

because I don't believe many would have voted for such language if Hillary Clinton was President. Thank God the Senate didn't include this language in their version of the NDAA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the conferees from both Houses and both parties to reject this rash amendment and for all of us to return to our senses. Insurrections are rare but ugly things. Let's not tie a future President's hands at a time when our people may need his, and our military's, protection here at home.

#### CITIZENS UNITE FOR PEACEFUL PROTESTS

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to express the extent to which I am proud of my constituents in southwestern Connecticut in Connecticut's Fourth Congressional District, but also to observe that just as in this country we have work to do in addressing the racial disparities that exists in all of our institutions, we have work to do in Connecticut's Fourth District.

Mr. Speaker, I was enormously proud that after we began to bend the curve on coronavirus—thanks to the leadership of our Governor, Ned Lamont—just as we saw those numbers begin to decline, like the rest of the country, my constituents were appalled by the brutal murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Nobody was unaffected by what we saw that day.

To the great credit of my constituents, people rose up in the broad diversity of my constituency. My constituency includes some of the wealthiest, small, and—yes—very White towns in the country: Towns like New Canaan and Darien. It also includes diverse cities that struggle with the issues of urban poverty: Bridgeport, Norwalk, and Stamford.

But as one, my constituents rose up—young, old, poor, wealthy, Black, White, straight, LGBTQ—and demanded progress and change, and they did it peacefully. They did it side by side with the leaders of the Police Department of Stamford, of Wilton, of New Canaan—police chiefs standing side by side with Black Lives Matter protestors. That was a good thing. That was an example of how we come together in the face of something awful.

But I also rise because there is no room for complacency. I remind my fellow citizens of Connecticut, while we are a progressive State, and while we did come together in all of our communities, it could happen here. I remind my constituents that Connecticut was actually the last State in New England in 1848 to eliminate slavery. That is just a few years before Abraham Lincoln did so in the South and around the country. So there is no place for complacency amongst my constituents.

And the truth is, as I have observed and many have observed, what hap-

pened to George Floyd is the pinnacle atop a structure of four centuries of racism and discrimination. Of course, George Floyd is not alone. The names echo in the chamber of shame in this country.

Breonna Taylor. Tamir Rice. Ahmaud Arbery. The names echo, and they go on and on.

But those Black Americans who have been killed unjustly sit atop a structure of the denial of equal access to opportunity. And that is in our systems of housing, our systems of education, and in the private sector.

So even as I celebrate and express my pride in my constituents, we need to be there for the broader struggle. We need to be there as we consider how we make one of the more segregated parts—at least with respect to housing in the United States—more fair. We need to be there when we contemplate the fact that too many of our Black and Brown brothers and sisters don't have the access to the extraordinary educational institutions in the State of Connecticut and around the country.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be there. It is good to show up and protest peacefully when a Black man is murdered at the hands of the police, but it is not enough because that act sits atop an edifice—a four-century long edifice—of discrimination, the effects of which still echo through every aspect of our society.

Mr. Speaker, it is not just my constituents. It is this Chamber and this Congress that must get serious about addressing the unequal distribution of opportunity in this country. That is our mission. I just said goodbye, with so many of my colleagues, to JOHN LEWIS. I know that is what John would have us do, and I know that he would have us do it with grace and with dignity and humility.

Mr. Speaker, that is what I charge my constituents with, and that is what I hope this Congress will address, in the memory of JOHN LEWIS, who just left us this morning.

#### CLIFTY FALLS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Clifty Falls State Park for its 100th anniversary. Located in beautiful Madison, Indiana, Clifty Falls gives its visitors an experience that you can't get anywhere else.

For 100 years, Hoosiers and Americans across the Nation have enjoyed beautiful hiking trails and waterfalls in Clifty Falls. I congratulate Clifty Falls State Park for its 100-year anniversary. Indiana is lucky to have such a beautiful place.

#### KEEP AMERICA SAFE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to challenge mayors, Governors, leaders of this country to stand up and shut down the rioting we are witnessing in

communities across our Nation. Anarchists are destroying homes, businesses, and whole communities. These people are not peaceful protestors. They are violent agitators.

The leaders of these cities need to get their act together and end this violence. American citizens are getting hurt and, yes, even killed, and it is time to stop this madness.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in calling to end this lawlessness and to help keep all of our communities safe across this country.

#### REOPEN OUR SCHOOLS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for reopening schools across our Nation. I have been talking to parents in my district, Indiana's Sixth District, and the consensus is in: Let's get our kids back to school.

The science is on our side. Both the CDC and Academy of Pediatrics agree it is safe to reopen our schools. In fact, it would be unsafe to keep our schools closed. The emotional scarring, unreported abuse, and learning deficits of keeping our kids stuck inside staring at a screen and away from socialization is far too great. Working parents doing everything they can to put food on the table, they need our support.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot let an entire generation fall behind in education. We must find a safe way to reopen our schools.

#### SUPPORT PRESIDENT TRUMP

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for President Donald J. Trump.

Perseverance in the face of lies from the media and his political opponents shows fearless leadership and should be admired.

The D.C. swamp continues to attack him relentlessly, stopping at nothing to take him down. The collateral damage in this grotesque war against our President is the American people.

President Trump created an economy where minorities were thriving, workers and families had good-paying jobs, and businesses were finally flourishing. When Democrats and the media do everything in their power to halt Trump's work, they are actually attacking the very American way of life that we hold dear.

Mr. Speaker, I pledge to continue to support President Donald Trump and his agenda to make the American people stronger than ever.

#### MENTAL HEALTH OF OUR NATION

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the mental health crisis our Nation faces as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic and the resulting economic crisis have resulted in a mental health and substance abuse crisis like we have never seen before.

Veterans, students, families, and Americans with a history of mental illness or addiction are really suffering. To continue to shut down our country does not make scientific sense, economic sense, or common sense. It is

imperative we reopen our country and get Americans back to work, back to school, and back to a healthy lifestyle.

#### NORTH CAROLINA'S ROLE IN PRODUCING CORONAVIRUS VACCINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the amazing work being done to produce a vaccine for the coronavirus. Some of the best work in our country is coming from FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies' Innovation Center in my home State of North Carolina.

On Monday, July 27, President Trump visited the Morrisville laboratories and touted the progress that has been made in Operation Warp Speed toward producing an effective vaccine in historic time. The Morrisville laboratories play a crucial role in that effort because they are working on a bulk drug substance for one of the possible vaccines.

It is impossible to overstate how important a vaccine will be for our Nation, and I am proud that North Carolina is on the front lines of that research.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the President for highlighting these facilities' exciting work, and especially thank the researchers, the doctors, and the scientists for their tireless work, and wish them every success possible.

#### RESTORING LAW AND ORDER

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand up for law and order and safety and security in our country.

In an era where some in the opposition party advocate for defunding the police, violent crime and rioting has swept across the Nation. No city has endured more violence and less government action than Portland, Oregon.

For 60 days, local officials have refused to protect the fundamental rights of their citizens, mainly the right to life, to liberty, and to personal property. I believe that if State and local officials won't secure these rights for their fellow Americans, then the Federal Government should do it for them at the direction of the President. I fully support the President's deployment of Federal officers to restore law and order and safety and security on the streets of Portland.

One of the most heartbreaking episodes of the violent crime that has occurred recently occurred in Kansas City, Missouri, where a four-year-old, LeGend Taliferro, was shot and killed while he was asleep in his own bed. It was just a month ago on June 29.

Mr. Speaker, the only way to deal with violent criminals is to meet them with strength. And that is what the President is doing by initiating a Federal law enforcement operation, appropriately named Operation Legend. Very simply, this operation will focus on putting more cops on the streets in

high-crime cities, making more funding available for local police departments, and use Federal officers when local officials refuse to act.

Mr. Speaker, we are never going to defund the police. Instead, we are going to empower them to stop this crime surge that is terrorizing our American brothers and sisters.

#### 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 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 10 a.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, thank You for giving us another day.

Please excuse us for coming to You, day after day, asking for Your blessing and grace as the coronavirus plague continues to ravage our Nation. We struggle, still, to address the crisis in any way that slows this deadly advance. Lord, have mercy.

Bless the Members of this people's House with wisdom and a purpose of cooperation in addressing so many dangers facing us, from health to financial threats. Bless the Senate, too, and the administration, that together our Nation might move forward with hope and confidence. Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MCADAMS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCADAMS 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.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests

for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### GUN VIOLENCE IN OUR STREETS

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, illegally obtained guns are pouring over the streets of communities across the country, including in my community of Buffalo, New York.

These illegal guns are responsible for tragic deaths. Last year, 30,000 Americans, including 262 children, were killed by gun violence.

The number of slain Americans are more than just statistics; they are real people: fathers, mothers, grandparents, sons, daughters, and grandkids. They had dreams, they had aspirations, and they had their whole lives ahead of them.

This is an urgent call to action against gun violence. Members of my community are coming together and they are calling on Congress to repeal provisions that prohibit our government from knowing if firearms have been lost or stolen.

Mr. Speaker, I support this call to action and urge this body to continue to work to make our communities safer for all. Those whose lives were lost would still be with us today if legislation this House passed, commonsense gun reforms, universal background checks, and a ban on assault weapons, were enacted into law.

We must do better. Repeal the Tiahrt amendment now.

#### CENSORING BY SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring attention to an alarming trend: the censorship of Americans by American companies, particularly those in the social media sector.

Over and over, we hear about social media platforms silencing conservatives and their views, only to turn around and ask this Congress for continued liability protections.

If social media companies expect such legal protection, they must recognize the fundamental free speech of their users. To be clear, I am not referring to hate speech or calls for violence. I am referring to political views that differ from those who own and manage these companies.

As this Congress considers and debates the regulation of these companies into the 21st century, we should take this political censorship into account. No American, no matter what their affiliation or opinions, should ever be prevented from lawfully exercising their constitutional rights, whether online or in person.

Social media, for sure, has done wonders to connect people, but it has also