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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GOMEZ).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 18, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIMMY GOMEZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

BRING TRANSPARENCY TO DRUG PRICES

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, families across southeast Wisconsin are concerned about the rising costs of healthcare, especially prescription drug costs. No parent should have to worry that they cannot afford insulin or an EpiPen for their child.

We must work together to bring transparency to drug prices, hold drug companies accountable, and empower

patients. The Stopping the Pharmaceutical Industry from Keeping drugs Expensive Act, or the SPIKE Act, is a nonpartisan bill addressing drug pricing.

The SPIKE Act holds drug companies accountable for their pricing of life-saving drugs. If a drug manufacturer of insulin or EpiPens drastically increases its price, the company must publicly justify its decision to do so.

As a cosponsor of the SPIKE Act, I will continue fighting to ensure this bill becomes law.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to bring the SPIKE Act to a vote.

BRING USMCA TO A VOTE

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, November 30 marks 1 year since President Trump agreed with Mexico and Canada to create the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, or USMCA.

USMCA is an improved trade agreement with Wisconsin's largest trading partners, Canada and Mexico. Mexico passed USMCA. Canada is ready to ratify it. They are waiting on us.

Generations of Wisconsinites have dedicated their lives to farming. Our farmers need our help. Our farmers need USMCA now more than ever.

Small dairy farms in Wisconsin are closing. Wisconsin farmers are struggling to cope with low milk prices and limited access to markets. USMCA opens dairy markets and allows farmers to sell their milk to Canada.

I have addressed this Chamber multiple times on the need to get USMCA across the finish line. Enough is enough. Bring USMCA to a vote.

TAKE STEPS TO PREPARE BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is voting on the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act. This is a nonpartisan bill to help families when disaster strikes.

In Wisconsin, we have seen our fair share of storms, tornadoes, and flooding. When a storm hits, resources and

assistance must be readily available. That is why this bill is so important. We must have a plan in place before the storm to avoid waste, fraud, and abuse.

This bill does that. Right now, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, does not have a codified process in place to distribute assistance to communities in need. The bill requires HUD to have a clear process in place before disasters strike.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act. We cannot always know where a storm will strike or when it will hit, but we can take steps to be prepared and respond.

CALL FOR SENATE TO ACT AFTER FRESNO MASS SHOOTING

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it saddens me once again to hear another mass shooting has occurred in our country, this time in my district.

Last night, in Fresno, California, another senseless mass shooting occurred, where four people lost their lives and six more were injured. This happened at a family gathering in a neighborhood not far from the airport near Fresno, where 35 or more people were gathered.

Children were present at this meaningless act while they were watching a football game. While none of the children were harmed, certainly their lives will be changed forever as a result of the trauma they experienced last night.

I have reached out to local law enforcement, and we are ready to assist in any way possible. I have spoken with the mayor and the chief of police.

Certainly, our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families, but as a community and as a country,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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