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CELEBRATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SAN DIEGO VOICE &
VIEWPOINT

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

Mr. VARGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with what little voice I have to honor the San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper in recognition of their 60th anniversary.

San Diego's Voice & Viewpoint is the largest African American newspaper in San Diego and is a core piece of our community. This newspaper's success was the result of a dedicated couple's hard work.

Though the newspaper began in the 1960s, John Warren and his wife, Gerri Warren, took over the publication in 1987. The couple was deeply involved in the African American community and showed their leadership skills in publishing. Their efforts have resulted in a nationally award-winning publication.

The newspaper has highlighted the perspectives of the San Diego African American community and provided a great service to the city. In fact, the publication is in all the zip codes of San Diego and has a readership of over 60,000.

I would like to honor the San Diego Voice & Viewpoint for its dedication and lifelong commitment to the African American community and the San Diego community.

PRAYER AND RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, yesterday's National Prayer Breakfast brought to my mind the quote by President Lincoln: "I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go."

I, like Lincoln, feel inadequate to my task at times. I, like Lincoln, seek strength and discernment from prayer. I need prayer.

It is not just Members of Congress that should be allowed to call upon prayer. Students, like my three sons, and millions more, deserve this powerful tool. That is why I thank the administration for their recent decision to protect the right to pray in schools.

The freedom to seek strength from someplace other than ourselves enriches this Nation, just as it enriched President Lincoln.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AP-
PROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER
RELIEF AND PUERTO RICO DIS-
ASTER TAX RELIEF ACT, 2020

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5687.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VARGAS). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 833 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5687.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5687) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, with Ms. CASTOR of Florida in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In recent weeks, thousands of families in Puerto Rico were forced from their homes, schools were flattened, roads and infrastructure were severely damaged as earthquakes racked an island still struggling to recover from the devastation of Hurricanes Maria and Irma.

While President Trump has finally released some of the aid that Congress appropriated for those hurricanes, more support is clearly needed. We must act now on our shared responsibility to assist Americans in need.

This emergency supplemental would provide \$4.67 billion in targeted assistance to help families and communities recover from these devastating earthquakes and put Puerto Rico on a better path to long-term recovery.

It includes: \$3.26 billion in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds;

\$1.25 billion for repairs to damaged road systems;

\$100 million to restart school operations;

\$40 million for disaster nutrition assistance in Puerto Rico; and

More than \$20 million to help address the island's energy needs.

In addition, this bill would provide Puerto Rico with flexibility to use this

funding in conjunction with earlier disaster relief resources.

Critically, it also takes swift action against the Trump administration's outrageous withholding of vital aid to Puerto Rico. This bill would require detailed spending plans and mandate that funding be released in a timely manner.

Finally, the bill carries a number of tax-related provisions in the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means that will complement the emergency appropriations and support working families and encourage economic growth.

Madam Chair, our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico need our help. Unless we step up to the plate right now, we further jeopardize their safety and security.

With this bill, we can provide families and communities swift relief and put Puerto Rico on the path to long-term recovery.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5687.

While this bill is being sold as an appropriations bill for Puerto Rico, it has more than \$16 billion in unnecessary tax breaks which are largely unrelated to the recent earthquakes that hit the island.

Also included in this bill are more than \$4 billion in new emergency appropriations, much of that for disasters that haven't happened yet.

And finally, this bill is premature, as Puerto Rico has funds from previous bills that have not been used.

Over the last 3 years, we have allocated more than \$40 billion for Puerto Rico disasters, and less than half of that has been spent. And we have all seen recent press reports about warehouses in Puerto Rico full of water, diapers, and food that have not been distributed to residents in need.

As for the recent earthquakes in Puerto Rico, the Federal Government has not completed the required studies and reporting on the extent of the damage.

While I, too, have been frustrated with the amount of time it takes the Federal Government to distribute funds after a disaster, appropriating funds before we know what is truly needed is not the answer.

There are billions in the FEMA Major Disaster Relief Fund that are already available and can be used toward earthquake response and recovery efforts now, while we wait on a full and accurate report on the damage and estimated cost.

When disasters strike, it is our job to ensure that the Federal Government helps those in need. We also have a duty to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used in a fiscally responsible manner.

Unfortunately, including tax breaks related to disaster recovery and funds