern is that the FAIR Act is designed to address simply do not occur in the context of collective bargaining and, therefore, makes no sense to apply its restrictions to such contracts.

Accordingly, I strongly oppose this amendment, and I encourage my colleagues to vote against this amendment.

Mr. Chair. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Chair, I have seen elected officials change their positions. I have never seen it happen in 5 minutes.

Mr. Chair, 5 minutes ago, the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary believes what he just said 5 minutes ago, then he should be in support of this amendment. Or maybe he didn't mean "all" when he said "all" Americans deserve their day in court.

Maybe he didn't mean "bedrock principle," which he said bedrock principle. Maybe he only meant, Oh, it is a principle just for some people, which means, by definition, it is not a principle at all.

So I want to know which position the chairman has; the one he said 5 minutes ago, or the one he said 2 minutes ago.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

If anything, this discussion about collective bargaining shows that arbitration can be a rational process when there is actual choice on both sides of the tracks. But for the majority, the overwhelming majority of nonunion private sector workers, that choice simply does not exist.

This amendment fails to comprehend these critical distinctions between collective bargaining and the take-it-or-leave-it arbitration clauses that the majority of workers face. And it fails to recognize that restoring equity and choice is exactly what the FAIR Act claims to do. You cannot compare apples and oranges, as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) tried to do.

Finally, as the APL-CIO explains, this amendment "would also be directly contrary to the intent of Congress in both the Wagner and Taft-Hartley Acts, which encourage the practice of collective bargaining and the resolution of contract disputes through alternative dispute resolution."

And, again, arbitration voluntarily agreed to by the workers through their democratically elected union is not the same as coercive forced arbitration.

Mr. Chair, accordingly, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the nays appeared to have it.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MRS. FLETCHER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report No. 116-210.

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, and I ask for its consideration.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to prohibit the use of arbitration on a voluntary basis after the dispute arises.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 558, the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. FLETCHER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I offer this amendment to the bill for the simple purpose of clarifying its scope and antitrust liability.

The FAIR Act prohibits the enforcement of mandatory pre-dispute arbitration provisions—forced arbitration—in contracts involving consumer, employment, antitrust, and civil rights disputes.

This amendment makes clear that the FAIR Act applies to pre-dispute forced arbitration in these disputes, and not to voluntary arbitration that is agreed to by the parties in these cases after a dispute occurs.

It does not apply, as some have suggested, to commercial cases between businesses; it does not eliminate arbitration altogether, and there are good reasons for this.

There is certainly a role for the arbitration of disputes and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. From my own experience as a lawyer, I understand the utility arbitration can provide for businesses to resolve disputes, especially in the context of an ongoing business relationship.

That is not what the FAIR Act is about. The FAIR Act is about restoring access to justice for the people.

It is for consumers and workers. It is for people whose civil rights have been violated.

It is for the small business people who have antitrust claims.

It is for the millions of Americans who are denied their rights to seek justice and accountability today because of forced arbitration.

This amendment makes clear that the act does not prohibit the option to participate in arbitration after a dispute has arisen provided that the agreement to arbitrate the dispute is voluntary and the parties actually consent.

This amendment anticipates that, for reasons of their own choosing, some parties may elect to participate in arbitration after a dispute has arisen on a voluntary basis; and does not prohibit that choice. The amendment acknowledges the right to consent, but it must be truly voluntary.
When an agreement to arbitrate is a contract of adhesion, it is not voluntary. When an agreement to arbitrate is not disclosed, it is not voluntary. When an agreement to arbitrate is a condition of employment, it is not voluntary. When an agreement to arbitrate is not disclosed, it is not voluntary. The reason is, if one party really wants to arbitrate, the other person will be really disadvantaged by arbitration.

In order to have a post-dispute arbitration, you need both parties to agree. And the simple fact is, that once a dispute arises, there is always going to be a benefit for one of the parties to go to court. And most of the time, it is not going to be the consumer or the employee that sees these advantages. It will be a company or an employee with the resources to overwhelm a consumer or an employee in court with discovery, procedure, and expensive lawyer fees.

And far too often, just the prospect of arbitration will be enough to dissuade a consumer or employee from even filing a lawsuit to begin with, which means that the parties with the deepest pockets will just be able to get off scot-free.

The reality is, in most disputes, no matter what venue you are in—you can be in Federal court, you can be in State court, you can be in arbitration—there is going to be unequal bargaining power. Pre-dispute arbitration gives people with less financial means in your basic employment dispute, contracts, or consumer disputes, a venue that is affordable, gets done in a reasonable amount of time, and allows them to move through.

Now, if you are a company and you are not forced into that in pre-dispute, why in the world would you ever agree to go back there? Mr. Chair, I urge opposition to this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, the gentleman from North Dakota’s argument makes the argument for the FAIR Act, because the essential point there is about the ability to contract with equal bargaining power. And we have heard that entire morning about the imbalance that exists with these contracts of adhesion, these contracts that require arbitration as a term of employment, and that is exactly what we are here to protect.

However, we have also seen the argument that this is the end of arbitration, and that is simply not the case. There is a place in our system for people who elect to arbitrate, but it must be with equal bargaining power, and it must be with full information and voluntary compliance.

The amendment simply makes clear that the FAIR Act does not prohibit arbitration on a voluntary basis after a dispute arises and can’t be construed to do so.

Mr. Chair, it is for these reasons that I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the sentiment, but the amendment neither prevents the possibility of negotiating agreements to arbitrate once disputes arise, but if this bill succeeds in wiping out the possibility of negotiating agreements to arbitrate once disputes arise, parties will almost never ever arbitrate. And the simple reason is, if one person really wants to be in arbitration, the other person will be really disadvantaged by arbitration.

In order to have a post-dispute arbitration, you need both parties to agree. And the simple fact is, that once a dispute arises, there is always going to be a benefit for one of the parties to go to court. And most of the time, it is not going to be the consumer or the employee that sees these advantages. It will be a company or an employee with the resources to overwhelm a consumer or an employee in court with discovery, procedure, and expensive lawyer fees.

And far too often, just the prospect of arbitration will be enough to dissuade a consumer or employee from even filing a lawsuit to begin with, which means that the parties with the deepest pockets will just be able to get off scot-free.

The reality is, in most disputes, no matter what venue you are in—you can be in Federal court, you can be in State court, you can be in arbitration—there is going to be unequal bargaining power. Pre-dispute arbitration gives people with less financial means in your basic employment dispute, contracts, or consumer disputes, a venue that is affordable, gets done in a reasonable amount of time, and allows them to move through.

The amendment simply makes clear that the FAIR Act does not prohibit arbitration on a voluntary basis after a dispute arises and can’t be construed to do so.

Mr. Chair, it is for these reasons that I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mrs. Fletcher). The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. JORDAN

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a record vote on amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 116-210 offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Jordan) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ages 161, noes 253, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 539]

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<tr>
<th>YAYS</th>
<th>161</th>
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<tr>
<td>Noes</td>
<td>253</td>
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<td>Not Voting</td>
<td>26</td>
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[House Roll Call 539]
Mr. ARMSTRONG. I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on passage of the bill will be followed by a 5-minute vote on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 225, noes 186, not voting 28—[Ayes 540].

Mr. ARMSTRONG. I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on passage of the bill will be followed by a 5-minute vote on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 225, noes 186, not voting 28—[Ayes 540].

So the bill was passed.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Votes 539 and 540, I am not recorded because I was not present in the House. Had I been present, I would have voted: “nay” on rollcall No. 539 and “nay” on rollcall No. 540.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, on September 19 and 20, 2019, I was absent from the House chamber. I returned to my district in South Carolina to attend to a family matter. According to the rules, I was unable to vote on legislative measures on the floor. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: “aye” on rollcall No. 536: H. Res. 564, On Motion Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4378; “aye” on rollcall No. 537: H. Res. 564, On Passage of the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4378; “aye” on rollcall No. 538: H.R. 4378, On Passage, Making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes; “nay” on rollcall No. 539: H.R. 1423, On Agreeing to the Amendment, Jordan #1 to the Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act; and “aye” on rollcall No. 540: H.R. 1423, On Passage, the Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act.

Mr. HARMER. Mr. Speaker, a request was made to try to see how the House will meet at 11 a.m. I intend to be in attendance. Any Member, I know, would be welcome to be there as well.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SCALISE and the Clyburn family very much for their condolences and for their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. I know that all Members join us in sending JIM CLYBURN and the Clyburn family our deepest sympathies and condolences.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Votes 539 and 540, I am not recorded because I was not present in the House. Had I been present, I would have voted: “nay” on rollcall No. 539 and “nay” on rollcall No. 540.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for going through the schedule.

I know the gentleman joins me in extending our sincere condolences to our friend, my counterpart as the majority whip of the House, JIM CLYBURN, on the loss of his wife, Emily. They were married for 58 years, and were a wonderful family.

I know she had been battling for awhile and she is in a better place, but as one who has lost a spouse, I know what a difficult time this is for JIM CLYBURN.

I would let all the Members know that there will be a service in Columbia, a wake, on Sunday at 5 o’clock, and the funeral will be in Charleston at 11 a.m. I intend to be in attendance. Any Member, I know, would be welcome to be there as well.

JIM CLYBURN has been a giant in this body. He has been a leader on our side of the aisle now for almost 20 years, and before that, a leader of the Congressional Black Caucus and somebody who has been a strong voice, particularly for rural communities and for people who are challenged either because of the color of their skin or their economic status.

I know that Emily was his partner in those efforts, as the gentleman knows. She was a wonderful, warm woman and will be greatly missed. But the gentleman’s observation that she is in a better place is one with which I agree, and I know that JIM CLYBURN agrees as well.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. I know that all Members join us in sending JIM CLYBURN and the family our deepest sympathies and condolences.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Votes 539 and 540, I am not recorded because I was not present in the House. Had I been present, I would have voted: “nay” on rollcall No. 539 and “nay” on rollcall No. 540.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Votes 539 and 540, I am not recorded because I was not present in the House. Had I been present, I would have voted: “nay” on rollcall No. 539 and “nay” on rollcall No. 540.
Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his question.

I don’t have a timetable, but I share his vision that we want to move this along. We had a phone call, and the Speaker was on the floor, we were trying to get to “yes” on this.

Again, we appreciate Ambassador Lighthizer’s good faith. We think he has been dealing in good faith on behalf of the administration and on behalf of getting to an agreement, so we appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman knows, we are eager to update and improve NAFTA so that it functions better for the American businesses and workers. However, for House Democrats, as the gentleman knows, getting NAFTA 2.0 done right means doing more than just changing its name. We need to make sure it changes actually its work, and by that, we mean enforcement.

Both the Speaker and I voted for NAFTA. We were concerned and disappointed that the sidebars were not carried out, so we are pursuing that.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, as the Speaker has said, the commitments in the trade pact aren’t worth the paper they are written on if they can’t be enforced.

Not only do we agree with that, but that has been our experience, so we are hoping that we get mechanisms to accomplish that objective.

In 25 years, we have only had one successful enforcement action under NAFTA—dispute resolution procedures—and none in the past 20 years, so that is why we believe enforcement is so very important.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell the gentleman—and I know he will find this as a positive—there is a meeting today with the task force that was set up by the Speaker, headed by Mr. NEAL, with Mr. Lighthizer, so this process is under active and vigorous consideration.

We hope we get to a place where the administration will be able to submit, pursuant to the statute, the proper agreement so that we can proceed on it, but we want to get this done.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I would just encourage those talks to move as quickly as they can, because as we share the interest of making sure that not only do we have better agreements, which this USMCA deal was that was negotiated with Mexico and Canada does have better provisions for the United States, we need to make sure that there is proper enforcement, because if somebody doesn’t follow through, then we need to make sure we can hold them accountable.

While I am confident that there are already enforcement provisions in the agreement, if they can be made stronger, I know that Ambassador Lighthizer is working to find a way to do that, but also in a way that doesn’t start the whole process over, where we don’t have to open the entire agreement up and then Mexico, which has already ratified it, would have to go back. Canada stands waiting to move on it as well, but right now, we are the holdup.

There are a lot of jobs at stake, over 160,000 jobs. Our farmers are counting on this. So many other manufacturing sectors in our economy are counting on this.

So, hopefully, we can move quickly to work through these and then ultimately get it passed and move to the next one, that want to enter into agreements with the United States, and ultimately to confront China, to resolve the differences that we are having with China.

But I know the gentleman is working on his side. And, again, I would just encourage that we do that as quickly as possible and expedite it and then get it passed, but we will continue working on that.

Something else we would like to work on in a more bipartisan way is drug pricing.

The President has been very clear that he wants a bipartisan bill that is worked out here in Congress to lower drug prices. There have been many efforts made and, in fact, positive steps taken by the Energy and Commerce Committee to pass a package of bills out of committee unanimously to lower drug prices.

Unfortunately, the Speaker took a different turn and, yesterday, had a press conference and then ultimately filed a bill last night, H.R. 3, which was written in secret. Many Democrats don’t even know what is in it.

But no Republicans were consulted and involved in the process, and it ended up becoming a very partisan bill, much to the socialist left, which wouldn’t solve the problem and, more importantly, wouldn’t get to the President’s desk because it is not an effort that involved any bipartisan cooperation.

Again, I point out there was a package of bills that passed unanimously out of Energy and Commerce that would lower drug prices. Both parties agreed. Every single member on the Energy and Commerce Committee agreed. Unfortunately, that was shelved in lieu of this partisan approach.

I would hope that we take it more seriously than that and actually work together to get a bill that the President can sign to lower drug prices as quickly as possible, which was taken yesterday does not answer this call, and I would hope we would do better.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, let me first say, if the gentleman wants to pursue bipartisanism—I know that they all want to use this “socialist,” which was egregiously misidentified to me, and that I wrote to Mr. SCALISE about, which was a hateful ad. My suggestion is “liberal,” this, that, and the other.

The drug bill that we have is going to be dealing with private sector producers, privately owned, of prescription drugs.

This is not anything about socialism, but I know the gentleman wants to use the word “socialist,” which I know apparently have told him that is going to be a catchword that politically will be great for the next election. But if the gentleman wants to seek bipartisanism, let’s just not try to color everything we say in terms that clearly seek out bipartisanship, not the destruction.

Now, as to the bill itself, very frankly, we introduced a bill yesterday. The committee has been working on it. When I say “the committee,” the Energy and Commerce, the Education and Labor, and the Ways and Means Committee have all been working on this bill. There has been no secret about it. We have been discussing it.

It has three components, essentially, as the gentleman knows. It has a component of negotiation, which, of course, as the gentleman knows, the Veterans Administration does so right now.

I don’t know whether the gentleman thinks that is socialism in the Veterans Administration—maybe he has in his campaign, I do not know. He is not a unique proposal. It puts inflation limits on drug prices so we can’t have drug prices that people need to maintain their health and their lives increase 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 700, 800 percent in a very short period of time. We don’t think that is really what ought to happen.

Lastly, it restructures the medical part D benefit to cap out-of-pocket spending for seniors, somewhat as the Republicans did with their part D under President Bush.

So this is a proposal that is doing what we said we would do in the last election, and that is to try to look at bringing down the cost of prescription drug prices, lifespan pricing, heart-enhancing drugs, so that people are not priced out of the market or have to make a choice between food, mortgage, rent, and the prescription drugs which they need to be healthy.

Now, I agree that we do need a bipartisan solution, but so does the President of the United States. When the gentleman says “done in secret,” let me give a quote that the President of the United States says: “I like Senator GRASSLEY’s drug pricing bill very much of negotiation, which, of course, the committee has been working on it.

I will say, I do not know the depths of Senator GRASSLEY’s bill, but it is Senator GRASSLEY’s bill, the Republican chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

Now, continuing to quote the President: “. . . and it’s great to see Speaker PELOSI’s bill today.” That is the “socialist” bill to which the gentleman referred just now.

Let’s get it done in a bipartisan way. In other words, what the President of the United States is saying is the Republican chairman of the Senate Finance Committee has introduced a bill;
Speaker PELOSI and others have introduced a bill. Let’s try to work together on those bills. That is what President Trump said just the other day. That is what I expect we are going to do.

So I appreciate the gentleman’s comments. We hope we can work in a bipartisan way, because this is a very critical challenge that the American people face. They know they need these prescription drugs to stay alive, to stay well, to be able to continue to work. But if they are priced out of the market, you and I both know that our economy suffers; and, therefore, we all suffer.

So I share the gentleman’s view that I hope we can get this done in a bipartisan way. Senator GRASSLEY has a proposal; we have a proposal. Let’s see what we can do together to assist the American people in having something that they absolutely must have.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of items to address there.

First, there is kind of a recoil that seems to happen by Mr. HOYER and a number of others on the other side when the term “socialism” is used to identify the policies that are being—

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield to me?

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I wrote the gentleman a letter. Did he believe that that ad, that I complained about and that I thought it was so egregious, so disgusting, does he agree with me that that ad totally misrepresented what socialism is? It deluded the American people. It was a big lie. Does the gentleman agree with me?

[1130]

Mr. SCALISE. First of all, I haven’t seen the ad the gentleman is referring to. It starts to go through ads and he wants me to send him some ads where people on his side lie about positions that Members on our side have taken. I will be happy to give him a litany of false ads, misleading ads, then we can go back and forth on that.

But if he is trying to hide from the term “socialism” when he promotes socialist policies, we can have a debate about what socialism is. It is an ideology, it is not a word that is thrown around, and it involves government control of your life.

So when you move bills like the Green New Deal or when you see a Presidential candidate on your side running around saying he is going to go to people’s houses and take their guns—that is a candidate for President of the United States on your side—those are socialist policies. If the gentleman doesn’t want the term applied, then don’t promote that ideology, don’t embrace that ideology, reject the ideology. But he won’t.

You want to try to play it both ways. You want to try to act like you are going to impeach the President, but say you are not going to impeach the President. You want to promote the Green New Deal, but you don’t want to bring it to the floor, so your Members don’t have to be exposed to the vote. But, ultimately, as long as the gentleman is going to promote and allow socialism to come forward, people are going to call it for what it is. And if the gentleman doesn’t agree with socialism, then just stop embracing the ideology and the actual policies.

So when he talks about a bill where the President said—and he read it and I will read it again—let’s get it done in a bipartisan way; the bill that was filed by Speaker PELOSI yesterday was not a bipartisan bill, it was a hyperpartisan bill. So we are talking about the House bill. The Senate bill is still a work in progress. And we all know how the Senate works. Maybe they produce a bill and maybe they don’t, but it is not a final product.

The bill that was filed on your side, yesterday, was most of your own Members haven’t even seen, because it was written in secret only from a very far left approach. When Speaker PELOSI, yesterday, was asked if she is willing to negotiate a bill that doesn’t allow you to negotiate prices, she said, “no, absolutely, positively no,” so she is not even willing to negotiate.

That is not bipartisan. That is not an approach that is going to get a bill signed into law. You want to lower drug prices. We worked together.

By the way, Ranking Member WALDEN was not even consulted, but Ranking Member WALDEN worked with Chairman PALLONE to bring bills out of Energy and Commerce, for example, to stop a process that currently is legal that allows drug companies, right before the patent expires, when the drug is about to become available for lower prices, companies go and make the generic drug. And, right now, the process of the FDA is for a period of time, usually a rolling 6 months, one company is given the exclusive rights to provide the generic for a period of time. Ultimately, other companies are allowed in. But for the first period of months and months, it could be years, only one company has the exclusive right to do the generic. And the drug companies are allowed to pay the generic company not to sell the product. So you don’t have the original drug.

You don’t have the generic available because the companies can pay the company not to make the generic. We have a bill called No Pay for Delay. We make it illegal for the drug companies to pay the generics not to make generics. That will lower drug prices.

We also improve the process where you can get the drugs to the generic companies earlier so they can make the drug. We pay the companies to actually make a generic, you have to have available the details of what is in the drug so you can make the generic.

And, a lot of times, the companies don’t give that information to the generic company, so it is harder to get generics, which are lower prices. It is not the government coming in saying, if you think you know what a drug price should be for any product you want to use, you will luck out in the marketplace. But if you want to stifle innovation, if you want to stifle the ability to actually go and invest and have companies come up with lifesaving drugs, it costs billions of dollars to develop a drug, work with us to reform the FDA process so that it doesn’t take 10 years and $5 billion to develop a drug.

There are real things that can be done in a bipartisan way to address that, and yet the gentleman’s party won’t do that. They want to sit in a room and come up with a bill that nobody else has seen, that no Republicans were allowed to be a part of, that is not going to become law. So there is a way to lower drug prices.

And, again, there was a package of bills passed out of Energy and Commerce, every single Member, Republican and Democrat, voted for it. That is the path right there to get some lowering prices for drugs today, but you won’t bring that bill to the floor. Why not bring that package of bills to the floor?

If you want to come up with other ideas to lower drug prices in other ways, great, let’s work on that, too. But, at a minimum, bring the bills that already came out of committee unanimously, that absolutely everybody agrees, Republican and Democrat, will lower drug prices, and you refuse to bring that bill to the floor, that package. Why not do that?

Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman consider bringing that package of bills that was unanimous out of committee to lower drug prices? Every Republican and every Democrat agreed on the committee of jurisdiction that these things will lower drug prices, and we can’t get a vote on that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we brought a bill to the floor that the gentleman spoke about that prohibited pay for delay, prohibited drug companies from paying generics not to bring their drugs to the marketplace so that drug prices would be lower today. Congress would be paying lower prices for drugs today, but you won’t bring that bill to the floor. Why not bring that package of bills to the floor?

If you want to come up with other ideas to lower drug prices in other ways, great, let’s work on that, too. But, at a minimum, bring the bills that already came out of committee unanimously, that absolutely everybody agrees, Republican and Democrat, will lower drug prices, and you refuse to bring that bill to the floor, that package. Why not do that?

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that bill. Six years, the Republicans, Mr. Speaker, were in charge, totally. There was no effort to bring a bill to this floor to bring drug prices down. And, in fact, Americans know drug prices didn’t come down. The President was a Republican, the House was Republican, the Senate was Republican. They didn’t bring a bill to the floor, Mr. Speaker.

Two of the three proposals in our bill are also in the Grassley bill. And, Mr. Speaker, we are going to have regular order. We have introduced a bill, it is going to go to committee, it is going to be subject to amendment, it is going to be subject to debate, it is going to be subject to hearings.

Now, we will see whether it is a bipartisan process. Because, very frankly, the record of bipartisanship when the Republicans were in charge is pretty absent.

Of the 19 major bills that we passed, we got 618 Republican votes, so they were against it. Now, admittance about 400 of those votes were on four bills that went through this place in a very bipartisan fashion.

So I would hope that we see bipartisanship when the committee marks up this bill. I wish we didn’t have what the President says he wants to do. We will see whether he supports that.

They have the Grassley bill and now you have a Democratic bill in our House. They are going to have hearings in the Senate. But Republicans and Democrats will both participate in those hearings, and it is going to be bipartisan, and we will see whether we can come up with bipartisanship.

But the gentleman continues to want to make some political patina with this, some partisan patina, Mr. Speaker. I asked him, but he didn’t respond. He says he hasn’t seen the ad. I wish he would. It is an egregious piece of political diatribe. But I would hope that he would also urge his Members to work together.

And this business we negotiate for drugs right now, Mr. Speaker, through the Veterans Administration to ensure that our veterans get the best cost they can get. Apparently, that is okay, but doing the same thing, Mr. Speaker, for American consumers of prescription drugs who are not veterans is somehow characterized by the gentleman as government control.

I urge the gentleman to proceed, as he speaks, on a bipartisan basis and see whether or not we can get to an agreement in this House. But we are going to pass something to bring drug prices down for the American consumer, Mr. Speaker. If the gentleman does anything else that is contrary to the interests of the American consumer, he should do so in a bipartisan way, and we are going to do it. We hope we can do it in cooperation with everybody in this House, but we are going to do it.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I hope the gentleman is not going to try to use the VA as the standard of care that every American should get. We saw the

scandals at the VA, veterans dying waiting to get care.

We actually passed legislation this Congress that got signed into law last Congress to allow veterans to go to another hospital that can actually treat the disease. And I know a number of people in the gentleman’s party oppose that, but our veterans appreciated it. While you might be able to get good care at some VA hospitals, there were—and the gentleman has seen the ad, those aren’t false ads—veterans literally dying waiting to get into VA hospitals, and the VA was telling us there was no secret list when, in fact, there were secret lists that were not allowing these veterans to get proper care.

So the VA CHOICE Act was passed specifically to address that problem and, ultimately, allow our veterans to be able to go to another hospital if the VA isn’t properly taking care of them. Our veterans deserve the best care. If a veteran believes the VA then, for some reason, someone else should, and, in fact, now other hospitals are. Our veterans have asked for that and now have that ability.

But if the gentleman wants to talk about bipartisanship, again, I go back to the bills that passed out of committee unanimously. When those bills came to the floor, they were changed to make them partisan. And if he thinks 5 Republicans out of 197 is bipartisan, I am going to go back and look back at what, ultimately, is going to allow a bill to become law. To become law, it is going to have to have a lot more support than that, which means the games have to stop being played. The poison pills can’t be put in a bill and then expect that to become law. You can pass it out of the House, and it will never become law.

So the ultimate goal, I would hope, would be for us to come together to get a bill. The bills that came out of committee unanimously could have absolutely gotten to the President’s desk and would be lowering drug prices. Once you start adding things to them—maybe you get a few Republicans here and there—but ultimately you took an unanimous bill and made it a partisan bill and it is not going anywhere.

So there is a path, if you want to get it back on track, to get a bill to the President’s desk. I am going to vote for it. The ability is there.

And those bills, by the way, took years to come together, just like the 21st Century Cures Act, a bill that took a long time to put together when we were in the majority, but, ultimately, got to the desk of President Obama, and he signed it. It is great law. It is something that, ultimately, is going to help us cure major diseases, and we came together to get that done. It is law. It wasn’t just a bill that we passed out of the House in a partisan way. We worked with Democrats and we got it done. It is on the books now.

So I would hope, if we are looking at models to use, that we look at the models of those bills that have actually made it all the way through the process where we worked with people on both sides and solved real problems. That should be the objective. Not to make a statement and just work with a model where, when you have a roadmap for something that can be overwhelmingly passed out of this House and then get to the President’s desk.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman didn’t answer my question, of course.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the gentleman: What was the question? I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, it has nothing to do with the standard of care at the VA, managed by the administration, which, of course, has had the Presidency for the last 3 years.

Whether you pay $5 for prescription drugs or $50 for prescription drugs, that is how much you are paying for the drug that you think helps either a veteran or a nonveteran.

But let me say this: The gentleman keeps talking about, Mr. Speaker, these bipartisan bills. The reason they weren’t bipartisan in passing this House is because we added ACA protections.

We added preexisting condition provisions to those bills, and the Republicans, therefore, voted against. Why? Because they have been against the Affordable Care Act and its adoption, against it in the campaigns.

When they had the opportunity to change it, they couldn’t do it. They came up with a goofy egg, Mr. Speaker.

The President said, during the course of the campaign, that he was going to present a bill that included coverage for every American at a lower cost and a higher quality. I tell the press, as soon as he sends that bill down, Mr. Speaker, I am going to vote for it. He has been President now for 3 years, a little short of that. No bill has come down.

The bill that the Speaker and majority leader went down to the White House the standard of care. That is, if you have been against the Affordable Care Act and its adoption, against it in the campaigns.

Let me tell you what the President further said, Mr. Speaker, and the characterization differs from the characterization that my friend, the Republican whip, exhibited. The President
endorsed Medicare drug price negotiations in his campaign and put forward a proposal to use international prices as a guide to limit out-of-control U.S. prices. That is what the gentleman’s President said.

The administration has endorsed the other two concepts of inflation limits on drug prices and improving Medicare part D as part of the legislation put forward by Senator Grassley.

I have every confidence that the gentleman has his own definition of bipartisanship.

Mr. Scalise. Well, clearly, as the gentleman talks about the Grassley bill that is moving through the Senate, let them do their work. Let them find a way to come together with their 60-vote rule and produce a bipartisan bill. I encourage them to do that. They haven’t yet, but I encourage them to do that.

What the gentleman talks about the ACA, let’s be clear, because the vast majority of people on the gentleman’s side now—especially in the Presidential campaign, the Democratic candidates for President—are not talking about the ACA anymore. They are talking about what is referred to as Medicare for All.

I will yield in a moment, but if the gentleman read the bill, Medicare for All, number one, it gets rid of the private insurance marketplace. Over 180 million people lose that healthcare. Then, if you look at Medicare Advantage, an incredibly popular and successful part of Medicare is gone. It goes away.

So 200 million people lose what they have now that they like, and everybody is placed in Medicare, which, as we all know, pays below-market rates. Most rural hospitals said they will close. If that bill passes, they can’t even operate. They will close because they can’t continue to run and make any kind of profit. They lose money, and they ultimately close down. They have said it.

People know, people understand, how the Administration runs their healthcare marketplace works. Know that if you get rid of the private insurance market, that is what is paying for Medicare and Medicaid today.

Medicare for All, which, again, is the catchphrase that is being used by every Presidential candidate on the gentleman’s side, and maybe they all want to have their own version of it, is a far different place than even the ACA.

We can continue and will continue to have a debate about the best way to fix our broken healthcare system—most focus on lowering prices and protecting people with preexisting conditions, but in a way that you can actually let people choose their own plans and buy whatever they want from wherever they want to go.

That is how people get all other products. Healthcare, for various reasons, doesn’t work that way. But, clearly, on the drug-pricing side, there have been a lot of good ideas that came together that could be proven to lower drug prices.

If we want to get into the high cost, which I agree is a problem, let’s look at the fundamental reasons why it costs billions of dollars, instead of maybe hundreds of millions of dollars, to create a new lifesaving drug.

There are reasons that the cost is so high to bring a drug to market. Thank goodness there are companies that are out there that are willing to invest billions of dollars. Sometimes they don’t succeed, by the way, and they have to eat that cost. But if they do succeed in finding a new drug that will save lives, it typically costs billions of dollars and years and months of red tape and other processes that they have to go through to finally bring that drug to market.

That is where we should focus our energies, on compressing that process so it can happen quicker, addressing other problems within the way that a drug comes to market so that it doesn’t cost billions of dollars, and we can have more lifesaving drugs at lower costs.

If we are going to ignore that side of the equation and say: Here, we are just going to go ahead and address the fundamental problems that are leading to such high costs, then all that is going to happen is that nobody is going to make the investment to go find the next lifesaving drug.

You will never know what could have happened. We see every day there are amazing breakthroughs in medical technology, and we want to continue encouraging that.

Something like the 21st Century Cures Act actually achieves it. Again, we came together to put that bill into law to now allow for lifesaving drugs, especially in areas like cancer, Alzheimer’s, and ALS. We are going to get real big breakthroughs. There are already some big breakthroughs because of that.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I have nothing more to say.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I know we will have more debates next week over the limited number of items coming to the floor. Hopefully, some of these other items can get addressed in a bipartisan way, but I know there are other battles ahead, and we will do our part to try to come together to address these problems.

If the gentleman has nothing else, then I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2019, TO TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Tuesday next, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there any objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

REMEMBERING MARKIYA SIMONE DICKSON

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the story of Markiya Simone Dickson.

She was an energetic, kind, and spunky 9-year-old girl. She was a beloved daughter and an adored sister. She was in third grade, and she was preparing to sing a Justin Bieber song in her school’s upcoming talent show.

On May 26, 2019, Markiya and her family attended a community picnic in Richmond, Virginia. From across the park, a random gunshot went through the crowd, and this senseless, cruel act of gun violence took Markiya’s life.

During and since this unimaginable time, Markiya’s parents, Mark Whitley and Ciara Dickson, have demonstrated extraordinary strength, determination, and courage. They continue fighting to ensure Markiya’s name and her beautiful life are never forgotten.

They stand by their steadfast wish to fight back against gun violence in our communities so that other parents will never have to experience the pain that they feel following Markiya’s death.

Markiya was beloved by those who knew her, and the Richmond, Virginia, community stands with her family at this time. Together, we share her story, we mourn her death, and we promise to fight for safer communities for all our children.

RECOGNIZING 75 YEARS SINCE HANFORD’S B REACTOR WENT CRITICAL

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important anniversary in our Nation’s nuclear and military history.

At the start of the atomic age, thousands of men and women, our Cold War patriots, moved to central Washington State to work on a top-secret government project, building the world’s first full-scale nuclear reactor.

During World War II, Hanford, Washington, was selected as one of the three sites for the Manhattan Project, and September 26 marks the date since the B Reactor went critical at the Hanford site.

Since then, the Tri-Cities has grown as a hub for innovation, with an appreciation of the past and an excitement for the future, transforming into the fastest growing economy in Washington State.

The B Reactor has been converted into the centerpiece of the Manhattan National Historical Park, where all are welcome to experience its history.

But the work at the Hanford site must continue as the Federal Government has a moral and legal obligation
to clean up the country’s largest nuclear waste site.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking the Cold War patriots at Hanford for their important contributions to our country.

COMMENDING ATLANTIC CITY HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, the Atlantic City High School track and field team is comprised of some incredibly driven athletes.

Claudine Smith and Isaiah Whaley, both graduating seniors, were especially impressive contributors to their team’s success.

During her time on the team, Claudine won three State, seven South Jersey, six Cape-Atlantic League, and six Atlantic County championships. It is unbelievable. With these accomplishments closing out her high school career, it is no wonder she was named the Press Girls Outdoor Track and Field Athlete of the Year. Isaiah, too, surpassed many records during his time. He broke his school’s 26-year-old record in the 400-meter dash and ranked number five in the State of New Jersey for the event.

These students are incredibly talented, and their head coaches, Roy Wesley, Jr., and Jonathan P. Parker, undoubtedly helped them develop and grow in their sport.

To all the members of the Atlantic County track and field team, we are immensely proud of your hard work and determination, and we can’t wait to see what you all achieve in the future.

We are proud of you in Atlantic County. We are proud of you in South Jersey. We are proud of you in New Jersey. And we are proud of you in the United States of America.

FINANCIAL SERVICES ARBITRATION IS BETTER FOR CONSUMERS

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain my opposition and vote against the bill that was on the floor earlier today, H.R. 1423, the Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act. I would like to highlight its negative impact on financial services.

Financial services providers and their customers use arbitration to settle disputes because it is easier, faster, and less costly for consumers than litigation. Forcing parties into litigation would likely extend the time before a customer is made whole and would significantly increase legal fees for all parties.

These increased costs are ultimately passed along to consumers through higher fees and fewer options, and they would negatively impact any American who has a bank account, credit card, or retirement plan. We have had that debate before.

Dodd-Frank directed that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau promulgate a rule on mandatory arbitration. While Congress overturned that rule in 2017 because it would adversely impact consumers, the Obama administration’s rule was found that the average consumer receives approximately $5,400 through arbitration and only $32 through a class action lawsuit. That means the average customer who prevailed in arbitration received 166 times more than the average class member in class action settlements.

Mr. Speaker, my time has expired, but I would urge opposition to this wrongheaded idea in the United States Senate.

□ 1200

RECOGNIZING BURMA BEAL’S 100TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Flores) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Burma Beal of Bryan, Texas, who turned 100 years old on September 15, 2019.

Burma Faye Ellis Beal was born September 15, 1919, in Jewett, Texas, to Wade and Susan Ellis. She grew up in Jewett and was known as the girl who climbed to the top of the water tower when she was just 12 years old. She graduated from Jewett High School as salutatorian in 1936, where she played tennis and participated in the Texas State tournament for this sport.

In 1937, Burma graduated from the Austin Beauty School. Just a year later, she married Oren Beal. Together, they would have 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

After moving to Bryan, Texas, Burma owned and operated Burma’s Beauty Shop for 46 years. In that time, she forged many strong friendships. Burma was deeply involved in her community and her church, Central Church in Bryan-College Station.

Burma was a huge supporter of the Texas A&M Aggies and were season ticket holders for football and basketball games for more than 35 years.

Through their church, Burma and Oren took part in the Adoptive Grandparent Program, in which they befriended students at Texas A&M. They formed such a strong bond with one young Aggie that she asked Burma and Oren to be a bridesmaid and groomsman in her wedding.

Burma is well-known among her loved ones for two things: her love for Coca-Cola and her world-famous peanut brittle. She has collected many pieces of Coca-Cola memorabilia and still drinks a Coke every day. Also, every year, from October until Christmas, Burma is known for making delicious peanut brittle to give to friends and family, as well as her doctor, the postman, the staff at her HEB store, bank employees, pharmacists, and many more. Her recipe is so good that, when her son-in-law took it to the Texas State Fair, it won third prize.

Burma has a giving spirit and aspires to bring joy to others. During her ninety-nine years, she made regular trips to nursing homes to visit with their residents and went grocery shopping for a home-bound neighbor. Even now, as a resident of Crestview Retirement Home in Bryan, she spreads cheer to her friends. She prays for a long list of people every night and spends her time showing Jesus’ love to others.

Mr. Speaker, Burma Beal has lived a long life filled with love, joy, and service to others. I am proud to recognize her and this joyous occasion, and I know that her family and friends love her and are proud of her. I wish Burma many more years of health and happiness.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation’s Capitol to recognize Burma Beal’s 100th birthday.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue to pray for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR JAMES SARTOR

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Major James Gregory “Ryan” Sartor of Teague, Texas.

Sergeant Major Sartor was born July 13, 1979, after he sustained injuries from enemy fire in Faryab province, Afghanistan.

Sergeant Major Sartor was born September 23, 1978, in Bryan, Texas, to James Sartor and Mary Teresa “Terri” Pryor. He was an excellent football player and graduated from Teague High School in 1997.

After graduation, he moved to College Station to work, where, in the fall of 2000, he met the love of his life and future spouse, Deanna Unger. They married in 2002 and were blessed with three children: Stryder, Grace, and Garrett.

Shortly after Sergeant Major Sartor and Deanna started dating, he joined the United States Army. He was deployed to Iraq for the first time in 2002 as an infantryman assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division. In 2005, Sergeant Major Sartor became a Green Beret as an infantryman assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, 10th Special Forces Group, Airborne, in Fort Carson, Colorado. He was stationed there with his family for the last 14 years.

During his career, Sergeant Major Sartor was deployed several times, returning to Iraq in 2006, 2007, 2009, and from 2010 to 2011. He also deployed to Germany and Israel in 2008, to Africa in

Sergeant Major Sartor received more than 20 awards and decorations for his brave service to his country. His awards include the following: the Bronze Star Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation Award, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Valorous Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Unit Citation with one oak leaf cluster, and the National Defense Service Medal.

He also earned the Special Forces Tab, the Ranger Tab with the title of Honor Grad, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Senior Parachutist Badge, the Special Operations Diver Badge, and the Dive Supervisor Badge.

Posthumously, Sergeant Major Sartor has also received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

Sergeant Major Sartor was described as a “beloved warrior who epitomized the quiet professional. He led his soldiers from the front, and his presence will be terribly missed.”

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Major Sartor was a devoted husband and a devoted soldier. His selfless devotion to protect our country will be forever remembered. Furthermore, he will be forever remembered as a devoted husband, a father, a son, a soldier, a selfless servant, and a loyal friend to many.

All Americans thank him and his family for their service and their sacrifice for our country. His sacrifice truly reflects the words of Jesus in John 15:13: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

The loss of Sergeant Major Sartor serves as a reminder of the sacrifices the men and women of our Armed Forces make each day to preserve the freedom for this great Nation. We are forever in debt to these committed individuals who serve our country.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Sartor family. We also lift up the family and friends of Ryan Sartor in our prayers.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation’s Capitol to honor his life and legacy.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, and for our first responders who keep us safe and secure.

HONORING DR. JOHN JOSEPH KOLDUS III

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. John Joseph Koldus II and Helen Kukoy Koldus, who passed away on August 12, 2019.

Before continuing with my recognition of Dr. Koldus, I would like to provide background on Texas A&M University in College Station and its core values.

In the front of the academic building on the campus of the university, there is a statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross, the sixth president of the university. That statue contains the following inscription: “Lawrence Sullivan Ross, 1838–1898, Soldier, Statesman, and Knightly Gentleman.” They reflect some of the key ways that Texas Aggies live the Texas A&M core values of excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect, and selfless service.

Moving on to my recognition of Dr. John Joseph Koldus II and Helen Kukoy Koldus, he was an outstanding athlete and lettered in football, basketball, baseball, and track. He was named the Most Athletic Boy in the Gary School District.

After graduation, he worked at U.S. Steel on Lake Michigan, just as his father had done. John then realized that higher education was a way for him to improve himself, and he attended Arkansas State University. At Arkansas State, he was a middleweight Golden Gloves champion and lettered 2 years in baseball and 3 years in football, capturing many individual records for the school.

In 1953, John graduated from ASU and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. John served in the Army until 1955.

Following his military service, he began teaching at Blytheville High School in Blytheville, Arkansas. John taught from 1955 to 1959, and during the summers he attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville to complete his master’s degree and to begin his doctorate studies.

During his time as a teacher, John met Mary Dell Hooker. Their first date was a tennis match, and their competitive athletic spirits fostered a strong relationship. They married on May 31, 1959.

In 1973, John began his 20-year career at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, as vice president of student services. John was instrumental...
in guiding the university through an era of incredible growth and change, as tens of thousands of women began attending the university, and by creating a unique culture which provided Aggie students with extensive leadership opportunities. In his role as vice president of student services, John had a deep and impactful relationship with the students of Texas A&M.

He had oversight of a number of organizations, including the Corps of Cadets, Recreation Sports, the Memorial Student Center, Student Activities, Student Affairs, Student Health Services, and Student Legal Services. During his time at Texas A&M, the number of student organizations doubled to more than 700. John also taught classes and served on many academic committees for graduate students.

In his 20 years at Texas A&M, John was a recipient of 15 significant awards, including the Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators’ Distinguished Service Award, the Association of Former Students’ Distinguished Achievement Award for Student Relations, the Buck Weirus Spirit Award, and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Region III Outstanding Service to NASPA Award in 1984.

In 1985, this latter award was named in his honor as a reflection of his impact on student services all across this Nation. John’s impact on the university was so meaningful, that when he retired, he was the recipient of the President’s Medallion of Achievement, and he was named Vice President Emeritus of Texas A&M University.

The Student Services Building was also renamed the John J. Koldus Building, and the Texas A&M Foundation also created the John J. Koldus Quality of Student Life Endowment. Although the honor was given to Mary Dell graduates of Texas A&M, in 2006 they were bestowed by proclamation the title of “Texas Aggies.”

In the beginning of this recognition, I discussed the attributes—soldier, statesman, knightly gentleman, and the core values of Texas A&M University: Excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect and selfless service. The reason I discussed these attributes and these values is this paper.

Dr. Koldus was a soldier, a statesman, a knightly gentleman, and he personified A&M’s core values of excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect, and selfless service. More importantly, he helped share and model those attributes and values to the Texas A&M student body through his mentoring capabilities. His skills in this regard were noteworthy as he mentored thousands of Aggies who started their education at A&M as, what I would call, “diamonds in the rough.”

I want to continue discussing this subject, because I was one of those persons who arrived at A&M pretty rough around the edges. Early on, as an Aggie student, Dr. Koldus identified me as a person who might have some promise, and he invested his time and leadership skills into my education. His mentoring and friendship had an indelible impact on me to the point of it being a life force. As I tried to be a soldier, statesman, knightly gentleman, and he helped me live and adopt those significant Aggie core values.

The bottom line is that John Koldus had a huge impact on tens of thousands of Texas Aggies, and upon me. He was a great friend, and I miss him dearly.

Mr. Speaker, John Koldus’ life was defined by his service to his family, to our country, and to Texas A&M University. He will be forever remembered as a husband, a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather, a veteran, a mentor, a selfless servant, and a friend to thousands, if not tens of thousands.

My wife, Gina, and I offer deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Koldus family. We also lift up the family and friends of John Koldus in our prayers. I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation’s Capitol to honor his life and legacy.

As I closed the floor to all Americans to continue to pray for our country during these difficult times, for our military who protects us abroad, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

RETRACTIONS OF NEW YORK TIMES’ ARTICLES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. King) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the privilege to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

And I come to this floor to talk a little bit today about what is happening to our Nation, our society, our culture, our Constitution. And these are topics that have been debated in this Chamber for a long time, but some things have happened that never happened before.

And so I would start first with: It seems to me our leader seems to be a high respecter of the credibility of the New York Times. So I put together a document here that I thought might be interesting to him, and I would go through just a few of them, the articles that have come up in the New York Times, that have had to be retracted.

Let’s see: There are the articles about Russian meddling in the election that had to be retracted.

They had to apologize for ruining Wendi Wescott’s career and life.

And the New York Times admits that one of the reporters engaged in frequent acts of journalistic fraud, widespread fabrication and plagiarism, and found problems in at least 36 of the 73 articles written by a single individual since he had started.

Further, the Times admits—that is the New York Times—that Judith Miller took journalistic shortcuts, and the New York Times’ editors failed to dig into problems before they became a mess.”

They did become a tremendous mess. Remember, that was the allocation to the Saddam Hussein’s alleged weapons of mass destruction. Well, we got into a war over that one, didn’t we, over the New York Times—at least in part.

Most of us will remember in 2006, when the New York Times covered an alleged rape by Duke—or multiple rapes, I should say, by the Duke University Lacrosse team. The Times coverage was biased towards the accuser, despite the fact that it ended up being a hoax and there was little evidence supporting the accuser’s case.

And those young men on the Duke Lacrosse team were run through the wringer. They were excoriated; they were pounded on by the national media, not only the New York Times, but that is one of the things that triggers it.

Then, again, there is a New York Times article that questioned John McCain’s relationship with a lobbyist. And that faced widespread criticism to the article implying that McCain had a romantic relationship with a lobbyist. They had to issue a correction, that they did not intend for the article to imply a romantic relationship. Well, you did imply that. They just said they didn’t “intend” that.

And so somehow, the Times thinks they should have a pass for their own definition of intent, even though time after time after time, the Times has been found to be less than credible.

The President of the United States has poured forth his ire against the New York Times, and called them the “lying New York Times,” “the fake news New York Times,” “the failing New York Times,” and probably a number of descriptions that I haven’t uncovered here, Mr. Speaker.

But in 2009, the New York Times appraisal on Walter Cronkite had to have eight different corrections due to just factual inaccuracies. And this is a standard, of course, that America used to depend upon.

And then in 2015, the New York Times published an article claiming that new figures surrounding China’s rate of coal usage could affect U.N. climate talks when, in fact, those figures were so outdated that the U.N. was already aware of that particular uptick. So, again, distorted information.

But what is consistent with this? What are the common denominators? And that is, their misinformation in the New York Times almost always fits their narrative.

And then in 2017, the New York Times incorrectly stated that China
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was in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Well, that starts a whole national debate of what is going on. If China is in the TPP, and we are not in the TPP, and then the debate churns along, well, how are we ever going to get back into the TPP? And we have to take China in with the deal. Now let me just say China wasn’t part of the TPP—just misinformation. And that was an obvious one that it would have failed even the most rudimentary of fact-checks.

Whether in 2017, because of a—their words—"because of an editing error," quoted three tweets from General Michael Flynn’s parody account attributing the quotes to General Flynn, further damaging General Flynn’s reputation, and probably contributing to the difficulties that the proud patriot had had as he wound up his career serving our country. An editing error caused these three tweets. They weren’t editing errors. They were just picking up—because the parody account the Times of making the punchline, which actually it accepted the narrative without checking on it. That is my assertion here, and I believe it is true.

Again, in 2017, the New York Times claims that Trump visited Israel during the campaign, which actually it was planned, but it was canceled for political reasons, I presume. And to be relatively astute on allowing then-President Barack Obama to be in charge of foreign policy.

In my personal experience with that, when I thought during the campaign it would be wise for then-candidate Trump to have a meeting or two with some key players around the world. But when I raised that issue, I got the straight answer back, which was, No, we don’t want to have any kind of implication that we are conducting foreign policy as a candidate for the President of the United States. That is up to the current Commander-in-Chief. The transition of how the election can take place in due course.

They were exactly correct in that and conducted themselves accordingly, but the allegations that were in the paper would indicate the opposite of that.

I have a number of other stories in here. In fact, I have only gone to the top of page 2, and there is about seven pages, maybe eight pages in here, Mr. Speaker. But I think it is clear that if anybody were to hang their hat on something that they see printed in the New York Times, they are going to find themselves—if that narrative happens to fit the narrative that the New York Times pushes and promotes—you ought to be very suspicious of the facts and the alibi, the narrative, and that narrative, if it is a narrative that fits their ideology and their preconceived notions, what they think of their political opposition.

We think back to the best example we have is now-Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who was put through a confirmation wringer that only had been matched, perhaps, by Justice Clarence Thomas.

What do they have in common? They are both constitutionalists. They are both textualists. And they are both in the process of moving America back to the Constitution, its original intent. And understanding the text of the Constitution has to mean what it was understood to mean at the time of ratification.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask you just to think about that. If the Constitution is a living and breathing document, and this definition can change on the fly, then what kind of a deal do we have at all when winding Fathers and with our posterity?

Can you imagine signing a contract—

I have spent my life in the construction business—and can you imagine signing a contract, and during the course of that contract, the words in that contract have to mean a defined, precise, black-and-white meaning. And those words are on paper so that the deal doesn’t change. That is what a contract is. You put words on paper, you sign that document, and that says, I am committed to the language in this Constitution—or the contract—and the intent of this language in the contract, or the Constitution, and I will follow through on that, and I will complete my side of this agreement. That is a contract.

The Constitution is a written contract that lays down the foundation of our government, and it is the supreme law of the land. It went on paper, on parchment. It went on parchment and was signed and ratified by the Thirteen Colonies so that they said, We are going to keep our part of this bargain. This is the deal.

You would have never ratified that Constitution back in the day if somebody would have said, well, it is a living, breathing document. We can redefine these words in here and ignore others and be able to just work our way. God forbid we had activist justices that will work with us on this and give us precedent cases that undermine the original intent of the Constitution.

That is what has been going on in this modern era, probably longer than I can recall, but I would say at least back to Warren Court. And yet today, we have Justice Clarence Thomas, who is an originalist, a textualist, and he believes the Constitution has to mean what it was understood to mean at the time of ratification.

And if we don’t like that, that is why we have the amendment process, Mr. Speaker. And that is the nominee Justice Brett Kavanaugh, and that is nominee Justice Neil Gorsuch. And I believe that is the case also for Justice Alito, and most of the time, I think it is also true for Chief Justice John Roberts. But if we don’t have a guaranty from our Constitution, we don’t have a foundation for America and our government.

And then that puts it into the hands of the willy-nilly attitudes of what might be a majority in the Supreme Court or the will of the people here in the floor of the House of Representatives, who some just turn our back on the Constitution. That contract of our Constitution has to mean what it was understood to mean at the time that it was ratified.

And so why was the big fight then pushing back against Brett Kavanaugh when he was before the United States Senate to be confirmed?

And the reasons for that are the other side—the left, the radical left, they are pitting the American people against the American people. And you saw that during the confirmation process of Justice Kavanaugh.

And he faced—this is just my memory, but I believe there were something like six different accusers that they accumulated over time. And these accusers, one of them was Christine Blasey Ford, who sat over there with her hair inside of her glasses and told us how bad this was. But her testimony could not be corroborated, and that was actually the verdict that came down when Justice Kavanaugh was confirmed before the United States Senate. Neither could the testimony or the affidavits or the narratives of the others be corroborated.

And so of those five or six accusers then, none of them held up under the scrutiny, under the light of day, even though the New York Times and The Washington Post, and all these publications I have listed, and many more, came at it as if Christine Blasey Ford was the gold standard for a witness with integrity. And it is clear she was not.

Well, they beat up so badly on Justice Kavanaugh that, at one point, one of the Democrat Senators asked him the question: You have gone through a lot, have you been faced with all this criticism?

Essentially, I will paraphrase and summarize how I understood that, and
it is not a quote from the Senator, but it was essentially this: We have beaten you up so badly and mercilessly. We damaged your reputation so badly. We destroyed your character. You have to be personally just crushed. So, how, if you are confirmed as a Justice, does the United States Supreme Court, can you sit in impartial judgment on ruling on the Constitution and the rule of law? Aren’t you going to be tempted to retaliate because of what all you have been through?

Those are not the exact words, but that was the theme.

Now, think of this. If somebody is put forward before the public in a nomination process or some other type of scrutiny and they are so mercilessly pounded by the leftist media—and, in some cases, collaboration from Republican leadership—that their reputation is so badly damaged, the question comes up: Well, can Justice Kavanaugh do his job if we have ever pounded him through this confirmation process? Oh, I think he can do his job for sure, and I think he can do it clearly and with a cool hand and a cool head and a cool mind. And I think Justice Kavanaugh is doing and will continue to do this: bring America back to the Constitution, bring America back to the original intent, bring America back to the text of the language that is in the Constitution.

And, if Americans don’t like the results of those decisions, we have a method to amend the Constitution rather than simply distort it by judicial activism. And that is about the best way to get revenge on people who put our Constitution under threat by the tactics that they are using in the confirmation process.

Well, that process that they were trying to deny the confirmation of Justice Kavanaugh failed, and he is confirmed, and he is serving with dignity and honor. And he should be allowed to do that for life if he chooses. But they mounted another effort at him a week or so ago, and it turned out to be another false story. The New York Times, in particular, didn’t bother to write into the story that the woman who allegedly had experienced some type of harassment, and maybe even physical harassment—and I say “allegedly”: allegedly, in case The New York Times missed it the first time I said it—that she didn’t have any recollection of the incident whatsoever. They have it is reported that the reporters who wrote the story had that line in their story and that it was taken out by the editors.

So, think of that. The editors at The New York Times are redacting language, even the meaning of the story is different and it can be as pejorative as possible against a seated Justice on the United States Supreme Court. That is appalling.

And is it willful? Well, that question hangs out there: Is it willful?

I will say this. There is a Supreme Court precedent case out there from about 1964 called The New York Times—excuse me. It is Sullivan v. The New York Times Company.

That was a case where, in Alabama, during the civil rights disruptions of the sixties, there was a story that had multiple falsehoods in it that was designed to bring law enforcement to the law enforcement and the people in Alabama near the Selma area. And I am not actually sure that was Selma, but it was in Alabama.

In any case, the story that came out in The New York Times was inaccurate on step after step. They argued that they locked the cafeteria shut so that they could starve the students out. Or they reported that. They reported that students were refusing to register and, essentially, leaving college. Neither one of those things were true.

They argued that they circled the building with law enforcement officers essentially arm in arm. That wasn’t true. There were about four other falsehoods. The whole last of the lawsuit was manufactured because what would they be based on, things like that.

Yet, when they went before the Supreme Court in the middle of the 1960s, Sullivan v. The New York Times Company, the Supreme Court came down with a decision, which is, well, The Times is protected because they are a print publication, and we have to allow them their First Amendment rights—freedom of the press—even if it is false, even if it is obviously false. It just has to be willfully and maliciously false in order for them to be liable.

That case needs to come back before the United States Supreme Court and be reconsidered. And I am told that there are one or more Justices on that bench who would welcome such a case to make it to the Supreme Court, and I think I have named those two most likely to welcome that case here already.

So I am frustrated by this. I am glad that this case, this second round, Kavanaugh 2.0 in malicious media mendacism, is pretty much now in the rearview mirror now that the truth has been applied to the story a little bit better.

But this country is not off of this hook by any means. We have a long, long ways to go before we can get down to what is true. And I think Congress is going to have to come to some point. I don’t think it is going to happen in this Congress. There has to be a major change in this Congress. But we are going to have to act.

And the stories that have been served up to the American people—I brought up the Kavanaugh story as the last one. Then you can move along a little bit, and I will take you to—let’s see. Let’s do Covington Catholic.

The Covington Catholics were here during the March for Life. They would be around January 22. A lot of young men, and, also, at least one of them was wearing a MAGA hat, a “Make America Great” cap, a red one.

They were down by the Lincoln Memorial, and there was a story that there was a Native American who was beating a drum in the face of this young man, and the young man just stood there and maintained his posture, his composure, his expression.

And is it willful? Well, that question comes up: Well, can Justice Kavanaugh do his job in this face, and that clip of the close-up seemed to be enough just to reinforce a lot of critics that Justice Kavanaugh from Covington Catholic somehow carried an attitude that should be punished.

So they excoriated him through every media that I can think of, and that young man and the school went through days and days and days of a lot of public criticism, grief that was poured forth upon them.

And I can say with experience that, if you don’t have experience with public grief being poured on you, it hurts a lot more the first time than it does the 2nd, 5th, 10th, 20th, 50th, or 100th time.

You do build scar tissue to this, but you can’t imagine that a young man from Covington Catholic has scar tissue built up at all. Who could imagine this? This would be the last time it done the 2nd, 5th, 10th, 20th, 50th, or 100th time.

So, they took that heat and that beating—the whole school, but he in particular—for over a week until there was a video that emerged that panned back and showed what really went on. That came from the Covington Catholics.

There were bad words being hurled back and forth, but I don’t think anybody picked up any bad words coming from those young people from Covington Catholic. Yet they got the blame for all of this when they were standing there innocently and probably stunned at the environment they were in.

I can’t imagine they came out of their home State and marched into the middle of that. I would say, semi-demonstration environment when they were being intimidated by groups shouting back forth at them and a drum being beaten in their face.

You would be amazed. I recall my first experience with these things in this town. It was March 18 of 2003 when there was an antiwar demonstration that took place. I thought: I need to see this.

I went over there near the Washington Monument where they were ginning up the antiwar demonstrators. They had two great, big speakers up on a stage that were about the size of refrigerators, microphones, and they were ginning up the crowd to be what that crowd—I went incognito, by the way, too, Mr. Speaker. I put on my old, vintage Washington Redskins sweatshirt and a cap so I could just, hopefully, blend into the crowd. I have seen every variety of anti-Americanism that I had ever seen. A lot of it was profane. They ginned them up, and then they marched off over to the west,
around the west side of the White House, and then came back down through Pennsylvania Avenue.

I sat there, in the middle there, what I call the grassy knoll, and watched them go by for an hour and three-quarters, a human river of discontent and anger—anti-Americanism.

I saw a young lady, maybe 16 or 17 years old, run over and spit in the face of an officer who was standing there.

I saw two marines standing on the side of the street. They were holding their American flag up, and a young man from the demonstrating crowd ran over there, grabbed a hold of that flag. They held their flag, but he ripped the top half of the flag off, and he danced around the street tearing it up in strips and wearing it around his neck and others’ necks as if it were some kind of a trophy to tear up the American flag and then demonstrate.

I saw a photographer there who had a camera and who was going to clean the lens of his camera. He reached into his jacket pocket and pulled out a crumpled American flag, a small, silk flag, and used it to clean that lens. You could tell by the habits of the way he handled it that that is just what he did; he kept the American flag for a rag to clean the lens on his camera while he took pictures of anti-Americanism, hatred of America, and every kind of countercultural thing that you can think of.

That is what we are faced with, the kind of people in that demonstration, the kind of people who were down here at the Lincoln Memorial who were trying to intimidate the Covington Catholics.

So, you know how that one ended, Mr. Speaker. I will say another one.

Now, remember, this one also fit the narrative. Justice Kavanaugh, the stories against him, they picked the ones that fit the narrative and drove them.

The Covington Catholic Churches were these must be conservative pro-lifers—and they are—so we have got to find a way to actually expose something that is in their heart, which is, by the way, faith and love. They didn’t expose that. That was the Covington Catholics.

Jussie Smollett alleged that he was the subject of, at least, a lynching threat and that they had, what, poured bleach on him and whatnot. That went on for awhile. That story was all ginned up because there were supposedly racists who were going tolynch Jussie Smollett in Chicago.

But I saw the video of the two men who went into the convenience store to buy those items that he had put on top of him, that little bit of a kind of a scrawny rope that didn’t look to me that it was a rope you would use for that. But that and the other items that were there, all of it was on video, purchased at the convenience store.

It was later—I don’t know if it is true—that they were paid something like $3,500 to do their part in this.

And Jussie managed to wear that rope all the way back to his apartment before he was interviewed by the police.

Yet, still, the story went through and through, and now the Federal Government needs to get involved in it. I believe they should have a full investigation of what looks like, let’s say, a less than enthusiastic local prosecutor there in Chicago.

But that is another story that fit the narrative. I think there are people out there who are racist who would go out and get rope and bleach and whatever and wait in the middle of a 20-below-zero night to waylay Jussie Smollett at a place like that.

It happened to be about the only location where there were not surveillance cameras. Carefully thought out? Only partly.

But that fit the narrative. That was published. It was The New York Times, too, but it was many others, Mr. Speaker.

Who am I forgetting now? There are a number of others. I happen to be one. So, I am waiting for a report to come down that would lay out what is going on in this Congress in the story. But I need this Constitution. I carry one in my jacket pocket every day. When I say the Pledge, my hand is inside my jacket because my hand is on that Constitution, which is as close to my heart, as I can get it. I believe in it, and I believe that is to restore this Constitution back to its original meaning and intent.

The pillars of American exceptionalism are identified, most all of them, in the Bill of Rights itself. The central pillar of American exceptionalism is the rule of law. There are a number of things around that rule of law that we need to remember: innocent until proven guilty, a right to face your accusers, you get to face a jury of your peers, you get to face your accusers; a jury of your peers; due process. That has to all be there.

The President hasn’t had due process. I haven’t had due process. But I have added up a few things. There are currently four Members of this Congress, Mr. Speaker, that don’t have committee assignments; four.

One of them resigned from the Republican Party and from his committee assignments; so that takes it down to three.

Two of them are indicted for Federal charges. That takes it down to one.

Then, the one in this Congress—being me, Mr. Speaker—and we look back through history all the way back to 1900, and we find one other Member of Congress that didn’t have committee assignments since 1900. That happened to be James Traficant in about 2001. He happened to be one that was removed from his committee assignments shortly after he voted for Dennis Hastert, a Member of the opposite party, and went against many of the platform positions of the Democratic party. They decided he wasn’t a Democrat any longer and removed him from his committees.

But in 120 years, there has only been one, other than those that I mentioned; that is James Traficant. And he was, later on, indicted and convicted on nine or ten Federal charges of fraud, corruption, taking bribes and racketeering, and those kinds of things. He was found guilty of all of them and served some time in prison.

So these are very serious charges when you are convicted of Federal felonies and removed from your committee. I don’t think it is right to remove someone from a committee when they are charged because if they are indicted, they are innocent until proven guilty. So why would you punish somebody if they are innocent until proven guilty?

That defies a foundational principle of our government.

But, nonetheless, the charges, at least, are serious Federal felony charges for two seated Members today. Charges that were certainly serious for James Traficant, who spent time in prison.

Why does STEVE KING not have committees? Because of a misquote in the
New York Times for the simple purpose of an allegation of politically incorrect speech.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:


Speaker Nancy Pelosi,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

Dear Madame Speaker: I write to inform you that I will resign from the office of U.S. Representative, effective 6:00 PM EST, Monday, September 23, 2019. For the past eight years, it has been the honor of my life to represent the place that I care about and the people I love in Congress.

Sincerely,

SEAN P. DUFFY, Representative to Congress.

WASHINGTON, DC, September 19, 2019.
Governor Tony Evers,
Secretary of State Doug La Follette,
Wisconsin State Capitol, Office of the Governor, Madison, WI.

Dear Governor Evers and Secretary of State La Follette: I write to inform you that I will resign from the office of U.S. Representative, effective 6:00 PM EST, Monday, September 23, 2019. For the past eight years, it has been the honor of my life to represent the place that I care about and the people I love in Congress.

Sincerely,

SEAN P. DUFFY, Representative to Congress.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. Jackson Lee (at the request of Mr. Hoyer) for today on account of participation in commemorative ceremonies at the 50th anniversary of women's suffrage, coming to my alma mater, Yale University.

Mr. Danny K. Davis of Illinois (at the request of Mr. Hoyer) for today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 136.—An act to prevent catastrophic failure or shutdown of remote diesel power engines due to emission control devices, and for other purposes.

S. 1889.—An act to permit States to transfer certain funds from the clean water revolving fund of a State to the drinking water revolving fund of the State in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. King of Iowa, Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at noon for morning hour debate.

OATH FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Under clause 13 of rule XXXIII, the following Members executed the oath for access to classified information:

Dan Bishop, Gregory F. Murphy.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

2212. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting notification to Congress of the anticipated use of Selected Reserve units that will be ordered to active duty, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2212(b), Public Law 113-66, Sec. 516(a)(1); (125 Stat. 1386); to the Committee on Armed Services.


2215. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-04, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2216. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-04, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2218. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-28, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2221. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-22, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2222. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-21, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. Fitzpatrick (for himself, Mr. Gottheimer, Ms. Stefanik, Mrs. Murphy of Florida, Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4429. A bill to ensure that a fair percentage of Federal cancer research funds are dedicated to pediatric cancer research; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. Trahan:

H.R. 4351. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to assign a unique numeric identifier to institutions of higher education to facilitate data collection and reporting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. Amash:

H.R. 4351. A bill to limit the authority of personnel of the Department of Homeland Security to prohibit a permanent resident of the United States from boarding as a passenger on an aircraft or cruise ship based on inclusion of the individual in a watchlist, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. Richmond (for himself and Mr. Katko):

H.R. 4353. A bill to require the Department of Homeland Security to prepare a terrorism threat assessment relating to unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. McKinley (for himself, Mr. Mooney of West Virginia, and Mrs. Miller):

H.R. 4353. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to establish an Appalachian regional energy hub initiative, and for other
purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.  
By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. THOME, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. SOUTHWICK, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):  
H.R. 4439. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to authorize the Appalachian Regional Commission, for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.  
By Mr. KLEWENSKE (for himself, Mr. GROGLA, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Ms. LEE of California):  
H.R. 4435. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to protect taxpayers from liability associated with the reclamation of surface coal mining operations, for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Ms. Norman), and Ms. Jayapal):  
H.R. 4436. A bill to authorize a National Poverty Research Center; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.  
By Mr. BIGGS:  
H.R. 4437. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to allow the pooling of tips among all employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means.  
By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself, Mr. DYNES, Ms. SINGH, Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania, Mr. Engel, Mr. BILIRIKIS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. MULLIN):  
H.R. 4438. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on investment income from private colleges and universities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.  
By Mr. COHEN (for himself and Ms. Cori):  
H.R. 4440. A bill to establish protocols for the investigation of uses of deadly force by Federal law enforcement officers, for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.  
By Mr. COLLINS of New York:  
H.R. 4441. A bill to amend titles 40 and 10, United States Code, to provide for the authority of the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection with respect to national security determinations concerning wind turbines proposed to be constructed in the United States in bodies of water that border Canada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.  
By Mr. DUFFY:  
H.R. 4442. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit prenatal genetic testing and abortions on the basis of sexual orientation, gender and other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.  
By Mr. FITZPATRICK:  
H.R. 4443. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for a Federal, cost-of-living based minimum wage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.  
By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. Cox of California, Mr. Huffman, Mr. King of Iowa, Mr. LaMalfa, Mrs. Lesko, Mr. McAdams, Mr. McClinton, Mr. Schweikert, Ms. Tittus, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mr. O'Halleran, and Mr. Schimmer):  
H.R. 4444. A bill to require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration, in providing for increased transparency for customers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. OSAR (for himself, Mr. Meadows, and Mr. Norman):  
H.R. 4445. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to provide for a uniform 60-day period for Congress to review laws of the District of Columbia before such laws may take effect, to permit Congress to use the authorities and procedures available under such Act for the consideration and enactment of resolutions of disapproval of laws of the District of Columbia to disapprove specific provisions of such laws, to clarify the expedited procedures available under such Act for the consideration of such resolutions of disapproval, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.  
By Mr. LAWSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. Diaz-Balart, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Spano, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. Yoho, and Mr. WALTZ):  
H.R. 4446. A bill to designate the POW/MIA Memorial and Museum in Jacksonville, Florida, as the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum, for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.  
By Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself, Mr. Lamb, and Mr. Norman):  
H.R. 4447. A bill to establish an energy storage and microgrid grant and technical assistance program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.  
By Mr. PATENIA:  
H.R. 4448. A bill to address loopholes in the Affordable Care Act for biosimilar biological products; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.  
By Mr. SCHRADER (for himself and Mr. Gianforte):  
H.R. 4455. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a temporary payment increase under the Medicare program for certain biopharmaceutical products to encourage the development and use of such products; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.  
By Mr. WALBERG (for himself, Mr. SABLAN, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee):  
H.R. 4456. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to train certain Department of Labor personnel how to effectively detect and assist law enforcement in preventing human trafficking during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.  
By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MALDONADO, Mr. TOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. TURNER, Mr. Possey, Mr. Webster of Florida, Mr. Bishop of Utah, Mr. Murphy of North Carolina, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. Connolly, Mr. McCaul, Mr. DUTCHER, and Mr. GABARDI):  
H. Res. 569. A resolution recognizing the 111th anniversary of the independence of Bulgaria; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.  
By Mr. WATSON, Mr. H. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LEE of California, Mr. LAMAR, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. BASS):  
H. Res. 570. A resolution commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Ryan White and Latino National Voter Registration Day''; to the Committee on House Administration.
By Mr. FULCHER:
H. Res. 572. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of “National Forensic Science Week”; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Ms. MCCLUM, Mr. LOWENHELT, Mr. GAL- LAGHER, Mr. FOCAN, Ms. LEE of Cali- fornia, Ms. MOORE, Ms. LOPF, Mr. LAVAL, Mr. COSTA, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. KIND, and Mr. CORREA):
H. Res. 573. A resolution recognizing the celebration of the Hmong New Year in 2019; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. BROWNLEY of Cali- fornia, Ms. MOORE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. MENO, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. TONG, Mr. McNIRNEY, Mr. LOWENHELT, Mr. KREITING, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. MORELLE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. SCHARROWSKY, and Mr. RASKIN):
H. Res. 574. A resolution supporting the teaching of climate change in schools; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,
157. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52, requesting the Congress of the United States call a convention of the states to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representa- tives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H. R. 4429. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- Article I Section 8—Powers of Congress. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:
H. R. 4430. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- Article I Section 8—Powers of Congress. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. ROCAN:
H. R. 4431. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- Article I Section 8—Powers of Congress. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:
H. R. 4433. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- Article I Section 8—Powers of Congress. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:
H. R. 4435. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mr. ROCAN:
H. R. 4436. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BIGGS:
H. R. 4437. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:
H. R. 4438. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- Article I, Section 8 under the General Welfare Clause.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:
H. R. 4439. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Congress may also make laws that are necessary and proper for carrying into execution their powers enumerated under Article I.

By Mr. COHEN:
H. R. 4440. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. DUFFY:
H. R. 4442. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H. R. 4443. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- Article I Section 8

By Mr. GOSAR:
H. R. 4444. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. (Commerce Clause)

By Mr. SCHIFF:
H. R. 4454. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- Disclosing Official Spending at Presidential Businesses Act is constitutionally authorized under Article I, Section 1, Clause 7, and as well as Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, the Necessary and Proper Clause.

By Mr. SCHRADE:
H. R. 4455. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 3: Mr. Larson of Connecticut.
H.R. 4: Mr. Taylor.
H.R. 51: Ms. Craig.
H.R. 934: Mr. T. A. M. Price.
H.R. 641: Mr. Levin of California.
H.R. 832: Mr. Katko and Mr. Long.
H.R. 438: Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Grothman.
H.R. 912: Ms. Bass, Mr. Carrajal, and Mr. Espaillat.
H.R. 940: Miss Rice of New York.
H.R. 961: Mr. Lewis.
H.R. 1011: Mr. Cox of California.
H.R. 1043: Mr. Raskin and Mr. Gaetz.
H.R. 1075: Mr. DeSaulnier.
H.R. 1154: Mr. Delgado, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Engel, and Miss Rice of New York.
H.R. 1191: Mr. Khanna and Mr. Larson of Connecticut.
H.R. 1393: Mr. Nadler, Mr. Evans, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. DeFazio, Mr. Pocan, Ms. Roybal-Allard, and Mr. Perlmutter.
H.R. 1394: Mr. Nadler, Mr. Evans, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. DeFazio, and Mr. Perlmutter.
H.R. 1406: Mr. DeFazio, Mr. Sires, Mr. Steuern, and Mr. Christ.
H.R. 1434: Mr. Wittman.
H.R. 1498: Mr. Sherman; Mr. Casten of Illinois, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Payne, Mrs. Davis of California, and Ms. Plack.
H.R. 1545: Mr. Bost.
H.R. 1554: Mr. Kratening and Mr. Charlot.
H.R. 1568: Mr. Lewis.
H.R. 1633: Mrs. Shalala.
H.R. 1765: Mr. Danny K. Davis of Illinois and Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York.
H.R. 1707: Mr. Kind.
H.R. 1711: Mrs. Lowey and Mr. O’Halleran.
H.R. 1733: Mr. Wright.
H.R. 1766: Mrs. Luria, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Waltz, and Mrs. Graves of Georgia.
H.R. 1794: Mr. Graves of Louisiana.
H.R. 1858: Mr. Hill of Arkansas.
H.R. 1865: Mr. Taylor.
H.R. 1869: Mr. Wilson of Florida.
H.R. 1933: Mr. Grothman and Mr. Walker.
H.R. 1942: Mr. DeBose.
H.R. 1995: Mr. Bacon.
H.R. 2070: Mr. Reschenthaler.
H.R. 2089: Mr. Kelly of Mississippi.
H.R. 2146: Mr. Carson of Indiana and Mr. Vislosky.
H.R. 2167: Mr. Cicilline.
H.R. 2214: Ms. Frankel, Ms. Sherrell, Mr. Perlmutter, Ms. DeLauro, and Mr. Mcnerney.
H.R. 2234: Mr. Shimkus and Mr. Bost.
H.R. 2235: Mr. Raskin.
H.R. 2279: Mr. Zeldin, Mr. Pocan, Mr. Gonzalez of Texas, Mr. Keating, and Mr. LoBiondo.
H.R. 2382: Mr. Wenstrup.
H.R. 2328: Mr. Clarke, Mr. Peterson, Mr. McNerney, and Mr. Keating.
H.R. 2382: Mr. Ruppersberger.
H.R. 2415: Mr. Clay and Mr. Stanton.
H.R. 2420: Mr. LoBiondo, Mr. Ruppersberger, Mr. Larsen of Washington, and Mr. Neal.
H.R. 2426: Mr. Gomez.
H.R. 2435: Mr. Bilirakis.
H.R. 2443: Mr. Duncan.
H.R. 2453: Mr. Schrader.
H.R. 2491: Mrs. Beatty and Mrs. Napolitano.
H.R. 2628: Mr. Levin of California.
H.R. 2668: Mrs. Fitzpatrick.
H.R. 2788: Mr. Kustoff of Tennessee.
H.R. 2802: Mr. Reschenthaler.
H.R. 2815: Mr. Van Drew and Ms. McCollem.
H.R. 2843: Mr. Richmond.
H.R. 2863: Mr. Kim.
H.R. 2867: Mr. Michael F. Doyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Carrajal, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Quigley, Mr. Knanna, Ms. Speier, Ms. Titus, Miss Rice of New York, Mr. Garamendi, Ms. Sanchez, Mr. Doggett, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Connolly, Mr. Serrano, Mr. Bryer, Mrs. Hill of California, Mr. Yamamoto, Mr. Evans, Mr. Clay, Mr. Danny K. Davis of Illinois, Mr. Nadler, Ms. Castro of Florida, Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Garcia of Illinois.
H.R. 2803: Mr. Mitchell, and Mr. Flores.
H.R. 3048: Mr. Simpson and Mr. Harder of California.
H.R. 3077: Mr. Schneider.
H.R. 3068: Mr. Garcia of Illinois.
H.R. 3107: Ms. Pingree and Mr. Grijalva.
H.R. 3125: Ms. Houlahan and Mr. David Scott of Georgia.
H.R. 3127: Mr. Joyce of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3155: Mr. Sablan, Mr. Carrajal, Mr. Rogers of Alabama, Mrs. Kadowagen, Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, Mr. Cole, Mr. Shimkus, Mr. King of New York, Mr. Calvert, Ms. Brownley of California, and Mr. Gibbs.
H.R. 3157: Mr. Kilmer.
H.R. 3222: Mr. Yarmuth.
H.R. 3289: Mrs. Hartzler and Mr. Mcadams.
H.R. 3306: Mr. Kim and Mr. Rouzer.
H.R. 3349: Mr. Gonzalez of Texas.
H.R. 3396: Mr. Gosar.
H.R. 3412: Mr. Greenlaw.
H.R. 3453: Mr. Neguse and Mr. Malinowski.
H.R. 3495: Mr. Soto, Mrs. Axne, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. Suozzi, Mr. Carrajal, Mr. Van Drew, Ms. Shalala, and Mr. Delgado.
H.R. 3502: Mr. Schweikert and Mr. Cleaver.
H.R. 3569: Ms. Pressley, Mr. Ted Lieu of California, Ms. Slotkin, and Mr. Scott of Virginia.
H.R. 3549: Mr. Hastings.
H.R. 3555: Mr. Keating.
H.R. 3663: Mr. Garcia of Illinois.
H.R. 3757: Mr. Hill of Arkansas and Mrs. Hartpler.
H.R. 3772: Mr. McGovern.
H.R. 3822: Mr. DeSaulnier.
H.R. 3918: Mr. Vislosky.
H.R. 3964: Mr. Allen and Mr. Rogelmann.
H.R. 3975: Mr. Pappas.
H.R. 3975: Mr. Van Drew and Mr. Posey.
H.R. 4046: Mr. Pocan.
H.R. 4067: Mr. Sherman.
H.R. 4078: Ms. Jackson Lee.
H.R. 4108: Mr. Garcia of Illinois.
H.R. 4132: Mr. Rush.
H.R. 4146: Mr. Rouzer.
H.R. 4272: Ms. Meng.
H.R. 4286: Ms. Jayapal.
H.R. 4285: Mr. Banks.
H.R. 4300: Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, Mr. Bacon, Mr. Casten of Illinois, and Mrs. Beatty.
H.R. 4335: Mr. Sherman.
H.R. 4434: Mr. Fitzpatrick.
H.R. 4437: Mr. Jackson Lee.
H.R. 4370: Mr. Murphy of North Carolina.
H.R. 4386: Mr. DeFazio.
H.R. 4498: Mr. Deutch.
H.J. Res. 2: Mr. Stanton and Mrs. Davis of California.
H.J. Res. 72: Mr. Brindisi.
H. Con. Res. 65: Mr. Neguse.
H. Res. 146: Mr. Bishop of Georgia, Mr. Hasting, Mr. Richkond, Mr. Green of Texas, Mr. Danny K. Davis of Illinois, Ms. Plante, Ms. Johnson of Texas, Ms. Fudge, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Veasey, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Lawson of Florida, Mrs. Axne, Mr. Correa, and Mr. Calvert.
H. Res. 255: Ms. DelBene, Mr. Rouzer, and Mr. Rouza.
H. Res. 510: Mr. Kinzinger and Mr. Quigley.
H. Res. 551: Mr. Carter of Texas and Mr. Abraham.
H. Res. 561: Ms. Gabbard.

DELETION OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 3198: Mr. Kildee.
H.R. 3199: Mr. Luria.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 1 by Mr. Scalise on House Resolution 102: Mr. Murphy of North Carolina and Mr. Bishop of North Carolina.
Petition 3 by Mr. Mast on House Resolution 348: Mr. Murphy of North Carolina and Mr. Bishop of North Carolina.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING WORLD NARCOLEPSY DAY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 20, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of World Narcolepsy Day, which will be observed globally on September 22nd.

Narcolepsy is a chronic neurological condition that affects about 1 in 2,000 people by impairing the brain’s ability to regulate the sleep-wake cycle. Symptoms of narcolepsy include excessive sleepiness during the day, sudden episodes of muscle paralysis, sleep paralysis, confusing hallucinations, and a disrupted nighttime sleep.

Due to an overall lack of public and professional awareness, accurate diagnosis of narcolepsy commonly takes between 8 and 15 years. Experts believe that the majority of people with narcolepsy are currently undiagnosed or misdiagnosed with other conditions such as epilepsy, depression, and schizophrenia. More work is needed to deliver breakthroughs for patients impacted by this debilitating sleep disorder, and we must continue to support the important funding of medical research through the National Institutes of Health and public health programs through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

World Narcolepsy Day serves to raise awareness of the experiences and healthcare needs of the approximately 3 million people living with narcolepsy across the globe, including the 200,000 people with narcolepsy and their loved ones in the United States. By raising awareness of narcolepsy, we can reduce delays in diagnosis, combat stigma and misperceptions, and improve health outcomes for affected individuals.

I ask all Members to join me in recognizing September 22nd as World Narcolepsy Day.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF PAJARO VALLEY LOAVES AND FISHES

HON. JIMMY PANETTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 20, 2019

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the behalf of Pajaro Valley Loaves and Fishes to recognize the work they have done to foster community development and collaboration as they celebrate 30 years of committed work to alleviating hunger among working class families on the central coast of California.

Loaves and Fishes was founded in 1989 as an emergency response to the Loma Prieta earthquake and served more than 20,000 meals to residents displaced by the disaster at their original location in Watsonville’s St Patrick’s Church. The organization has since grown into a community-supported local kitchen and pantry to serve the people of the Pajaro Valley.

The Loaves and Fishes lunch program serves a hot, nutritious lunch every weekday, prepared on-site by certified cooks and other community volunteers. In 2018, Loaves and Fishes served between 80 and 150 hot and nutritious meals every weekday. The pantry program provides supplemental groceries to the individuals or families up to twice per month, with 76 percent of adult pantry clients being farm workers who support the Central Coast. Most of these groceries are either donated or purchased from local farmers and the Second Harvest Food Bank.

In addition to its food programs, Loaves and Fishes supports the development of the community by providing support services, including nutrition education, job trainings, resume building workshops, life skills development, and referrals to other available social services. Many of these services are provided through partnerships with other social service agencies and nonprofits.

It is an honor to recognize an organization with such a meaningful impact on the community, and I am proud to celebrate Pajaro Valley Loaves and Fishes’ 30th anniversary of supporting the Central Coast. Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating Loaves and Fishes as a pillar of strength in our community.

HONORING THE BICENTENNIAL OF PERRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

HON. MARK E. GREEN
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 20, 2019

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bicentennial of Perry County, Tennessee, which was established in November 1819. Named after Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, a naval hero in the War of 1812, Perry County has a long and proud history in the heart of Tennessee.

Perry County is known for the scenic beauty of the Buffalo and Tennessee rivers, and it is home to several historic sites, including the Cedar Grove Iron Furnace, the Perry County Courthouse, and the Commodore Hotel.

Home to some of Tennessee’s finest public servants, it is my distinct honor to represent Perry County in the United States Congress.

The citizens of Perry County exemplify the values that form the cornerstone of Tennessee and our nation, and I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them as they celebrate this momentous occasion.

HONORING MELVINDALE-DEARBORN FIRE CAPTAIN MICHAEL PREADMORE

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 20, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Captain Michael Preadmore for his many years of service to the Melvindale-Dearborn Consolidated Fire Department, on the occasion of his retirement.

During his twenty-three years of service, Captain Preadmore has moved steadily through the ranks, garnering accolades for his dedication and bravery along the way. Preadmore joined the City of Melvindale’s Fire Department as a firefighter in 1996. From there, he was quickly promoted to sergeant, lieutenant, and ultimately, captain. A consummate professional who knows safety doesn’t take a day off, Captain Preadmore has been acknowledged for his perfect attendance multiple times and he has dedicated his time toward working to advanced certification, including confined space and rope rescue. Above and beyond that, Captain Preadmore has been recognized for his bravery in the line of duty, receiving the Fire Chief Life Saving Award twice, the Department Medal of Valor award, and the Fire Chief Unit Commendation.

In short, Captain Preadmore has served bravely and nobly. Please join me in saluting him for his twenty-three years of public service as we wish him well on his retirement.

HONOR FLIGHT OF OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 20, 2019

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the World War II veterans, Korean War veterans and Vietnam War veterans from Oregon who are visiting their memorials on the National Mall on Friday, September 20, 2019, through Honor Flight of Oregon. Every time I have the chance to meet one of these heroes, I am reminded of the poignant words of General Dwight D. Eisenhower. In a message to Allied troops just before D-Day, he said, “The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you.”

He was right then, of course, Madam Speaker. But over seventy years later, liberty-loving people everywhere continue to owe these heroes for their extraordinary service and their incredible stories of sacrifice and bravery on behalf of our country. That’s why it is my privilege to include in the RECORD their names.

These veterans on this Honor Flight from Oregon are as follows: Robert Berns, Navy; John Bromstead, Navy; Dale Coonse, Navy; William
Dickson, Navy; Dean Ewell, Army; Carl Giles, Army; Roy Gilmore, Navy; Stanley Grout, Navy; Troy Stone, Army; Dean Hastings, Navy; Howard Hoffer, Navy; Floyd McHargue, Marine Corps; Norman Morgan, Navy; Jacob Notenboom, Army; Rex Orcutt, Navy; Jack Peed, Navy; Jesse Rine, Navy; Francis Rosni, Navy; Richard Russell, Air Force; William Shreader, Coast Guard; Muriel Sol lendar, Marine Corps; Marilyn Sperry, Army; Galen Tarter, Navy; Cliff Peery, Army; and David Ullom, Army.

These heroes join over 200,000 veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005. I would also like to recognize the guardians traveling on this trip who have also served our country: Mark Libante, Army; Richard McReynolds, Army; Paul Grout, Air Force; Kenneth Dale, Navy; Ronald Kohl, Air Force and Army; Daniel Johnson, Navy; Kenneth Young, Navy; Rachael Watters, Army; Terry Haines, Navy; and Peter Pringle, Navy.

I am pleased to honor Richard Swannt in the House of Representatives Friday, September 20, 2019.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD SWANN

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2019

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Linda Birnbaum, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the National Toxicology Program (NTP), who is retiring in October. Dr. Birnbaum has served as NTP Director of the National Institute of Caro lina’s Research Triangle Park, for the past 10 years. She is the first woman and first board-certified toxicologist to serve in this position.

Dr. Birnbaum always had a clear vision for the NIEHS/NTP, evidenced by her implementation of two strategic plans over the course of her tenure. Under her leadership, NIEHS has become a world leader in environmental health and toxicology research. For example, scientific studies, such as the annual Report on Carcinogens, which analyzes substances in our environment that may cause cancer, have ignited changes in health policy and safety standards in the U.S. and across the world. The creation of the Children’s Health Exposure Analysis Resource, a grant program that established a network of exposure assessment laboratories across the country, paved the way for policy changes that protect the health of children. Dr. Birnbaum’s team also established the NIEHS Clinical Research Unit, allowing the NIH to partner with top biomedical teams at our RUP Universities: Duke, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and North Carolina State.

In the wake of environmental disasters, Dr. Birnbaum and her team led critical research projects following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and the 2014 West Virginia chemical spill. Dr. Birnbaum and her team worked in coordination with scientists across the NIH and with the residents of affected areas, recruiting over 33,000 participants for the Deepwater Horizon study.

Dr. Birnbaum has received numerous accolades for her outstanding achievements in the field of science. In 2010, she was elected to the Institute of Medicine, now known as the National Academy of Medicine. She also was awarded the North Carolina Award in Science in 2016, the state’s highest civilian honor given by North Carolina’s Governor. For her work in toxicology, she was named a Distin guished Toxicologist in 2005 by the Society of Toxicology and the Society of Toxicology in 2018 and earned the Mildred S. Christian Career Achievement Award from the Academy of Toxicological Sciences.

HONORING DR. LINDA BIRNBAUM, CHAMPION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH

HON. DAVID E. PRICE OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2019

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Linda Birnbaum, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the National Toxicology Program (NTP), who is retiring in October. Dr. Birnbaum has served as NTP Director of the National Institute of Carolina’s Research Triangle Park, for the past 10 years. She is the first woman and first board-certified toxicologist to serve in this position.

Dr. Birnbaum always had a clear vision for the NIEHS/NTP, evidenced by her implementation of two strategic plans over the course of her tenure. Under her leadership, NIEHS has become a world leader in environmental health and toxicology research. For example, scientific studies, such as the annual Report on Carcinogens, which analyzes substances in our environment that may cause cancer, have ignited changes in health policy and safety standards in the U.S. and across the world. The creation of the Children’s Health Exposure Analysis Resource, a grant program that established a network of exposure assessment laboratories across the country, paved the way for policy changes that protect the health of children. Dr. Birnbaum’s team also established the NIEHS Clinical Research Unit, allowing the NIH to partner with top biomedical teams at our RUP Universities: Duke, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and North Carolina State.

In the wake of environmental disasters, Dr. Birnbaum and her team led critical research projects following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and the 2014 West Virginia chemical spill. Dr. Birnbaum and her team worked in coordination with scientists across the NIH and with the residents of affected areas, recruiting over 33,000 participants for the Deepwater Horizon study.

Dr. Birnbaum has received numerous accolades for her outstanding achievements in the field of science. In 2010, she was elected to the Institute of Medicine, now known as the National Academy of Medicine. She also was awarded the North Carolina Award in Science in 2016, the state’s highest civilian honor given by North Carolina’s Governor. For her work in toxicology, she was named a Distinguished Toxicologist in 2005 by the Society of Toxicology and the Society of Toxicology in 2018 and earned the Mildred S. Christian Career Achievement Award from the Academy of Toxicological Sciences.

Dr. Birnbaum’s work as a federal research scientist spans nearly 40 years, including 19 years directing research at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She also currently serves as an adjunct professor in the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and holds a similar position in Environmental Health at Duke University. She has maintained her research program even while serving as NIEHS/NTP director, and at last count had over 700 published articles and reports to her credit. Fortunately, she plans to continue her laboratory research part-time.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to know and work with Dr. Birnbaum during much of her tenure at EPA and NIEHS. I was delighted to see her—an accomplished, practicing scientist—appointed to the directorship of NIEHS, and she has been a trusted source of advice on the Institute’s needs and the state of the research enterprise. She has a passion for the NIEHS/NTP mission and has inspired a generation of scientists with her vision of what well-designed research can contribute to public health and environmental quality.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Linda Birnbaum as she reaches this milestone. We thank her for her years of dedicated service and the contributions she has made toward the health and well-being of millions of people.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE THAI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Thai Community Development Center upon its 25th Anniversary.

The Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC) was founded in 1994 with the goal of supporting and improving the lives of Thai immigrants and other ethnic communities in the greater Los Angeles area. Thai CDC achieves its mission through a comprehensive community development strategy and initiatives that focus on a variety of issues including access to healthcare and social services, affordable housing, human rights advocacy, neighborhood empowerment, and small business incubation.

Thai CDC played an essential role in an eight-year community organizing campaign that raised awareness and led to the creation of Los Angeles’ Thai Town in 1999, the first Thai Town in the United States. Through this designation, Thai CDC has been able to engage in transit-oriented development and beautification efforts such as the installation of the Kinara Lamps. This strategy to revitalize an otherwise depressed portion of East Hollywood through cultural-based tourism has allowed the Thai American community to prosper and flourish. In 2008, Thai Town was designated a Preserve America neighborhood, a federal designation celebrating cultural heritage and encouraging historic preservation.

Throughout the years, the Thai CDC has been instrumental in creating events and spaces to foster economic opportunity and bring Angelenos and tourists alike to Thai Town.
Thai CDC spearheaded the effort to build and develop the Thai Town Market Place and establish a twice weekly East Hollywood Farmers Market to help incubate small businesses and provide healthy and affordable food options to the neighborhood. In 2004, Thai CDC helped put on the New Year’s Day Songkran Festival which has since become an annual event attracting hundreds of thousands of attendees.

Since its founding, Thai CDC has also been committed to improving the lives of Thai immigrants through culturally sensitive and linguistically and culturally appropriate social services and programs such as legal aid, financial literacy and counseling, and mediation and dispute resolution. In addition to assisting clients with securing affordable housing, Thai CDC has also built the Halifax Apartments, a multi-family affordable housing development in Hollywood, and the Palm Village Senior Housing in Sun Valley. Thai CDC has also raised awareness of modern-day slavery and human trafficking in the United States through the creation of the Slavery Eradication and Rights Initiative, SERI.

I am proud to recognize the Thai Community Development Center for twenty-five years of providing extraordinary service to the Thai American community in the greater Los Angeles area, and I ask all members to join me in congratulating the center for its outstanding achievements.

HONORING MOUNT ZION SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH ON THEIR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 20, 2019

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Mount Zion Seventh Day Adventist Church, its staff, and congregation as they commemorate their 100th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this community treasure and certainly cause for great celebration.

Through its many ministries, the members of Mount Zion nourish their souls as well as those they serve. From educating young people and organizing exciting activities for them to providing information on healthier food options and recipes for families, the congregation is enriching the lives of others throughout the community.

Our churches play a vital role in our communities—providing people with a place to turn to for comfort when they are in need. The members of Mount Zion have also given much to the Town of Hamden. Throughout the years, as their membership grew so did its commitment to the community. By strengthening our bonds of faith, Mount Zion gives its members a place to find their spiritual center and to solidify and support their values.

In its 100-year history, the Mount Zion Seventh Day Adventist Church has built a strong foundation and its success is due to the dedication and commitment of each and every member of its congregation. Through their ministry and outreach efforts, they have left an indelible mark on our community and continue to enrich the lives of others. That is why I am so pleased to stand today to offer my sincere congratulations as they mark this very special centennial anniversary. The families, parishioners, and staff have much to be proud of as they celebrate this 100th anniversary year.

RECOGNIZING THE LEE LOCKWOOD LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

HON. BILL FLORES
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 20, 2019

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lee Lockwood Library and Museum in Waco, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

In the mid-1960s, planning began for a home base for the Scottish Rite Freemasons in Texas. A committee was formed to raise the money needed for the building. Members of this committee included many Waco business- men and leaders including Allen Shivers, the 37th Governor of Texas; Abner McCall, President of Baylor University; and Robert L. Lockwood, the building’s namesake. Waco was selected as the location for the building and construction began in 1967. The building opened on September 27, 1969.

Since its opening, the building has served as a central meeting location for Scottish Rite Masons as well as a library and museum. The Lee Lockwood Library and Museum is home to a more than 1,200 piece print collection by Waco photographer Fred Gildersleeve, a large coin collection, as well as Civil War era letters, medical records, and military enlistment data. It also contains more than 10,000 books on world, American, and Texas history; as well as rare and first edition prints from authors such as Mark Twain and Charles Dickens.

Throughout the year, the building hosts weddings, meetings, concerts, veterans’ events, and other Masonic and non-Masonic gatherings. The auditorium is also home to the Waco Children’s and Christian Youth Theater, which hold many performances and camps every year.

The building is constructed out of limestone in a large rectangular shape, has four, dramatic two-story columns at the entrance, and is flanked by two, two-ton limestone sphinxes. The director of the Masonic National Memorial called the Lee Lockwood Library and Museum “the last great Masonic building built in America.” In 2014, the City of Waco Historic Landmark Preservation Commission presented the library an award for “Recognition of Sustained Excellence for an Institutional Structure”.

Madam Speaker, the Lee Lockwood Library and Museum has served as a pillar for knowledge and public service in its 50 years of operation. I congratulate the Scottish Rite Masons on reaching this milestone and I look forward to seeing their continued success.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation’s Capitol to recognize this 100th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this community treasure and certainly cause for great celebration.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to keep us safe at home.

HONORING NEW YORK CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE FOR ITS ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM REED
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 20, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize New York Chiropractic College for the one hundredth anniversary of its founding. In 1919, Columbia Institute of Chiropractic was founded by Dr. Frank Dean. The institute later became New York Chiropractic College in the 1970s. In 1991, a two-hundred and eighty-six acre campus was purchased in Seneca Falls, New York, and the college moved to this expanded location.

Clinics were added throughout the region, including in Seneca Falls, Depew and Levittown, New York. The college has also partnered with the Veterans Administration and others throughout the years. This college has been educating Chiropractic students for one hundred years and I applaud their efforts and hope to see many more great things from them in the future.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to recognize New York Chiropractic College for the one hundredth Anniversary of its founding.

RECOGNIZING THE IEEE WOMEN IN ENGINEERING AI LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

HON. BILL FOSTER
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 20, 2019

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Women in Engineering AI Leadership Summit. This summit is a valuable forum for women students, teachers, researchers, and engineers to share their experiences and knowledge in the AI field.

As chair of the House Financial Services Committee Artificial Intelligence Task Force, I know that developments in this field are at the forefront of American technological innovation. I also know that we need to design a potential for fundamental change how we interact with the world, and the work of groups like IEEE Women in Engineering is shaping the future of entrepreneurship, financial decisionmaking, and technological development.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the IEEE Women in Engineering AI Leadership Summit and the many great contributions that women engineers and scientists have made to this country and its communities.
HONORING THE ANNIVERSARY OF PENTECOSTAL TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 20, 2019
Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ, a house of worship in Insterker, Michigan, as its members celebrate the church’s ninetieth anniversary.

Pentecostal Church of God in Christ was founded in 1930. Construction of the church itself was a labor of love initiated by pledges and donations of community members and built by their own hands. Since then, the church has grown to accommodate its flock and its many programs. The same sense of community that was present at the church’s inception is still evident in its growth both physically and spiritually. Over the years, Pentecostal Church of God in Christ has expanded to include a school for kindergarten through sixth. It offers summer programs, daycare, and even technology classes. The legacy of community service and inclusion lives on under the leadership of Pastor Kellen Brooks, the grandson of Pentecostal Church in God’s longest serving pastor, the late Bishop Isaac King, Jr.

Please join me in tribute to Pastor Kellen Brooks and the members of Pentecostal Church of God in Christ as we recognize its ninetieth anniversary.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. EMILY ENGLAND CLYBURN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 20, 2019
Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the life and legacy of a transformative leader and my personal friend, Dr. Emily England Clyburn.

A native South Carolinian, Dr. Clyburn graduated from Berkeley Training High School in Moncks Corner before attending South Carolina State University (SCSU), where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in Library Science. She continued her studies and earned a Master’s degree in Librarianship from the University of South Carolina. In 2010, Dr. Clyburn was recognized for her achievements in the humanities through an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from her alma mater, SCSU.

Dr. Clyburn served as a public school librarian in Columbia and Charleston in the early part of her career. She later transitioned to a medical librarian position at the Charleston Naval Base and Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, where she merged her passion of librarianship with her commitment to service.

Dr. Clyburn and her husband, my good friend Congressman Jim Clyburn, generously contributed funding to South Carolina State University to allow for the reestablishment of the Honors College. In addition, the university created the Dr. Emily England Clyburn Honors College Scholarship Endowment, which enables deserving students the opportunity to further their education.

Dr. Clyburn’s philanthropic successes did not go unnoticed. She was a recipient of the Woman of Faith Award from the Columbia Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women, the Distinguished Service Award from the South Carolina State University National Alumni Association, and the Woman of Distinction Award by the Girl Scouts of South Carolina. Additionally, she was featured in the I. DeQuincy Newman Institute for Peace and Social Justice: Notable African American Women: In Their Own Voices.

Dr. Clyburn was preceded in death by her parents, Peter and Mattie England, and siblings Arthur England and Mattie Mae England Wedlay. She is survived by her husband, Congressman Jim Clyburn, three daughters, Mignon L. Clyburn, Jennifer Clyburn Reed (Walter), and Angela Clyburn Hannibal; four grandchildren, Walter A. Clyburn Reed, Sydney Alexis Reed, Layla Joann Clyburn Hannibal, and Carter James Clyburn Hannibal; and many more loving family and friends.

Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Congressman Clyburn, his loved ones, and all those who had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Clyburn. She was a pillar of this great institution’s community, and we will dearly miss her.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020, AND HEALTH EXTENDERS ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF
HON. PETER A. DEFAZIO
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 19, 2019
Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I will vote yes on H.R. 4378, which funds the federal government through November 21, 2019, although I do have several concerns regarding what is in the bill.

The House has completed nearly all of its appropriations bills. The Republican Senate has passed none. Because the Senate has not done its work, bridge funding is needed to keep the government open past September 30.

Let me be clear: it is imperative that Congress provide long-term stability and funding. Congress, specifically the Senate, needs to get its work done and halt the ridiculous and irresponsible lurching from short-term fix to short-term fix. Shutting down the government does nothing but harm Americans. The shutdown earlier this year resulted in Coast Guard personnel going without a pay check for 35 days. I have a bill to ensure that that never happens again.

The continuing resolution includes provisions that I strongly support. I am glad it contains language to stop roughly $1.2 billion in cuts to transit formula funding from going into effect on October 1, 2019. Had this language not been included, the so-called “Rostenkowski test” would have been triggered for the first time ever, leading to a roughly 12 percent cut in funding to communities. This test, originally intended to prevent overspending from the Highway Trust Fund, is no longer relevant given that the Trust Fund now consistently relies on General Fund transfers and should ultimately be repealed.

It also includes funding for Community Health Centers, which provide a vital lifeline for health care services to thousands of Or- egonians and millions of Americans in rural and underserved communities. It also modifies Medicaid’s drug rebate program to ensure that rebates paid to the federal government and the states by brand name drug manufacturers are calculated based solely on the price of a brand name drug, and not on generic drug prices.

It includes language to ensure the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has the funding it needs to process claims from Blue Water Navy Veterans impacted by Agent Orange as well as critical provisions that will significantly expand enrollment in the World Trade Center Health Program, aiding 9/11 first responders and survivors.

Importantly, the bill provides $250 million in aid to Ukraine to help it defend itself from Russian aggression, which President Trump scandalously delayed this summer. Disturb- ingly, Trump may have even tried to use this aid as leverage to coerce Ukraine into conducting politically-motivated investigations to help Trump’s former campaign chairman Paul Manafort and to target former Vice President Joe Biden’s family.

However, I am extremely disappointed that the continuing resolution did not address a highway program funding issue created by the Republicans in the last surface-transportation authorization bill. Section 1438 of the Fix America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act rescinds $7.6 billion of Federal highway funding on July 1, 2020. State Departments of Transportation are very concerned about the impact of the rescission on planning, construction, and repair of roads and bridges, and it is imperative that we address this before we finalize the fiscal year 2020 appropriations bills.

I also have serious concerns with the bill’s attempt to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for trade relief that has been disbursed to farmers and ranchers hurt by President Trump’s trade policies, this legislation essentially clears the way for the president to continue his erratic trade policies, this legislation essentially clears the way for the president to continue his erratic trade policies unchecked by providing an absurd bailout of more than $20 billion.

I hope the Senate can get its work done during the next eight weeks so we can stop the budget gimmicks and spend our time working on important issues like improving access to health care and repairing our dilapidated infrastructure. That is what Americans expect, and that is what they deserve.

RECOGNIZING THE BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HON. BILL FLORES
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 20, 2019
Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bryan-College Station Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1989 when a Texas
A&M University college student named Heather Hilton came across a brochure and wondered why there was no locally run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization. Heather contacted other pillars of the community with the lack of affordable housing in the Brazos Valley. Since its subsequent formation, the Bryan-College Station Habitat for Humanity has continued its mission of putting God’s love into action by building homes, communities, and hope in Brazos County, Texas.

In 1990, Victor and Amelia Gonzalez purchased the first home built by Bryan-College Station Habitat for Humanity. This opportunity allowed them and their three children to move out of their small trailer with no heating or cooling and a large hole in the floor. In 2012, they paid off their mortgage on the home. The Gonzalez family is just one example of the more than 1,000 people the Bryan-College Station Habitat for Humanity has helped in their 30 years of existence.

The Bryan-College Station Habitat for Humanity has served more than 1,000 people by providing homeownership opportunities to individuals and families who earn between 35 and 80 percent of the area’s median income. This past August, the Bryan-College Station Habitat for Humanity raised the walls of its 1,000th home, and will reach its 300th home milestone this year.

The Bryan-College Station Habitat for Humanity is able to provide these opportunities to those in need through financial donations, volunteer labor, efficient building methods, standardized designs, and zero interest loans. Over 70 percent of the land and construction costs come from the generous donations from businesses, individuals, and other private sources. Other costs are covered by mortgage payments of the existing Habitat for Humanity homeowners and revenue from the Bryan-College Station ReStore which opened in 1995 selling building supplies, furniture, appliances, and home decor.

In addition to constructing new homes, the Bryan-College Station Habitat for Humanity has also started a Community Home Repair program to serve low-income residents. Since the program’s inception in 2015, it has served another 209 homeowners in the Brazos Valley.

The work Habitat for Humanity does is vital to the success of families in the Brazos Valley. A 2018 study conducted by the Bush School of Government and Public Service found that families in Habitat homes visit the doctor less for mold related illnesses, the children have increased performance in school, and parents are more committed in their children’s education. The Bryan-College Station Habitat for Humanity does more than build and repair homes; they bring people from all walks of life together to work toward a common goal: demonstrating God’s love by giving a hand up to those in need of decent, affordable places to live.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that the Bryan-College Station Habitat for Humanity has had a large and positive impact on the Brazos Valley in their 30 years of operation. I congratulate them on reaching this milestone and I look forward to seeing their continued success.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

Friday, September 20, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor Kirk-Casey American Legion Post 366 in Seneca Falls, New York for its one hundredth anniversary.

A charter was put in place by New York State for Kirk-Casey American Legion Post 366 in Seneca Falls on September 8, 1919. The post was named in honor of local citizens, Frederick Kirk and Maynard Casey, two military members killed in action during World War I. The first meeting of Kirk-Casey American Legion Post 366 was held on September 19, 1919 where the name was chosen. Six days later, Fata Martin was the first woman enrolled in the post. Fata Martin served as a nurse in France after training at Willard State Hospital in Romulus.

On February 22, 1921, a women’s auxiliary was organized and a charter was received on May 23, 1923. Property was purchased on April 2, 1924, known as the Casey Property, which was located at 48 State Street, Seneca Falls, New York. This property was used to build the post home, which is still in use. The post home was dedicated on May 18, 1929.

The rich and varied history of this post is a long-lasting legacy that I wish to share with my colleagues here, the constituents in my district and the American people. Kirk-Casey American Legion Post 366 is the first chartered post in Seneca County and is one of the longest chartered posts in the American Legion’s seventh district. I applaud the efforts of this post on behalf and for veterans over the years and wish them continued success in the future.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to recognize Kirk-Casey American Legion Post 366 in Seneca Falls, New York for its one hundredth anniversary.

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Friday, September 20, 2019

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Sports Foundation, Inc. on the 50th Anniversary of tireless advocacy to improve the lives of Bronx residents. This organization is a great example of extraordinary contributions that community based groups and outstanding individuals have made in my district in the Bronx.

Mr. Williams was also the first African-American assistant basketball coach at NYU. Throughout his career, basketball and scholarship were two of his biggest priorities. Mr. “Buddy” Young was one of the first black men to play pro football. He started playing at the University of Illinois, and then was drafted into the Armed Services, and played with one of the service teams. At the end of his military service, Mr. Young played for ten years in the All-America Football Conference and National Football League.

The dedication of Sports Foundation, Inc. to promote social responsibility to disadvantaged and at-risk youth has facilitated their ability to foster, develop and encourage positive youth development using sports as a method of change. Their work has created a lasting impact in my community and participants have their 50th Anniversary of tireless advocacy for programs such as prevention counseling, sports and fitness activities, music/entertainment, and educational and community service, has helped to develop healthy bodies and strong minds in the youth from this community. Their location in the South Bronx placed this organization on the forefront against poverty, obesity, hunger, drugs, and violence. Sports Foundation, Inc. is now focused on transforming the foundation into the premier...
Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I was on the floor but missed the vote on H.R. 535, the Department of Veteran Affairs Expiring Authorities Act (Roll Call 536). Had I voted, I would have voted YEA.

HONORING PRESIDENT MOHAMED BEJI CAID ESSEBSI

HON. BILL FLORES
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 20, 2019

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mohamed Beji Caid Essebsi, the first democratically elected president of Tunisia, who passed away on July 25, 2019.

President Caid Essebsi was born November 29, 1926, in Sidi Bou Said, Tunisia. In 1950 he went to study law in Paris, France, and when he returned, he joined the independence movement led by future President Habib Bourguiba. Following Tunisia's independence from France in 1956, he served as Bourguiba's adviser and in his cabinet from 1957 to 1951. His posts included Chief of Regional Administration, Interior Minister, Defense Minister, and Ambassador to France.

Ten years after being sidelined for advocating for democratization, President Caid Essebsi returned to public service in 1981, serving as Minister of Foreign Affairs until 1986. In 1987, Prime Minister Zine el Abidine Ben Ali staged a bloodless coup against President Bourguiba. Under the new regime, President Caid Essebsi was appointed as Ambassador to Germany. He later returned to serve from 1990 to 1991 as the President of the Chamber of Deputies, the former lower chamber of the Tunisian parliament.

In 2010, the citizens of Tunisia took part in a campaign of civil resistance against President Ben Ali. Their demonstrations against high unemployment, food inflation, and lack of political freedom led to the eventual ouster of President Ben Ali. The Tunisian people's revolutionary success sparked a wave of protests and government overthrow across the Middle East, resulting in the Arab Spring. In the aftermath of their success, Tunisians were in need of leadership while trying to form a new and democratic form of government. In early 2011, acting President Fouad Mebazaa appointed President Caid Essebsi, after almost 20 years of private life, as the new Prime Minister for his record of patriotism, loyalty, and commitment to democracy.

In 2011, following elections for the Constituent Assembly of Tunisia, the body charged with writing a new constitution, President Caid Essebsi left office. As the country's new constitution was being written, President Caid Essebsi founded a new political party named “Nidaa Tounes” which translates to “Tunisia’s Call.” He founded this party as a democracy-oriented alternative to the Islamist Ennahda party which had recently taken power.

In early 2014, the country’s new constitution was passed and ratified; followed by elections to form a new system of government. Parliamentary elections were held in October of that year and Nidaa Tounes won a plurality of the seats. The next month, President Caid Essebsi was elected as President of Tunisia in the country's first free and fair elections. During his presidency, he supported a secular society and legislation that promoted women's rights.

Last year, I had the pleasure of meeting President Caid Essebsi on a House Democracy Partnership trip to Tunisia to promote their continuing democratic progress. I enjoyed his company and was saddened to hear of his passing. It is my fervent hope that in the upcoming elections to replace him, Tunisia continues to build upon the democratic processes that he so strongly supported.

Madam Speaker, President Mohamed Beji Caid Essebsi's life was defined by his service to his country. He will be forever remembered as a husband, a father, a selfless public servant, a champion for democracy, and a friend.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Caid Essebsi family. We also lift up the family and friends of President Caid Essebsi in our prayers.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 3 p.m., on Monday, September 23, 2019.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 28 public bills, H.R. 4429–4456; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 569–574 were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal by voice vote.


Pursuant to the Rule, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee print 116–32 modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–210, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill.

Agreed to:

Fletcher amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–210) that clarifies that nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the use of arbitration on a voluntary basis when consent is given after the dispute arises.

Rejected:

Jordan amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–210) that sought to strike from the bill safe-harbor provisions that allow unions and union employees to keep and enforce union-negotiated pre-dispute mandatory binding arbitration agreements with employers or other unions, while the bill’s other provisions abrogate non-union employees’ rights to keep and enforce their own agreements (by a recorded vote of 161 ayes to 253 noes, Roll No. 539).

H. Res. 558, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1423) was agreed to Wednesday, September 18th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12 noon on Tuesday, September 24th for Morning Hour debate.

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Duffy, wherein he resigned as Representative for the Seventh Congressional District of Wisconsin, effective at 6 p.m. on Monday, September 23, 2019.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7851–52 and H7852. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 12:48 p.m.
Committee Meetings

BUILDING A 100 PERCENT CLEAN ECONOMY: SOLUTIONS FOR THE U.S. BUILDING SECTOR

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “Building a 100 Percent Clean Economy: Solutions for the U.S. Building Sector”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES


MEMBER DAY HEARING

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day Hearing”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Takano, and Representatives Judy Chu of California, Luria, Gallagher, Gianforte, Newhouse, Hartzler, Haaland, Malinowski, King of Iowa, Quigley, Katko, Stivers, Marshall, and Roe of Tennessee.

CONFRONTING VIOLENT WHITE SUPREMACY (PART III): ADDRESSING THE TRANSNATIONAL TERRORIST THREAT

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on National Security; and the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held a joint hearing entitled “Confronting Violent White Supremacy (Part III): Addressing the Transnational Terrorist Threat”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
3 p.m., Monday, September 23

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12 noon, Tuesday, September 24

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

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