

you to think about “smart regulations.”

This requires a dramatically smaller bureaucracy, dramatically less burden on those who are creating productive capacity in our communities, yet it would keep us healthier and would show us where the bad actors are.

I beg of this body, think forward. We keep designing pieces of legislation around here that might have been brilliant if it was still the 1980s or early 1990s. How do we push the way we think of everything, from the environment to environmental protection all the way down to creating the next generation of pharmaceuticals that cure us?

I truly believe we live in a time of miracles. I also believe that our inability to be forward-thinking in this body is one of the biggest problems we have in these sorts of technologies reaching our communities.

We always start with this slide, because, one more time: What is the greatest fragility, long term, to this country? I am going to argue it is debt, but that debt is driven by our demographics.

Our birth rates have collapsed over the last couple of decades, particularly these last few years. There is a large number of us who are baby boomers; we have our earned benefits coming to us. If you look at the debt accumulation that is about to happen, it is stunning.

How do we build a path that makes it so that we can keep our promises and still have a growing economy so that my 4-year-old daughter has the same opportunities I have had?

My brothers and sisters on the left will often come up with: “Well, we will tax rich people.” My brothers and sisters on the right will often say: “Well, we are going to find waste and fraud.”

You do realize that is mathematical lunacy? None of that works mathematically.

You have to grow the economy. You have to have a disruption in healthcare prices. You have to have a disruption of how you incentivize people to stay in the labor force.

That is why we put up this slide, because we believe there are these five pillars that if we get the economic growth; the labor force participation; the adoption of disruptive technology; the population stability of encouraging family formation; and if you are going to change the immigration system, you actually incentivize more of a talent-based immigration system, because you need the economic velocity.

Now, a lot of this is really politically uncomfortable. I mean, some of these things, when you go talk about it, people get really mad because they are not comfortable with it. But it is almost the only way, at least in our little office, that we have been able to build a

model that we can have enough economic growth, enough tax revenues, enough change in the price of what our promises are that we end up having a pretty amazing future as a country.

How do you ever get a body like this, where you have lots of smart people, to act when a lot of what we know is long since out of date and when the math is really, really uncomfortable to deal with and talk about? When you show up in front of an audience at home and say, “You do understand the biggest driver of debt is Medicare?” you will get booed, hissed at. But you need to understand, if you don’t talk about it, how do you save it?

Remember, the Medicare trust fund, which is the part A, has only a few years left, and then it is gone.

We need to step up, both Democrats and Republicans, and start telling the truth about the math, maybe invest in that crazy thing called a calculator and start to build a model of how we disrupt the prices, how we grow the economy, how we create the velocity that makes this work and provides hope and opportunity.

My thesis is very, very simple: It is here. There is a way to do it. And the biggest barrier to it happening is this body here. We need to change the way we look at the disruption of technology.

The last one I will give you is just this simple example. I have come to the floor multiple times and sort of done a thought experiment: the technology of something that looks like a large kazoo that you can blow into and instantly tells you that you have the flu, that instantly can bounce off your medical records on your phone, that knows you are not allergic to a certain antiviral, and that orders your antivirals.

Isn’t that wonderful? Think about just the cost disruption that technology would have, particularly with what is going on right now.

It turns out that technology exists, yet the professor who was working on it had incredible difficulties raising capital, being able to get investors to move it forward. You know why? Because it is functionally illegal. It would save lots of money, but the algorithm for being allowed to write a prescription is functionally illegal. It is illegal under State licensing laws, the Social Security Act, the way we reimburse.

We need to become much more forward-thinking because it is the way we save ourselves. If we stay the way we are, we do nothing but bathe in debt and stagnation.

But there is a path.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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, March 4, 2020.

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 March 4, 2020, at 2:57 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1869.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 4334.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5214.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

CALL FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend and sister in service, Representative TLAI, for cohosting this special session with me this evening to discuss the critical issue of reproductive justice in our country.

As chair of the Abortion Rights and Access Task Force in this first-ever pro-choice majority Congress, I am proud to join my colleagues tonight as we stand up and push back against these unprecedented, coordinated attacks on our collective reproductive rights and liberties.

You see, Mr. Speaker, the stakes could not be any higher. Since 2011, anti-choice politicians have pushed a wave of nearly 450 restrictive laws through State legislatures and now all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Over the last year alone, they have enacted 25 bans across dozens of States, pushing comprehensive reproductive healthcare, including abortion care, further and further out of reach.

They are working overtime to peddle harmful misconceptions and to legislate abortion out of existence.

As a result, reproductive health facilities have been forced to shut their doors, forcing individuals to travel across State lines, shoulder additional financial burdens, and jump through unnecessary and humiliating hoops just to access comprehensive care.