

Have they discussed providing resources to communities so they can pay the salaries of our brave first responders, our community heroes? No.

Have they considered how out-of-work parents will pay their bills when the emergency unemployment insurance expires? No.

And that is because this Republican Party, most clearly, Donald Trump and MITCH MCCONNELL, do not care about the American people. They do not care about you, the bills that are piling up because you can't work, or the kids who are going hungry every day.

Time and time again, my colleagues on the other side of this aisle and across the building have shown nothing but disregard to the challenges of the American people, the same people they claim to serve.

Look at the record. The GOP Senate has dragged its feet time and time again, while more than 100,000 Americans died from coronavirus.

Mr. Speaker, it has been nearly 2 months since the people's House passed our Nation's fifth COVID-19 bill. We called it the HEROES Act in honor of all the men and women putting their lives and health on the line to protect and serve our families and our communities.

The HEROES Act is focused on three things: Testing, testing, testing; and it ensures that testing, including contact tracing, is conducted in areas with the highest rates of infection.

It also provides another round of direct payments to American families to help them weather this economic storm. I can't tell you how many families told me that the first \$1,200 was spent before it hit their bank accounts.

We need to be frank about our current economic situation. Our GOP colleagues shoved through their GOP tax scam in order to juice our economy. Right now, this is the only economic leverage available to Congress or the Fed.

It is time to put money directly into the pockets of American families and business owners. They will spend it, and our economy will continue. But that's basic math and economics, something often lost on the other side.

Mr. Speaker, it is not hard to turn on FOX or MSNBC and hear the talking heads arguing this or that point. But I want to talk about the rest of America, places like Lansing and Bourbonnais.

I am proud to represent more than 40 cities and towns. It is no secret that State and local revenues have plummeted due to COVID-19. Yet, these dollars pay for critical government services like first responders, trash collection, teachers, and public health workers; and COVID-19 has shown us how truly indispensable they are.

The HEROES Act includes billions in Federal investments in our States, cities, and towns, the places we call home.

Under the HEROES Act, Lansing, in my district, will receive more than \$13 million over the next 2 years; more than \$18 million for Calumet City, and

nearly a half a million dollars for Chebanse. Think about what those resources can do for our communities. Every cent pays for our firefighters and teachers, health educators, and essential bus drivers.

HEROES Act funds will ensure that our kids keep learning despite COVID-19. It provides \$90 billion to ensure schools can cover the cost of the digital transition and that they will be safe and sanitary when students return.

And finally, the HEROES Act prioritizes ensuring American families can eat by increasing the maximum SNAP benefit.

After working to ensure the needs of Illinois families are addressed in the HEROES Act, I know this bill is about America's heroes and our families. That is why it came from the people's House.

The HEROES Act is not about the President or any one party; it is about doing the right thing because American families are struggling. Small businesses are on the edge of closing, and our communities are struggling to pay our EMTs and firefighters, the very people we rely on during this pandemic. My mayors have told me they will have to start furloughing and laying people off.

The Senate must act. The ball is in MITCH MCCONNELL's court. Do the right thing. Do your job.

By the way, Mr. President, if you want to help Chicago, the Nation needs safe gun reforms, investigations of illegal sales, more spending on community-based outreach and development. We don't want Portland repeated in Chicago.

SUPPORTING NDAA AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, which would deepen U.S. engagement in Southeast Asia by requiring the United States to develop a coherent regional strategy that addresses all aspects of the relationship, from trade and humanitarian goals to diplomatic and security arrangements.

Member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, are vital to the prosperity the U.S. economy, generating hundreds of thousands of American jobs and investing more in our economy than China and India combined. ASEAN is the counterweight to Chinese aggression in the region and world.

The People's Republic of China is working aggressively to expand its influence in this strategically important region, using a combination of predatory investment, threatening new military installments, and outright bullying to achieve its goals.

□ 0930

Southeast Asian countries seek assurance that the United States is a

steadfast partner as they try to maintain economic independence from China and defend their territorial claims in the South China Sea. We must support our partners and allies as they stand up to China's erratic and aggressive behavior.

I have had many opportunities to meet with ASEAN officials and foreign ministers, and one message I hear repeatedly is that the United States must demonstrate strength and leadership in the region. Congress should listen closely to our partners who are demanding stronger leadership and not just because China, which would be sure to fill a vacuum of power, is a bully. ASEAN is clearly a powerhouse and a critical region in which to engage in and of itself.

The U.S. should be proactively crafting and implementing its Southeast Asia strategy; this amendment would require the administration to do just that.

I thank Congressman CASTRO, with whom I co-chair and cofounded the ASEAN Caucus, for his support of ASEAN and this very amendment. I am gratified that my colleagues support and, in fact, passed my amendment.

PREVENTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of two amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act which will improve the United States' ability to prevent human rights violations connected to the pandemic and improve its response to future public health catastrophes.

As countries around the world have struggled to contain the virus and protect their citizens, some bad actors are using coronavirus response efforts as a pretext to chip away at the rights of their citizens, stifle protests, and limit the freedom of speech and the press. We must hold accountable the authoritarians who see COVID-19 as an opportunity to suppress dissent.

I am pleased that my colleagues supported and passed Congressman MCGOVERN's and my amendment, which will ensure the United States uses a robust tool kit, including reporting, foreign assistance, and guidance, to protect basic human rights during this time of uncertainty. I am proud to colead, in a bipartisan effort, this important amendment, and I am grateful for its adoption.

I also thank my colleagues for their support and adoption of Congressman CONNOLLY's and my amendment, which will greatly improve the United States' ability to prevent and respond to global health threats like the coronavirus pandemic. This amendment will establish a Federal official tasked with coordinating interagency responses to global health emergencies and requires the United States to proactively strategize for future crises. It also strengthens U.S. efforts to help our partners fight and contain outbreaks within their own borders.

As we have seen during this tragedy, viruses can spread across borders and

oceans with deadly speed. Improving nations' abilities to address public health threats before they spin out of control is a matter of national security. I am glad to have worked again in a bipartisan effort to see that the House both approved and adopted these amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 32 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of Heaven and Earth, thank You for giving us another day.

The Nation awakes to reports of rising coronavirus numbers, many in places once touted as being safe from the danger of spread. Have mercy on us. Help us to hear Your call to leave pride and boasting behind and together face a most dangerous threat to the health and well-being of our citizens.

Bless the Members of this people's House with Your spirit of cooperation and a desire to work together to address our Nation's most pressing needs.

Continue to bless and protect those men and women who have been burdened for so long with the care of the infected, even as they are asked to make more bricks with less straw. As hospitals fill, empower those given the responsibility to lead with wisdom and practical insights to rise to the demands of their leadership.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILLIAMS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a scanned copy of a letter received from Mr. Robert Brehm and Mr. Todd Valentine, Co-Executive Directors, New York State Board of Elections, indicating that, according to the preliminary results of the Special Election held June 23, 2020, the Honorable Chris Jacobs was elected Representative to Congress for the Twenty-Seventh Congressional District, State of New York.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

NEW YORK STATE
BOARD OF ELECTIONS,
Albany, NY, July 17, 2020.

Hon. CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. JOHNSON: This is to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, for Representative in Congress from the 27th Congressional District of New York, show that Chris Jacobs received 81,034 of the total number of votes cast for that office.

Chris Jacobs—81,034;
Nathan D. McMurray—72,887;
Michael J. Gammariello—995;
Duane Whitmer—1,419.

It would appear from these unofficial results that Chris Jacobs was elected as Representative in Congress from the 27th Congressional District of New York.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by all (Part of Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Part of Monroe, Part of Niagara, Part of Ontario, Orleans and Wyoming Counties) involved, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Regards,

ROBERT A. BREHM,
Co-Executive Director.
TODD D. VALENTINE,
Co-Executive Director.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE CHRIS JACOBS, OF NEW YORK, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from New York, the Honorable CHRIS JACOBS, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the New York delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise his right hand.

Mr. JACOBS appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 116th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE CHRIS JACOBS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, it is my honor, on behalf of the New York Congressional delegation, as the co-dean along with Chairman ELIOT ENGEL, to welcome our newest member, CHRIS JACOBS. Or perhaps I should say welcome him back, since Mr. JACOBS began his career just out of college working for New York Congressman Jack Kemp.

After returning home to western New York, he has pursued various professional paths, including public service. He began an education charity and his own small business, Avalon Development.

Mr. JACOBS served as the Erie County Clerk and most recently was a member of the New York State Senate since 2017.

I congratulate Congressman JACOBS and look forward to working with him at this critical time to deliver for our home State of New York in the coming months.

I also welcome his family here today, including his wife, Martina, and beautiful young daughter, Anna.

Madam Speaker, at this time I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, it is really a privilege to be here today to welcome CHRIS JACOBS to the House of Representatives.

As Congresswoman LOWEY said, he has a long career both in government and being active in his community, especially setting up an inner city scholarship fund for the City of Buffalo, serving as Secretary of State for the State of New York, then being elected Erie County Clerk, and then being elected New York State senator.

It is a very perilous time to be coming to Congress. The country is going through extreme tension and conflict. The fact is, CHRIS has the credentials, he has the qualifications, and he has the ability to make sure that he will do