

I am also grateful to see that H.R. 3 includes funding to support children impacted by this crisis, so that they can access trauma-informed practices in schools.

I thank the Speaker for the inclusion of this critical funding to help Granite State families and communities across this country. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the bill.

PFAS REPRESENTS CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of communities across the Nation that have been contaminated with PFAS.

PFAS represents a clear and present danger to families in my district, and I am disappointed that certain provisions to protect public health and our environment were abandoned by negotiators of the National Defense Authorization Act.

I am encouraged that several PFAS-related provisions were included, like the one I introduced which creates a clearinghouse of information for affected servicemembers and their families and one that phases out the use of PFAS in firefighting foam by 2024.

But Congress should have seized the opportunity to go much further in protecting people from these toxic-forever chemicals. Losing provisions for drinking water standards, environmental protections, and cleanup was a shameful missed opportunity.

People are getting sick from PFAS contamination, families are scared, and they are looking to us for answers. They need action now, and we must continue to fight for health information, stricter regulations, and mitigation so we can protect families, communities, and the environment from PFAS.

This fight is just beginning, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in both parties to pass additional legislation.

PREVENT BIG PHARMA FROM RAISING THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS PAST RATE OF INFLATION

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

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

For too long, we have seen the influence of Big Pharma on this Chamber. For every Member of Congress, there are three industry lobbyists looking to buy their vote.

Meanwhile, back home in Colorado, one in three of my constituents can't afford to pay for their medication. It needs to stop.

I am proud to have helped introduce a provision to H.R. 3 that would prevent Big Pharma from raising the cost of prescription drugs past the rate of inflation.

I stand here today for the 300,000 Coloradans with diabetes who will save 75 percent on their insulin. I stand here today for the 400,000 Coloradans with asthma, who will save 80 percent on their prescriptions.

And tomorrow I will cast my vote for my constituents, people like Sue Way of Aurora, who, after seeing her insulin increase by 500 percent, was forced to ration her medicine, resulting in an ulcer.

Her story is the story of so many Coloradans. The time is now to deliver on our promise to reduce the cost of prescription drugs.

□ 1230

12 DAYS OF SALT

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, on this sixth day of SALT, my constituents have said to me that they want me to read a resolution from the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

In a unanimous, bipartisan resolution signed this month, the mayors of New Jersey urged Congress to act on SALT. Today, I would like to read part of this resolution into the RECORD.

New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference Resolution Number 2019-14:

Whereas, our tax obligation is an issue that concerns all residents in every municipality in the State of New Jersey; and

Whereas, many New Jersey families relied upon the Federal SALT deduction to ensure tax fairness, and capping the SALT deduction has placed an unfair burden on New Jersey homeowners; and

Whereas, the SALT deduction cap presents a barrier to affordable homeownership in New Jersey, impacting the ability of new, young families to prosper in the future,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, urges Congress to restore the full SALT deduction and provide more equitable taxation once again to residents of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to listen to our local elected officials, and I thank Committeewoman Amalia Duarte of Mendham Township for leading this resolution.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PANNETTA) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 11, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II

of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 11, 2019, at 9:20 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2740.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 11, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 11, 2019, at 9:46 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4566.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5363.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3, LOWER DRUG COSTS NOW ACT OF 2019; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5038, FARM WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2019; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY S. 1790, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 758 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 758

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3) to establish a fair price negotiation program, protect the Medicare program from excessive price increases, and establish an out-of-pocket maximum for Medicare part D enrollees, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed four hours, with three hours equally divided among and controlled by the respective chairs and ranking minority members of the Committees on Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, and one hour equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendments in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committees on Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means