

under the Second Amendment, which are under continual attack.

The tragic death of George Floyd has brought to surface many important issues that demand our attention, but if there is one thing that has become clear during the subsequent weeks of social unrest, rioting, destruction, and further deaths, it is the importance of being able to protect ourselves, our families, our homes, and our businesses.

For far too long, gun-grabbing policies at the State and local levels across our Nation have targeted our ability and our right to defend ourselves. Now, as the idea of autonomous and police-free zones gain momentum, law-abiding citizens must retain the ability to protect their loved ones and their way of life.

Gun control and censorship always proceed tyranny; just ask our neighbors in Venezuela. But the citizens of Florida's 15th District will have none of it, nor will I. The Constitution is clear, and the events of this spring and summer are foreboding. We must retain the right to protect ourselves.

LET'S MAKE OUR GRANDCHILDREN PROUD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and to call upon my colleagues to cast a vote today that will make their grandchildren proud.

Our Nation is facing a critical moment of reckoning. We consider hundreds of important bills in this Chamber every year, but it is not every day that tens of thousands of Americans take to the streets in the middle of a deadly pandemic to demand our attention, and so I want you to pay attention.

We are here today to vote on the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, but not just because one police officer pressed his knee into a handcuffed Black man's neck for over 8 minutes. We are here to vote on this bill because, during those 8 minutes, three other officers stood by and because the man who killed George Floyd had 18 prior complaints against him, and yet he was still allowed to wear a badge that should signify a community's trust.

We are here today because Black lives matter. We are here because Rayshard Brooks and Tony McDade and Breonna Taylor and Stephon Clark and Deborah Danner and Philando Castile and Natasha McKenna and Tamir Rice and Laquan McDonald and Eric Garner and Aiyana Stanley-Jones and so many others are not here—because their lives matter.

We are here because police kill 1,000 Americans every year, which indicates a system so profoundly broken that it cannot be fixed by simply tinkering

around the edges. We are going to pass this bill today to create stronger systems of transparency and accountability in policing across this country.

But just as our problems with policing run deeper than the actions of a few officers in Minneapolis, the fractures in our country demand more from us than police reform. It is not police reform alone that has brought people out into the streets in the middle of a pandemic that disproportionately kills people of color. What is called for in this moment is the courageous and comprehensive reckoning with racism in America past, present, and future. It is Congress' job to deliver policy that answers the call for this transformation.

I am the first person of color that Illinois' 14th District has sent to D.C. to serve them in this Chamber. I co-founded the Black Maternal Health Caucus and recently introduced a package of Black maternal health bills because, here in the United States where we spend more money on healthcare than any other country in the world, the risk of a pregnancy-related death for Black women is three to four times higher than for White women. These women's deaths are preventable, and their lives matter.

We need to ban chokeholds and end no-knock warrants for drug charges, and I am proud that this bill does just that. But after we do, Black households will still own one-tenth of the wealth of White households. We must reform qualified immunity, and when we do, this pandemic will still take the lives and our jobs at staggering rates.

Let's pass this bill, and then let's keep going because there is much more work to be done to meaningfully address the many inequalities in health, education, economic status, justice, and safety that Black people in this country have faced for centuries.

At this pivotal moment in our Nation's effort to confront its own history, I urge my colleagues to make choices that rise to the gravity of the situation and our responsibility to the American people. It is long past time to bend this arc towards justice in policing and beyond.

□ 0930

CONGRATULATING JULIA HAMBLÉN

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Julia Hamblén of Shelbyville, Indiana, on her new role as Indiana FFA President.

A 2020 graduate of Shelbyville High School, Julia will be taking a gap year so she can serve as President of the Indiana FFA before attending Purdue University to study ag education.

Congratulations, Julia. You are a true role model to so many students and you are making the Sixth District proud.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRECISE TOOLING SOLUTIONS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Precise Tooling Solutions for winning the 2020 MoldMaking Technology Leadtime Leader Award.

Based in my hometown of Columbus, Indiana, Precise Tooling strives to create a "Team First" working environment that leads with customers and quality.

I congratulate my friend, Don Dumoulin, and the Precise Tooling team on this tremendous accomplishment.

SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES' NEED FOR BROADBAND SERVICE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support rural communities during this difficult time.

Last week at the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee markup of NANCY PELOSI's infrastructure bill, I offered two commonsense amendments to enhance broadband in rural districts.

I was disappointed that the Democrats rejected these attempts to bring the benefits of broadband service to the remote areas of our country, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is critical that every family in America have access to broadband internet connection, no matter their ZIP Code.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the inclusion of rural America in future legislation, because it is our duty to keep America connected for generations to come.

SUPPORTING HOOSIER LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my support for law enforcement in the Hoosier State and all across America.

Hoosier law enforcement officers keep our families and loved ones safe, and they deserve our support.

I 100 percent oppose defunding the police and limiting qualified immunity. It is absolutely the wrong thing to do.

I support the President's executive order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities, and I believe the right steps are being made to protect our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the men and women who wear a badge to protect and keep our country safe.

SHOWING UP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to show up here in Congress to work for the American people.

Nurses, doctors, first responders, food supply workers, and so many others are showing up to work every day. Why is the House of Representatives not doing the same?

I am here working on behalf of the people of Indiana's Sixth District, and I will always do so by showing up in Washington, D.C.

It is time for the House to show up right here in this Chamber.

AMERICANS MARCHED TO DEFEND OUR FOUNDING PROMISE OF EQUALITY FOR ALL

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

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

In the weeks since Mr. Floyd's murder, over 25 million Americans have marched to defend our founding promise of equality for all.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all those who marched. Their demands for equality have made today possible. I am proud to be a citizen of a country where so many of my fellow citizens are forcing that arc of history to bend a little faster towards justice.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank them all for reminding us of how far we still have to go.

No justice, no peace; because a country founded on the rule of law cannot guarantee peace if that law does not apply equally to all.

Black lives matter; because we still live in a country where the health, wealth, and social disparities between the races make equality anything but a self-evident truth.

Say their names; because the victims, they are not just Black bodies. They were human beings with families and dreams, talents, and flaws.

In a truly colorblind world, the only thing that all these victims would have in common, really in common, is that they shouldn't be dead.

We are not going to end systemic racism today, but we do have the opportunity to correct just a few of our sins, the opportunity to end chokeholds, the opportunity to end no-knock warrants, to make lynching a Federal crime—can you believe we haven't done that yet?—the opportunity to hold police departments to the same standards of equality and fair play that all other employers do.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, please, please, please vote "yes" on this bill, not because it means our work is done, not because it means that we are going to end systemic racism, not because what needs to be done is synonymous with a bill that can pass this body in the Senate and get the President's signature.

Vote "yes" on this bill so that you can tell your children that George and Breonna and Tamir—Tamir Rice, who would have turned 18 today—and Trayvon, and Amadou, and Ahmaud, and Emmett, and so many others, vote "yes" so that you can tell your children that they did not die in vain.

RICHARD BARBER: MAN OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a

really fine man, Richard Barber from Jackson, Tennessee.

Richard runs the Aspell Recovery Center in Jackson, and he was recently honored as the Jackson Exchange Club's Man of the Year, a title very much deserved.

I first met Richard through a really good friend of mine, Dr. Ron Kirkland. Ron is a board member of Aspell and wanted me to see the great work that Aspell does in Jackson and the west Tennessee community, treating, mentoring, and loving those who need it the most. Most of the staff members working at Aspell have also traveled the path to recovery.

Richard Barber has been a strong leader in the community, and he has a true commitment to helping those in need.

I have seen firsthand how hard Richard has worked to make changes in the drug and rehabilitation field for those suffering from addiction.

Richard has literally changed lives through Aspell, where he was instrumental in the development of two new expansions: A Mother's Love in Humboldt and the Savannah/Hardin County intensive outpatient care unit.

There is no doubt that without Aspell, so many folks in west Tennessee wouldn't get the care and the wherewithal that they need to survive. Without Richard Barber, there would be no Aspell as we know it today.

Congratulations, Richard. Through your hard work and your incredible humility, you are the right pick for the Exchange Club's Man of the Year. There is no doubt that west Tennessee and the city of Jackson are better because of you.

RECOGNIZING THE BLACK DOCTORS CONSORTIUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the inspiring story of a Philadelphia doctor who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in this extraordinary time to combat the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black and Brown communities in my district and across the country.

As evidence mounted that Black Americans were suffering both from greater exposure to COVID-19 and from less access to testing, Dr. Ala Stanford, a board certified surgeon, was done waiting. She took the community into her own hands, as so many Black women have done when our institutions have failed them, and she recruited a group of Black healthcare workers to form the Black Doctors Consortium.

Staffed by Black doctors, med students, and nurses on their days off, the Black Doctors Consortium has spent the past few months using their own resources to test thousands of patients in church parking lots, union halls, and

rec centers, going into our communities to deliver testing services where they are most needed.

The group recently received a \$1 million grant to expand and plans to start testing 250 to 350 people a day.

Looking ahead, the Black Doctors Consortium plans to use their successful community-based approach to distribute COVID vaccines once they become available.

Dr. Stanford represents the very best of who we are and the leadership we so desperately need in times of crisis.

I thank Dr. Stanford and her entire group for their courage and commitment to addressing inequality with direct action.

WAKE UP, AMERICA

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, what in the world is happening in our God blessed country? A lengthy pandemic decimating our economy and taking over 121,000 precious American lives, followed by the horrific murder of Mr. George Floyd by a bad cop, leading to nationwide protests and demonstrations of people wanting to be heard.

Sadly, all of this has been overshadowed by the violence, looting, destruction, and lawless mayhem in America's major cities.

We have even seen weak and feckless Democrat government leaders acquiesce to anti-American warlords setting up their own countries at the expense of residents and shopkeepers.

This is taking place under the influence of shadowy, anti-American organizations and individuals. We know who they are, so I will not distinguish them by saying their names.

America is awake and willing to address major concerns.

Despite the hundreds of heroic police officers who have been injured, paralyzed, or killed just doing their jobs for us, violent punks continue hijacking the sad event that began all this foment we grieve over. Their goal is to literally tear down and destroy our history and freedoms.

America is under attack. We must wake up before it is too late. These evil forces of destruction are showing us that we can't stop them. Or can we?

John Witherspoon, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, said this: "A republic once equally poised, must either preserve its virtue or lose its liberty."

I don't know his position on slavery at that time, though even as a minister and President of Princeton, I am sure he had his flaws. Yet this message rings true as we view in live time our Nation's loss of virtue and liberty.

The key purpose of government is to reward the doer of good and punish the doer of evil.

Today, the forces of division and anarchy are rejecting this purpose, calling for the defunding and/or ending of police.