



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019

No. 198

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 11, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR 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 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR ALL STUDENTS AT ALL LEVELS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act, which President Obama signed into law 4 years ago yesterday.

When I came to Congress, updating the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was one of my top priorities, and I was proud to stand with President Obama on the day that we finally left behind No Child Left Behind.

More than 50 years ago, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act into law, and he said ESEA represents a major new commitment of the Federal Government to quality and equality in the schooling that we offer our young people.

I agree with President Johnson. When we promote and realize equity in education, when we expand and invest in educational opportunities, we can improve outcomes for all students at all levels.

Reauthorizing ESEA in 2015 was meant to put us closer to achieving that equality envisioned in the original law, but there is still much work to be done.

ESSA created new opportunities to make sure that all students, regardless of their race, color, national origin, ZIP Code, or family wealth, could have an equal opportunity to obtain a high-quality public education.

It returned flexibility and autonomy to States and districts to set high standards for all students, to evaluate schools using multiple measures of student learning, and to design systems for identifying schools in need of additional support.

With provisions I championed, States were also given the ability to eliminate unnecessary or duplicative testing and access to resources for fewer, better quality assessments. Importantly, the Every Student Succeeds Act put more emphasis on well-rounded education that prepares students to be creative, critical thinkers.

Since ESSA's passage, I have worked hard with appropriators to make sure Congress fulfills the commitments made in this law with robust funding of Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants.

As we continue to implement this law, strong Federal accountability and support are necessary to make sure that the flexibility and autonomy that

States and districts now have is used to identify and close achievement gaps, rather than to shirk responsibility to students. We know there is more work to be done in that area, as well.

Unfortunately, the current Department of Education is more focused on privatizing education than on making sure that the States fully implement the law. They are not holding States accountable for improving outcomes of disadvantaged students. This is most noticeable in the Department's approval of State plans that ignore the performance of subgroups altogether and the lack of guidance and regulation available to help States implement the Every Student Succeeds Act.

As we reflect on passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act and the opportunities it provides, I urge the Department of Education and Secretary DeVos to support States and hold them accountable for implementing this law with fidelity. My colleagues on the Education and Labor Committee will continue our robust oversight of the Department's implementation to make sure that the Every Student Succeeds Act fulfills a promise we made to all students when President Obama signed it into law.

RECOGNIZING MISSISSIPPI FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize five 2019 Mississippi football State championship teams that hail from my district.

In 1A, the Nanih Waiya Warriors defeated the Lumberton Panthers 28-to-14.

In 4A, the Corinth Warriors defeated the Poplarville Hornets 55-to-21.

In 5A, the West Point Green Wave defeated the Neshoba Central Rockets 20-to-7.

☐ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H10019