

You were right. You had a right to do that.

But you want to deny us that right, like you want to deny us following your rules that you say are unfair.

Madam Speaker, I don't get it. We have done our work. We will continue to do our work. We will continue to do our work on both sides of the ledger, doing our constitutional duty and doing our legislative duty, which may be one and the same.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, hopefully, we can get that 302(b) number. Hopefully, Madam Speaker, if we want to talk about some of these bills, I would love if the majority leader would bring the package of bills that came out of committee unanimously, where every Republican and Democrat came together, not with poison pills, but to show that we can actually govern in a way that a bill can get signed into law, not party-line games.

We all know the issues with the Senate. We can both agree on the differences we have with how the Senate operates, where they require 60 votes, which means, in order to do anything, both sides—not one side, but both sides—have to come together.

NDAA, first time in over 40 years where an NDAA bill came out that sets the rules for our Department of Defense funding in a partisan way, it should have never been that way. It has never happened that way before.

Hopefully, we can find a way to come together and address some of these real problems and have real fairness.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCALISE. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it is a two-House legislature. One is led by Republicans; one is led by Democrats.

The reason we don't have 302(b) is because the Senate couldn't agree with itself on 302(b)s.

I talked to MITCH MCCONNELL in January of this year. MITCH MCCONNELL comes out of the Appropriations Committee; I come out of the Appropriations Committee. Both of us said that we need to get 302(a)s, which is the big number. You then subdivide it into 12 different committees. He agreed that we ought to do that, but he said that we have to have the President agree.

Very frankly, the Acting Chief of Staff, who served in this body, did not want to do that. The leadership of the Republicans had as much trouble with him as we had with him. Just ask Mr. Boehner and Mr. Ryan. He didn't want to have a deal. He wanted a CR. Actually, he wanted less than a CR because he wanted to go back to the sequester numbers.

That is why we don't have a 302(b), because neither the White House, Madam Speaker, nor the Acting Chief of Staff would agree.

Mr. MCCONNELL said: I am not going to do anything the President of the United States won't do.

Unlike being the independent, Article I body that we ought to be, acting independently and then sending it down to the President, and he makes a decision as to whether he wants to sign it or not, we are simply saying, in the United States Senate: If he won't agree with it, we won't put it on the floor. He doesn't have to veto it.

The public has to be so extraordinarily confused and angry about our unwillingness and inability to get our work done.

Madam Speaker, we have done our work. The Senate hasn't sent us anything. It is not like they have sent us something that we have rejected in a partisan way. They haven't sent us anything. They are too busy appointing judges that they think will reflect their ideological point of view.

So I am frustrated, along with the citizens of this country.

Everybody here who wants to do a 1-minute or a 5-minute is really frustrated. I get that. I am hopeful we can end this because we are not going anywhere.

But we are going to continue to do our job. We are going to continue to pass legislation that we think is for the people, to make their lives better, to focus on them, not us. We are going to focus on the Constitution and the laws of this country, to make sure that they are faithfully executed and carried out.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Maybe we would both agree that it might be helpful if the four leaders—the Speaker, the minority leader, the Senate majority leader, and Senate minority leader—got in a room and agreed not to leave until they come up with an agreement so we can actually do our business and not wait that 60 days.

The Secretary of Defense has made clear how damaging it is to our defense if we don't have a DOD appropriations bill passed and signed into law by the time this funding expires, how it hurts our men and women in uniform.

Hopefully, they would all agree to go and have that conversation and, ultimately, get that resolved. Then, we can take care of more of the people's work.

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

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2019, TO MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019

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

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

There was no objection.

CALLING ON VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE MICHAEL NGUYEN

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, today, I am here again, once more, to speak about an American citizen, Michael Nguyen, who is currently in prison in Vietnam on vague allegations and charges.

I thank my colleague, Representative KATIE PORTER, for her tireless advocacy on this matter, and the men and women at the State Department, including Ambassador Dan Kritenbrink, for their work and continued support.

It has been over a year since Michael was arbitrarily detained, hastily tried, and harshly imprisoned on claims that he plotted to overthrow the Government of Vietnam, which no one—and I repeat, no one—has seen any evidence of.

Earlier this year, Michael was convicted, along with two Vietnamese men, after a half-day trial. Michael was sentenced to 12 years in prison, which is longer than the two Vietnamese men received for the same charges.

Michael's family has struggled emotionally and financially with his imprisonment. His wife and four daughters only want him to come home.

He is currently appealing the length of his sentence.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam, I call upon the Vietnamese Government to do the right thing: quickly close this case and return Michael back to the United States and to his family.

□ 1230

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS IN OUR NATION

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

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, this week is National School Lunch Week. I rise today to recognize the importance of school lunch programs in our Nation, which provide low-cost or free lunches to more than 29 million children in nearly 100,000 public and residential child care institutions across the country. I have great appreciation for all the hard work the school nutrition service industry provides to ensure our children are fed nutritious meals.

As the former commissioner of agriculture in Kentucky, I understand the importance of child nutrition programs. Quality food service at school should be the least of a child's worries as they are navigating the school environment and engaging in new learning opportunities. The health and well-being of our Nation's children is something all congressional Members can

adamantly support. This is a main priority of mine as the representative of several rural, underserved communities in Kentucky's First Congressional District.

As a member of the House Committee on Education and Labor, finding solutions to better serve our Nation's children is a goal we are constantly striving to build upon. I look forward to continuing to support important programs proven to serve and aid our Nation's children.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT SANDEEP SINGH DHALIWAL

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

Mrs. FLETCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lieutenant Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal of the Harris County Sheriff's Office, who was shot and killed in the line of duty 3 weeks ago today on September 27.

As the first observant Sikh to serve in the Harris County Sheriff's Office and one of the first in Texas to receive a policy accommodation to practice his religion while serving as a police officer, Deputy Dhaliwal was a role model for Americans of all faiths who want to serve others.

Deputy Dhaliwal sold his successful business to join the sheriff's office out of a sense of duty and a desire to build a bridge between the department and the Houston area Sikh community. He was known for his energy, his optimism, and his giving heart, coordinating relief efforts for our community after Hurricane Harvey and traveling to Puerto Rico to do the same after Hurricane Maria.

Deputy Dhaliwal's service to our community and to our country is an example to us all. The people of Houston, Harris County, the Harris County Sheriff's Office and the Sikh community across the country celebrate the life and mourn the loss of this remarkable man, a selfless hero who represented the very best of our country's ideals.

#### IT'S TIME TO STOP THE MADNESS

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

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, the impeachment inquiry being led by the House Democrats is a sham process. Over the last 3 weeks, we have seen a stunning lack of transparency, the failure to provide basic due process rights to the President, the selective leaking of testimony and information, and Members of Congress being refused entry to the closed-door hearings.

I was even denied this week the opportunity to review the Volker testimony, despite being on one of the committees responsible for fact finding in this nontransparent inquiry.

Since day one, Democrats in this Chamber have been attempting to over-

turn the results of the 2016 election by any means necessary. They have been so focused on impeachment, that recently it seems like this Chamber, Democrats' friends in the news, and pundits cannot focus on anything else.

As Democrats continue to focus on keeping the curtain closed on these proceedings to the public, the minority and the President, the American people are left to suffer without passage of the USMCA, bipartisan prescription drug reform, and border security measures.

The people in my district, both Republicans and Democrats, have repeatedly told me they are sick and tired of this nontransparent inquiry, and the fact that Congress fails to do anything other than focus on tearing down the duly-elected President.

It is time to stop this nonsense. It is time to stop the madness. It is time to stop the opaque inquiry for the benefit of the American people.

#### AMERICA IS BETTER THAN THIS

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, by abandoning our Kurdish allies in Syria, President Trump has allowed ISIS fighters to escape prison, strengthen Russia, Iran and Syria, and damaged our reputation around the world. He has also betrayed an ally that fought valiantly alongside American forces against ISIS and who lost 11,000 soldiers doing so.

The Washington Post reports that American soldiers are sickened by this betrayal. One retired four-star general described the President's decision as, "unsound, morally indefensible, and a disgrace." Our allies around the world are also disturbed. They watched America leave its friends vulnerable to attack. They took note as a predictable humanitarian crisis ensued. As The New York Times reports, many now see the United States as an unreliable, untrustworthy partner.

The President's decision cost many lives, including the lives of children, and it will have painful consequences for generations to come.

As our dear colleague, Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS, so often said to us, we are better than this, America is better than this.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE FOR THIS CONGRESS TO GO TO WORK

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to Speaker PELOSI's radical partisan prescription drug pricing plan.

Let's not forget the last time that Speaker PELOSI brought healthcare legislation it was rushed through this House, and it doubled our premiums and our deductibles skyrocketed.

There is no guarantee that H.R. 3 would lower the prices of drugs, but rather, it could mandate a one-size-fits-all government takeover of healthcare. It could pose a grave threat to innovation, research and development, and ultimately patient access to life-changing prescriptions.

The bill could have far-reaching economic consequences that would negatively affect jobs, the economy, and trade. The pharmaceutical industry employs over 800,000 workers and supports an estimated four million jobs in this country. I know this firsthand. Right in my district healthcare researchers are transforming patient care and creating local jobs at the same time.

This week the House Committee on Education and Labor marked up this legislation, and, unfortunately, my amendment was not adopted. My amendment would have prevented innovation and American manufacturing from moving out of the United States to China.

The American people deserve for this Congress to go to work and pass legislation that is bipartisan and has a chance to become law to lower drug prices.

#### AMERICANS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO DECIDE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH BECAUSE THEY CAN'T AFFORD PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we all continue to mourn the passing of our dear friend ELIJAH CUMMINGS. He was an honorable man with a deep commitment to our Nation. He inspired many of us to always do what is right and to seek the truth. It is, therefore, fitting that H.R. 3 will be renamed in his Honor.

It is wrong and immoral that Americans spend more money per person on prescription drug prices than any other country in the world. No American should have to decide between life or death because they can't afford their prescription drugs.

This is personal to me. Many of my family members suffer from diabetes, as do many of my constituents. This is why I support H.R. 3. Let us honor the legacy of our dear colleague with action. Let's deliver lower prescription drug prices for the American people on his behalf and in his Honor.

Rest in power, Mr. CUMMINGS.

#### CONGRATULATING THE FLORIDA AIR NATIONAL GUARD'S 125TH FIGHTER WING

(Mr. RUTHERFORD asked and was given permission to address the House