

to work on everyday issues, such as the rising cost of healthcare, crumbling roads and bridges, and an opportunity to increase trade by passing USMCA.

Madam Speaker, let's get back to work.

CONSPIRACY OF COUP ATTEMPT

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

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, calling this a constitutional impeachment process is a farce and a gross misrepresentation of what is taking place. The entire process has flown in the face of precedent, procedure, and decency, with no regard whatsoever for the good of the country. It is politics at perhaps the worst we have seen in our Nation's history.

The Democrats started their effort to depose President Trump even before he took office, starting with the Russia collusion hoax.

Witness interviews are being conducted behind closed doors while Members of Congress, who have the responsibility to vote on the testimony of these witnesses, are shut out.

The chairman of the Intelligence Committee is having secret phone calls, talking with alleged whistleblowers, and withholding information from Members of Congress and the public that is vital to this inquiry.

This is shameful. This is really a conspiracy to remove a duly elected President.

The Democrat majority is engaged in an effort to conduct a trial with a predetermined outcome to remove President Trump from office using tactics unbecoming and unfitting the Republic we serve and this House.

This is not a legitimate inquiry; it is a coup attempt. It is time to stop this charade.

LET'S GET ON WITH WORKING FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, once again, Members returned to Washington this week. And, once again, important bipartisan work on issues like lowering prescription drug prices, encouraging rural broadband build-out, passing the USMCA trade bill, and improving America's aging infrastructure has stalled because of the very partisan efforts to impeach President Trump.

This week, the Democratic majority will hold more secret meetings in the Capitol basement, release more selective, cherry-picked leaks designed to confuse the American people, and continue their guilty-until-proven-innocent sham to impeach the President.

They have been plotting this since he was walking down Pennsylvania Ave-

nue on January 20, 2017, and probably even before that. But, the Russian collusion hoax failed miserably, and the Robert Mueller testimony gave them nothing. So, now, they are on to plan B.

They say they have the evidence to impeach, but we have already heard that song. Democratic leaders have claimed to have evidence before. Let's see if they can actually produce their evidence this time.

Let's get on with working for the American people.

IMPEACHMENT TRANSPARENCY

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been trying to impeach President Trump since he took office, and we all know this.

They have made it very clear they deem the President's every action to be impeachable, and, since the beginning of this joke inquiry, they have shown no interest in fair, fact-based proceedings.

Impeachment is a monumental step that must be conducted with full transparency, but what we are witnessing here is a violation of due process that should concern every single American.

Democrats have held meetings in secret where convenient, one-sided information can be leaked to the public, denying American citizens the right to have their elected Members of Congress present.

The dedication to using any and all resources in an attempt to remove a duly elected President is unthinkable and, frankly, a waste of time. The Constitution provides the House with the power of impeachment for high crimes and misdemeanors, not for political theater to push an agenda.

Madam Speaker, the Democrats have made a mockery of Congress and our democracy throughout this process. The American people deserve better, and this President deserves better.

As my colleague from Texas, AL GREEN, said: President Trump will win again in 2020.

In God we trust.

HOLD A VOTE TO AUTHORIZE AN IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the partisan impeachment inquiry currently under way by House Democrats. They have elected to make this a closed-door, partisan process with no fairness, transparency, due process, or accountability to the American people.

It is absolutely necessary for the Speaker to hold a vote in the full House to formally authorize an im-

peachment inquiry. Regardless of which party held the majority in the past, there has been an authorization vote because it allows the House to adopt procedures that will provide for the minority to be an equal part of this process.

We cannot even get access to testimony from the secret hearings. Considering impeaching a duly elected President should be significant enough to demand transparency, due process, and an open and fair proceeding.

In wake of this partisan exercise, we have abandoned the work of the people. We should be passing legislation that is bipartisan to lower the price of prescription drugs and approving the USMCA that will create millions of jobs for hardworking Americans.

We cannot afford to put these priorities on the back burner, and I know the folks in my district agree.

CALLING OUT UNPRECEDENTED AND ILLEGITIMATE IMPEACHMENT PROCESS

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, this place is based predominantly on precedent and procedure. To bypass this proven pathway is predictably painful. So I pause to put a plea to the powers that be:

Our people deserve better.

The propaganda pushed upon the people is a political ploy as perpetrators usurp the proven precedents of the past.

It is painful to be placed in a position to protest the pranks pushed by PELOSI and her posse of players, but people have been pushed out and put on the sidelines as Democrats plow ahead with this so-called impeachment inquiry.

The impact of this pandering is the peeling away of the people's trust placed upon us. As the past has played out, I have been perplexed by the pontifications of people in positions of power who puff themselves up in pretentious prominence when it is really petty partisanship.

So I plead, as we push and pull for power, that we do so grounded in prudence that protects the proven procedures of the past.

DEMOCRATS' UNPRECEDENTED AND DANGEROUS IMPEACHMENT EXERCISE

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, we are here tonight to draw attention to the Democrats' unprecedented and dangerous impeachment exercise. It is unprecedented because this has simply never happened before.

In our nearly two-and-a-half centuries as a nation, there have only been three instances of impeachment proceedings against a President. In all