

way forward for each of these individuals.

I have hosted substance abuse awareness roundtables all across my district regularly and have heard from folks who have family, friends, or are themselves dealing with substance abuse. Many of these people you would have no idea they or people they knew were struggling.

But they were, Mr. Speaker. And this is why I rise with my colleagues, both Democrat and Republican alike, and wear the color purple today, to show that through love, care, faith, family, and community, we can help those walking through a very, very lonely valley.

We can uplift those who need it the most. We are all here to help our brothers and sisters in Christ.

THE PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW

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

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, today I come with a heavy heart, deeply concerned about the future of our democracy, and I am not alone.

People approach me everywhere I go, whether I am traveling back and forth to Atlanta or around our country. They believe, they truly believe, that our Nation is descending into darkness.

They never dreamed that the United States, once seen as a beacon of hope and as an inspiration to people striving for equality and justice, would be falling into such disgrace. I share their concerns for the future of our country.

It keeps me up at night. We took an oath to protect this Nation against all domestic enemies and foreign enemies.

Sometimes I am afraid to go to sleep for fear that I will wake up and our democracy will be gone and never return.

At every turn, this administration demonstrates complete disdain and disregard for ethics, for the law, and for the Constitution.

They have lied under oath. They refuse to account for their actions and appear before legislative bodies who have the constitutional right to inquire about their activities.

The people have a right to inquire, they have a right to know.

The people have a right to know whether they can put their faith and trust in the outcome of our elections.

They have a right to know whether the cornerstone of our democracy was undermined by people sitting in the White House today.

They have a right to know whether a foreign power was asked to intervene in the 2020 election.

They have a right to know whether the President is using his office to line his pockets.

Mr. Speaker, the people of this Nation realize that if they had committed even half of these possible violations, the Federal Government would be swift to seek justice.

We cannot delay. We must not wait. Now is the time to act.

I have been patient while we tried every other path and used every other tool.

We will never find the truth unless we use the power given to the House of Representatives, and the House alone, to begin an official investigation as dictated by the Constitution.

The future of our democracy is at stake. There comes a time when you have to be moved by the spirit of history to take action to protect and preserve the integrity of our Nation.

I believe, I truly believe, the time to begin impeachment proceedings against this President has come.

To delay or to do otherwise would betray the foundation of our democracy.

THE USMCA NEEDS TO BE RATIFIED NOW

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the House leaders to give farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and businessowners the certainty they need, and ratify the USMCA.

Nearly 1 year ago, the United States, Mexico, and Canada concluded their negotiations and released the full text of a trade agreement.

But I stand here today nearly 1 year later, and the trade deal with our top trading partners is stalled.

Why? Well, the Speaker objected to the trade deal. Those objections were addressed, and yet the American people are still waiting.

Mr. Speaker, the USMCA will create 176,000 new American jobs. It will secure open access to markets in Mexico and Canada, markets critical to Montana farmers and ranchers.

Ratifying the USMCA should be a priority for this Congress, not impeachment fever.

I again call on the Speaker to work with the White House to get this trade deal with our top trading partners across the finish line.

PFAS CONTAMINATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, across the United States and in my district, we are seeing more and more communities threatened with PFAS contamination.

The proliferation of toxic PFAS chemicals throughout our environment is a risk to human health, and as Congress continues to act on this issue, we must listen to the families and citizens who have had to live with this contamination.

I cannot imagine the fear of a parent who has learned that their children's drinking water is contaminated with these harmful chemicals.

That is why earlier this year, I introduced legislation that would prohibit companies from adjusting PFAS chemicals at the molecular level to bypass environmental protection at the Environmental Protection Agency.

Turning off the tap for approving new PFAS chemicals is one step that Congress can take as we work to fully understand how expansive PFAS contamination is to our environment and to human health.

Congress must act on this issue, which is why last month, I convened a PFAS summit with my friend and colleague CHRIS PAPPAS to hear from environmental advocates, impacted families, and community leaders in New Hampshire who are on the front lines of cleaning up PFAS contamination.

□ 1215

We also heard from experts who are working on long-term solutions to cleaning up these "forever chemicals," and I am pleased to bring some of these ideas back to Washington as a member of the bipartisan Congressional PFAS Task Force. This group has brought together Democrats and Republicans from across the country to put the issue of PFAS contamination front and center in Washington, D.C.

The PFAS Task Force has already been effective in advancing important provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act to help clean up contaminated sites and protect service-members, their families, and first responders who have been exposed.

As House and Senate leaders begin conferencing on this bill, it is critical that the final National Defense Authorization Act includes PFAS provisions from the House- and Senate-passed bills. Americans have waited long enough.

Congress has an important opportunity to pass bipartisan legislation that will protect veterans, current servicemembers, firefighters occupationally exposed to PFAS, and families in communities impacted by military PFAS contamination.

This issue is critical to my district and my State, and I will continue to work across the aisle with anyone who is willing to protect communities and future generations from PFAS contamination.

EXPAND MARKETS FOR AMERICAN DAIRY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last month, I had the pleasure of hosting U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue for a dairy and agriculture summit in Pennsylvania's 15th District at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, Pennsylvania.

Joining the Secretary and I was Gary Groves, Executive Director of the USDA Pennsylvania Farm Service

Agency; Russell Redding, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture secretary; and my colleagues Representative JOHN JOYCE and Representative FRED KELLER, among others.

The purpose of the event was to learn from our farm families about what is working, what is not, and where they need support the most. It was a privilege to host so many hardworking dairy farmers and to learn from their experiences.

It is important that there are resources available to help the dairy industry strengthen and grow. At the summit, we discussed these resources, like the USDA's new Dairy Margin Coverage Program. Programs like these are strengthening the safety net for farm families everywhere nationwide.

This revamped, voluntary program is one of the many tools available to dairy farmers around the Nation that offers more options, more flexibility, and a better return on investment.

Our Nation's farmers are always working hard. Owning and operating a farm is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year job. No matter where you are from, a strong agricultural industry benefits each and every one of our lives.

Of course, the hard work of these men and women would be lost without strong market opportunities. We must do more to expand opportunities for American dairy products, both domestically and internationally.

That means making pending trade agreements like the USMCA a reality by bringing it to a vote in the immediate future because Pennsylvania deserves freer markets, fairer trade, and increased economic opportunity.

As the Commonwealth's number one industry, the importance of a strong agricultural sector cannot be overstated. As the largest sector of the Pennsylvania agricultural industry, dairy production remains critical.

USMCA brings good news for dairy farmers in Pennsylvania and across the country, thanks to the elimination of Canada's class 6 and class 7 dairy pricing, which has unfairly limited our export potential.

Our agricultural industry, particularly our dairy farmers, are the backbone of Pennsylvania's economy, and their success directly impacts the well-being of the Commonwealth.

Passing USMCA is long overdue. It is time to signal to our Nation's farmers, manufacturers, small business owners, and two closest trade partners that we are serious about securing a bright future for American exports.

STILL I RISE

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. I rise today with a belief that the Honorable JOHN LEWIS was eminently correct with his statement. He does not need my commentary; hence, I will not give commentary.

I just want the RECORD to reflect that on September 24, shortly after the noon hour, I had the preeminent privilege of being here in this very room to hear the Honorable JOHN LEWIS.

While I won't comment on his commentary, I will just comment on something that was on my heart as it relates to people who approach and ask questions about the state of affairs, the status of our country.

On yesterday, a young man, 9 years of age, his name is Alec. Alec is a variation of Alexander. Alexander means helper of humankind.

This 9-year-old young man expressed his concerns about our country—9 years of age. The proof of what I say can be validated because he was at the rally that was held right out front of the Rayburn House Office Building—9 years of age.

People of all ages who have been chronicling these events are asking questions. There are many answers to be given, but I think the Honorable JOHN LEWIS has given us the best. I am honored that I was here when he gave us pearls of wisdom to facilitate our going forward.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARSON of Indiana) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As Members of the people's House return to Washington, we ask Your blessing on them that they might be all the more focused in their work, and as modeled by so many Americans in their efforts these past days, prepared to work together to address our Nation's most pressing needs.

As a community of colleagues, we ask Your blessing upon Representative CLYBURN and his family, who mourn the loss of his beloved wife, Emily. May all those who mourn the loss of their loved ones be comforted by Your spirit and lifted up by the support of their colleagues and friends.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY), the whole number of the House is 434.

THE FAIR ACT MAKES FORCED ARBITRATION ILLEGAL

(Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the FAIR Act that makes forced arbitration clauses illegal.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I worked to protect servicemembers and their families from negligently managed base housing and the contracts they were forced to sign to keep them quiet. Our servicemembers should have the right to advocate for themselves.

We cannot hold bad actors accountable when they can hide in arbitration proceedings. No one should have to sign away their right to go to court after experiencing sexual assault or discrimination, but that is exactly what forced arbitration clauses do.

Arbitration can be an option to solve disagreements without going to court, but everyone involved should get to choose. If you downloaded an app, signed up for a credit card, or signed an employment contract, you may have signed away your right to hold someone accountable. I don't believe that you can sign away your constitutional rights.

Mr. Speaker, I voted for the FAIR Act to level the playing field for consumers, small businesses, and workers across America, and I strongly urge the Senate to take it up as soon as possible.

HONORING LIEUTENANT JOHN JOSEPH WILEY

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address