

injured when a gunman entered an Aurora, Illinois, warehouse and started shooting.

At the vigil for those victims, I made it clear that, if we want to stop people from getting shot, we have to politicize this and we have to take legislative action.

Now, Illinois has some of the strongest gun laws in the country, but our neighbors don't. In Chicago, 60 percent of the guns recovered from crime scenes were trafficked in from out of State. And, worse, we have never had the courage to regulate guns the same way we regulate cars. If my daughter took my car out and crashed into my neighbor's garage, I would be liable. That is common sense.

That is why, yesterday, I introduced the Gun Trafficker Detention Act. This bill requires gun owners to report if their gun is lost or stolen within 48 hours and imposes criminal penalties if they fail to do so and their gun turns up at a crime scene. It would also allow the victims of gun violence to hold traffickers legally liable for death or injury caused by their guns, regardless of who pulled the trigger.

Are there people who won't like this bill? Yes—gun traffickers. Every other American will be safer, and I encourage my colleagues to join me and support this bill.

HELPING TO REFORM OUR BLOATED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, advancing the cause of our constitutional Republic by adopting policies that restore the confidence of the public in the U.S. Congress is one of the goals I have had since my election last November.

The current lack of confidence is largely due to the dysfunction, partisanship, and distrust that is so prevalent. That is why I am proud to work together with my colleagues who are on the Republican Study Committee government reform task force and who are committed to helping reform our bloating Federal Government in order to expand opportunities for all Americans.

Congress was established through Article I of the U.S. Constitution, and, as such, our Founding Fathers put the utmost responsibility in lawmakers to uphold their inalienable rights and to maintain proper transparency while doing so.

Sadly, today's Congress has strayed far from that through Federal overreach. This makes the task force even more timely and important.

The three main focuses of this task force are reforming government power structures, practices, and personnel policies. Each of these categories has a considerable amount of reform that would be meaningful and effective if enacted.

I am committed to ensuring the beliefs of our Founding Fathers live on today through Congress' actions by reforming government so that it truly serves the people for whom it was created and by whom it is empowered.

PFAS WATER CONTAMINATION

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

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, PFAS water contamination continues to threaten the purity of our drinking water and the health of our communities, including my own.

PFAS contaminants exist on more than 400 military bases nationwide and threaten the health and safety of those who live nearby. This public health crisis demands our full attention and requires a national solution.

This 116th Congress has proposed and passed more PFAS legislation than any previous Congress in history, including the PFAS Action Act, which would require the EPA to enforce cleanup of contaminated sites and require a nationwide PFAS drinking water standard.

Still much work remains to be done. We must stand up for stronger regulations, cleaner water, and healthier communities.

Clean drinking water cannot be another issue that the Senate majority continues to ignore and add to their graveyard. We have an obligation to address this national health crisis.

Madam Speaker, I urge the Senate, including my own Senators, to prioritize the well-being of our communities and to act swiftly on the passage of the PFAS Action Act.

BRINGING JUSTICE TO MISSING AND MURDERED NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN

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

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, in advance of the fifth annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Memorial March that is taking place in my hometown of Duluth, Minnesota, tomorrow, I rise to bring attention to the violence facing our Native American communities.

Everyone has a right to live safely in their communities, but the murder rate of Native American women is currently 10 times the national average. More than half of Native American women have been sexually assaulted, and thousands of Native American women and girls have gone missing.

This national crisis has been ignored for far too long, and it is time that Congress acts. That is why I cosponsored Savanna's Act, legislation that would better prepare Tribal law enforcement to respond to these crimes. I believe that this should be one of the

easiest bills that we pass this year and call for its quick passage.

Madam Speaker, I will be proud to march with our Native American communities this Friday and honor those we have lost. I believe that, together, we can bring justice to the missing and murdered indigenous Native American women and hold the individuals who commit these acts of violence accountable.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S 2021 BUDGET

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the irresponsible and immoral budget request proposed by President Trump.

The President's shameful betrayal of Americans most in need of vital services comes just days after he stood in this very Chamber and promised he would protect them.

A budget reveals our priorities, and this document makes clear President Trump does not prioritize hardworking Americans and their families. Once again, the President goes out of his way to target Americans' access to healthcare and affordable education.

In the President's upside-down budget, \$500 billion is stripped from Medicare, \$900 billion from Medicaid. Student loan funding is cut by \$170 billion. Public Service Loan Forgiveness would be completely eliminated. More than \$200 billion would be cut from the SNAP program, the safety net for families facing temporary challenges putting food on the table.

Madam Speaker, these cuts are wrong, and the House must not let them go forward. I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress to protect these critical programs that our seniors, working families, young people, and children depend on.

RECOGNIZING ARIZONA'S BIRTHDAY AND 108TH ANNIVERSARY OF STATEHOOD

(Mrs. LESKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my home State of Arizona's birthday and our 108th anniversary of statehood.

Since February 14, 1912, the great State of Arizona has welcomed those who wish to experience a life of prosperity, opportunity, growth, and a culture second to none.

Every year people from all the over the world come to Arizona to experience our State's treasured beauty, and, of course, the five C's.

I know I speak for all of us who live in Arizona when I say we are incredibly grateful to call the Grand Canyon State our home. Our State motto means "God Enriches." Arizona is proof of that.

RECOGNIZING TRIBAL LEADERS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tribal leaders from around the country gathered in Washington, D.C., for the National Congress of American Indians' 2020 Winter Executive Session.

NCAI was founded in 1944 with the mission to protect and enhance the sovereign rights of Tribal nations and to secure a prosperous future for Native communities.

In fact, initially, NCAI had to fight against many restrictions and injustices perpetrated by this very body. It is this complicated and challenging history that is the backdrop of the work we do here today.

It is important, then, that the United States Government works to honor Tribal sovereignty, promote self-determination, and fulfill the trust responsibility to Native Tribes.

We must also pass advanced appropriations for the Indian Health Service and provide resources to upgrade the roads, schools, and internet access across Indian Country.

Madam Speaker, I urge the House to take up these issues immediately and do our part to support our Tribal partners.

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HONORING JOE BONAMASSA

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Joe Bonamassa. He is one of the most gifted, talented, and accomplished singers, songwriters, and guitarists in modern-day blues music.

Joe works incredibly hard to give back. Joe has founded the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation. This foundation fuels a passion for music by funding projects and scholarships to allow students and teachers the resources and tools that they need to further music education.

Joe also gives back in other ways. He is an aficionado of guitars and has a vast collection that he uses to extend music history. And he allows people to come and visit his collection of guitars and amplifiers in a place he calls Nerdville, California.

Joe has done an incredible amount for music, for music history, and to advance the cause of music having an impact in an increasing number of people's lives.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring Joe Bonamassa for his contributions to the world of music.

REMOVING DEADLINE FOR RATIFICATION OF EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 844, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 79) removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. WEXTON). Pursuant to House Resolution 844, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary, printed in the joint resolution, is adopted and the joint resolution, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution, as amended, is as follows:

H.J. RES. 79

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That notwithstanding any time limit contained in House Joint Resolution 208, 92d Congress, as agreed to in the Senate on March 22, 1972, the article of amendment proposed to the States in that joint resolution shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the United States Constitution whenever ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.J. Res. 79.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this is long-overdue legislation to ensure that the equal rights amendment can finally become the 28th amendment to the United States Constitution.

This year, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote. Despite the century that has elapsed, our Constitution still does not recognize or guarantee full equal protection of the law for women and gender minorities, but H.J. Res. 79 would bring us one step closer.

The resolution removes the previous deadline Congress set for ratifying the ERA and will, therefore, ensure that recent ratifications by Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia are given full effect.

The ERA offers a basic and fundamental guarantee: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

That is it. Very simple.

In the years since it was passed by overwhelming bipartisan majorities in the House and the Senate, we have made great strides to secure that equality, including through existing case law decided under the 14th Amendment.

The ERA would enshrine those principles and take the final critical step of ensuring that laws disadvantaging women and gender minorities are subject to the most rigorous form of constitutional scrutiny.

In recent years, we have seen a series of breakthroughs for women's rights and gender equality. We have seen millions of women march in support of their rights and dignity as equal citizens. Through the #MeToo movement, we have had long-overdue and sometimes painful conversations about the violence and harassment that women and gender minorities experience, whether in the workplace, at home, or in schools and universities.

We have seen women get elected to Congress in record numbers. And just weeks ago, Virginia became the necessary 38th and the last necessary State to ratify the equal rights amendment. We are on the brink of making history, and no deadline should stand in the way.

The Constitution itself places no deadlines on the process for ratifying constitutional amendments, making it doubtful whether Congress had the authority to impose such a deadline in the first place. But if it had such authority, then Congress clearly also has the authority to remove any deadline that it previously chose to set.

I want to thank Representative JACKIE SPEIER for introducing this resolution, which takes that important step. This resolution will ensure, at long last, the equal rights amendment, having been proposed by Congress years ago, having now been ratified by three-quarters of the States, can take its rightful place as part of our Nation's Constitution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, three-quarters of the States failed to ratify the equal rights amendment by the 1979 deadline set by Congress, yet House Democrats are trying to retroactively revive the failed constitutional amendment.

Congress does not have the power to do that. Congress set the deadline; it was passed; it did not get approved; and now there is an end run to go around that.

The United States Supreme Court recognized this in 1982 when it stated that the issue was moot because the deadline for ERA ratification expired before the requisite number of States approved it.

The next year, the Democratic leadership in the House of Representatives,