

that gap, and I think apprenticeships can help. There are companies like Midwestern Mechanical in Sioux Falls who understand that and have created their own in-house apprenticeship programs.

Their apprentices get free classes while they work 40 hours a week in their field. They earn while they learn. Unlike many college students, they finish their program with a license, with a skill, with a job, and without college debt.

Now, as we look forward to how do we grow this economy and how do we do a better job, we have to understand that, yes, 4-year degrees are important, but they are not the only way to close that skill gap.

I think that in-house apprenticeships like those at Midwestern Mechanical show us an important way forward.

EXPAND REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

(Ms. BONAMICI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, it is National Apprenticeship Week.

In Oregon and around the country, registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships are helping people access good-paying jobs, improving economic security, and increasing opportunities for women, people of color, and dislocated workers.

Last week I met with more than 30 apprentices and union leaders at the UA 290 Training Center in Tualatin, Oregon. Their stories are inspiring. I heard from apprentices like Sade with Steamfitters Local 290, who said, "I love what I do, and people who look like me coming into these spaces matters."

Jackie, who was once incarcerated, is now helping others overcome barriers and enter the workforce. She said IBEW "gave me a chance."

In discussing the Constructing Hope Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program, Sarah, a single mom, said that, without it, "I would never be here providing a better life for my kids and myself."

During National Apprenticeship Week, I say to all of my colleagues, join me. Let's work together to protect and expand registered apprenticeship programs to provide workers with quality training, portable credentials, high wages, support services, and a pathway to a permanent job.

These programs do more than train a workforce; they change lives for the better.

IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, this week the American people saw the first public impeachment hearings in a generation. These hearings are happening after weeks of a sham process where

witnesses auditioned, questions were rehearsed, and testimony was selectively leaked by Democrats as they tried to craft their narrative.

Unfortunately, despite the start of public hearings, Democrats are continuing to audition witnesses, holding two more secret depositions in a SCIF this week.

This sham impeachment of President Trump is continuing despite four undeniable facts that the Democrats have ignored since day one:

One, the transcript of the phone call shows there was no discussion of conditionality;

Two, both President Trump and President Zelensky said there was no pressure;

Three, Ukraine didn't know the military aid was being withheld; and

Four, the aid was ultimately released, and Ukraine didn't have to do anything.

There is no "there" there. It is time to move on and work on things that will benefit the American people, like passing the USMCA, truly bipartisan prescription drug reform, fully funding our military, and taking care of our veterans.

Let's move past this partisan process and get to work on the issues that will benefit every American family.

UNITED STATES EXPORT FINANCE AGENCY ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BONAMICI). Pursuant to House Resolution 695 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4863.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) kindly take the chair.

□ 0919

IN 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 further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4863) to promote the competitiveness of the United States, to reform and reauthorize the United States Export Finance Agency, and for other purposes, with Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, November 14, 2019, amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 116-289 offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. MENG

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 116-289.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chairman, 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 7, line 17, insert "Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions," before "Tribal colleges".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 695, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chair, my amendment would ensure that the United States Export Finance Agency's efforts to diversify its workforce include outreach to Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions, AANAPISIs.

AANAPISIs, like other minority-serving institutions, can provide pathways for underserved communities to earn a degree and secure a job in the economy.

The underlying bill includes outreach to historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and Tribal colleges and universities. Whenever there are discussions of minority communities, it is essential that we remember to include Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

For those who are the first in their family to attend college, minority-serving institutions can open doors and fulfill their dreams. If we are to have a workforce that reflects our diversity, we must ensure that our government is reaching into all underserved communities.

The AAPI community is the fastest-growing minority group in the U.S. By 2060, the AAPI population is projected to reach 40 million.

By engaging with minority-serving institutions like these AANAPISIs, we can help people achieve their goals, find fulfilling careers, and ensure our Nation remains globally competitive.

Again, with my amendment, I am requesting that the U.S. Export Finance Agency is inclusive and engages AANAPISIs in its workforce outreach efforts.

Mr. Chair, I urge support for the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, first, I want to commend the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG) for offering this in the series that she is offering. I think they are constructive amendments to this reauthorization and important insights on what we should be doing to recruit in the Federal workforce.

And we have a major need, though it is not in the financial services jurisdiction, but it is really important for all of us to acknowledge that we have a need in the Federal workforce for a wider set of views and expertise coming into the Federal workforce. I think this is a thoughtful attempt to do those things, so I do appreciate the gentlewoman's efforts.