

REPLACE NAFTA WITH USMCA

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

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my hope and expectation that the Trump administration and Congress will resolve the few outstanding issues so that Congress can take a strong bipartisan vote to modernize NAFTA, our outdated trade agreement with Canada and Mexico, and replace it with USMCA, a better agreement that will benefit America's workers, farmers, businesses, and families, while also fortifying our relationship with our two closest neighbors.

As a member of the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, I believe well-negotiated trade agreements can improve our economy and our security, but I also know poorly negotiated trade pacts can hurt America's workers and make it harder to maintain broad-based support for the concept of freer and fairer trade.

USMCA fixes flaws in some NAFTA chapters based on the lessons we have learned since NAFTA was enacted in 1994. It also adds new chapters to reflect the reality that the world has undergone major changes in the last 25 years.

I support the deliberative and productive negotiations taking place between the administration and House Democrats. I think both sides are working in good faith with the shared goal of getting the best possible agreement over the finish line. Each side realizes inaction is not an option because NAFTA must be revised.

I also support bipartisan and bicameral efforts by the Florida delegation to protect our farmers who grow seasonal produce from unfair competition.

When it comes to USMCA, it is important we move swiftly and with a sense of urgency, but it is just as important that we get this right.

SUPPORT TRICARE FAIRNESS FOR NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE RETIREES

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight H.R. 5169, the TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act that I introduced with Representative GABBARD earlier today.

This bipartisan bill aligns the eligibility age for TRICARE Standard, Extra, and Prime, which are the healthcare programs for uniformed servicemembers, retirees, and their families, with the age at which National Guard and Reserve personnel begin receiving their retired pay.

We have heavily relied upon our National Guard and Reserve personnel for

the past 20 years, and they have made major contributions to our force structure for over 200 years.

Congress previously recognized their sacrifices by lowering the age that they can receive their retired pay based on their Active Duty service, but it is not fair that their eligibility for traditional TRICARE was left at age 60. This has resulted in early retirees often spending the vast majority, if not all, of their pension on TRICARE premiums until they reach 60.

This bill will help these servicemembers transition into retirement as intended when Congress reduced their retirement age. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

FINALIZE USMCA

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, Canada and Mexico are two of the Commonwealth's largest trading partners. In 2018 alone, Virginia exported \$4.3 billion worth of goods to our northern and southern neighbors.

Last month, in Chesterfield County, I sat down with local businesses, business leaders, and members of the Chamber of Commerce to talk about how the USMCA could strengthen export opportunities and spur economic growth for businesses in our area. Cattlemen and dairies, farmers, and producers across my central Virginia district care deeply about the certainty and stability afforded by a trade deal. Amid ongoing USMCA discussions, my constituents want and need the long-term certainty of a trade deal between our three countries.

I thank the congressional working group for its productive efforts to arrive at a deal that meets the needs of our farmers, producers, small businesses, medium-sized businesses, and American workers.

We need House negotiators and the administration to come to a final agreement. We need to get this done and deliver trade stability for our constituents back home in my central Virginia district and across the country.

PASS USMCA WITHOUT DELAY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, my colleague from Virginia, on the other side of the aisle, just gave my speech.

The USMCA is a very important document, a very important measure, that we need to pass without delay. Our trade with Mexico and Canada, our two most important trade partners in the world, needs to be secure so that we can start doing more business with them.

It will be great for much in agriculture, our dairies, forestry, auto

parts, and California wine to have the stability of this. It will also show the rest of the world that we are ready to do business and negotiate better deals with Japan, China, and others.

Let's get this done. Let's not have the USMCA vote held up any longer or have it become leverage for other things.

I ask Speaker PELOSI to please bring this to the floor because I think we can get many votes on both sides of the aisle and pass this right away.

□ 1530

LET'S GET THE USMCA DONE

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

Mr. MCADAMS. Madam Speaker, for weeks we have heard that action on the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement is eminently doable. So why haven't we gotten it done?

It is time to put politics aside and to come together for the future of our countries and our people.

NAFTA went into effect in 1994. It was due for modernization. By all reasonable accounts, USMCA represents progress for farms and ranchers, for autoworkers, for medical device manufacturers, and others.

This is a multitrillion-dollar economic relationship between the United States and our two neighbors. It supports millions of American jobs. In Utah alone, trade with Mexico and Canada supports over 120,000 jobs, jobs that pay the rent, that provide healthcare, that send kids to college and help Utahns save for retirement. Over \$418 million worth of agricultural exports are sent from Utah to our North American neighbors each year.

We were elected to move forward on priorities that matter to people's everyday lives. There is nothing more fundamental for businesses, employees, and communities than to have stability on the economic front.

Today, I am saying no more foot-dragging; no more vague promises about "soon." It is time to deliver on what we promised. Come to an agreement. Bring USMCA to the House floor, and let's get it done.

TRANSGENDER REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in anticipation of Transgender Remembrance Day, to honor the memory of those who have been lost to anti-transgender violence.

It is important that we recognize the bravery of those individuals who have chosen to live truthfully and openly and embrace their gender identity with the world.