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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair wishes to make an announcement to the House regarding floor practices.

Members are reminded of the unique tradition and dignity of the House that sets it apart from other institutions and workplaces.

Members should refrain from trafficking in the well when another Member, including the presiding officer, is addressing the House.

The rules establish 15 minutes as the minimum time for electronic voting in the ordinary case and 5 and 2 minutes as the minimum time in other cases when Members are already in or near the Chamber in response to an earlier vote.

As a reminder, Members should attempt to come to the floor within the 15-minute period as prescribed by the first ringing of the bells. As a point of courtesy to each of your colleagues, voting within the allotted time would help with the maintenance of this institution.

Members are further reminded that the policy is to not terminate the vote when a Member is in the well attempting to cast a vote. Other efforts to hold the vote open are not similarly protected.

Members should wear appropriate business attire during all sittings of the House, however brief their appearance on the floor may be.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2020, 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, with time equally

allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM CORONAVIRUS

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, as the number of coronavirus cases rises, it is important that our constituents have the information they need to protect themselves, so I am going to use my 5 minutes today to walk through what doctors and health experts know and what Congress has done in response.

First, there is no vaccine to prevent coronavirus, so taking steps to protect yourself is paramount.

As much as possible, avoid contact with individuals who are already sick. If you yourself are sick, stay home. There is no need to go to work and risk getting other people sick as well.

Try to avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose, and mouth.

If you have to cough or sneeze, cover your mouth with a tissue. If you don't have a tissue, use your sleeve.

Be sure that you are cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces, like doorknobs and phones.

If you feel compelled to wear a face mask, be sure that you check the CDC's recommendations. Face masks are not recommended for people who are trying to protect themselves from respiratory diseases. This includes coronavirus. However, face masks are recommended if you are showing symptoms of coronavirus or another respiratory disease.

Most importantly, the CDC recommends that you wash your hands

frequently. Do so with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. You should especially wash your hands after using the restroom; before you eat; and after you blow your nose, cough, or sneeze.

If you are unable to wash your hands but have a sanitizer available, the CDC recommends that it be alcohol-based with at least 60 percent alcohol.

As the coverage of this ongoing outbreak continues and the number of positive cases grows, it is also important that the American people know what the symptoms of coronavirus actually are.

According to the CDC, coronavirus symptoms may appear as soon as 2 days and as late as 14 days after exposure. These symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

If you are suffering from these symptoms, you should stay home. Do not rush to the emergency room, a minute clinic, or another medical facility.

While you are at home, do your best to stay away from your family or other people you may regularly encounter.

The next step is to call your doctors and let them know that you are exhibiting symptoms of coronavirus. They will tell you the next steps you should take.

If they want you to come in for a test, this call will allow your healthcare provider to take the necessary steps to keep other people from getting infected.

If you are going to the doctor or out in public with symptoms, now is the time to wear a face mask.

If your symptoms continue to worsen, call your doctor and seek prompt medical attention.

Be sure that your doctor is in contact with your local or State health department. This will make the monitoring or self-monitoring process easier for both you and health officials.

If you are instructed to self-quarantine, stay at home until you are instructed to leave. This will minimize

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.



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the risk of transmitting the disease to others.

Finally, we have an obligation to each other to do everything we can to prevent the further spread of this disease.

Again, if you do not feel well or you have any of these symptoms, do not go to work. This includes my colleagues and my staff here in the Capitol, some of whom have already made the responsible decision to self-quarantine themselves.

We have had briefings from administration officials leading the national effort to get this outbreak under control. We know how serious this is. Now is the time to lead by example.

That is why, last week, Congress approved a massive \$8.3 billion emergency appropriations package to address the scale and seriousness of the coronavirus epidemic. I was especially glad to see that this package included several key provisions that meet needs specific to my home State of Rhode Island, where we have three confirmed cases already.

This includes nearly \$1 billion for drugs, masks, lab tests, and additional resources that will be provided to State and local health agencies; \$7 billion in low-interest loans to affected small businesses, to help cushion the economic blow of this public health emergency; \$3 billion for research and development of treatments and vaccines; and \$300 million to ensure those vaccines are affordable.

Most importantly, this bill gives doctors and public health experts the resources they need to do their jobs.

We have the best doctors, scientists, and researchers in the world. Now is the time to let them do what they do best without feeling pressure from politicians, including the President.

I am pleased also that the Speaker yesterday sent a Dear Colleague letter which identifies some of the issues that remain of importance to us that we are going to focus on in sort of the second effort by the Congress: paid sick leave, enhanced unemployment insurance, food security, clear protections for frontline workers, widespread testing for the coronavirus, as well as affordable treatments for all, anti-price-gouging protections, and increasing the capacity of our medical system.

I really want to thank the Speaker for identifying those issues which remain unaddressed and which the Congress must address in a full and comprehensive response to this public health crisis.

FORGING NEW HOPE FOR ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work of the Alzheimer's Association.

This month, over 1,000 men and women will come together in Wash-

ington for the annual Alzheimer's Impact Movement Advocacy Forum. These advocates, like so many of us, have faced the pain of Alzheimer's, either through a friend, a loved one, or their own experience. By sharing their stories, we can raise awareness and, hopefully, implement policies that improve the lives of those suffering from this disease.

One of these policies, Mr. Speaker, is the Improving HOPE for Alzheimer's Act. I encourage my colleagues to join me as a cosponsor of the bill, which will provide Medicare outreach and reporting on Alzheimer's care.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Alzheimer's Association and the many advocates who will be in Washington this month for sharing their stories, especially Kanada Yazbek, a constituent of Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District.

Not only does she have family members who have been diagnosed with the disease, Kanada has Alzheimer's. Everywhere and anywhere people will listen, Kanada spreads the word about Alzheimer's and its impact on families and the urgent need to find a cure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us in standing up to stop this devastating disease.

TEACHING FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR LIFE

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the McKinley Area Learning Center in Waite Park, Minnesota, for their participation in the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association's annual Capitol Hill Challenge.

This challenge, which matches teachers and students with Members of Congress, gives teams of three to five middle or high school students a hypothetical \$100,000 portfolio of stocks, mutual funds, bonds, and liquid assets. The 10 teams with the best performing portfolios win a trip to Washington.

The challenge highlights essential financial literacy, like investing. The students also work together to manage this portfolio and, in the process, learn the value of teamwork.

Good luck to the McKinley Area Learning Center students participating in the Capitol Hill Challenge. We look forward to hearing more about your progress, and good luck in the competition.

RECOGNIZING NEXT GENERATION OF ASTRONOMERS

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Minnesota's National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.

The Minnesota program distributes funds to sponsor student fellowships and scholarships related to space research, education, and public service. These grants can accelerate the diversity of the STEM field for future generations by supporting women and other students from underrepresented groups.

Mr. Speaker, I want to particularly highlight the work of St. Cloud State University, which is working with the

Leech Lake Tribal College to develop Native American knowledge of astronomy and model rocketry in the community and workshops for teachers across our State.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the universities and colleges across Minnesota that are contributing to the program, and I thank all the students whose work today will advance our future in space.

CONGRATULATING MARY DEGIOVANNI, CHAMPION FOR SARTELL

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Degiovanni, who announced in January that she is retiring in July after 16 years of working for the city of Sartell.

After serving as city administrator in Annandale, Mary joined the city of Sartell as finance director in 2004. Since 2013, she has served as a strong and capable city administrator.

In her tenure, Mary has overseen rapid growth in Sartell, with projects from updating facilities at Watab Park and Lake Francis Park, to building a new community center and public safety facility.

As a community leader, Mary has helped build a Sartell that is ready to welcome new generations of citizens. Rapid expansions in the area, including into industries like medical technology, presented challenges that Mary overcame.

Congratulations on your retirement, Mary. We are grateful for your service.

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CONGRATULATING THE CHAMPION ANDOVER GIRLS HOCKEY TEAM

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Andover High School Huskies women's hockey team, who won the class AA State championship just a couple of weeks ago. The Huskies' win is the first Minnesota State high school league championship in the history of Andover.

In the championship game at the Xcel Energy Center in Saint Paul, Andover upset the highly favored Edina High School Hornets by a score of 5-3. The Huskies' championship is all the more sweet considering the favored Hornets had won three straight State championships.

Congratulations to Coach Melissa Volk and the Huskies on making history for Andover.

CORONAVIRUS PREPAREDNESS

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a doctor and a public health expert, someone who has spent his time in Congress thinking about global health security and pandemic preparedness. I rise today because the novel coronavirus is on everyone's mind. We have to talk about it, and we have to think about how we got here, what we know, and where we are going.

First, let's think about how we got here. If you think about it, in late 2019,