

into a blessed future. Remove any shadowy cloud so that they might follow the patterns of Your inspirations.

O Lord of the ages, ever faithful to Your promises, be with us during these most contentious days, and may all that is done in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### PROTECTING PATIENTS FROM UNAFFORDABLE DRUG PRICES

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, drug prices in the United States have been rising at rates significantly faster than anywhere else in the world for the past 25 years, according to the Commonwealth Fund.

Investments by the Federal Government and research form the foundation of advances in new treatments and cures. The Federal Government does all the costly basic research; the pharmaceutical industry does all the profitable distribution and marketing.

Now, the Federal Government should use its considerable leverage to negotiate fair drug prices so the American people can truly benefit from their taxpayer investments. I am pleased to see the House moving forward this week with H.R. 3 that will do just that.

We must create leverage whenever we can. Despite promises from President Trump last year that drugmakers would announce massive voluntary price decreases on their products, patients continue to face enormous year-over-year drug price increases on the drugs they need. In the first half of 2018, for every drug that saw a price decrease, 96 drugs saw a price increase.

We also know that drug price hikes are almost never connected to any evi-

dence of innovation and improved benefit.

Why do drug companies raise the price of existing drugs? Because they can.

It is imperative that we protect patients from unaffordable drug prices and unjustified price increases on those drugs.

#### HIGHLIGHTING CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF USMCA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was pleased to join 158 of my colleagues in sending a letter to Speaker PELOSI highlighting the critical importance of the USMCA trade agreement.

It has been nearly 400 days since President Trump signed the agreement with our two closest trading partners, and at long last, it seems a vote may finally be in our near future. With less than 2 weeks left in the legislative calendar, a vote is long overdue.

Farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and everyone in between will benefit from the passing of USMCA. USMCA will help increase market opportunities, keeping trade free and fair, and the projected impact on our Nation's agricultural industry is staggering.

Under this new, revamped agreement, U.S. agriculture exports are expected to increase by more than \$2 billion, annually, leading to an estimated 325,000 additional jobs here at home. That is good news, not just for our local rural communities, but for each and every American.

USMCA will help bring U.S. trade policy into the 21st century. Each day that passes without a vote is leaving money and opportunity on the table.

#### SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, in 2017, the Gulf region experienced one of the greatest catastrophic floods and hurricanes in our history: Mr. Speaker, 51 trillion gallons of water. Neighborhoods that have never flooded, flooded. People in desperate conditions, reservoirs breaking, dams breaking.

And I knew that we had to rescue them. I introduced the first Hurricane Harvey legislation: \$174 billion.

But, Mr. Speaker, there was a group that I did not want to forget because I know that they are entrepreneurs, and that is why I established the small business grant program, modeled after 9/11, that now has come into fruition with \$100 million. I will go home and announce this to my local community.

The grants are grants and not loans—unique. They are not like the SBA. They are grants. We fought for that

from the Federal Government all the way down to the State government.

I am asking my constituents to meet me in Houston at 2 p.m. for a grand announcement in order for the small businesses still impacted by Hurricane Harvey to get grant relief, money that is not a loan, and I am fighting for those loans to be small enough to help all of our small entrepreneurs.

#### IMPEACHMENT SHAM

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, this week Speaker PELOSI and House Democrats are continuing their 3-year-old quest to overturn the 2016 election and tear down President Donald Trump.

Recently, Speaker PELOSI said the current impeachment farce is not rushed because it has been going on for 2½ years. That seems to me to be admission of what we have known for a long time: that the Democrats do not care how or why they impeach the President, so long as they do so.

This impeachment sham is a result of a quest that began the moment President Trump descended the escalator at Trump Tower in 2015 to announce that he was running for President.

It is also the result of career bureaucrats, some in the intelligence community, and House Democrats trying to prevent or stop President Trump from taking power out of their hands and returning it to the people.

Just this week we have seen evidence that the FBI has been weaponized against the Presidential candidate; Chairman SCHIFF abusing his power by releasing phone records of Members of Congress and reporters, and his refusal to defend a one-sided report crafted by him and his staff.

Again, enough is enough. Let's stop this sham and get back to the work of the American people.

#### LOWERING DRUG COSTS NOW

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 3, the Elijah Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act.

Across America, seniors and families are struggling to afford the prescription drugs they need to stay healthy.

One of my constituents from the rural part of my district, Christie Baldock from Yerington, Nevada, was receiving tele-healthcare through her Senior Care Plus coverage before her health plan cut its rural coverage. Until she enrolls in another coverage, she will have to pay out of pocket for her prescriptions. Her insulin alone will be \$500 each month.

Under H.R. 3, some commonly used insulins can cost as little as \$400 per